

**OPENING SPEECH OF H.E. MEVLUT ÇAVUŞOĞLU**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**AT THE 10TH AMBASSADORS CONFERENCE**

**13 AUGUST 2018**

Distinguished Ministers,  
Esteemed Guests,  
Distinguished Ambassadors, my dear colleagues,  
Dear Members of the Press,

I have the honor to welcome you to our Ambassadors Conference, the first one after our transition to the Presidential System of Government, marking traditionally the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of our Ambassadors.

Our Ministry, a highly praised institution of our country, rising on the heritage of our deeply rooted traditions of Ottoman diplomacy, will continue its advance towards our goals more rapidly and strongly within the Presidential System of Government.

This year, under the theme “Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy in the Presidential System of Government”, we have once again prepared a thematically structured and content-rich program, graced with honorable guests.

We have allocated a considerable section of the program this year especially to our business sector, defense industry and regional gatherings.

Furthermore, this year, we will be visiting Konya province, spiritual land of Mevlana, to underline once more the values shaping our policies.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this is the fourth time I am together with you at this forum.

Since last year’s conference, we have had 147 visits abroad, 50 of which to accompany our President. We have hosted 89 foreign ministers. We had 879 international contacts.

Esteemed Ambassadors,

Since our last meeting, Turkey and our Ministry’s organizational structures have been undergoing changes and transformations.

In 2014, I had addressed the Ambassadors Conference as the Minister for EU Affairs.

We have joined ranks with the team of the Ministry for EU Affairs, whom I had worked with before, this time under the Directorate of EU Affairs. Now, we have more responsibilities as well as increased abilities.

Our missions abroad, like our internal organization, is going through a major enlargement process.

The number of our missions abroad, which was 163 in 2002, reached 240. The legal process to open 25 new missions has been completed. The process for 4 new missions is going on. In the upcoming period, we aim to increase the total number of our missions abroad to 269.

I would like to underline some key facts:

-Turkey, with the transformation during our Government under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, holds the 5<sup>th</sup> largest diplomatic network in the world.

-When we add up the populations of countries where Turkish missions are already present, we have reached almost 96% of the total population of Africa, 95% of America, 73% of Oceania, 99% of Asia, and 99.8% of Europe.

-Likewise, when we add up the Gross Domestic Product of countries where Turkish missions are already present, the number corresponds to 98% of the total in Africa and Oceania, and 99.8% in Asia and Europe.

As in politics, also in diplomacy, we reach out to every corner of the world, we are able to bring higher speed and quality services to our citizens and kinsmen living abroad.

Our diplomatic footprint globally omnipresent is also yielding beneficial results in our economy.

Today, Turkey receives direct foreign investment from 74 countries from many continents, almost half of which is from Europe.

We will continue to work together to attract more investments into our country. Turkey is ready, and I would like to invite once again the whole world to invest in our country.

Despite all types of negative propaganda, misperceptions, and the tough challenges the world is going through, Turkey is the most reliable and best destination to invest in today.

The number of overseas investments of natural and legal persons resident in Turkey has reached almost 2 thousand. Their net investments exceeded 42 billion dollars. More than half of these investments are in Europe. Moreover, we are also investing in the Middle East, the Americas, Caribbean, Oceania, Asia, and Africa.

We have established commercial relations with each and every continent. We are export to 210 economic zones and import from 222. We have Free Trade Agreements with 19 countries plus EFTA. Together with our other organizations, we are negotiating FTAs and Preferential Trade Agreements with many countries and regional economic organizations.

We have set up important strategic High Level Cooperation Council mechanisms with 24 countries. In addition, we have 8 trilateral or quadrilateral processes.

Our wide geographic, political and diplomatic vision is bringing most significant advantages to our country. Turkey is a country being simultaneously a member of NATO, the Council of Europe, G20, MIKTA and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, CICA, Turkic Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and many other international organizations representing different continents.

We stand among the members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and we are a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, Strategic Partner of the African Union and Dialogue Partner with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. 61 TIKA Coordination Offices in 59 countries and 54 Yunus Emre Cultural Institutes in 43 countries are nowadays in operation. Turkish Maarif Foundation is running 131 schools in 24 countries. Our national flag-carrier Turkish Airlines, as a global company, flies to 5 continents, 120 countries, 299 cities and 302 airports.

To put it simply, Turkish diplomacy, strengthening its heritage of strong traditions, is strongly rising as a global brand and value today.

In the Presidential System of Government, we will continue to work hard in line with our 2023 goals, most importantly to rank among the top 10 global economies, as well as our 2053 and 2071 visions.

The primary task of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our Ambassadors is to perform foreign policy actions that would enlarge our country's horizons, in the course set by our President.

For this purpose, we cooperate closely with our relevant Ministries and institutions.

Our Embassies play active roles in enhancing our economic, commercial and cultural relations, especially our defense industry, our rising star. This year, we reserved a special section in the program to our defense industry.

We will continue our endeavors to increase foreign investments and trade, primarily in "technology intensive" industries.

As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, step by step we attain our national goals with a global vision and we work long and hard with all our team.

And we continue to provide concrete and real service to our citizens abroad, such as:

- We made sure that three Turkish citizens kidnapped in Ubari, Libya were safely rescued after long and enormous efforts;
- We enabled our citizens to vote in our national elections, setting up ballot boxes in around 60 countries in 5 elections held since 2014;
- Only this year, we uninterruptedly served over 350 thousand citizens through our Consulate Call Center, night and day, 24/7, during official holidays and vacations alike. This was on average, 2 thousand calls answered per day;
- Our Call Center also has a role in attracting tourists to our country. On my last visit to this Center, I personally answered two calls. I explained a British citizen how to get visa for his Pakistani spouse. And I answered the questions of one of our citizens calling from Germany. I had a chance to speak with him.
- Since the beginning of 2018, we have stepped in to transport 50 Turkish citizens falling ill abroad, by air ambulance;

And with compassion and dedication, we delivered many other services to our citizens, with a cordial human touch. Together with our ambassadors, consul generals and their personnel, we took care of our citizens. For example:

- Ersin and Özden San's baby Muhammet Ali San was prematurely born in Vienna, and was put into an incubator. In December 2017, the baby was taken under protection, without any court order, by the Vienna Youth Department. Having their

baby placed in an incubator, Ersin and Özden San was under pressure to get in a legal fight to take back custody of their son. Our Consulate General as well as the Legal Adviser supported the San family, and made initiatives at the level of local authorities. As a result of these efforts, the custody of newborn Muhammet Ali was given to his grandmother Nebahat Avanođlu, who had a stable income in Austria. May Allah bless him to grow up together with his parents.

Our citizens deserve best of everything. To this end, we will work together.

Our Ambassadors' efforts in representing and defending our national interests and policies abroad in all aspects, supporting our citizens and business people, and leading efforts to promote our culture globally, is pleasing our people as well as strengthening our country internationally.

The Ministry personnel are specialized and carefully recruited people with advanced proficiency in foreign languages, following closely world affairs and working with utmost professionalism and dedication.

Born and raised in all corners of Turkey, from Balıkesir, Denizli, İstanbul, İzmir, Ankara, Kastamonu, Konya, Erzincan to Mersin, Adana, Antalya, Gümüşhane, Ordu, Diyarbakır and Adıyaman among others, these people are the sons and daughters of this beautiful land.

With the Presidential System of Government, we gained new opportunities to become more effective in all areas in diplomacy, economy, trade, security, and culture, in line with the entire Presidential Government. With these new opportunities and new understanding, we will keep moving on the road ahead even more vigorously.

Our Ambassadors will continue to be as valuable and as important in our new system as well.

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Distinguished Ambassadors,  
Esteemed Guests,

On 15 July 2016, the Turkish nation not only defeated the heinous coup-plotter terrorist organization FETÖ. That night people's power defeated powerful tanks. Our heroic and noble people, standing against bullets and bombs, showed the whole world its dedication to democracy. Those who thought they could design Turkey by means of evil traps, useful tools like FETÖ, terrorism, economic battles, have been once more frustrated and defeated.

We commemorate our martyrs with respect and gratitude, and our veterans with gratefulness.

I declare it once more with pride...

Our Ministry stood firm against the coup attempt, despite some traitors who infiltrated its ranks.

I was in Samsun at that time. In our Ministry, we put a crisis desk into operation. I, my Ministry and our nation did not sleep that night. We started our fight against the heinous coup attempt of FETÖ.

After defeating the heinous coup attempt that night with our valiant people, we took action and expelled those traitors. Moreover, since the first day, we are working immensely together with the relevant state organs to crush the overseas organization of FETÖ.

The heinous coup attempt of FETÖ failed to reach its target. On the contrary, after eliminating this heinous organization that has infiltrated our state organs and society for decades, Turkey rose from its ashes like a phoenix.

As our national poet Mehmet Akif said, we are a nation that has lived free since eternity, breaking through any barriers set against us.

Our deep-rooted state tradition and national conscience have always been our strengths.

With such strong roots, Turkey has reached new horizons, new targets, globally reflected relevant goals, under the leadership of our President, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

We are moving fast towards our goals of “Peace at Home, Peace in the World” and “reaching above the level of contemporary civilizations”, as set by Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Thanks to the democracy epic written by the Turkish nation, building of a new Turkey has gained increased speed. Foreign policy and external security approach of new Turkey has been redefined.

With this understanding, all threats outside Turkish borders, will be eliminated through our diplomatic, economic and military capabilities. Opportunities will be pursued with the same vigor.

Operations Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch, the Astana process and Menbij Roadmap are all parts of the same process.

These are examples of how the state government’s diplomatic and military tools are employed in rational and complementary fashion.

Our new foreign policy and external security concepts are based on a timeless reality, that is:

Whatever happens in the world, particularly in our region, will have its repercussions in our country. However, mostly in a negative way.

Well, then why when the world is experiencing the lowest levels of violence; we constantly feel under threat and challenged in a ring of fire?

Because: we are surrounded by weakness, poverty and fragility.

This is the age of Industry 4.0. But our neighborhood is wasting time and energy with futile efforts.

Foreign interventions, internal governance problems, blood and violence are going on. Nation states are under threat.

There are still states and non-state armed groups with an insatiable thirst for occupying new territories. Through fire and destruction, they damage not only the world we live in today, but also our future. Neither powerful states nor international organizations can effectively play a positive role. On the contrary, we see proxy wars. Resulting in great human suffering.

In the world, there will always be shocks, be it economic or security-related. But these shocks should make states more “resilient”.

The Republic of Turkey is such a resilient state. Despite instabilities surrounding us, cycle of violence and terror right beyond our borders, despite being located in a very difficult region in social, political and economic terms, in all this negative picture, Turkey is standing strong and moving towards her goals with determination.

As we are surrounded by fragilities and are affected by the problems of our region, an “action-oriented”, “innovative” but a principled foreign policy is a must in our trouble-ridden region and the world.

This action-oriented, innovative and principled foreign policy is what we call Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy.

In a democracy, foreign policy should be “the reflection of the nation”.

As pointed out on various occasions by our President, this doctrine is a home-grown and national foreign policy approach “reflecting the enterprising spirit and humanitarian and virtuous culture of our people”.

We call it enterprising foreign policy because we pursue a Realist, Independent, Peaceful, Creative and Effective foreign policy. A foreign policy able to employ various elements of power at the same time in a rational way. A foreign policy not hesitant of taking initiatives. A foreign policy that takes into account peace and development nexus.

Our foreign policy is at the same time humanitarian and virtuous because we are the representatives of a fair national culture that sees humanity as a whole and loves the Created for the sake of the Creator. This culture envisages that all policies must serve humanity and life. It sees serving peace, harmony, security and prosperity of all humanity as serving its own. We extend our helping hands to the Rohingya people, and would do the same for all suffering people in the world.

We rank number one donor of humanitarian assistance worldwide. We provide protection for the largest number of refugees in the world. My dear friends, we implement the foreign policy of a nation that sides with the oppressed not the oppressor, with the rightful not the powerful.

The amount of Turkey's humanitarian assistance was 8,07 billion dollars in 2017. In terms of the ratio of humanitarian assistance to domestic income, Turkey ranked number one in the world in 2016 and were well ahead in 2017.

Our foreign policy is also universal because Turkey advocates "universal values" enshrined in the UN Charter and the European human rights system – of which Turkey is a founder. Our foreign policy thus makes significant contributions for all humanity.

Within this framework, our main priorities are also clear and transparent:

- We will strengthen international cooperation against terrorist organizations, primarily PKK/PYD/YPG, FETÖ and DAESH.
- We will actively protect the rights of our citizens and kinsmen abroad,
- We will continue working for crisis management and building stability,
- We will strengthen our strategic ties and outreach policies based on mutual interests,
- We will work against prejudices, hostile perceptions and campaigns against Turkey,
- We will work in coordination with our institutions to achieve our development goals.

At the same time:

- We will be the voice of innocents all around the world,
- We will maintain our global leading role in the field of mediation,
- We will strengthen our soft-power,
- We will raise our representation level at global and regional institutions.

As seen from the Action Plan for the First 100 Days of the new Presidential System of Government, we started working diligently.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey's traditional alliances are defined by our NATO membership and EU accession process. And we will keep on going in this direction.

Recently, in our relations with the US, unfortunately we came to a point we did not desire. On the key issues concerning the security of our country, the US administration adopted a stance and policy far from being constructive. They have not taken a

concrete step against FETÖ. In fact, they also know that FETÖ is behind the heinous coup attempt of 15th July. Everytime they asked for evidence from us and we sent the relevant documents, files and evidence. However, the leader of this organization is still enjoying a comfortable life in Pennsylvania.

As to the issue of PYD/YPG, the steps we expected from them on the ground have yet to be concluded. This approach does not suit them. It is also increasing animosity and opposition against the US not only in Turkey, but all throughout the world.

Above all, it is not possible to understand and accept the sanctions and threats.

We expect the USA to stand by our traditional friendly relations and being allies at the NATO. The US is going through a “strategic confusion” also due to its domestic politics. We showed political will to restore relations with the US. We did our part largely. We insisted on constructive engagement and dialogue, and will keep doing so.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I am telling you frankly. We have all been constructive throughout this process. They should know that it is impossible to get a result from Turkey by means of threat, pressure and sanction. We are in favor of diplomacy, negotiations and reconciliation. However, in reconciliation culture, there is no place for imposition and pressure by one party. The two parties should talk and meet on a common ground. We have such a culture.

The US should see and realize once again that not “one” but “each of us” matters. That nothing can be obtained from Turkey by means of sanctions and pressure.

Dear guests,

My dear colleagues,

At this year’s NATO Summit of Heads of States and Governments, we have underlined the indivisibility of NATO’s security from that of Turkey, especially with regard to fight against terrorism.

With the European Union, for over 60 years, we have been on a long narrow path, and bumpy at times. I hope to see our EU membership process revitalize. We have not given up on our full membership goal. We will always raise our standards in every field, even when the EU member states back down on theirs. As Turkey, we will keep taking steps towards reform and harmonization.

In the context of the restructuring in our Ministry, we have incorporated the Directorate for EU Affairs. While continuing relations with the EU, we have also worked on how to continue making and implementing reforms in our country together with our relevant institutions and ministries. We will go ahead in the leadership of our President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

On the other hand, we expect the EU to overcome its current inertia with regards to “visa liberalization” and “the review of the customs union.” Our cooperation on migrants and fight against terrorism should continue with sincerity and in solidarity.

In Europe, we are at home, just like the EU countries are.

Both the NATO alliance and EU membership will continue to be our key directions. Despite being a problematic family today, Europe is also our own family. On the other hand, one should not forget that Turkey’s attention and impact is not limited to Europe.

I will get back to this point at the end of my speech.

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Esteemed Guests,

Turkey’s enterprising and humanitarian foreign policy, under the directions of our President, will take the necessary steps aiming at carrying us forward on our national and historical path, marching unscathed through the turbulent international environment.

There is fire in our neighborhood: we have to prioritize crisis management. Today, the Middle East is in a miserable situation. Particularly Syria and Iraq pose most serious challenges to our country, in terms of security and economy.

In the eighth year of the Syrian conflict, Turkey ranks first among countries paying the highest price in terms of its cross-border implications. We have so far spent 32 billion dollars to accommodate 3.5 million of our Syrian brothers and sisters. We fought actively against the terrorist organizations in Syria, with troops on the ground and having martyrs. From the beginning, we have supported the rightful cause of the Syrian people. While all other countries turned their backs on the Syrian people, we have never stopped supporting them. We worked hard to stop the bloodshed in Syria, and to find a lasting, accepted political solution to the conflict. Many other countries looked

at this conflict only from the view of their fear of refugees and stepped aside. We, on the other hand, have put efforts to reach a solution through Geneva and Astana and we will continue to do so. With Operations Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch, we ensured the security of our borders, all the while spearheading efforts to find political solution to the Syrian conflict.

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We attach great importance to the independence, political unity, territorial integrity, prosperity and stability of our neighbor Iraq. We took a resolute stance against the illegal referendum held by the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq last year. Now it has become clear that we were the only country who spoke honestly with the Northern Iraqi Administration on this issue. This is what they say. Before the referendum, we explained them why we were against the referendum. However, the countries and their representatives who publicly told that they were against the referendum, had actually encouraged the Northern Iraqi Administration for that. This is also what the Northern Iraqi Administration tells us currently. We were the only party who acted honestly, openly and frankly.

Turkey offered the highest amount of funds at the International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq held in Kuwait. We pledged 5 billion dollars. We hope the Turkish companies will take place in and benefit from the reconstruction of Iraq.

We stood in solidarity with our Iraqi brothers and sisters in the fight against DAESH. The Iraqi administration eliminated the scourge of DAESH to a large extent, and now the time has come to PKK.

And for this, we expect the Iraqi government to display an effective and result-oriented cooperation with Turkey. Turkey has the right of self-defense based on international law. No matter where they nest, we will always take all the necessary steps to eradicate PKK.

Furthermore, we also attach utmost importance to the security, peace and prosperity of our Turkmen brothers and sisters, and look out for their rights.

It is a fact that the reconstruction of Iraq will create such an important gain on the way to regional stability.

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We attach importance to our relations with Iran. We believe that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is a useful arrangement. Even though the US has abandoned the deal, it is positive that other signatories remain committed. We will continue to work together with our brotherly countries (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Oman) and the Gulf Cooperation Council to enhance our relations.

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Speaking of the Middle East, Palestine comes first to mind.

The Palestinian cause is a bleeding wound on human conscience. The solution is clear: our Palestinian brothers and sisters must secure a state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Otherwise, we cannot have a lasting peace and stability in our region.

However, the US and Israel are taking provocative steps instead of working towards peace. Prospering through despotism brings terrible future. This path must be abandoned.

Jerusalem is the red line for the Muslim World.

In the face of the Gaza massacre, we sided with our Palestinian brothers and sisters against Israel. We organized two Extraordinary OIC Summits under the leadership of our President. Likewise, we ensured that the illegal actions taken by the US and Israel were condemned by a large majority in the UN General Assembly. Our Ambassadors will keep following the Palestinian cause.

During and after our Summit Term Presidency of the OIC, we will keep leading on all issues of the Muslim world effectively.

Highly esteemed guests,

When we refer to the “key direction,” we do not mean we will follow single dimensioned policies. We are the world’s seventeenth biggest economy and in terms of purchasing power, we rank as the fourteenth. Our economy is the sixth largest one of Europe.

Turkey aims at positioning itself among countries with top 10 GDPs in the world. In this regard, we cannot think of a foreign policy without Asian, American, and African

dimensions. Also politically, we do not have the luxury to follow a narrow-minded approach that lacks an understanding of what globalization is!

Indeed, we are well aware that today, every country, having the opportunity and vision, is active in Asia and Africa. Some have started walking down this path before us, and continue at great speed. However, when we started to engage in those places, questions are raised whether this is a “shift of axis”. This approach is a double-standard.

Our relationship with the West and the East complement each other. The more present and stronger we are in the West, the stronger we will become in the East. The more we are present in the East, the more our value will be in the West. The same goes for the North and South.

Seeing these as alternatives to each other is a long outdated idea. Today’s reality has changed. The whole world has changed, Turkey has changed.

The peculiarity of Turkey is that she can focus on multiple directions at the same time. The Turkish foreign policy has a 360 view—it is multi-directional and multi-dimensional.

The Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia and Middle East are geographies with whom we share a fraternal and emotional bond. In these geographies, we must be a constructive partner in all aspects of our enterprising and humanitarian foreign policy, free of preconceptions and careful not to leave anyone out. We support the Balkan’s vision of integration to Europe. Together, we wish to initiate a peace and development endeavor. With Uzbekistan, we are now putting into action the long-awaited fraternal union initiated last year. Our ties with the Turkic world have been strengthened further. Let me highlight the heartfelt bond the Balkan states displayed by their attendance to our President’s inauguration ceremony. We have all the capabilities to obtain concrete results from this togetherness based on our history.

We have strengthened our ties with our Azeri brothers through the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars rail connection and TANAP. We will continue supporting strongly Azeri rights and territorial integrity.

In the upcoming period, our relations with neighboring Russian Federation will remain as one of the fundamental elements of our foreign policy. We are quite clear and

transparent as to our relations with Russia. The essence of this relation depends on mutual respect and interests. Indeed, the fruitful results of Turkish-Russian cooperation to both nations are quite visible. Our relationship has critical value also for the prosperity and stability in our vast geography. With the principle of transparency, we put forward our views and stance on the issues that we are in disagreement with Russia.

China's Belt and Road initiative is a reality in our region now. Our President took the necessary steps to integrate our country to this Project by participating in the opening event of the Belt and Road Forum. We will continue to enhance our cooperation with China.

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We will also continue with our continental outreach policies.

Asia-Pacific has almost %60 of the world's population and accounts for one third of the global gross domestic product. We must develop new policies to enhance our relations with the region. We have done a lot so far, and we can do much more. We have raised the level of our relations with Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore to "strategic partnership," and with China to "strategic cooperation." We have signed Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia. We have established Sectoral Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN. For the first time, we officially participated in the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore this year. After the opening of our Embassy in Laos, now we are represented in all ASEAN countries and we will keep strengthening our ties with the region.

The main principle of our African Partnership Policy is producing "African solutions to African problems". We endeavor to highlight local ownership in cooperation with our African partners. Besides humanitarian assistance, we support African countries with capacity building and social development projects in the spirit of partnership. Currently, there are 41 Turkish Embassies in the continent. We will also open the new ones. Turkish Airlines flies to 52 destinations in 34 African countries. Our attachment to Africa is most obvious:

Except our President, is there any other world leader who paid visits to 27 African countries? He even visited some of those countries more than once.

As our commercial and investment relations, contacts and presence grow in Africa, we are at the same time fortifying the basis of a permanent partnership on the continent of the future.

The same long-term and multifaceted approach is true for our outreach policy to Latin America and the Caribbean. We have raised the level of our relationship with Brazil and Mexico to strategic partnership, and we keep expanding our diplomatic network in the region. Turkish Airlines flies to 6 destinations in the region. Anadolu Agency is broadcasting from Bogota, in Spanish. In the near future, after Mexico, we will launch Yunus Emre Cultural Centers in Argentina and Colombia. We are boosting our trade with the region and negotiating Free Trade Agreements at the same time.

We are reinforcing our continental outreach with global initiatives.

We have inaugurated the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in Gebze. Technologies developed in this Bank will be transferred to these countries (LDCs), making direct contributions to their development. Why the UN preferred Turkey on this issue among the 194 countries? This happened thanks to our “Enterprising and Humanitarian” foreign policy.

The UN Development Fund’s Regional Center in Istanbul serves across a wide geography from Europe to the Middle East. Even more, it expands its overreach to the whole world. We will continue our efforts to make Istanbul a UN hub.

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Esteemed Guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the global transition from an alarming world to a promising world, Turkey has the initiative.

We do not wish to deal with blood, violence, terrorism or humanitarian disasters anymore but with sustainable development actions in our region and the world.

Therefore we say, “Prosperity at Home, Prosperity in the World.”

This requires us to work towards a democratic international order.

The world order must be fair, open to the participation of the international community. Its institutions must be structured and decisions should be taken this way.

Because the world is larger than five, but humanity is one.

It is natural that Turkey, with its functioning democracy under the Presidential system of government, also works towards establishing a functioning democratic world order.

It is time to get together on certain issues of the world and talk about “Grand Bargain” and essential restorations.

For example:

- In the fight against terrorism, it is terribly wrong to make a distinction of good or bad terrorist. The idea of letting those that do not hurt you must come to an end. Those foreigners who try to impose their own divisive, destructive ideologies as the long-awaited ideals of others are making a terrible mistake. The same goes for those who are estranged from the interests of their own people. The “micro-nationalist” or “sectarian” and “extremist” approaches promoted by such must come to an end.
- As for Cyprus, there needs to be a new process and a new result. It makes no sense to repeat the same cycle, get the same result and be surprised by it. The Greek Cypriots do not want a union. This was evident in Geneva and Crans Montana. They frustrate the processes. They try to seize the hydrocarbon resources of the island as well as the EU funds. The same goes for Greece. We stand by them on their worst days but they increase escalation and strangely go ahead with wrongdoings in the Aegean and Mediterranean. Isn't it in the interest of everyone to make Eastern Mediterranean a region of peace and prosperity?
- In the Middle East, we need a strong security and development system that preserves nation states and elevates humanity.
- Coming back to the troubled family that is Europe. As an author puts it, all three visions that make Europe what it is, are being challenged. The fear of war is no longer relevant for the post-1945 generations; human rights-related sensitivities

promoted by the generation of 1968 is fading away; and finally in the post-Cold War period, the idea of a united Europe is no longer popular.

What about the xenophobia, Islamophobia, the outbreak of extreme right in Europe, the strategic confusion and the moral impasse, sheltering coup-plotters and feeding separatist terrorists?

Here we repeat our warning: These will turn Europe into the sick man of the world. It was in the news, we were all upset by a sad story, but it clearly revealed the problem. In Austria, EU's current term president, parents of Asel, the first baby born in 2018, posted her picture on social media. Immediately afterwards, racist and hateful expressions towards the baby and parents went viral on social media. Listen, my friend! This is not a child's game! Instead of bickering about everyone's business, you should address the problematic movement within your society and politics.

Other such examples are Mesut Özil, İlkay Gündoğan and many others, who are praised as "German and European" when they succeed but excluded as "migrant" and "Moslem" when they don't.

It is the duty of the EU to prove that all 3 visions are still alive in Europe. Only by doing so can Europe shed light in its region and the world. Let us do it together through "Grand Bargain." We are a family that thrives with diversity.

- Let me also remind you that the Transatlantic ties are not just the cables digitally connecting continents. Europe, together with North America and Turkey, constitute an economic, political and security community at the same time. The fight and bickering in the family should end.
- Moreover, we must join forces to rekindle the system of safety, security, prosperity and stability in Europe.  
Again, in similar vein;
- We must ensure that the Belt and Road Initiative contributes towards infrastructure, connectivity, investments and the realization of all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, all the way from London to Istanbul and to Beijing.

At a time when our region and the world call for Grand Bargain, we must learn to work together again.

To this end, we are looking for mature partners, who desire national and international order for the benefit of the public, organizations put at the service of humanity; who acknowledge that cooperation is the key to the transition from a fragile world into a resilient one; who think multi-dimensionally. Our mind is open and we are ready to work with partners who have vigor and vision.

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Distinguished Ambassadors,

There is so much to talk about, yet so little time. Turkey has something to say in every matter.

Following Sultan Abdulhamid Khan's advice, we aim "To scale our Foreign Policy on a Highly Sensitive Scale."

And we are honored to be praised by our President and our People.

In a little while, we will be on our way to the Presidential Complex to receive guidance from our President.

Throughout the week, we will be addressing all these matters in-depth with our Ambassadors.

We will also be addressed by our distinguished foreign guests. We will visit the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and be honored by the visits of our Ministers.

I wish the 10th Conference of Ambassadors to lead to positive outcomes.

As I conclude my remarks, I extend my cordial respects, appreciation and sincere regards to all of you.