

**29TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ADOPTION OF THE UPR WG REPORT OF TURKEY**

**OPENING STATEMENT BY
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TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA**

26 June 2015

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates
and Representatives of the Civil Society,

It is a pleasure for me to address this meeting on the occasion of the adoption of the Outcome of Turkey's second Universal Periodic Review.

The second cycle of Turkey's UPR was conducted on 27 January 2015. The Turkish delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, Deputy Prime Minister, demonstrating the strong commitment of our Government to the UPR process.

Turkey believes that the UPR as a universal peer-review mechanism has a tremendous potential to significantly contribute to the enhancement of human rights on global scale. The UPR process inherently conducted in a constructive spirit and a non-politicized manner, presents a unique opportunity for further improvement in the field of human rights for UN member states. UPR recommendations based on an objective assessment of the human rights situation of the state under review can be an important tool to contribute in a constructive manner to each state's human rights agenda.

Mr. President,

At the adoption of its UPR Working Group report on 29 January, Turkey has accepted 199 out of the 278 recommendations made during the review and declared that responses to 52 recommendations would be provided in due course.

Following a careful consideration by relevant authorities, we have provided a written account of our assessment of these 52 recommendations in our addendum document presented to this Session.

Today, I am pleased to announce that, overall, out of the 278 recommendations, 215 enjoy our support, some of them being considered to be already implemented. Proportionally, this means that Turkey has accepted roughly

80% of the recommendations, which is a proof of strong commitment to the UPR process.

As a further testimony, immediately after the second cycle review, Turkey acted decisively to ensure a sound follow-up mechanism for the UPR recommendations in line with our national human rights programmes. Accordingly, necessary governmental consultations have been held and the implementation of the UPR recommendations was decided to be followed by the Reform Action Group, which already plays the leading role in Turkey's human rights reform process. We hope that progress made with regard to the implementation of the recommendations will be provided in our mid-term follow-up report to be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2017.

Mr. President,

Turkey considers the protection and promotion of human rights always as a priority for its own people. Turkey's commitment to expanding the scope of fundamental rights and freedoms as well as upholding democracy and the rule of law continues unabated.

Despite both potential and actual challenges of serious character endangering the stability in its own region, Turkey has always opted for freedoms. We have made great strides in further promotion and protection of human rights. No matter how important progress we made, we resolutely continue our efforts for achieving the better where each citizen can enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms unhindered.

The fact that the recent Parliamentary elections of June 7th were characterized by active and high participation demonstrated once again our commitment to democracy and holding democratic elections.

As past achievements have always shown, the resolve of Turkey for further progress in the field of human rights will continue with a view to empowering the people of Turkey, ensuring the enjoyment of the fundamental rights and freedoms to the highest extent.

Thank you Mr. President.