



## PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement by The Delegation of Turkey  
63rd General Assembly  
Third Committee  
Agenda Item 56: Advancement of Women  
New York, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Mr Chairman,

As this is the first time I am taking the floor, on behalf of my delegation, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Third Committee. We are confident that your able leadership will bring success to the work and deliberations of our Committee. I also extend my delegation's congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

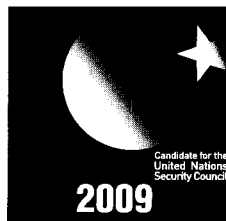
Mr Chairman,

Turkey aligned herself with the statement made by the delegation of France on behalf of the European Union. Therefore, I will be brief and focus on my country's efforts and achievements on the advancement of women and promotion of women's rights.

Equality between women and men before the law is one of the basic principles of Turkish Constitution. In Article 10, it is stated that "women and men have equal rights" and that "the State is responsible for overseeing this equality goes into practice".

With the amendment to Article 90 of Turkish Constitution on 17 May 2004, supremacy was given to international conventions concerning fundamental rights and freedoms over all national laws.

In addition, the two fundamental laws of Turkish legal system, namely the Civil Code and the Penal Code were completely changed and significant achievements were realized in the articles concerning women. Within this reform process, the contribution of non-governmental organizations played an important role.



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Mr Chairman,

Turkey is a party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since 1985. The Turkish Government also ratified the Optional Protocol of CEDAW in 2002.

Very recently, on 29 January 2008, Turkey withdrew her declaration about the Article 9 of CEDAW. The fact that Turkey has already withdrawn her reservations regarding Article 15 and 16 of the said Convention in 1999 both points out to the achievements in Turkey with respect to women's rights and certifies our Country's adherence to her international commitments, especially in the context of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Thank you.