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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR NACI SARIBAŞ
IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY H.E. PROF. IHSANOGLU
THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC
(808TH PC, 6 May 2010)**

I would like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship for organizing this meeting.

Taking the opportunity of being a participating State and a member country respectively in both organizations, I would like to begin by warmly welcoming You, Prof. Ihsanoglu, and also would like to thank for Your views as well as for the perspective of the OIC on a broad range of issues of common concern.

Turkey has been following with interest and appreciation the steady progress that the OIC has achieved under your able guidance. It is gratifying to see that the vision of moderation and modernization has become the hallmark of the OIC, enabling the collective political voice of the Muslim world to be better heard and understood.

Your Excellency,

Your second address to the principal decision making body of the OSCE takes place in a particular juncture where religious and cultural intolerance and discrimination have gained a worrying momentum.

Today, Muslims, particularly the migrants, are exposed to xenophobic attitudes; Islamophobia has become a tool in electoral environment; and furthermore a fundamental freedom has been put to a referendum vote recently at the very heart of this continent.

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We need to go beyond the messages of solidarity and mutual understanding. Resolute action, and more importantly effective dialogue and cooperation are more than necessary. This is exactly for this reason that Turkey welcomes the increased interaction and consultation between the OIC and the OSCE. We believe that the aspiration and the efforts of both organizations to attain greater security for our citizens are complementary.

In this respect, we welcome the recent visit of Ambassador Lenarcic, the Director of the ODIHR, to the OIC, in order to explore the areas for further cooperation. In addition to the very important decision to establish an Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights, election observation, tolerance and non-discrimination, education, empowerment of women, intercultural and interreligious dialogue appear to be mutually beneficial fields in which the two organizations can share experience and information.

Turkey, as member of both structures for several decades, will continue to lend its support to every effort to achieve mutual respect and understanding throughout the vast geography covered by the OIC and the OSCE.

I should also like to take this opportunity to welcome the support of the OIC to the UN Alliance of Civilizations Initiative which, by now, cherishes an overwhelming solidarity and involvement from all over the world. Its third forum, to be held by the end of this month in Rio, will serve as another prominent occasion where important actors like the OIC and the OSCE could contribute in improving relations across cultures.

We wish you all success in your future work Mr. Secretary General.

We also align ourselves with the EU statement.

Thank you.