

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL DEBT
ARCHITECTURE AND LIQUIDITY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF COVID-19 AND
BEYOND INITIATIVE
(29 March 2021, PRERECORDED VIDEO MESSAGE)**

Honourable Heads of State and Government,

Distinguished Secretary-General,

Esteemed Representatives of International Organizations,

Dear Delegates,

I salute you wholeheartedly on my behalf and on behalf of my Nation.

I thank United Nations Secretary-General Guterres, as well as the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica, for this significant initiative.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has already reached its first anniversary, has exposed humanity's collective fate in the face of global challenges.

Turkey has worked to strengthen global solidarity and international cooperation in this fight since the beginning.

With this perspective, we have provided medical aid and support to 157 countries and 12 international organizations.

We have stood in particular with our African brothers and sisters in these challenging times.

Between 2009 and 2019, we have provided more than 2.5 billion dollars in official development assistance to the Least Developed Countries alone.

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again revealed the global system's bias that we have pointed out on nearly every platform.

The global pandemic, which has caught even the world's wealthiest countries off-guard, has wreaked havoc on the less developed countries in particular.

The injustice that has become more obvious with the pandemic has become even more profound with the vaccination problem.

We see that nearly 100 countries around the world have not yet accessed vaccines.

The fact that certain countries have almost fully vaccinated their entire populations while millions of people in other parts of the world have yet to receive even the first dose of vaccine is concerning for humanity and humanitarian values.

However, it is evident that the pandemic will not come to an end, and the economy will not recover unless “fair access to vaccines” is ensured.

The countries that have accessed enough doses of vaccine for their citizens should deliver the extra doses they have to the countries in need.

Once our vaccine trials are completed, we plan to make our indigenous vaccine available to the entire humanity under the most favourable conditions.

It is critical that economic recovery is sustained with a focus on cooperation and solidarity rather than “protectionist” reflexes.

Steps towards the allocation of Special Drawing Rights, which were also brought to the agenda of the G20, should, in my opinion, be completed as soon as possible.

On the other hand, I hope the International Monetary Fund will meet the rightful expectations of developing countries in its works for the 16th Review of General Quotas.

We attach importance to relieving the debt burden of the low-income countries, in particular, through the strengthening of liquidity facilities.

The G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative is an important step taken towards minimising the effects of the pandemic.

We believe it will be beneficial to extend the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the second time to cover the entire year of 2021.

As I conclude my remarks with these thoughts, I would like to emphasize once again the importance of acting together in solidarity and cooperation during this challenging period.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the organization of this event and extend my greetings to you with respect.