

DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DEAR YOUTH,

As the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye, which possesses a special status among the countries of the world with its dynamism and potential, I extend my heartfelt greetings you to with respect, amity and sense of solidarity.

I believe that 2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum, which is an important platform where young people develop solutions to their problems and submit them to relevant stakeholders, will yield outstanding results.

We are entering a period in which, we are getting over the global effects of Covid-19 and hopefully moving on with a positive agenda. We have to design this new era with and for the world's youth through the understanding of "Future belongs to those who design it". We attach importance to include youth in the decision-making and implementation of our activities and adopt a system to meet demands and needs of the youth directly in our country. As a consequence, we help young people, and especially disadvantaged youth, protect today and build tomorrow on their own through the opportunities such as our youth centers, youth offices, youth camps, scholarship, dormitories and project support programs. We provide same opportunities to our young guest refugees in cooperation with UN institutions. With all these activities that women participate in more actively, we strive for the further empowerment of our youth.

We declared 2019 as 'The Year of Voluntarism' under the guidance of Youth2030. On this occasion, I would like to invite you to support us by using this platform (www.gonulluyuzbiz.gov.tr). Now I would like to give good news to young people. As the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye, we have declared 2022 as "**The Year of Youth Participation**". In this way, we aim to develop new tools for strengthening communication with youth, including digital infrastructure. Youth participation in the global matters, which require the action and opinion of youth, such as the realization of green, climate friendly and sustainable solutions against the climate change is crucial for increasing the effectiveness of international initiatives. In my opinion, youth participation is crucial for raising awareness on social and environmental issues and building a fair, equal and sustainable future.

It is evident that we need a reinforced global partnership for re-building the post-covid-19 era in a better and fairer way. In order to achieve this partnership, firstly we need to build the center for youth. As Republic of Türkiye we would like to contribute to and accelerate the actions taken by the world's youth in international activities with "Leave No One Behind" principle. As stated by our President His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Türkiye has the potential and will of becoming the global center for the world's youth. We are ready, both financially and in terms of experience, to host the UN Youth Center in İstanbul. This center will be the symbol at the junction of both the UN Youth Strategy and the strong youth activities of our country.

Concluding my words, I wish that ECOSOC Youth Forum will contribute to the youth on the road to a better and peaceful future.

Thank you.

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