

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY H.E MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU, MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AT THE OPENING OF ANTALYA DIPLOMACY FORUM
(18 June 2021)**

His Excellency Mr. President,

Distinguished First Lady,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Ladies,

Distinguished Counterparts,

Distinguished Professors, Members of the Press,

Dear Youth

Distinguished Guests,

- Welcome to Antalya

- Where winter lasts only a moment, sunlight is a way of life,
- Where the olive tree which represents tradition is neighbour with the almond tree which represents novelty and hope,

- Where Asia, Europe and Africa blend with one another,
- And where everyone looks forward to visiting each year.

- Antalya is home to the world's first Parliament, Patara. This is the city where the tradition of speaking to one another and negotiating to solve problems started. We are hosting here the Antalya Diplomacy Forum under the auspices of H.E. President Erdoğan.

- Today global politics is gaining a new thought ecosystem.
- The forum for which we laid the foundations in 2019 is awakening to a challenging but hopeful world.
- And the bridge between the challenging and the hopeful will be built by common thought and joint action.
- Nobody who is in this hall, who is watching us or who is going to watch us on the web had experienced the sort of pandemic that we have been going through for the past few years.
- Unfortunately, we have lost many people to the pandemic. We remember all of them with respect.
- Our hope is as great as our grief.
- Humanity has never developed a vaccine against a pandemic this swiftly in history.

- The success garnered by the two scientists who emigrated from Turkey to Germany is a lesson to those who view foreigners with an incorrigible hostility and fear.
- Will it be challenges or hope that will carry the day?

Distinguished Presidents, Distinguished Friends,

- We cannot underestimate challenges, risks and threats.
- In fact we are going through one of the most volatile and uncertain times in international relations.
- There is a constant change in the balance of power.
- Alongside cooperation, states are locked in competition, even conflict.
- We hear the cries of an international system that is trying to stand on its two feet against a strong turbulence.
- Humanity is wailing and trapped under the clutches of injustice, hunger, drought, conflicts, irregular migration and epidemics.
- Populism, xenophobia and Islamophobia are on the rise.
- Climate change and terrorism still challenge all of us.
- Ongoing conflicts are not being resolved.
- Fundamental foreign policy actors have not really changed throughout history, but the number of stakeholders increased.
- Civil society, relief agencies, think tanks, the business world, media, art and scientific community are now also active players of diplomacy.
- Diplomacy is a very important tool of politics that we need more than ever in this volatile and multi-stakeholder arena.
- These realities bring forward the concept of innovative diplomacy.
- This concept constitutes the logic behind the Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy which was expressed by H.E President Erdoğan, during his speech at the Ambassador's Conference in 2017 and the innovative agenda which we announced to the world in 2019.
- Meanwhile, we also employ most effectively the centuries old traditional methods of foreign policy.
- Turkey has the fifth largest diplomatic network in the world with 252 representations entrusted to expert staff, including in the most challenging parts of the world.
- We put into practice a diplomacy that focuses on solving problems in every corner of the world both at the leadership and Ambassadorial level.

- We have also created effective foreign policy instruments of the future such as the Asia Anew Policy, Digital Diplomacy and the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, for which we gathered today.
- We are bringing forward a new avenue, and in fact a new foreign policy actor, to tackle the various challenges that we face.
- We know one thing for certain: We cannot achieve different results by doing the same thing over and over again.
- That is why we chose “Innovative Diplomacy: New Era, New Approaches” as the theme of this year’s Antalya Diplomacy Forum.
- We need to reconsider our approaches, instruments, actors, initiatives and platforms.
- And when necessary we need to renew and diversify them.
- That is why we are determined to view diplomacy not as a black and white slow motion silent movie, but rather as a 3D celebration of color.
- Foreign policy and diplomacy are not static, but a very dynamic area of politics. This is what we learned our Mr. President as well.
- Foreign policy is also an avenue of ideas and innovation.
- Because diplomacy starts in the mind.
- We always give priority to international cooperation, rather than competition.
- Because we cannot act together without first thinking together.
- And if we do not act together, then we cannot find solutions to the problems that humanity faces together.
- The Antalya Diplomacy Forum is offering a new setting and a stage for thinking together and developing new forms of action.

His Excellency Mr. President,
Distinguished First Lady,
Distinguished Heads of States and Government,
Distinguished Guests,

- I believe that the Antalya Diplomacy Forum is the first and only diplomacy and thought platform that gained recognition and momentum even prior to its first physical gathering.
- ADF commenced its activities by making use of the opportunities of technology before this first physical meeting.

- When we held our first online meeting where we focused on mediation, the world was just getting used to the word “webinar”.
- Up until now we conducted 7 high-level online meetings. We have also had physical meetings in different venues from Munich to Bishkek.
- Also we have conducted activities in social media platforms in different formats like ADF Talks, ADF 120-Seconds and ADF-Rounds, where we offered new perspectives.
- ADF came to life thanks to new technologies and the changing conditions in the world. We are determined to continue this approach.
- ADF will continue to serve the intellectual world as an ecosystem of foresight, vision and technology.
- In this first physical meeting, we will organize 25 sessions in total and two of these are going to be in the format of Leader’s Forums.
- We are going to talk about the global setting and the global environment and look into the common trends that interests all humanity.
- We are also going to focus on regional issues in our close vicinity.
- During three days, we are going to talk about what kind of new approaches we can bring to the current problems.
- And we are going to bring women and youth to the forefront as foreign policy actors.

Distinguished Participants,

- In this forum, we aim to bring together opinions of various actors such as statesmen, academics, the private sector and media representatives and opinion leaders.
- We have also invited representatives of our youth, who will be leaders of tomorrow, along with our current leaders.
- We wanted to bring together unique voices, opinions and experiences of different geographies.
- We especially aimed at bringing together the strength of Africa, Asia and Europe. Because global dynamics require us to show a particular interest to these continents.
- One in every five foreign ministers of the world are currently in Antalya.
- In a sense a UN setting has been embodied in this forum.
- Together, we are going to benefit from this immense knowledge and energy that has met in Antalya to merge the traditional principles and methods of diplomacy with innovative approaches.

- We are going to pursue innovation for the solution of international problems, our common problems.
- I would like to thank all of you who accepted our invitation.
- I would like to thank Mr. President for the strong support he has given to our endeavour from the start and for his patronage.
- I would like to extend you my gratitude and I wish us all success in our work.