

Turkey's Contributions



Promotion of the Status of Women

- In order to build a society where women are recognized as equal in all respects, Turkey has taken a number of steps in the institutional, legal, economic and social fields.
- The Turkish Constitution makes the State responsible not only for ensuring gender equality but also for taking the necessary measures to provide equal rights and opportunities in practice for women in every field.
- Turkey was one of the first countries in the world to grant women the right to vote (1930) and to stand for election (1934).
- Turkey is a party to a wide range of international conventions on women's issues, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Turkey recognized the right to submit individual complaints to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by becoming a party to the Optional Protocol in 2002.
- Turkey has also accepted without reservation the Action Platform which was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.
- The Government of Turkey has reaffirmed its commitment to eliminating legislative, economic, social and traditional practices that are discriminatory to women.
- Professor Feride Acar, a former member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, also served as the Committee's Chairperson for two consecutive terms.



- Professor Yakın Ertürk was appointed Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights on Violence Against Women in 2003.

Sustainable Development

- Turkey recognizes the need for international cooperation to achieve sustainable development and believes in bringing together all stakeholders to strive for development in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.
- Turkey pledges to make all possible efforts to make the Millennium Development Goals a reality.
- In hosting the Workshop on *Governance for World Summit on Sustainable Development Implementation in Countries in Transition*, held in Istanbul in September 2003, Turkey demonstrated her determination to take the lead in implementing and further developing the principles of sustainable development.

- Kemal Derviş, a Turkish national, was appointed as the new UNDP Administrator for a four-year term beginning in August 2005.

Turkey Fighting the Drugs Trade

- Turkey is a leading country in the fight against the illegal trafficking of drugs.
- Turkey's global anti-drugs strategy is based on the principle that the issue can only be addressed by extensive cooperation, exchange of information and expertise within the international community. Turkey has therefore signed and ratified all the relevant UN drug control treaties (1961, 1972, 1988); has concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with 48 countries; and decided to participate in the EMCDDA within the context of her enhanced cooperation with the EU.