

**Report to the Permanent Council 18 May, 2017
by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat,
Ambassador Natalya Drozd,
June 2016 to May 2017**

INTRODUCTION

Since the previous annual report, Turkmenistan has taken further steps on the road towards achieving the country's national reform objectives while maintaining security and stability at the same time. The OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (Centre), within the framework of its mandate and in line with the 2016 German and current Austrian Chairmanships' priorities, has increased its efforts to support the host country in areas where the OSCE and the Centre's programming can bring impact and added value.

Throughout the reporting period, the Centre's communication and co-operation with the host country continued to be efficient and effective, built on mutual trust and constructive exchange of views. The Centre continues to rely on the fruitful co-operation with government authorities, institutes, universities, civil society and the diplomatic corps, the UN and other international and regional organisations.

The Centre received the final List of Projects agreed with the Government in December 2016 and has immediately assumed the implementation of its programmatic activities. Note should be given to the fact that since the last report all of the Centre's senior staff members, i.e. Head of Centre, Politico-Military Officer, Economic-Environmental Officer, Human Dimension Officer and the Project Co-ordinator, have changed. Nevertheless, throughout the reporting period the Centre has remained actively functional in supporting the host country in achieving strategic priorities and promoting the OSCE principles and commitments in Turkmenistan.

The Head of Centre was received by President Berdymuhamedov and has had regular meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Turkmenistan and the senior staff of the MFA as well as with other senior governmental officials of the country.

In November 2016, on the occasion of the Global UN Conference on Sustainable Transport the OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier visited the country. During the visit, the President of Turkmenistan received Secretary General Zannier. The Secretary General also met with Mr. Rashid Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Akja Nurberdyeva, Chairperson of Mejlis (Assembly of Turkmenistan, further referred to as Parliament) in order to discuss further co-operation between the OSCE and Turkmenistan.

During the reporting period, the Centre maintained a strong media presence and continued raising public awareness about its activities through national print and electronic media. The Head of Centre made 15 statements for Turkmen TV channels on the occasion of Centre-organized events, Turkmenistan's national holidays and major events organized by the host Government. National

newspapers published several statements made by the Head of Centre marking important national and international events held in Turkmenistan. Furthermore, Turkmen TV channels broadcasted statements given by the OSCE Secretary General as part of his participation in the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference hosted by Turkmenistan in November 2016, and on the occasion of the Neutrality Day.

Contextual developments

Political and Economic Highlights

The reporting period was marked by a number of important political events in Turkmenistan.

On 12 February 2017, Turkmenistan held presidential elections and re-elected President Berdymuhamedov, who then formed a new government. The OSCE/ODIHR undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), in December 2016, to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the respective elections. The resulting Election Assessment Mission (EAM) was deployed in February 2017. The final report compiling overall assessments and conclusions on the elections, as well as recommendations, was published by the ODIHR on 10 May 2017.

During the reporting period, on 14 September 2016, Turkmenistan also adopted new revisions to its Constitution, which introduced the new national institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson), to be appointed by the Parliament. The Ombudsman's role, functions, and immunity as well as the appointment and dismissal mechanisms, terms of the office, guarantees of independence and other relevant issues were further specified in the Law on Ombudsman that was adopted on 23 November 2016 and came into legal force as of 1 January 2017. In 2017, on 20 March, the Parliament elected Ms. Yazdursun Gurbannazarova to the post of the first Ombudsperson of Turkmenistan. With the appointment of Ms. Gurbannazarova, Turkmenistan continued a positive trend of appointing senior female officials.

During the reporting period, domestic law-making activities resulted in the adoption of as many as 25 new pieces of primary legislation and amending around 60 existing laws and codes. Turkmenistan ratified or acceded to a number of bilateral and multilateral international law instruments, including, among others, the "Paris Agreement" within the framework of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In October 2016, the Government of Turkmenistan adopted a new Water Code of Turkmenistan, which, *inter alia*, addresses the main principles of the 1992 Helsinki Convention (regarding the protection and use of trans-boundary water resources and international lakes), which Turkmenistan ratified in 2012. In particular, provisions on basin water management principles, as well as a public water management approach were introduced.

In 2017, the National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing process was started by the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as one of the substantial steps of the implementation of the Law of Turkmenistan "On Counteracting the Legalization of Proceeds Received in a Criminal Manner and the Financing of Terrorism" which was adopted in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and put into force as of 2016.

Turkmenistan also undertook further consecutive measures in 2016 and early 2017 to become a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

In January 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Turkmenistan invited the heads of major international presences, including the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, for a roundtable

discussion on the ways to improve the activities of the national media. The meeting was also attended by the heads of Turkmenistan's media and high-level MFA officials, which is clear evidence of the willingness of the host government to enhance engagement with international organizations in the area of media development. The progress in public outreach may also be noted in the increasing number of state institutions running websites, including the Central Commission for Elections and the Conduct of Referenda.

During the reporting period, the economic context has been affected by a changing global economic landscape. Turkmenistan is a country with abundant natural resources and its economy's key sector is energy, mainly gas and oil. Consequently, the prospect of a prolonged environment of low hydrocarbon prices and competition from other global gas producers has affected the country's economy and the manner in which it influenced economic developments in other gas and oil rich countries.

As a major gas exporter, operating in a challenging environment, the country has been striving to promote the diversification of its economy. In the reporting period, Turkmenistan launched a number of big infrastructure projects, thus indicating its willingness to become the main transportation hub in the region. A new international airport was opened in September 2016. In November 2016, the Turkmen segment of the railway link Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan became operational, and in March 2017 road and railroad bridges were opened in Turkmenabat, connecting Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

With regard to the diversification of the country's export markets and increase of its regional connectivity, the partnership between Turkmenistan and Asian Development Bank (ADB) is noteworthy. Given Turkmenistan's vast energy resources and strategic location, ADB operations focus on enhancements of the country's transport and energy sectors, with infrastructure projects fostering regional co-operation. This partnership is largely based around various regional initiatives under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC), which is a joint endeavour of six partners: ADB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank. According to the ADB, the country operations business plan (COBP) for 2018, foresees lending \$800 million to Turkmenistan in the 2017–2018 period, in order to help develop the country's transport and transit potential, promote the exporting of energy, and advance private sector operations.

To that end, Turkmenistan hosted an International Transport and Logistics Conference in Avaza on 4 May 2017. The forum was a continuation of the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, held in Ashgabat in November 2016, under the aegis of the UN, with the aim of putting into practical implementation the initiatives proposed during the Global Conference.

A significant step in the diversification of Turkmenistan's economy and development of the new mining and processing industry was taken when the Garlyk mining and processing plant was officially opened in March 2017. Access to the local fertilizers will enable agricultural manufacturers to increase the competitiveness of their products at foreign markets and boost export revenues. Furthermore, Turkmenistan will export potash fertilizers to Afghanistan, which will support the economic and agricultural development of the neighbouring country.

Finally, throughout the reporting period, the Government of Turkmenistan has been concentrated on preparations for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games ("Asiada") to be hosted by Ashgabat from 17 to 27 September 2017. The efforts undertaken as part of preparations for the Asiada are also expected to contribute to the enhancement of transport and communication infrastructure in the country.

Regional initiatives

During the reporting period, Turkmenistan has been very active in promoting dialogue in regional context and the country assumed responsibilities in a number of regional initiatives.

Throughout 2016 Turkmenistan continued to co-chair jointly with Azerbaijan the Istanbul Process Regional Infrastructure Confidence-Building Measures (RI-CBM) technical groups in the framework of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul process on Afghanistan. The 5th Meeting of the RI-CBM technical group was organized by the MFA of Turkmenistan with the support of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat provided within the framework of the Centre's extra budgetary project "Secretariat of Istanbul Process". The Istanbul process was established to provide a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political and economic co-operation among Afghanistan and its neighbours. This regional initiative includes the implementation of a number of major regional projects, such as the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railroad as well as electricity power lines.

In 2016, Turkmenistan also continued its work as a head of the the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS), which co-ordinates the regional co-operation in the area of environment protection and sustainable development. Moreover, in the capacity of the IFAS Chairman for 2017-2019, Turkmenistan will host its Executive Committee (EC IFAS) during the Chairmanship and work on co-operation in the region in the field of water resources and environmental management.

Furthermore, in 2016 Turkmenistan continued to chair the Dialogue "Central Asia + Japan". On 1 May 2017, the Foreign Ministers of the countries participating in the Dialogue met in Ashgabat. The Foreign Ministers of the five Central Asian countries exchanged views on such issues as security, stability, expansion of co-operation in the transport and logistics sphere and activation of humanitarian exchanges. The sixth meeting within this multilateral co-operation format resulted in the joint statement "Long-term cooperation and further strengthening of relations between countries of Central Asia and Japan" and the "Roadmap for Regional Cooperation in Transport and Logistics". To ensure security in the region and beyond, participants committed to increase joint efforts for countering terrorism and violent extremism as well as drug trafficking from Afghanistan as a potential source of terrorism financing. The importance of co-operation in efficient border control for maintenance of regional stability and security was also stressed. Japan pledged 24 billion yen (USD 215.6 million) for the development of the region's transport and logistics system and assistance in the field of human resources by providing training for some 2,000 specialists from Central Asia in Japan. The next ministerial meeting will be held in 2018 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Finally, as of 1 January 2017, Turkmenistan assumed the 2017 Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference, an inter-governmental organization which is the governing and decision-making body for the Energy Charter process, established by the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty. The concept of Turkmenistan's Chairmanship focuses on the expansion of geography and multi-variant energy flows, their reliability and security of the international transit of energy on an equal and fair basis. In November 2017, Ashgabat will host the 28th session of the Energy Charter that should contribute to strengthening regional security.

PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Centre continued to offer broad support to the host country in the process of its implementation of the OSCE principles and commitments on:

- Transnational threats;
- Strengthening and enhancing border management and security;
- Promoting good governance, energy security and environmental issues; and
- Raising awareness on human rights and democratic values.

During the reporting period, the Centre implemented 31 projects and added new topics to its project portfolio responding to the needs of the host country and emerging security challenges and threats. More than 900 Turkmen participants took part in the implementation of projects, out of which around 800 participated in events in the country, mostly in trainings and seminars. Approximately 100 participants attended the OSCE-hosted events abroad, 14 - in three study tours to the OSCE participating States. In all three dimensions, the Centre increased its efforts to consider gender-mainstreaming in its work and involve youth and women in addressing all relevant issues.

The Centre makes every effort to partner with other international organizations working in Turkmenistan, most notably UN agencies (UNDP, UNODC, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA) and the EU, where such synergy may lead to tangible and sustainable results and provide added value to the Centre's beneficiaries. Opportunities for enhanced co-ordination are continuously explored with the aim of avoiding overlapping of activities with international partners and improving effectiveness of resource allocation. With increasing scarcity of resources, programmatic initiatives need to be well targeted so, the Centre actively takes part in, and very often hosts, the donors' co-ordination events, both via formal meetings of the international community representatives and informal, but still effective, gatherings focused on specific topical issues. An example of such co-ordination is the Centre's chairing of the working group on human rights, established in 2012 with the intention of improving the exchange of information between international agencies working in the field of human rights and development in Turkmenistan. With the view to maximizing the efficient use of the Centre's human and financial resources, further efforts will put into maintaining constructive partnership with the UN and the EU, across all programmes.

Political-Military Dimension

In the Conflict Prevention and Confidence and Security Building programme, the Centre provided further support to the implementation of OSCE commitments, including the Vienna Document, the OSCE Communications Network as well as countering drugs and terrorism, traffic safety, critical energy infrastructure protection, border security and border management.

Travel document security: During past years, the Centre promoted Border Security and Border Management, Airport and Aviation Security as well as Travel Document Security including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Public Key Directory (PKD), in order to validate and exchange e-passport information.

As a result of the co-operation with the OSCE, after five years of intensive joint work, in December 2016, Turkmenistan decided to join the PKD of the ICAO. It is a major achievement as the ICAO PKD is a database holding national cryptographic keys used to validate e-passport information across the world.

Border patrolling: Since 2014, the Centre has been implementing an extra-budgetary project with the State Border Service of Turkmenistan (SBS) in order to strengthen the capacities of the border guards to patrol the State borders through the use of innovative patrolling and surveillance and to detect, prevent and suppress illegal cross-border activity. The project also aims to enhance co-operation with the neighbouring countries and in 2016, for the first time, a group of

participants from Northern Afghanistan was trained in Ashgabat. Recently in March 2017, the Centre organised the first joint Afghan-Turkmen training, also in Ashgabat. It is the only project in this field in the country and it was the first such joint training. In order to facilitate the participation of border officials from Northern Afghanistan, the Centre has been co-operating with the UNDP-implemented EU Border Management Northern Afghanistan (EU-BOMNAF) project in Tajikistan.

In May, a four weeks course for 20 border guards has started and for the rest of 2017 and in 2018, the Centre will continue to train more border guards. Generous contributions from Japan, USA, Germany and Luxembourg allowed the Centre to extend this important project. Besides the patrol training, additional specialized trainings will be organised on operating in alpine and maritime environments as well as on medical topics. During the reporting period, 114 Turkmen and 23 Afghan Border Guards benefited from the project and more joint trainings are planned for the second half of the year.

The Centre also provided, through the extra-budgetary project, support to the MFA of Turkmenistan within the framework of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul process on Afghanistan. In September 2016, assistance was provided to organise a meeting of the regional technical groups of the "Regional Infrastructures" Confidence Building Measures (RI-CBM). In April 2017, the Centre co-organized the fifth meeting of the RI-CBM technical groups followed up with panel discussions on the role of transport, transit corridors, and energy in the sustainable development of the region. The following day, the MFA hosted a meeting on preparations for the seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII) to be held in Ashgabat, in November 2017.

Promoting road traffic safety: In the reporting period, the Centre concluded its long-term project on improving road safety in Turkmenistan by building the capacity of the national police. The final event in June 2016 gathered representatives of the Traffic Control Inspectorate of Turkmenistan's Interior Ministry and local public organization dealing with road safety who focused on the role of educational institutions, public organizations and media in raising public awareness on traffic safety.

Critical energy-infrastructure protection: The Centre remained committed to law enforcement capacity-building and in December 2016 organized a seminar on critical energy infrastructure protection for representatives of the Interior and National Security Ministries, the State Border Service, and the state companies TurkmenOil and TurkmenGas. The emphasis was put on methods and approaches to risk assessment and governance, including from cyber threats, underlining the importance of co-ordination among different stakeholders, both at the national and international level.

Countering terrorism and enhancing aviation security: In the reporting period, the Centre further supported host-country's efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism by enhancing aviation security. To that end, the Centre organized in April 2017 a training course on security procedures at aviation checkpoints and on analysing x-ray images to recognize prohibited items, firearms and explosive devices. In view of increased number of passengers that are expected for the upcoming 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in September, the importance of enhancing security of international airports in Turkmenistan and well-trained personnel is evident.

Economic and Environmental Activities

In the second dimension, the Centre addressed good governance, energy security and environmental issues.

Good Governance: In 2016, the Centre was regularly engaged in promoting good governance best practices on anti- money laundering, corruption and terrorism financing and strengthening capacities of Turkmen authorities. The focus throughout the year has been on international experience in anti-corruption area, including customer due diligence measures and best practices in the development of a national anti-corruption system, including its legislative component. The expert consultations and relevant information was also provided to support the process of implementation of the Law of Turkmenistan “On Counteracting the Legalization of Proceeds Received in a Criminal Manner and the Financing of Terrorism.”

In May 2017, a seminar on best practices in the combatting terrorism financing was conducted for the relevant law enforcement and financial institutions, to support country’s resistance to one of the most challenging and pressing international threats.

Aarhus Convention: As part of its actions aimed at promoting environmental security in Turkmenistan, the Centre continued to support the Aarhus Centre in Turkmenistan. Its activities are aimed at raising awareness of national stakeholders in the environmental area, providing officials and people with legal advice and consultations on the Aarhus Convention provisions, requirements and recommendations, as well as its role in the decision-making process. It is also vital to note that the Aarhus Centre actively participates in the process of development of national environmental legislation. In addition, throughout the reporting period, four Public Environmental Informational Centres (PEICs), launched by the OSCE between 2014 and 2016 in main cities of the country, were supported in order to promote informational access in accordance with the environmental information pillar of the Aarhus Convention.

Energy diplomacy: Within the framework of the Centre’s support in the area of sustainable energy and energy diplomacy, national stakeholders benefited from OSCE support by enhancing their awareness regarding best international practices in the energy governance and security area, as well as the role of international organizations in energy-related issues.

To support the efforts of Turkmenistan in introducing efficient technologies of renewable energy production, with a particular focus on solar energy, the Centre provided information in the area of alternative energy production and consumption in Turkmenistan. Further, the Centre conducted a seminar on best practices and methodologies on development of a road map on solar energy for the benefit of officials involved in the national road map development process. Additionally, a lecture on best practices of the efficient energy production and consumption, for professors and students of three relevant Higher Educational Institutions was delivered by means of video-conference.

Natural Disasters: In 2016, through a seminar and study visit, representatives of relevant national authorities took part the exchange of best practices and methodologies in the development of mechanisms to reduce and prevent the effects of natural disasters which could occur in the region, such as earthquakes, drought, etc. They also learnt about responsibilities of the government in responding to such disasters and examined technologies as well as know-how on preparations and responses to natural disasters.

Human Dimension Activities

In the third dimension, the Centre continued to build legislative capacities of lawmakers and promote international human rights standards as well as support penitentiary, educational and media reforms and legal-awareness raising.

Parliament: In the reporting period, Turkmenistan continued and even intensified its engagement in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) work. The Centre supported participation of the Delegation of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan in all OSCE PA meetings, including the Annual Session in Tbilisi, the Autumn Meeting in Skopje and the Winter Meeting in Vienna. Parliamentarians were also interested in the exchange of experiences with the OSCE/ODIHR. A study visit to ODIHR will be organized at the beginning of July 2017.

Human Rights: The Centre continued its long-term assistance in enhancing the knowledge of relevant stakeholders about international human rights standards, including the OSCE principles and commitments related to the human dimension of security. To that end, the Centre organized multiple thematic seminars and facilitated the participation of representatives of the key government bodies: Parliament, Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs, Office of the Prosecutor General, Institute for Human Rights and Democracy and Migration Service as well academia and public organizations, including the Bar Association, Women and Youth Unions in the OSCE-hosted events. Turkmen officials had opportunities to learn about good practices across the OSCE-region and discuss with international experts the main human rights and democratic standards related to independence of the judiciary and protection of rights in criminal proceedings, gender equality as well as counteracting trafficking in human beings.

Educational reform: In support of the country's reform of high-education, in March 2017 the Centre launched a course on diplomacy for teaching staff and students of the Institute of International Relations of the MFA of Turkmenistan and the International University for Humanities and Development. Lecturers from the two national educational institutions discussed with international experts the organization of teaching process and innovative teaching methods while students had an opportunity to enhance their knowledge on bilateral and multilateral diplomacy in modern international relations, the role of international organizations such as the OSCE, public diplomacy as well as specifics of consular and diplomatic service.

Penitentiary reform: In the reporting period the Centre continued to be engaged in enhancing the knowledge of penitentiary staff by organizing a training course on international standards related to prisoners' rights. For the first time, in December 2016 the Centre together with other international organizations and diplomatic embassies had an opportunity to visit the correctional institution for juvenile offenders-Education Colony in Bayramaly, Mary province. It was organized by the MFA and Ministry of Interior to familiarize representatives of the international community in Turkmenistan with the activities of the institution and conditions in which inmates serve their sentences. The second visit, to the women's prison in Dashoguz was organized in January 2017.

Promoting freedom of religion or belief: The Centre continued its multi-year effort to raise the awareness of government officials on international standards related to religious freedom and their implementation in practice, by facilitating the exchange of best practices in this area in a seminar for lawmakers and law enforcement officials in June 2016. As of 2017, Turkmenistan joined its neighbours in the implementation of ODIHR's regional project 'Promoting Security and Social Cohesion through Advancing Freedom of Religion or Belief for All in Central Asia'. The first event Turkmen representatives will take part in is the training course, in the train-the-trainer format, to be held in Warsaw, in July 2017.

Legal Awareness Raising: The Centre continued maintaining and updating the on-line Legal Database, accessible at the Centre's website. The Database contains around 35,000 pieces of officially published national normative acts and international treaties to which Turkmenistan is party. It is a reference tool for the most updated legal information in the country, mostly in Russian and Turkmen. During the reporting period, the Database was visited 4,478 times by 3,134 visitors from 76 countries/territories (the statistics is based on automated analytical findings).

In addition to the awareness raising through electronic means, the Centre also continued providing legal support directly to individuals who asked for legal aid. The Centre's assistance includes providing oral legal consultations, legal information and assistance in drafting appeals. In the past year, compared to 2015, the number of the persons approaching the Centre for legal aid has slightly decreased (from 165 individuals in 2015 to 159 in 2016). The trend of decreasing number of citizens might continue in 2017 as the Ombudsman's Office has been established with the mandate to receive and consider complaints from individuals. During the reporting period, 90 persons lodged initial requests for assistance and the Centre assisted in drafting appeals in 17 cases. Legal awareness raising activities included also the Centre's long-term support to the public association that operates a domestic violence hotline and shelter for domestic violence victims which continues to be unique in the host country. During the reporting period, more than 600 individuals requiring information or assistance and psychological or legal counselling contacted the hotline.

Supporting establishment of the Ombudsman's office: As of January 2017, the Centre launched a new project aimed at capacity-building of professionals engaged in the implementation of the newly adopted "Law on Ombudsman". The first Centre's activity will be carried out already beginning of May when, in co-operation with the UN agencies in Turkmenistan, a round-table discussion will be hosted by the Parliament to identify areas of assistance in 2017 and beyond. The Centre will also use that opportunity to present best practices in creating and developing Ombudsman's institutions from across the OSCE-region.

Media development and legislation

Media development: In the reporting period, the Centre continued its activities in the area of media development. The Centre is practically the only international organization in Turkmenistan which provides targeted support in the area of enhancing the national media legislation, and strengthening journalism education and capacity building. In 2017, the Centre initiated a project aimed at supporting the establishment of press services in Turkmenistan.

Media law and reform: To facilitate media reform in the country organized in June 2016 a study visit on the exchange of best practices in the area of media development and reform to Latvia for six representatives of Turkmenistan's media and parliament.

Capacity building of journalists and journalism education: The Centre trained journalists from national media in journalism reporting skills and provided support in modernizing journalism education with courses on Internet journalism for journalism students as well as providing a seminar on innovative methods of teaching journalism for 15 instructors from Turkmenistan's institutions of higher education. The Centre also organized a training course on the TV coverage of major events for staff of Turkmenistan's TV channels and journalism instructors from institutions of higher education.

Promoting access to information: The Centre organized a training course on new opportunities for communication through online resources of state institutions for content managers and IT specialists from parliament, law-enforcement bodies, key ministries, and media and financial institutions. As part of its support in the establishment of press services, the Centre held a training course on the interaction between state institutions and citizens attended by press officers from some 20 key ministries and institutions.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Centre continues to consolidate programmatic activities and projects on priority areas where the OSCE can produce tangible results. The Centre will continue to enhance the quality of programmatic activities and deliverables of projects within the parameters of stable human and financial resources.

The relationships between the Centre and the host country authorities continue to develop and progress towards mutual benefit of Turkmenistan and the OSCE. Building on these achievements, the Centre staff will strive to bring more impact and added value to the work of the OSCE in Turkmenistan for the successful implementation of the mandate.