



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Turkmenistan

As delivered by Charge D'Affaires Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 4, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We would like to commend the government of Turkmenistan for publishing a law November 2nd that abolishes criminal penalties for unregistered activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Positive implementation of this law will help Turkmenistan uphold its important OSCE commitments concerning freedom of association for non-governmental organizations and democratic institutions.

Full respect for these commitments requires that the government of Turkmenistan rescind all other legislation and halt all practices that hinder NGOs from contributing to a vibrant civil society.

The United States stands ready to assist the government of Turkmenistan pursue these objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.