Thank you Mr President,

Turkey is pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution before us today and we look forward to its adoption by consensus.

Afghanistan is going through a crucial phase in terms of its political, security and economic transformation. The gains of the past 13 years in the country, including in the fields of security, democracy, governance, capacity and institution building, economic development and human rights should be commended. Nevertheless, these achievements are not yet at a point of no return and major challenges remain yet to be tackled. Therefore, the international community’s continuing support is vital for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan that can effectively serve the needs of its people. With this understanding, the comprehensive role assumed by the UN and UNAMA in supporting the Afghan people will continue to be critical.

Mr. President,

We welcome the successful continuation of the political transition process in Afghanistan. Indeed, the results of the Presidential elections marked a success for all of the Afghan people, as it demonstrated their strong will and courage to determine their own future. The developments have also proven the professionalism of the Afghan institutions which took part in the process. The common will of the candidates running in the second round of the elections to establish a National Unity Government, independent of the election results is of particular importance, since it has clearly displayed the Afghan people’s determination, as a whole, to carrying their country forward and their belief in a common ideal. We believe that Afghanistan has emerged stronger from these experiences.

We welcome the fact that by the end of 2014 Afghan National Security Forces will assume full security responsibility for their people and country. However, support for the continued development of the Afghan National Security Forces and institutions and wider cooperation with Afghanistan will still carry paramount importance. The stability of Afghanistan, and subsequently that of the region, will depend on improved security. The consequences of failure would be too immense for any of us to bear. Turkey remains committed to standing by the people of Afghanistan in this transition process.

In fact, Mr. İsmail Aramaz, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Afghanistan, has recently been appointed as the next NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan. Furthermore, in addition to Turkey’s financial commitments for the funding of the Afghan National Security Forces, Turkey
will also assume the Framework Nation role for Kabul in the new mission which will be launched after the ISAF is concluded by the end of 2014. We will also undertake the responsibility for the Kabul International Airport.

Mr. President,

At a critical juncture of political, security and economic transformation in Afghanistan, the importance of regional cooperation and commitment grows all the more relevant for steering the region into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. The region has demonstrated on various occasions its readiness to resolve its own problems, and to transform common problems into areas of mutual benefit. We welcome all bilateral and multilateral dialogue and cooperation efforts to this end. With this understanding, we also welcome the increased momentum that has been achieved through the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan thus far. The 4th Ministerial Conference of the Process held in Beijing on 31 October 2014 has once again demonstrated the importance of promoting regional cooperation.

Turkey welcomes and encourages all efforts to enhance connectivity at the regional level. We believe that tangible projects emerging from increased cooperation will facilitate economic development, stability and self-sustainability in the region.

Mr. President,

Continued display of will of the international community will strengthen the hopes of the Afghan people for a bright future. Turkey will always remain in solidarity with the Afghan people and will continue to contribute to a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, as we have done so for many decades.

Thank you.