

UNITED NATIONS
THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING
FOR DEVELOPMENT
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Addis Ababa

Distinguished Delegates,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2015 is a landmark year for the global development agenda.

Addis Ababa will set an important precedent for the UN Summit in September and the Paris COP 21 meeting in December. These three meetings will establish the framework of the global development agenda for the next 15 years. Their importance cannot be understated. The post-2015 development agenda and financing for development processes are so closely interlinked that a strong outcome from Addis Ababa is absolutely critical.

I am glad that the **Addis Action Agenda** offers a comprehensive and transformative approach, capturing different dimensions of the global development agenda.

Organizing this Conference for the first time on the African continent also has symbolic significance. The economic rise of Africa will be one of the defining features of the 21st century. Turkey very much welcomes this. Further enhancing economic cooperation with African nations is among our top international priorities.

The future of developing countries is bright and full of opportunities. Yet, there are also serious challenges.

The primary development challenge is to **free people from extreme poverty**. The post-2015 development agenda will set higher standards and ambitious goals to eradicate poverty. This needs stronger commitment, solidarity and cooperation from the international community.

Establishing sustainable food systems and working towards reducing food loss and waste are **critical to ensure food security and eradicate poverty**. For this reason, the Turkish Presidency brought together **G20 Agriculture Ministers** who decided to establish a technical platform for measuring and reducing food loss and waste.

Development is no longer an issue of charity. Better integrating all country groups to the world economic system is crucial to bring growth and prosperity to the developing countries, which will ultimately be the new engine of growth globally.

Until recently, the question was “Where can we acquire the finance for development?” Now, we face a more critical question: “**How we can create conditions to attract financing for development?**” We welcome that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda places this question at its core.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains the most important source to support the development efforts of many countries, particularly the LDCs. UN members should honor their ODA commitments in full and in a timely manner. ODA of Turkey was 1 billion dollars in 2010. In 2014, it was 3.5 billion dollars.

It is also essential to reverse the trend of diminishing ODA to LDCs. Turkey is committed to do its part as promised in the Fourth UN Conference on LDCs held in Istanbul in 2011.

In line with the **Istanbul Program of Action**, we give great importance to support LDCs' access to knowledge and technology. In this respect, we wish to open up a Technology Bank in Turkey which will act as an international mechanism to facilitate technology transfer to LDCs. A high-level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Program of Action will be held in Turkey next June.

As an emerging donor country, our experience is that providing assistance in response to demand gives better results. The donor-recipient relationship should be based on partnership. Currently, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) is carrying out hundreds of projects in 120 partner countries.

We also spent more than 5.6 billion dollars as a response to the refugee crisis in our neighboring countries and to address the needs of Syrians and Iraqis while international support remained limited.

In the meantime, our long term objective should be to create an environment where assistance will no longer be needed.

Domestic resource mobilization plays a critical role in this

respect. We welcome that the Addis Action Agenda underscores the importance of effective use of domestic resources to achieve the SDGs. We are working towards strengthening the tax capacity in developing countries as part of the G20 development agenda.

Reducing the cost of the transfer of remittances will be an important contribution to sustainable development efforts in many countries. The Turkish G20 Presidency is strongly committed to take concrete steps towards that target.

We should be mindful that humanitarian crises and emergencies undermine development efforts. The **World Humanitarian Summit** to be held in Istanbul on 26-27 May 2016 will provide a unique opportunity to address this issue.

Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is an important element of sustainable development. To support the efforts to enhance access to energy, we are aiming to develop a **G20 Energy Access Action Plan** with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa this year. We will host the very first G20 Energy Ministers Meeting in October.

A dynamic and well-functioning private sector is the key for supporting the development efforts in many countries. The G20 aims to adopt a framework on inclusive business in order to support efforts to enhance the role of the private sector in development.

Supporting **SMEs**, particularly in low income and developing countries is also important. We should promote better integration of SMEs into the global value chains and improve their access to finance. To this end, we have established the World SME Forum in collaboration with International Chamber of Commerce. The Forum will be the global voice of the SMEs.

We have to establish inclusive economies by increasing economic participation by all, including women and youth. That is why Turkey's G20 Presidency has placed inclusiveness at the heart of the G20 agenda.

Women's empowerment is crucial not only from a social point of view, but also for its positive impact on economic growth. I hope that Women 20, the very new G20 engagement group that we are launching this year will also be instrumental for this

purpose of promoting the role and effectiveness of women in business.

Similarly, this year the Turkish G20 Presidency has also focused on reducing **youth unemployment** to secure the future of our development.

Climate change is critical and one of the toughest elements of the global sustainable development challenge today. Tackling climate change not only helps to protect our planet, but also to power innovative economic growth. Therefore, mobilizing sufficient public and private funds to follow low-emission, climate resilient pathways catalyzes sustainable development.

Before I finish my words, I would like to share an African proverb with you: It says, "to walk a long distance, we need to walk together". The journey ahead of us is long and we should leave no one behind. This is the whole point of the post-2015 development agenda. This is also the central element of Turkey's G20 Presidency agenda.

Thank you for your attention.