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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
The Heads of State Session for the 24th Parties of the
Conference
(December 11, 2018, Time: 6:00 P.M.)

**Esteemed Chair,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Ministers,
Distinguished Participants,**

I would like to express my heartfelt regards to you all.

I also would like to extend my congratulations to the Polish Government for the efforts exerted to host the 24th Conference of the Parties.

In addition, I would like to extend my best wishes for a successful term of Presidency.

Distinguished participants,

Environment faced a substantial man-made destruction in the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution. Excessive consumption in particular does a significant damage to environment, disrupting the ecosystem.

In association with global warming, climate change remains as a grave threat to the future of our globe.

Climate change poses a threat to the future of not only our globe but also our children.

The Global Warming of 1.5°C report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change points to the sense of urgency required to fight against climate change.

Average temperatures across the globe set a new record year by year.

Disasters such as floods, hails, storms, drought and long-term forest fires are more and more common now.

We face extreme weather conditions both in Turkey and around the world.

For instance, a 20-minute hailstorm in the city of Istanbul back in 2017 caused **USD 225 million** worth of damage.

Distinguished Chair and Esteemed Participants,

It is inevitable to engage in global cooperation in fight against the climate change.

We are members of a civilization that considers environment something entrusted by the Almighty Allah just like our lives, and preaches handing it down to the next generations in the best way possible.

With this being in mind, the Turkish Government has forged a roadmap to combat the global climate change in an attempt to offer inputs to the efforts.

As a rapidly-growing economy, Turkey aspires to achieve a 21 reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2030.

We intend to exponentially boost our efforts for climate change within the boundaries of our capabilities and international assistance that we will harness.

In addition, we make use of new and clean technologies, and rely more and more on renewable energy sources.

The installed capacity of renewable energy sources has hit 45 percent in Turkey.

The Renewable Energy Zones, which we have established, allow for favorable circumstances for large-scale investments.

We have also taken major steps in energy efficiency. We came up with the **Energy Efficiency Action Plan**. Over the past fifteen years, we have saved **41.5 million tonnes of oil equivalent**.

Additionally, Turkey ranks **among top 10 OECD countries** in indirect taxes imposed on fossil fuels. We contribute to the climate sustainability in this respect.

Transportation investments enable us to save time, approximate distances and reduce emissions.

In our rapidly-industrializing country, we strive to make sure that industrial businesses are **built on green production**, source and energy efficiency.

We monitor, report and confirm more than half of the greenhouse gas emissions by industrial businesses.

As forests serve as a major sink, we aspire to make sure that our forests cover **30%** of the entire land **by 2023**.

We also kicked off **the Zero Waste Project in 2017** in an effort to hand down a clean and developed country and a habitable world to the next generations.

The project is run under the auspices of the First Lady Emine ERDOĞAN.

We aim at completing the establishment of the Zero Waste System on the national level by 2023.

Once we achieve this goal, the project is poised to save USD 4 billion a year, offering employment for 100.000 people.

The main purpose of the projects I have just articulated is the creation of living environments that are environmentally friendly and resistant to climate change.

Distinguished Chair and Esteemed Participants,

The success in fight against the climate change relies on the inclusion of all segments of the society into such efforts.

From this perspective, we promote local authorities, non-governmental organizations and universities.

On the other hand, the adaptation to climate change is of particular importance for Turkey as one of the countries that is going to be most affected by climate change given the fact that she is located in the Mediterranean Basin.

The global climate change has led to more and more disasters such as flood and landslide particularly in the Black Sea Region on a more frequent basis, causing economic, social and environment damage.

That is why we introduced the **Black Sea Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the Action Plan**.

We are going to disseminate such efforts across Turkey.

Distinguished Chair and Esteemed Participants,

Turkey is a rapidly burgeoning country.

Our historical responsibility for the climate change is quite minimal as it is the case in other developing countries.

Turkey is committed to contributing to joint efforts to combat the climate change within the boundaries of national circumstances and capabilities.

To begin with, we request access to international financial resources to combat the climate change.

At this stage, our ultimate expectation is to make sure that Turkey enjoys a fair position under the climate system, and that a resolution is taken here in Poland to ensure that Turkey has access to financial assistance under the Green Climate Fund in particular.

We have shown resilience and made a compromise for the smooth inauguration and organization of the 24th Conference of the Parties.

We expect you to exert such a compromising effort.

A resolution that would meet our demands under the 24th Conference of the Parties will **lend impetus to Turkey's efforts to become a party to the Paris Agreement.**

Turkey's demands are undoubtedly fair and justified with constructive outcomes.

Distinguished Chair and Esteemed Participants,

We expect efforts under **the Paris Rulebook** to be exerted in line with common yet differentiated obligations of the countries on an equitable basis.

In addition, I would like to thank the Fiji Government for the efforts to forge the current version of the Talanoa Dialogue chaired by Fiji.

We are fully confident that the Talanoa Dialogue's constructive structure for cooperation will reverberate through the spirit and resolutions of this conference.

Last but not least, I would like to note that we have officially lodged an application to host the 26th Edition of the Conference

of the Parties to be held in 2020, and we expect assistance from you in this respect.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like this conference to lead to auspicious resolutions for both our countries and the whole world.