

STATEMENT BY
H.E. BOZKURT ARAN, AMBASSADOR
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
(22 APRIL 2008)
(DRAFT)

MR. PRESIDENT,
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR DELIBERATIONS WILL BE FRUITFUL UNDER YOUR ABLE LEADERSHIP.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS AND GRATITUDE GO TO THE GHANAIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE VERY FRIENDLY PEOPLE OF GHANA WHO HAVE NOT SPARED ANY EFFORT TO MAKE UNCTAD XII CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

WE AVAIL OURSELVES OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLY PRAISE THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD, DR SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI, WHOSE ABLE LEADERSHIP AND WISDOM SUCCESSFULLY GUIDED UNCTAD, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN EFFICIENTLY ORGANIZING THIS EVENT.

WE HOPE THAT OUR DELIBERATIONS DURING THIS WEEK WOULD GUIDE US TO DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE EFFECTIVE WAYS AND MEANS TO ENSURE THAT THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IS MAXIMIZED AND SET THE COURSE OF UNCTAD'S WORK FOR THE ENSUING FOUR YEARS.

THERE IS NO DENYING THAT IN THE LATE 60s AND EARLY 70s, UNCTAD WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION THAT AMONG ALL OTHERS HAD A UNIQUE MANDATE TO ADDRESS THE PROGRAM OF DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF TRADE. UNCTAD WAS BORN AS A RESULT OF STRUGGLE OF ITS FOREFATHERS, TO ADDRESS THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF GENERATIONS TO COME, IN PURSUIT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND MARGINALIZATION.

TODAY, I AM STILL CONVINCED THAT UNCTAD HAS THE CAPACITY AND THE POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES BY BRINGING TECHNOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL ADVANCEMENT IN LINE WITH THE INTRINSIC WISDOM OF HUMAN BEINGS AND THEIR ENDAVOURS FOR BETTERMENT. UNCTAD IS POSITIONED TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE THROUGH ITS THREE PILLARS OF RESEARCH, AND POLICY ANALYSIS, AND CONSENSUS BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES THAT OUR WORLD IS FACING TODAY, WE NOTE THAT UNCTAD XII IS A TIMELY EVENT.

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, MARKET ORIENTED NATIONAL ECONOMIC REFORM AGENDAS TOGETHER WITH FAVORABLE GLOBAL CONDITIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO AN OVERALL GROWTH IN INCOME IN MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING DEVELOPING ONES. HOWEVER THESE ADVANCES HAVE NOT BEEN SHARED BY ALL. SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE NOT FULLY BENEFITED AS WAS EXPECTED.

WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES NEED TO BE TAILORED TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND LDCs. "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" APPROACHES IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT CARRY INHERENT DEFICIENCIES.

TURKEY CONSIDERS UNCTAD AS AN ESSENTIAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WITH AN IMPORTANT AND UNIQUE MANDATE IN THE FORMULATION OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

MR. PRESIDENT

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION HAS GROWN IN IMPORTANCE DURING THE RECENT YEARS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS COULD SERVE AS INSTRUMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION.

INCREASE IN THE GLOBAL INFLOWS OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES, COUNTRIES NEED TO LAY THE GROUND FOR AN OPEN, FUNCTIONING AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY, PROVIDE A SOUND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FRIENDLY TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM MAY BE REGARDED AS FAR FROM BEING PERFECT. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE PERCEIVED AS THE BEST AVAILABLE SYSTEM OF INCREASING INTERDEPENDENCE AMONG COUNTRIES TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH EXPANDING GLOBAL TRADE.

IN THIS REGARD, THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN THE WTO WAS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE GROWTH ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE PACE ACHIEVED HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. THE SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT, QUOTA FREE AND DUTY FREE TRADE ORIGINATING IN THE LDC'S AND THE COTTON INITIATIVE ARE THE MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

REGARDING OUR LAST SUB-THEME ON STRENGTHENING UNCTAD: ENHANCING ITS DEVELOPMENT ROLE, IMPACT AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT UNCTAD HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF LESSONS LEARNED.

UNCTAD'S TRADITIONAL ROLES OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND BUILDING HUMAN CAPACITY ARE INDISPENSABLE, THUS, WE SUPPORT INITIATIVES OF UNCTAD TO FURTHER IMPROVE AND EXTEND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS. WE EXPECT BETTER-INTEGRATED AND MORE EFFICIENT COORDINATION AMONG ALL RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF "AID FOR TRADE" INITIATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT IT CAN HELP ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY LDCs TO MEANINGFULLY EXPLOIT MARKET ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES.

AFTER CAREFULLY FOLLOWING THE INTERVENTIONS MADE BY EMINENT REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY AND TODAY, I FELT THAT A "THEME" IS EMERGING IN OUR DELIBERATIONS. WE CAN SIMPLY CAPTURE THIS THEME BY SAYING : THE QUEST AND THE NEED TO SEE MORE DIVERSIFICATION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS. NEW AND EMERGING DONORS AND PARTNERS HAVE STARTED TO BECOME VOCAL AND SHOWED THEIR ENTHUSIASM TO DEEPEN THIS COOPERATION ESPECIALLY WITH LDCs. I FEEL COMPELLED TO SHARE THE OBSERVATIONS OF MINE WITH YOU.

MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO DWELL ON UNCTAD AND TURKEY BEFORE CONCLUDING MY INTERVENTION.

TURKEY IS NOW PLACED AMONG EMERGING DONORS. TO ILLUSTRATE, TURKEY'S OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN 2006 AMOUNTED TO 714 MILLION US DOLLARS.

IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TIKA, TURKISH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN EXTENDING TURKEY'S ASSISTANCE. AT PRESENT, WITH 25 FIELD OFFICES, TIKA CARRIES OUT HUNDREDS OF PROJECTS IN PARTNER COUNTRIES SPANNING FROM CENTRAL ASIA TO THE BALKANS, FROM MIDDLE EAST TO AFRICA, AND FROM ASIA-PACIFIC TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. TIKA'S PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT. A FUND OF 15 MILLION US DOLLARS HAS RECENTLY BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS THROUGH TIKA IN THE LDCs, LAND LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES.

FURTHERMORE TURKEY HAS ALLOCATED 5 MILLION US DOLLARS TO FINANCE SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LDCs.

TURKEY SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF LDCs NOT ONLY THROUGH UNILATERAL AS WELL AS MULTILATERAL POLICIES. TURKEY MADE A PLEDGE OF 1 MILLION US DOLLARS AT THE STOCKHOLM DONOR'S CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER 2007 FOR THE TRUST FUND OF THE "ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK"

AS A PROOF OF TURKEY'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRADE CAPACITIES OF LDCS, TURKEY HAS BEEN PROVIDING DUTY FREE AND QUOTA FREE MARKET ACCESS FOR THE INDUSTRIAL GOODS ORGINATING FROM ALL LDCS SINCE 1 JANUARY 2006.

TO BE PRECISE ONLY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROVIDING SUCH A FACILITY HAD BEEN MOLDOVA. WE WELCOME THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THIS REGARD.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY ALLOCATED ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF 50 MILLION US DOLLARS FOR THE FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO OPEN 11 NEW EMBASSIES IN AFRICA WITH A VIEW TO HAVING A MORE BALANCED ALLOCATION OF TURKEY'S LDC-FOCUSED ASSISTANCE.

IN THE JULY OF 2007, TURKEY HOSTED LDC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON WORKING GLOBALIZATION ON LDCs IN ISTANBUL, THE ECHO OF THIS MEETING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ESPECIALLY OF THE LDCs HAD BEEN POSITIVE.

RECENTLY, IN MARCH 2008, TURKEY HOSTED A HIGH LEVEL WORKSHOP IN IZMIR ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICAN LDCS PROSPERITY. THE WORKSHOP WAS A PRE EVENT FOR UNCTAD XII WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF 21 AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IT WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GHANA AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNCTAD. THE IZMIR DECLARATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

AS A NATURAL NEXT STEP, TURKEY IS PREPARING TO HOST A WORKSHOP WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ASIAN LDCS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

FINALLY MR. PRESIDENT,

IN A SPIRIT OF COMMON PURPOSE, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PRIOR DUTY IS TO WORK FOR THE AIM OF FAIR AND INCLUSIVE GLOBALIZATION,

WHILE PRESERVING OUR RESOLVE FOR OPEN ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND FREEDOM OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, IF WE WOULD LIKE OUR CHILDREN TO LIVE IN A WORLD OF PEACE, STABILITY AND HOPE FOR EVERYONE, RATHER THAN IN A WORLD TANGLED WITH CONFLICTS AND DESPAIR.

THANK YOU SIR.