**ADRESS BY TURKEY DURING THE PRE-SESSION CONSULTATIONS**

**Friday, 17 May at 10.00 in Board Room D**

**Dr. Mustafa SALDIRIM**

**Deputy Secretary General of the Court of Cassation**

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We congratulate you, Your Excellency for your election as the First Vice Chair of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

I would like to assure of our full cooperation with you, other members and Secretariat for the successful conclusion of the session.

As known, Turkey has tabled a draft resolution entitled “Enhancing Transparency in the Judicial Process” for the consideration of the Commission.

As we know and in many international documents, it is indicated that transparency is a fundamental element of judicial process that upholds human rights and the rule of law. We have proposed this draft resolution in order to promote one of the basic principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights related to the independence, impartiality and accountability of the judiciary.

Additionally, the Istanbul Declaration, which has been referred in the resolution, reflects contemporary standards relevant to the administration of justice, and supports most of the human rights documents including the Bangalore Principles in terms of their active role in strengthening judicial integrity. The Istanbul Declaration has also very similar development process to Bangalore Principles which were prepared and finalized by judges. They are drafted and adopted by judges, for use by judges. It is clear that, this procedure is a requirement of judicial independence. Because, as we know, the responsibility of ensuring fair and efficient functioning of the judiciary belongs to the judiciary. Chief justices, who came together from all around the world, developed and approved the İstanbul Declaration with the sense of this responsibility.Turkish Court of Cassation hosted these meetings in cooperation with the UNDP. At the end of this process, the request for dissemination of the İstanbul Declaration as a resolution through UN, emerged as a requirement of the principle of judicial independence.

The resolution is a short and concise draft including seven preambulars and four Operative paragraphs.

The objective is to promote further awareness on the significance of transparency in the Judicial Process in light of most recent common efforts of the international community. We believe that we can further benefit from ongoing works and process when formulating programmes designed to secure greater transparency in the judicial process.

Mr. Chair,

We held our first informal meeting yesterday with the participation of interested delegates. We are pleased that the deliberations were very productive. We have received valuable and supportive comments and feedbacks from the delegates.

We have been assured once again that we will be able to reach a consensus text through flexible and constructive approach by all members.

The second informal meeting is scheduled on Tuesday at 15.30 in room M5. I would like to invite once again all interested delegates to the second informal.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude, I would like to renew our support for the success of the meeting, which will further contribute to our joint efforts towards promoting more justice, peace and security.

Thank you Mr. Chair.