



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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AGENDA ITEM 3 (a)

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

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Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset I wish to congratulate you upon your election as Chairperson of the 47th Session of the Commission for Social Development and other members of the Bureau. I assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation during the proceedings of this important session which will focus on the social integration as a priority theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle.

Turkey aligned herself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union. Therefore, I will be brief.

We thank the Secretariat for preparing a comprehensive report on this important theme. Turkey is committed to the objective of social integration which is one of the key objectives of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995. We also welcome the launch of the first World Day of Social Justice.

We believe that social integration is crucial for the creation of a just, dynamic and vibrant society where all human rights are respected and all enjoy equality of opportunities. The provision of minimum standards of living, especially access to health care and education are the key elements of our social development plans. Access to affordable education has been instrumental in our social transformation.

Economic disparities between rural and urban areas and rapid urbanization pose particular challenges to social integration in our country, like in many other countries. In order to overcome the negative effects of these developments, Turkey has adopted and implemented regional and social development plans.

Unemployment has always been the most important factor causing social exclusion. On the macro level, economic growth strategies are essential tools in addressing this problem. The success of economic growth strategies largely depends on macro-economic stability and sound public financing. During the last seven years Turkey has achieved important results on this front. However, growth does not automatically lead to the creation of jobs alone. By taking this into consideration, we have been trying to put employment generation at the centre of both social and economic policies. This approach seeks the participation of both private sector and civil society. It also aims to improve the labour market conditions and to increase the sensitivity of education to labour demand.

We attach particular attention to the vulnerable groups in our society especially women, elderly, young and people with disabilities. In that respect, Turkey has strengthened its legal framework and its institutional capacities, in line with its EU accession process.

I would also like to emphasise the importance of good governance in increasing effective use of resources and in achieving social integration. In doing so, policies should be credible, accountable and transparent within the context of democratic participation.

Madame Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,

Finally, I have to stress that UN Millennium Development Goals have critical importance in achieving social integration worldwide. It seems that we are lagging behind in our joint commitment. Furthermore, current global financial and economic crisis pose additional challenges for all countries. In alleviating the consequences of the current global crisis, strengthening international cooperation on economic and development policies should be an integral part of our efforts. Besides, donor countries should give priority to projects that have positive impact on social integration in recipient countries.

In conclusion, Turkey is committed to promote social integration policies with the participation of all segments of our society.

Thank you.

