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## Conference of the Parties

Twenty-sixth session

Glasgow, 31 October to 12 November 2021

Item 14(c) of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of proposals by Parties for amendments to the Convention under Article 15**

**Proposal from Turkey to delete the name of Turkey from the list in Annex I to the Convention**

## Proposal from Turkey to amend the list of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

### Note by the secretariat

1. The procedures for amending the Convention and its annexes, contained in Articles 15 and 16 of the Convention, are as follows:

(a) Article 15, paragraph 1: “Any Party may propose amendments to the Convention”;

(b) Article 15, paragraph 2: “Amendments to the Convention shall be adopted at an ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties. The text of any proposed amendment to the Convention shall be communicated to the Parties by the secretariat at least six months before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption. The secretariat shall also communicate proposed amendments to the signatories of the Convention and, for information, to the Depositary”;

(c) Article 16, paragraph 2: “Annexes to the Convention shall be proposed and adopted in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 15, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4”;

(d) Article 16, paragraph 4: “The proposal, adoption and entry into force of amendments to annexes to the Convention shall be subject to the same procedure as that for the proposal, adoption and entry into force of annexes to the Convention in accordance with [Article 16,] paragraphs 2 and 3”.

2. In accordance with the provisions referred to in paragraph 1 above, Turkey, on 28 April 2021, submitted a note verbale containing a proposal to amend the list of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention by deleting the name of Turkey.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the secretariat transmitted the proposal to all Parties and signatories to the Convention by a note verbale of 30 April 2021 and, for information, to the Depositary by a note of the same date.

3. The note verbale from Turkey, which includes the text of the proposed amendment, is reproduced below as received.

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<sup>1</sup> The Conference of the Parties previously considered an amendment proposed by Azerbaijan and Pakistan to delete the name of Turkey from the list of Parties included in Annex I and Annex II to the Convention. Turkey, which was not a Party at the time, also requested the Conference of the Parties to delete its name from Annex I and Annex II. See documents FCCC/SBI/1997/15 and FCCC/CP/2001/11 and decision 26/CP.7.



**Note Verbale dated 28 April 2021 from the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change proposing an amendment to Annex I to the Convention**

Z-2021/36481099/32702952-

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Germany presents its compliments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat and has the honour to convey the proposal to amend the list in Annex I to the Convention by deleting the name of “Turkey”, according to the relevant articles of the Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies and kindly requests the Secretariat, in agreement with the President, to communicate Turkey’s proposal to the Parties, to the signatories to the Convention, and for information, to the Depositary.

The Embassy also kindly requests the Secretariat to include this item on the provisional agenda of the Twenty Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties that will be held in Glasgow, the United Kingdom from 1 to 12 November 2021. Amendment Proposal and Position Paper is enclosed herewith.

The Embassy would like to underline that Turkey attaches the utmost importance to combatting climate change and acquiring a Non-Annex I status under the global climate change regime that will enable Turkey to take further steps for climate action.

The Embassy of Republic of Turkey in Germany avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat the assurances of its highest considerations.

Berlin, April 28, 2021

(signed and stamped)

Turkish Berlin Embassy

Encl:

- 1) Amendment Proposal
- 2) Position Paper

United Nations  
Framework Convention  
on Climate Change Secretariat  
Bonn

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**AMENDMENT PROPOSAL BY THE REBUPLIC OF TURKEY****Amendment to the List in Annex I to the Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the decisions 26/CP.7, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 1/CP.18 and 21/CP.20,

*Having considered* the request put forward by Turkey with the proposal presented at the twenty sixth session of the Conference of the Parties that “Turkey”, as a country with negligible historical responsibility in greenhouse gas emissions and recognized as a developing country by many international organizations, should be deleted from the list in Annex I to the Convention with a view to better enabling this country to combat climate change,

1. *Decides* to amend the list in Annex I to the Convention by deleting the name of Turkey;
2. *Notes* that the entry into force of this amendment to the list in Annex I to the Convention shall be subject to the same procedure as that for the entry into force of annexes to the Convention in accordance with Article 16, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

**POSITION PAPER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**ON THE DELETION OF TURKEY FROM**  
**ANNEX I LIST OF THE UNFCCC**

Turkey desires to amend Annex I to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by deleting the name of “Turkey”, according to Articles 15 and 16 of the Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its Subsidiary Bodies. Turkey kindly requests the Secretariat to include this item on the provisional agenda of the Twenty Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties that will be held in Glasgow, the United Kingdom from 1 to 12 November 2021.

The premise of this request is based on the guiding principles of the climate regime which support equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. These principles can be realized only by taking into account the historical responsibilities and development levels of the countries. Within this framework, the reasons for Turkey’s removal from the Annex-I list of the Convention are indicated as follows:

- Turkey was included in Annex I and Annex II lists at the very beginning of the process in 1992 due to her OECD membership. However, 4 countries which became OECD members after 1992 are not included in Annex I. Furthermore, 9 of the G-20 countries which represent the biggest economies in the world are not Annex-I countries either.
- Turkey had almost no historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions in 1992 despite being included in Annex-I<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, by that time, Turkey was in the last row of the Annex I list among 36 countries in terms of greenhouse gas emission with per capita ratio of 3,88 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (less than 1%), while the average greenhouse gas emission of the Annex I countries was 14,37 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita<sup>2</sup>.
- There is no doubt that historical responsibilities for greenhouse gas emissions have been changing radically since 1992. Despite this fact, half of the world’s leading 10 emitters are not still included in Annex I. Moreover, Turkey’s greenhouse gas emission per capita is currently lower than many Non-Annex I countries as emerging economies.
- Turkey is considered as a “developing country” according to international organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, OECD and UN. Furthermore, Turkey takes place in the list of “developing countries” of the *Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer*. Besides, Turkey is on the list of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The countries in this list are eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The above-mentioned facts and figures demonstrate that Turkey’s status under the UNFCCC is not consistent at all with the current state of reality. Turkey’s sincere aim is just to achieve a fair position under the UNFCCC to be able to contribute more in climate action.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey was included in Annex I and Annex II in 1992. Turkey joined the Convention in 2004, after being deleted from Annex II with the decision adopted in the first Marrakesh Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2001. That decision also invited the Parties to recognize the special circumstances of Turkey, which place Turkey, in a situation different from other Annex I Parties to the Convention.

<sup>2</sup> Greenhouse gas emission data is taken from UNFCCC, 2017, [http://unfccc.int/ghg\\_data/new\\_reporting\\_requirements/items/9560.php](http://unfccc.int/ghg_data/new_reporting_requirements/items/9560.php), while population data is from World Bank database.

However, Turkey's deletion from Annex I does not mean that Turkey will either give up or minimize her efforts to combat climate change. On the contrary, this will strengthen Turkey's determination to contribute more to the global efforts for climate action through facilities to be provided to Non-Annex I countries.

Hitherto, Turkey has carried out many efforts in terms of fighting against climate change predominantly with her own means although she has a negligible historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions. In this respect, some significant efforts of Turkey are mentioned below:

- 52.3 % of Turkey's installed power capacity comes from renewable resources.
- Turkey is currently ranking the 5<sup>th</sup> in Europe and the 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of renewable installed capacity.
- With its installed capacity of 1.6 gigawatts, Turkey is among the top five countries which use geothermal energy for electricity generation (4<sup>th</sup> in the world, 1<sup>st</sup> in Europe).
- Turkey is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Europe and the 8<sup>th</sup> country worldwide to have the largest installed power generated from hydroelectrical power plants (HEPP).
- Within the scope of the Zero Waste Project, Turkey aims to increase the recovery rate of waste to 60% in 2035.
- In 2019, within the scope of "Breath for the Future" campaign approximately 13,5 million trees were planted simultaneously across the country, which carried Turkey into the Guinness Book of Records in terms of planting the highest number of saplings in an hour. In 2020, we extended the scope of this campaign with the participation of 25 countries.
- According to OECD data, Turkey ranks the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world in terms of increasing presence of forest.
- Turkey's "National Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan" and "Climate Change Adaptation Strategy & Action Plan" constitute our roadmap to combat climate change at the national level. We are working on the updating of the aforementioned documents in line with medium (2030) and long-term (2050) targets.
- In addition, Turkey will establish Climate Change Research Center and the first Climate Change Platform in Turkey.
- Turkey aims to establish and implement the Emission Trading System that rewards facilities investing in cleaner production technologies.
- Turkey is developing her Climate Law; meanwhile, a Parliamentary Investigation Commission on Global Climate Change under the Turkish Grand National Assembly has been established.
- Turkey approved The Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (Kigali Amendment-2016) on 11 March 2021.
- Turkey will host the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and assume its term presidency for two-years.

All these efforts are clear testimony of Turkey's sincere determination to combat climate change predominantly with her own means. In this respect, our request for being considered as a Non-Annex I Party will surely enable Turkey to take further steps for climate action beyond the above-ones.

**To sum up:**

- The world has experienced an unprecedented global crisis with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Turkey's understanding is that the international community has to combat climate change and environmental destruction with the same seriousness demonstrated in the fight against COVID-19.

- Sharing the burden among the developed and developing countries in a fair manner would strengthen the international response to climate change. In this regard, it is an urgent need to enable a fair framework to all Parties under the global climate change regime on the basis of the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
- As a developing country with negligible historical responsibility (less than 1%) in greenhouse gas emissions, Turkey endeavors to tackle climate change with her limited resources.
- By being a Non-Annex I country, Turkey will be able to maximize her efforts with better access to climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building mechanisms of the global climate change regime.
- However, our request by no means aims at accessing to the funds allocated to the most vulnerable and the least developed countries.
- We aim to ensure equal treatment with the countries having similar economic levels with Turkey, both in terms of access to the means of implementation and undertaken commitments under the Paris Agreement.
- Despite being listed under Annex I of the UNFCCC, Turkey signed the Paris Agreement as a developing country, which demonstrates her sincere determination to combat climate change.
- Although Turkey's special circumstances had been recognized in the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 COP decisions<sup>2</sup> and acknowledged during the negotiations of the Paris Agreement, it was not possible to get a viable solution to our legitimate request until today.

Our request is the deletion of Turkey from the Annex I list of the Convention which will enable us to be in a fair position in combating climate change and contribute more to the global climate action efforts.

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<sup>2</sup> UNFCCC COP decisions: 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 1/CP.18 and 21/CP.20.