



PC.DEL/847/14

11 July 014

ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
On the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture  
(1006<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 3 July 2014)**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Every year, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on June 26<sup>th</sup> gives us the opportunity to stand united and draw attention to the cruel human rights violations caused by the despicable practice of torture. This year's theme of "Fighting Impunity" is especially relevant in this context.

The battle against torture and ill-treatment has long been won in Turkey. This is a direct result of the "zero tolerance" policy pursued throughout many years. In line with this policy, a comprehensive set of legislative measures have been introduced as part of the overall reform process.

Turkey is party to all relevant international instruments on the prevention of torture, in both global and regional fora. We duly maintain a close and constructive cooperation with the special mechanisms of international organizations tasked with the fight against torture and ill-treatment. The Turkish Government remains committed to investigating all allegations of torture and ill-treatment reported to governmental bodies. We take care to commence the necessary inquiries without delay, in order to prevent impunity.

On the occasion of this year's International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we call on all participating States to ensure that the OSCE region becomes an area entirely free of torture, and of impunity for its practitioners. In this context we wish to express our support for the Swiss Chairmanship's aim to achieve consensus this year on a Ministerial Council Decision on cooperation in the prevention of torture.

Thank you.