THE OSCE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING,
WARSAW, 1995

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On behalf of the Turkish Delegation, I take great pleasure in addressing this distinguished audience, who are assembled to review implementation of the OSCE Human Dimension commitments.

At the outset, I would like to point out that the ODIHR, as the main institution of the Human Dimension, and in particular its esteemed Director, Ambassador Glover, deserve a good deal of praise for their untiring efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and to promote the application of the rule of law throughout the OSCE region.

Besides ODIHR, I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable work done by Mr. Max van der Stoel, High Commissioner on National Minorities. His discreet, yet highly qualified performance has helped in no small measure to prevent many disputes from developing into armed conflict.

Our thanks also go to Hungary, which, in her capacity as the Chairman-in-Office for 1995, has done her best to promote progress in the human dimension of the OSCE in addition to that in the other two dimensions.

During this implementation meeting we are expected to take stock of what we have done in the human dimension since the Budapest Review Conference, and look to the future.

Turkey recognizes the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and is in agreement with the Budapest Document that "human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democratic institutions are the foundations of peace and security". Turkey remains committed to implementing the OSCE commitments she has undertaken in the human dimension and thus determined to remove any obstacle that stands in the way of their fulfilment. Most recent constitutional amendments may be regarded as a step forward in this direction.
Turkey also shares the belief that peace and stability can be more durable if nations are administered by democratic governments. That is one of the reasons why democratic reform in the OSCE region has taken on an added importance.

On the other hand, we are convinced that human rights and fundamental freedoms can be better safeguarded and exercised in a democratic system. Consequently, we believe that enhancing democratic system of government with all its institutions should take priority over other human dimension issues. So long as the process of democratization moves ahead unhindered, it will also serve as a useful purpose in broadening the political and legal framework within which the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms is enhanced. I wish to emphasize, however, that strengthening democracy is a difficult process, and time element plays an important role. It is no secret that those nations which take democracy for granted today have attained their present democratic maturity over a long period of time. Keeping it in mind, we should therefore have more understanding towards the states which have embarked upon moving towards democracy at a relatively late stage. Our primary objective should be to search for ways in which we can help these states to consolidate their gains on the road to democracy and widen the scope of application of democratic principles.

The level of economic and social development is another factor that directly relates to the strengthening of democracy. It is a fact that governments are more reluctant to proceed with rapid democratization if the socio-economic development falls behind that which is essential for political stability. It goes without saying that democratic principles can hardly be enhanced, let alone human rights and fundamental freedoms are protected in a political environment where instability and turmoil predominate. In the recent past, we have born witness to a number of instances where democracy had to be interrupted because of discrepancy between inadequate economic resources and heightened political awareness.

These considerations bring into focus the comprehensive concept of security. This concept, as is known, links progress in one of the three dimensions of OSCE to progress in another dimension. It makes sense therefore that in order to make headway in the human dimension, progress in economic dimension is needed. The link between socio-economic condition and democratic reform is manifest in so far as recently admitted participating states are concerned. In order for democratic reform to proceed smoothly in those countries, financial means is needed to form a sound economic basis on which democratic institutions would be built.

I should like to take up very briefly the argument that infringements of human rights and fundamental freedoms are almost always the work of state machinery. I find it hard to go along with this argument. In our view, at present terrorist and racist groups are resorting more and more to methods of violence for the accomplishment of their ultimate aims. As such these groups are violators of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Terror in Turkey is a case in point. Those who have chosen to murder nearly five thousand
civilians, women and children indiscriminately over the last ten years, done so for the purpose of winning support by force of arms for their sinister designs, i.e. to carve a piece of land out of Turkey.

As long as terrorism continues, hardly any democratic government can promote human rights and fundamental freedoms by disregarding the sensitivity of its public opinion. My delegation is convinced that there are things that we can do in the OSCE about terrorism. Firstly, the participating states should recall the commitments they entered into under OSCE documents and should be willing to fulfil them effectively. In this way they can contribute to eliminating terrorism and thus assist in the strengthening of democratic institutions in the OSCE area.

Another cause of concern for us are the continuing assaults in a number of European countries against migrant workers for the only reason that they are somewhat culturally different from the native people. This could hardly be considered anything but breach of human rights.

With the spread of racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism in Europe, human rights of migrant workers have become more and more threatened by the adherents of these phenomena. Here we should address two aspects: One is protection of migrant workers, their life and property against racist, xenophobic assaults, the other is the need for effective measures to eliminate discrimination against migrant workers.

We suggest the OSCE to pay more attention to the human rights problem of migrant workers and expect the participating states to create conditions for promoting equality of opportunity in such areas as culture, working conditions, education, social security, housing and health.

Last but not least, I should like to touch very brief upon the role of NGO's at the implementation meetings. My delegation shares the view that the OSCE should increase openness of its activities by allowing NGO's to participate in human dimension activities. On the other hand, the contribution of the NGOs will be more result oriented so long as they adopt a constructive approach to the issues.

With these views in mind my delegation is prepared to offer its cooperative effort for the successful conclusion of this implementation meeting.

Thank you.