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21 June 2012

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

(AOB: Turkey's Chairmanship of CICA)

**918th PERMANENT COUNCIL
21 June 2012**

Mrs. Chairperson,

We would like to bring to the attention of the PC that Turkey's Chairmanship of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was extended upon Kazakhstan's proposal by consensus for two years, until 2014. Turkey had assumed the Chairmanship in June 2010 at the 3rd CICA Summit meeting held in Istanbul.

CICA has an extensive agenda mainly in the economic, environmental, human, new threats and challenges as well as military-political dimensions. Numerous meetings and events were carried out during the first Chairmanship of Turkey regarding all of these topics.

Under the second Turkish Chairmanship, the 7th meetings of the Special Working Group and the Senior Officials Committee are being held in Ankara between 20 and 22nd of June 2012. The 5th meeting of the CICA Economic Sub-Group also took place on 20th of June.

The next CICA Foreign Ministers meeting will be held on 12 September 2012 in Astana and the events to be organized this year on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the CICA process will be mainly discussed at the meetings in Ankara. We will give further information to the PC on these issues in the coming months.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the relevance of the work carried out in CICA with the contribution of many OSCE participating States for the security of Asia and beyond. The period ahead will certainly be characterized by a search for synergies between the OSCE and CICA. In this regard, CICA's Executive Director will visit Vienna upon the invitation of the Lithuanian Chair of the Asian Contact Group next week and make a presentation on CICA's recent activities.

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.