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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
On the Situation in Ukraine
(1013th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 14 August 2014)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We join the previous speakers in commending the Swiss Chairmanship for convening this Special Meeting of the Permanent Council. We are deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration of the security situation in Eastern Ukraine. The ever increasing humanitarian impact of the crisis is a source for alarm. We support all efforts to alleviate the suffering caused by the crisis, particularly the work carried out in this area by the Ukrainian government.

We want to see an end to this bloodshed and suffering through a negotiated political solution based on Ukraine's sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity in line with international norms and standards.

Mr. Chairperson,

We understand the convocation of this meeting has been prompted also by developments relating to central efforts to deliver humanitarian relief material to Eastern Ukraine where the conflict is still raging on.

Turkey would welcome and support all efforts to ease the human suffering in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world. As a country whose humanitarian assistance to the outside world has more than doubled in recent years, we also know the difficulties and sensitivities that may arise with regard to the proper realization of such a noble endeavor. In other terms, practical reasons require effective and sound coordination with the host government to ensure a smooth operation.

But there is more to the issue than just practical considerations. Prominent among the key elements of our principled stance which I re-iterated in the beginning of my remarks, is Ukraine's sovereignty. The already essential and inevitable requirement to coordinate with Ukrainian authorities is further highlighted by the fact that the entire crisis has been generating a negative atmosphere marked by a lack of trust and confidence.

We are pleased with the possibility that the ICRC may be involved in the matter. The SMM is also another actor that has a significant potential to contribute positively to the operation. Such contribution could be, as mentioned earlier by the EU, in the shape of facilitation or any other form that would garner general approval. These and perhaps other players that may

come to mind and be endorsed by the Ukrainian government will all contribute to the development of an environment of trust, and the efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance within such a positive environment.

Mr. Chairperson,

As has been alluded to during the previous interventions the human rights violations that prevail in Crimea continue to be a source of grave concern. I have elaborated our views as to the unacceptable nature of the illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea in my earlier statements, therefore, this time I would suffice by repeating our calls on those who resort to unlawful methods of pressure and intimidation targeting the Crimean Tatars and other ethnic groups living in Crimea to revise their stance. We have no doubt that the Crimean Tatar people, led by their sole legitimate body, the Crimean Tatar National Assembly, the Mejlis, will overcome this extraordinary period in a spirit of unity and solidarity through peaceful and democratic means. As always, Turkey will continue to stand by them.

Thank you.