



# İKVM NİTİHLY

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## G20 BALI SUMMIT AND TÜRKİYE'S STANCE ON GLOBAL ISSUES

During the 17<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit, held on Bali Island under the auspices of the Indonesian Presidency, Turkish President Erdoğan conducted bilateral meetings with prominent world leaders.

**G**20 countries represent 85% of the global economy and 75% of world trade.

In addition, these countries have two-thirds of the world's population, which has recently reached eight billion. As a result of its capacity, the G20 platform plays a vital role in addressing global issues and influencing international politics. This year, the 17<sup>th</sup> G20 Leaders' Summit was held on Bali Island on 15-16 November 2022 under the theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger".

Due to the simultaneous occurrence of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the energy crisis and soaring inflation, the G20 Summit drew international attention. In particular, the Russian invasion of Ukraine which started on 24 February 2022, had a profound effect on international politics and caused divergences in the G20 parties. Russian President Vladimir Putin chose not to attend the Bali Summit, just as he did not attend many summits held throughout the year and Russia was represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo made various diplomatic initiatives to manage the diversities in the G20 due to the war, and even visited Russia this summer. Although Ukraine is not a member of the G20, Widodo also visited Ukraine and invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the G20 Summit.

### The Summit Agenda and the Final Declaration

At the summit, opinions and suggestions were exchanged through closed sessions held under three headings as "Food and Energy Security", "Health" and "Digital Transformation". The Russian invasion of Ukraine was also at the forefront during the talks at the summit. It was reported that under the term of its G20 Presidency, Indonesia determined the recovery



of the global economy as a priority, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, and has made significant efforts in this regard throughout the year.

The meeting of US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since Biden took office was amongst the prominent news regarding the summit. Although the meeting took place after a period of increased tension between the US and China due to the Taiwan crisis, it was stated after the meeting that priorities and intentions were shared on many issues and "a sincere meeting" was held between the two leaders.

After the summit, G20 states published a 52-item final declaration. In the declaration, it was seen that attention was drawn to the ongoing crises throughout the world. The Russian invasion of Ukraine was the most frequently mentioned issue in the summit declaration as well as in the summit agenda. It was emphasised that today's world should not be an "age of war". It was underlined that the multilateral system protects

international law, peace and stability and it is important to adhere to the principles of the UN charter and international human rights law.

It was also remarkable that Russia's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Ukrainian territory was demanded in the declaration. Due to these statements regarding Russia in the final declaration, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov left the summit early and Russia was represented by the Minister of Finance for the rest of the summit.

Energy and food security were also included in the final declaration extensively. On the one hand, it was stated that urgent steps would be taken to ensure food security for the vulnerable countries, on the other hand, the Istanbul Grain Corridor initiative, which was implemented in the Black Sea under the leadership of Türkiye and UN, was welcomed by all members.

### G20 Summit and Türkiye

It can be stressed that the summit was quite fruitful for Türkiye. President Erdoğan held many bilateral and inter-delegation

meetings within the scope of the summit. President Erdoğan's meeting with US President Joe Biden during the summit drew particular attention. In the closed bilateral and inter-delegation meeting, it was announced that trade and security issues were discussed. US President Joe Biden thanked Türkiye for its efforts to solve the issues in the grain corridor and emphasised that the US administration will continue to support the process for procurement of F-16s.

During the G20 Summit, President Erdoğan held bilateral meetings with many world leaders as well as Joe Biden. In this context, extensive meetings were held with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italy's new Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Speaking at the health session within the scope of the G20 Summit, President Erdoğan drew attention to the vaccine injustice

and emphasised that only 11% of the population and only 37% of healthcare workers in low-income countries are vaccinated. In this context, President Erdoğan stated that Türkiye opposes vaccine injustice and reminded that they donated more than 6.3 million doses of vaccine to 19 countries.

Speaking at the food and energy security session, President Erdoğan emphasised that the world is facing the possibility of a shortage in rice, just as in grain, sunflower oil, and corn. Erdoğan also warned the international community that if measures are not taken, there will be a bigger food crisis next year. Stating that more than 10 million tons of grain have been shipped from the grain corridor, which was established under the leadership of Türkiye, Erdoğan emphasised that Türkiye has made an active effort in the energy crisis as well as in the food crisis.

Holding a press conference at the Bali International Conference Center on the last day of the G20 Summit, President Erdoğan also evaluated the G20 Summit while explaining Türkiye's stance on various current issues. In his speech, Erdoğan gave remarkable messages regarding the ongoing war, the fight against terrorism, food and energy security, health, and the recovery process of economies after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pointing out that the world is going through a crisis era as well as conflicts and regional tensions, Erdoğan stated that it is indispensable for all states to fight against inflation which has reached its peak over the last 50-60 years. Emphasising that the G20 platform is successfully carrying out its leadership role in tackling the challenges that arise at the global level, Erdoğan stated Türkiye plays a key role in the crises that the world is facing by taking a pro-active stance.



## IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU COMMENTED ON THE RESULTS OF COP27

The 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP27) kicked off on 6 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Speaking about the summit, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu stated that the climate crisis has now become a reality with the increase in the number of climate-related disasters such as drought, floods, and hurricanes, and that the commitments made since Glasgow last year should be put into action as soon as possible.

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu made the following remarks:

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessed that global temperature has increased about 1.1°C and is approaching 1.5°C. This reminds us once again of the importance of keeping the 1.5°C target within reach. Because we know that temperatures above this level will cause heat and humidity which threatens the life of half of the world's living population. We see that some climate activists and government officials did not attend this year's summit as there were some unsolved issues at COP26 held in Glasgow last year and some countries still refrain from setting ambitious climate targets. However, it should not be forgotten that in order for concrete steps to be taken, this summit should not lose its importance and high-level participation should continue every year.



It is also necessary to increase the technical and financial support provided especially to developing countries to reduce emissions and to increase the resilience of countries against the effects of climate change. Increasing the green financing sources is as important as the physical measures to be taken, so that the climate problem does not turn into a financing problem. In

this respect, it is also very valuable that green finance and the loss and damage mechanism offered to the developing countries at COP27 will be discussed.

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu also evaluated Türkiye's climate goals ahead of COP27:

"Türkiye, which was the only OECD and G20 country that refused to ratify the Paris Agreement and

endeavoured to put its request to be removed from Annex I on the COP agenda every year, finally became a part of the new climate regime ahead of COP26 last year. Türkiye not only became a party to the Paris Agreement but also announced a 2053 net-zero emission target. While Türkiye carried out preparations for its first Climate Law throughout the year, it has also announced that its

nationally determined contribution (NDC) for 2030 would be updated in line with the 2053 net-zero emissions target and submitted to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ahead of the COP27. Türkiye's finalised nationally determined contribution is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat during COP27. However, as stated in the joint call authored by IKV, TEPAV and IPM, it is of great importance that Türkiye brings forward a more ambitious nationally determined contribution as well as a date for the coal exit with regard to climate diplomacy and the fight against climate change."

IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu concluded his remarks by highlighting the urgency of Türkiye's green transformation:

"Located in the Mediterranean basin, Türkiye is expected to be one of the countries that will be most affected by climate change. Additionally, it should not be forgotten that Türkiye needs to take crucial steps concerning the environment and climate change due to both its EU accession bid and its intense trade relations with the EU. In order to get through this process in the least burdensome way, Türkiye needs to speedily publish and implement the Climate Law, which includes more ambitious targets."

## IKV CHAIRMAN ZEYTİNOĞLU ATTENDED THE 31<sup>ST</sup> QUALITY CONGRESS



IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Quality Congress entitled "Beyond Risk: Justice in Science, Industry and Society", held in Kocaeli on 22 November 2022. Speaking at the panel "Beyond: Inclusion and a More Resilient Economy", Zeytinoğlu highlighted the impact and the role of processes such as green transformation and digitalisation in ensuring an inclusive and resilient economy. IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu underlined that these transformations have a significant impact on Türkiye and Türkiye-EU

relations and stated that the decarbonisation agenda under the European Green Deal has brought the EU and Türkiye together and increased the need for cooperation. The panel was moderated by IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and the other speakers of the panel were the Director-General for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bülent Özcan and Deputy Director General at the DG for International Agreements and EU Affairs of the Ministry of Trade Bahar Güçlü.

İKv AGENDA

## İKv İSTANBUL EUIC ORGANISED A BEACH CLEAN-UP AND WASTE-SORTING EVENT



Marine and coastal pollution has become a global problem affecting the entire ecosystem and the environment. Millions of tons of garbage accumulated in the seas and oceans every year. It creates problems in terms of environment, economy, health and aesthetics. Around the world, 85% of marine pollution is made up of plastic waste. Combating marine litter and coastal pollution is a priority on the agenda of all countries, especially the EU. In this context, the EU Delegation to Turkey is participating in global efforts regarding climate and environmental protection and green transformation policies, with the "Coast Cleaning Events" held in various provinces of Türkiye this year as part of the EU Climate Diplomacy Week.

İKv İstanbul EU Information Center organised an "EU Beach Clean-Up and Waste-Sorting" event on 1 November 2022 in cooperation with Şile Municipality within the scope of EU Climate Diplomacy Week. Students from leading universities in İstanbul including Marmara University, İstanbul University, İstanbul Aydın University, Fenerbahçe University, İstanbul Medeniyet University and MEF University participated in the event held on the Uzunkum beach in Şile. Environmental NGO representatives were also amongst the participants.

The event was also attended by İKV Vice President Prof. Halûk Kabaalioğlu, İKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, İKV Deputy Secretary General M. Gökhan Kilit, Şile

Mayor İlhan Ocaklı, İstanbul Deputy Osman Boyraz and AK Party Şile District President Erdoğan Akgül.

The event, which was held simultaneously all over the world as part of the EU Climate Diplomacy Week, aimed to raise awareness and sensitivity amongst young people on climate change, environmental pollution and waste-sorting. Following the beach clean-up event, the participants visited the waste collection and sorting facility, and took part in the sorting process while receiving information on the topic. During the event, participants collected a total of 240 kg of waste including 34 kg of paper, 97 kg of plastic, 51 kg of glass, 36 kg of metal and 22 kg of non-recyclable waste.

## WE COMMEMORATE THE GREAT LEADER ATATÜRK ON THE 84<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASSING

We commemorate the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, a great statesman and a great leader, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk with longing and respect on the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing into eternity. Protecting his legacy and carrying it a step forward are the primary duties of each citizen of the Republic of Türkiye. We will continue glorifying our Republic and elevating it to the level of the contemporary civilisations in the light of the science and reason. We are going to work for prosperity and freedom of our country and society without deviating from the universal values, with a respect to law, democracy, and human rights. We are going to keep Atatürk's works and thoughts alive.



## TIMELINE NOVEMBER 2022

1	İKv İSTANBUL EUIC organised a Beach Clean-Up and Waste-Sorting Event.
2	İKv Secretary General Nas attended the Climate Diplomacy Week event organised by Kocaeli EUIC.
3	İKv Secretary General Nas participated in the "Union for the Mediterranean 4 <sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Forum.
4	President Erdoğan received NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.
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7	Türkiye-US High-Level Defense Group Meeting was held.
8	Swedish Prime Minister Kristersson paid an official visit to Ankara.
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11	İKv Chairman Zeytinoğlu made evaluations on the COP27.
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14	President Erdoğan attended the 7 <sup>th</sup> G20 Leaders' Summit held on Bali Island.
15	The first Science, Research, Technology and Innovation High-Level Dialogue Meeting between Türkiye and the EU was held in Brussels.
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22	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu participated in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC).
23	İKv Chairman Zeytinoğlu attended the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quality Congress entitled "Beyond Risk: Justice in Science, Industry and Society".
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29	Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu participated in the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting.
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## IKV SECRETARY GENERAL NAS PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

In November 2022, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas discussed Türkiye-EU relations and crucial foreign policy issues in various events and programmes.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas attended the Climate Diplomacy Week event organised by Kocaeli EU Information Center on 3 November 2022. The event, hosted by the Kocaeli Chamber of Industry, continued with the "Seminar on Climate Change and the EU Green Deal" followed by the "Succulent & Cactus Draw-Paint-Add Workshop". Assoc. Prof. Nas participated in the "Climate Change and Green Deal" seminar and gave a presentation on "European Green Deal and Its Importance and Implications for Türkiye".

On 4 November 2022, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas was a guest of the "Pasaport" program, prepared and presented by Mete Çubukçu and broadcasted on NTV, in which the government crisis in the UK was discussed. Joining the program as a commentator, Assoc. Prof. Nas shared her views on the background of the crisis in the UK. Indicating that one of the important elements of the current crisis is related to Brexit, Assoc. Prof. Nas evaluated the negative effects of the Brexit process.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas participated in the "Union for the Mediterranean



4<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Forum" held in İstanbul on 4 November 2022. The 4<sup>th</sup> Trade and Investment Forum, jointly organised by the Union for the Mediterranean and the German Development Cooperation under the auspices of the Ministry of Trade, focused on the impact of regional trade in accelerating the green transformation, preventing economic shocks and promoting regional economic integration. IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Nas was a speaker in the third panel on the preventive role of intra-regional trade against global crises. In her

speech, Assoc. Prof. Nas focused on the importance of trade between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries, green transformation and resilience to global crises.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas gave a speech at the 14<sup>th</sup> Competitiveness Congress organised by the Federation of Sectoral Associations (SEDEFED) on 9 November 2022. This year's Competitiveness Congress was held with the theme of digital and green transforming sectors. Assoc. Prof. Nas took part in the panel titled

"Competitiveness in the Digital World". In her speech, Assoc. Prof. Nas discussed the effects of the transformation the world is going through, the EU's priority of twin transformation and its effects on Türkiye-EU relations.

On 24 November 2022, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas participated as a speaker in the "Out of the Agenda" programme presented by Kahraman Poyrazoğlu on 24TV. In the programme, the issues on climate change and the European Green Deal were discussed, Assoc.

Prof. Nas drew attention to the serious consequences of the climate crisis and stated that sustainable production and consumption is the only solution. Stating that the European Green Deal is a radical transformation programme for the EU, Assoc. Prof. Nas emphasised that the changing production norms and standards are very closely related to Türkiye, whose biggest export market is the EU. Discussing the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism in detail, IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Nas stated that the reduction targets of greenhouse gas emissions, which are the main cause of climate change, should be updated.

IKV Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas gave a seminar on "EU-Türkiye Relations: Perspectives for the Future" within the scope of MEF University Jean Monnet Chair on 25 November 2022. During the seminar organised within the scope of the Jean Monnet Chair "EU-Türkiye Relations in an Era of Differentiated Integration" held by Prof. Dr. Beken Saatçioğlu, the milestones in Türkiye-EU relations, problems in the accession negotiations, the Customs Union and visa liberalisation processes as well as the new dynamics in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war were discussed.

## THE THIRD REPORT OF THE PROJECT ENTITLED "OVERCOMING GLOBAL PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL COOPERATION: THE CASE OF IMM" WAS PUBLISHED



The third and final report of the project titled "Overcoming Global Problems Through Local Cooperation: The Case of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM)" carried out by IKV with TEPAV and IPM has been published. Financed by the Center for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) and the Mercator Foundation, within the scope of the project, the role of local governments in climate change, local policies for vulnerable

groups and the solutions that can be developed through mutual cooperation between local governments were discussed.

The third report of the project is titled "Urban Coalitions and Mechanisms of Cooperation: The Case of Istanbul and Berlin". The report, co-authored by IKV's Secretary General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and IKV's Researchers Mehmet Can Sezgin and Nagehan Nur Uysal, aims to explore the

possibilities and challenges of urban cooperation between İstanbul and Berlin and deliver policy advice on these globally challenging issues. Moreover, it demonstrates the potential impact of such cooperation on reviving the relationship between Türkiye and Germany. In this framework, the research team focused on the findings in the first two reports to compare these two cities in terms of their adaption to climate change.

## HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES

# PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN MET WITH NATO SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG



On 4 November 2022, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan received NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Istanbul.

The closed-door meeting was held in Dolmabahçe Presidential Working Office. During the meeting, the Russian invasion of Ukraine,

Greek aggression and the trilateral memorandum between Türkiye-Sweden-Finland were discussed.

During the meeting, President Erdoğan emphasised that the grain corridor continues to operate as a result of Türkiye's diplomatic efforts with Russia and Ukraine at the highest level. On the other hand, Stoltenberg emphasised Türkiye's importance as a NATO ally and thanked Türkiye for its active role in keeping the grain corridor alive. He also commented Türkiye on its role in mediating the war prisoners' exchanges between Ukraine and Russia, as well as for its strong support for Ukraine's right of self-defence.

President Erdoğan also addressed Greece's aggressive actions, saying that it is not Türkiye that is escalating tensions in the region and that it would be helpful to get Greece in common sense and dialogue. President Erdoğan emphasised that the actions taken by Sweden and Finland will determine how quickly the approval process for the trilateral memorandum between Türkiye, Sweden, and Finland advances and when it can be finalised.

During his three-day visit, NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg also held a joint press conference with Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. In the joint press conference, Stoltenberg stressed that Finland and Sweden have kept

their agreement with Türkiye and both countries have become strong partners in the fight against terrorism and they are clearly committed to a long-term engagement with Türkiye to address common security concerns. In turn, Minister Çavuşoğlu pointed out that the timetable for the admission of the new members depends on when Türkiye's demands agreed in the joint memorandum are met.

After a joint visit to the Martyrs' Memorial and the historic Gallipoli Peninsula in the northwestern province of Çanakkale, Stoltenberg also met with Defence Minister Hulusi Akar. During the meeting, topics such as regional defence, security and NATO issues were discussed.

# SWEDEN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER KRISTERSSON MADE HIS FIRST-EVER FOREIGN VISIT TO TÜRKİYE

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, who took office in October 2022, paid an official visit to Ankara on 8 November 2022 for his first-ever foreign visit and had an essential meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. After their meeting, the leaders of the two countries spoke at a joint press conference.

Stating that the two countries are strategic partners, the leaders exchanged views on developing bilateral relations as well as on global and regional issues, especially Sweden's application for NATO membership on the basis of the Trilateral Memorandum signed on the margins of the NATO Madrid Summit, Türkiye-EU relations and the war in Ukraine.

At the joint press conference, President Erdoğan stated that Türkiye has always been a strong supporter of NATO's open-door policy and has approved of the opening of Sweden and Finland's accession negotiations to NATO in line with this approach. In addition, President Erdoğan noted that Türkiye understands Sweden's security concerns as Türkiye has been fighting against terrorist organisations such as PKK/PYD/YPG, FETO, DHKP/C and DAESH, while Sweden wishes to end its 200-year-old policy of not joining military alliances after the war in Ukraine. Therefore, President Erdoğan expressed his expectations for Sweden to understand Türkiye's own security



concerns against terrorism and asked Sweden to support Türkiye's fight against terrorism. In particular, President Erdoğan stressed that Sweden should prevent terrorist organisations from exploiting the democratic environment in the country. President Erdoğan added: "It is our sincere expectation that after the implementation of the Trilateral Memorandum as a whole, Sweden will become a NATO member, thus adding an alliance dimension to our centuries-old friendly relations". President Erdoğan also highlighted the wish to expand Türkiye's bilateral relations with Sweden in every field from trade to defence industry, from mutual investments to tourism.

Swedish Prime Minister Kristersson pointed out the huge potential between Türkiye and Sweden and underlined that the two countries could take important

steps in the fields of business and tourism. Afterwards, Prime Minister Kristersson added that Türkiye's concern is quite understandable since Sweden is aware that thousands of Turks have lost their lives in the fight against the PKK, which is recognised as a terrorist organisation by the EU and the US as well as Sweden. Kristersson emphasised that Sweden will fulfil all the commitments it has made to Türkiye within the scope of the Trilateral Memorandum between Türkiye, Sweden and Finland and continue to fulfil even after becoming a NATO member. Prime Minister Kristersson also addressed Türkiye's mediation role in the opening of a grain corridor in the Black Sea, noting that during the meeting he thanked Ankara for its efforts to start grain shipments through the Black Sea as well as for supporting Ukraine's defence in the face of Russian aggression.

# FOREIGN MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU ATTENDED THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING



Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited the capital of Romania, Bucharest, to participate in the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting as well as to hold bilateral meetings on 29-30 November 2022.

The NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting focused on the long-term challenges posed by China in relation to cybersecurity and military, as well as on support for partners facing Russian pressure. In the joint statement released following the meeting, the NATO Allies condemned all forms and manifestations of terrorism and expressed solidarity with Türkiye following the recent horrific terrorist

attack that took place in Istanbul.

Prior to the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting of Türkiye-Sweden-Finland, in which all parties reviewed the steps taken in line with the Trilateral Memorandum.

During his visit, Minister Çavuşoğlu also addressed the 11<sup>th</sup> Bucharest Forum and Munich Security Conference Leaders' Meeting. In his speech, Çavuşoğlu discussed the security challenges in the Black Sea region and the steps taken by Türkiye to ensure security. He emphasised the need for a new European security architecture.

## FOREIGN MINISTER ÇAVUŞOĞLU ATTENDED THE 9<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL FORUM OF THE UN AOC



Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN AOC) held on 22-23 November 2022 in Fez, Morocco. The AOC was launched in 2005 by then Prime Minister and the current President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the former Prime Minister of Spain José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. It officially became a UN initiative after its endorsement by the Secretary-General of the UN. Today, UN AOC is one of the

UN's most well-attended initiatives with its 158 members.

In the Forum session, participants discussed the current issues and concrete steps to be taken by the international community to fight against threats such as saying racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. Minister Çavuşoğlu also held bilateral talks with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bouhabib, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Maliki, Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Elmangoush and UN Secretary-General

António Guterres in his visit to Morocco.

Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu started his speech by addressing the Alliance as "we could not have known at the time that this was going to be a timeless initiative". Stressing that hate crimes, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Christian sentiments, xenophobia, separatism and extremism continue to increase all around the world, Çavuşoğlu added that "it is difficult to undo all the misperceptions, prejudices and feelings of disconnection that we built over generations".

Minister Çavuşoğlu also urged upon the action plan of UN AOC that was constructed on three major lines, preventive diplomacy, mediation and preventing and countering violent extremism. Çavuşoğlu finished his speech by adding that "making multilateral cooperation stronger is critical to our work here at the alliance."



## TÜRKİYE PUT FORWARD A ROADMAP FOR THE URBAN AGRICULTURE ACTION PLAN

The Turkish government has prepared a national plan that aims to subsidy producers covering 14 provinces and three years in order to upgrade and increase the number of urban agricultural investments. The plan consists of vocational training, free seeds, industrialisation in agriculture, as well as support to producers in the fields of greenhouse and livestock breeding.

Within the scope of the project, which will start in 2023, it is planned that the subsidies primarily set out in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Erzincan, Balıkesir, Bursa, Bilecik, Çanakkale, Edirne, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Tekirdağ and Yalova, and then will be extended to other regions and provinces of Türkiye.

Besides aiming to combat the changing food prices throughout the country, reducing logistics costs and carbon emissions and creating new job opportunities are amongst the goals. Türkiye also aims to increase the number of specialised agricultural zones and geothermal greenhouses.

In line with the goal of industrialisation in agriculture, Türkiye's annual agricultural income has increased to 21.8 billion dollars in the last 20 years, while the share of agriculture in total exports increased to 11% from 2021 to 2022.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry also plans to reduce water waste to prevent water shortages. According to the statement made by the Directorate of Water Management of the Ministry, while Türkiye has the potential of 7.2 billion cubic metres of treated wastewater, 44% of it is thought to be reusable.

On the other hand, it is estimated that 93 litres of water per person daily and an average of 33.5% of the water stock is wasted in Türkiye. The Ministry aims to use approximately 65% of the recycled water in agricultural irrigation every year, by taking measures to educate the public and to raise awareness campaigns targeting everyone, from housewives and students to farmers and industrialists.

## THE FIRST MEETING OF TÜRKİYE-EU HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WAS HELD



On 15 November 2022, the Science, Research, Technology and Innovation High-Level Dialogue Meeting between Türkiye and the EU was held in Brussels. Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank and the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel attended the meeting. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology Çetin Ali Dönmez, and President of The Scientific and Technological

Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) Hasan Mandal were also amongst the participants.

The main topics discussed were the green transition, digitalisation, education, research, and innovation in the High-Level Dialogue. It was emphasised that Türkiye, as an EU candidate country and a partner in the EU's research and innovation programmes, continued its efforts to implement EU standards in green and digital transitions and to progress a good level of harmonisation, particularly in the last 20 years.

On the other hand, it was stated that the Horizon Europe Programme, which strengthens the cooperation between universities, industry, and SMEs, contributes to the harmonisation of the EU with the developments in research and innovation. At the meeting, it was emphasised that cooperation should be continued on the mutual benefits arising from the transformation of the twin transition for both sides.

Highlighting that the EU faces the same challenges as Türkiye, it was mentioned that the cooperation in environmentally friendly industrial production and urbanisation, clean and renewable energy should be increased. It was also stated that important contributions will be made to the European Research Coordination Agency (EUREKA), an international cooperation platform established by TÜBİTAK to encourage the research and development of advanced technologies, products and services that will increase the competitiveness of industrial and research institutions in European countries. In addition, the importance of encouraging the creation and execution of joint projects between countries was emphasised.

The second High-Level Dialogue meeting will be hosted by Türkiye in 2023. The cooperation between Türkiye-EU in the field of science and technology, which has been going on for many years, will continue to be strengthened with these meetings.



## TÜRKİYE-US HIGH-LEVEL DEFENSE GROUP MEETING WAS HELD

A delegation from the US Department of Defense visited Türkiye on 7 November 2022 to participate in the Türkiye-US High-Level Defense Group Meeting. During the meeting that took place in a positive and constructive atmosphere, Turkish and

American defence officials discussed regional and global security issues, bilateral defence, military training and defence industry cooperation.

The next Türkiye-US High-Level Defence Group Meeting is expected to take place in the US in 2023.

## TÜRKİYE WINS PRAISE FOR ITS KEY ROLE IN THE EXTENSION OF THE GRAIN CORRIDOR DEAL

Türkiye's efforts in ensuring the renewal of the Black Sea Grain Initiative have received praise from prominent leaders.

The landmark grain corridor deal unblocking the export of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukrainian Black Sea ports has been extended for another four months days before its scheduled expiration thanks to Türkiye's diplomatic efforts. Brokered by Türkiye and the UN and signed between Russia, Ukraine, Türkiye and the UN in İstanbul on 22 July 2022, the grain corridor deal, officially known as the "Black Sea Grain Initiative" has been crucial for preventing a global food crisis and helping stabilise food prices by resuming the export of grain through the Black Sea which had been halted due to Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports. At the end of October, citing allegations of a Ukrainian drone attack on its Black Sea fleet, Moscow had announced that it would pull out of the grain corridor deal indefinitely. Diplomatic efforts by Türkiye including at the highest level proved decisive in Moscow's reviewing its decision and returning to the deal.

On 17 November 2022, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan confirmed that the parties agreed to renew the Black



Sea Grain Initiative for a period of 120 days starting 19 November as a result of the quadrilateral talks hosted by Türkiye.

Türkiye's role in brokering and ensuring the continuation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative has received praise from the leaders of many prominent countries, leading international organisations and the EU. UN Secretary-General António Guterres praised Türkiye's role in reaching the deal in a social media post on 17 November and stated that the deal would never have been possible without Ankara's commitment and generosity. European Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen congratulated President Erdoğan and UN Secretary-General Guterres for the agreement on the renewal of the deal and indicated that together with EU Solidarity Lanes, the deal proved effective in preventing global food shortages and bringing down food prices. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell issued a statement welcoming the extension of the deal which is vital for ensuring food security and driving global food prices down and highlighted the efforts of Türkiye and the UN to guarantee its continuation. Moreover, in his address to the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg commended the role that Türkiye and President Erdoğan assumed in facilitating and renewing the deal which he stressed had proven extremely important for food prices. Stoltenberg also hailed Ankara's role in facilitating the prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine and indicated that this was also welcomed by the Allies.



## CUSTOMS PROGRAMME ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruk Kaymakcı and the Director-General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission (TG TAXUD) Gerassimos Thomas signed the Customs Programme Association Agreement on 15 November 2022. The agreement will allow Türkiye to participate in the Customs Programme.

The Customs Programme, an EU cooperation programme in the field of customs, has a budget of 950 million euros under the Multi Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The main objectives of the programme are to assess the customs union performance, and to address the challenges linked to the COVID-19 crisis, the Single Window, the e-commerce, customs

cooperation and administrative and IT capacity building, as well as the development and operation of European electronic systems.

Acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, European Neighbourhood Policy countries and other third countries could participate in the Customs Programme if they are found eligible. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine have expressed interest in joining the Customs Programme.

While the Commission will implement the Customs Programme, the Customs Programme Committee, composed of delegates from each EU Member State, will support the Programme.

## TRNC HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES AS AN OBSERVER MEMBER



Foreign Minister and Chief Negotiator Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu announced that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) has been admitted to the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) as an observer member under its full constitutional name. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu expressed Türkiye's support and stated that Türkiye is always by the side of the TRNC everywhere.

The TRNC has taken such a status for the first time in its 39-year history. Currently, while Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan are members of the OTS, Hungary and Turkmenistan have observer status.

The decision on the observer status of the TRNC was accepted at the Summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 11 November 2022, and all five

OTS member states unanimously supported this decision.

Confirming the news, TRNC President Ersin Tatar stressed the importance of the TRNC's participation in an international organisation like the OTS and added that the TRNC's observer status will be beneficial to the entire Turkish world. Highlighting having the vision to put an end to the persecution of TRNC people since he took office, Tatar interpreted the latest development as "a momentous event in our history that is a source of pride for us."

Speaking over the phone with TRNC President Ersin Tatar, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated that "the family photo was completed with the TRNC becoming an observer member of the Organization of Turkic States".

## TURKISH ENVIRONMENTAL LABEL SYSTEM RECEIVED FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE GLOBAL ECOLABELLING



The Turkish Environmental Label System gained international validity and recognition following its acceptance as a full member of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) on 18 October 2022, of which it had been an associate member since 2020.

The Turkish Environmental Label System, a voluntary system introduced by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change in 2018, aims to promote products

and services that are deemed to be environmentally friendly, as well as to inform consumers and producers. It determines the criteria of the "environmental label" which covers the sectors related to the tourist accommodation service group, ceramics, textiles, cleaning papers, hand washing and dishwashing liquids, cosmetics, glass, laundry detergents as well as dishwasher detergents.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM COP27 AND TÜRKİYE'S RENEWED CLIMATE GOALS

The “Loss and Damage Mechanism” proposal, which might be seen as the most significant climate advancement since the Paris Agreement at COP21 in 2015, was endorsed in COP27.

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The Conference of the Parties this year (COP27) caught the attention of millions of people, organisations, and businesses due to the global economic, energy, and social instability. From 6 November to 20 November 2022, COP27 was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The COP27 provided the chance for world leaders to show solidarity and take coordinated action at a time when the world is being threatened by a common enemy, climate change. The conference's primary focus this year was climate finance, as compliance with the climate targets is now directly proportional to the financial capacities of the countries. Enhancing the number of green finance resources is just as important as taking physical actions in order to prevent the climate crisis from becoming a funding problem. According to a UN report, developed countries, investors, and multilateral development institutions should contribute a trillion dollars, with the remaining 1.4 trillion US dollars coming from local private and public sources to the undeveloped countries for them to be climate-neutral. In this respect, as a start, it could be deemed valuable that the “Loss and Damage Mechanism” was adopted at COP27. The parties agreed to utilise the Santiago Network which was established at COP25 to provide technical assistance in averting, minimising, and addressing loss and damage.

The final deal reached at the end of the COP27 received criticism from certain quarters for not doing enough to reduce emissions that damage the climate, including by establishing more ambitious national objectives and reducing the use of fossil fuels including coal, oil, and natural gas. Some nations have sought to phase out, or at least



phase down, the use of all fossil fuels, however, the cover decision only called for steps to phase down the use of unabated coal power and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. The use of fossil fuels was supported for the near future during the keynote addresses and the closing negotiations.

Unfortunately, there wasn't also much movement toward developing voluntary carbon markets. Governments postponed signing an agreement to enhance rules that would increase the transparency of carbon transactions until next year. Since corporations and governments are not required to reveal specifics of their trading of emissions reductions, the existing language might result in duplicate counting.

### Why the Agreement on the Loss and Damage Mechanism is Remarkable?

Efforts to “avert, minimise, and address loss and damage associated with climate change consequences, especially in developing economies that are more sensitive to its adverse

effects,” are referred to as “loss and damage” in the international policy discussion.

Developing countries demand the economic losses incurred due to the climate crisis be compensated by the developed countries, accusing them of having the highest historical responsibility for the emergence of the climate crisis. Therefore, the developing countries' demand for compensation for their loss and damage was remarkable at the COP27 which would allow allocating funds to the Loss and Damage Mechanism.

Even though the COP27 decision on loss and damage will not immediately have significant impacts, establishing the loss and damage fund might be interpreted more as developing trust and fostering solidarity than it is about providing funds for reparations, compensation, or solidarity.

### Türkiye's Position in the COP27

Minister of the Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Murat Kurum was amongst the key officials that attended the COP27.

Minister Kurum made statements about Türkiye's climate targets and future practices at the summit. Kurum stressed that Türkiye will raise its 2030 emissions reduction target from 21% to 41% in a business-as-usual scenario, a target that is almost twice as large. This way, 500 million tons of emissions are expected to be reduced in 2030 alone. The implementation of the “Emission Trading System Application” is also foreseen to be launched by the end of this year in an attempt to bring down emissions in the country as of 2023. The minister also met with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, where he stressed Türkiye's aim to develop cooperation with Cairo on environmental and climate issues and had a bilateral meeting with Pakistani Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, where the recent devastation caused by floods was discussed as an example of the massive impacts of climate change. Kurum continued his climate diplomacy efforts with Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection Steffi Lemke.

Within the scope of the 2053 net zero emission targets, Türkiye updated its nationally determined contribution (NDC). The new plan had yet to be formally submitted to include in the official UN Climate Change registry of NDCs. Türkiye's emissions stood at 530 million tons of carbon dioxide in 2020, representing a 1% share of global emissions. The electricity sector accounted for 24.1% of total emissions followed by the manufacturing sector at 21.2%. Transportation recorded 15.8%, buildings held a 13.8% share and waste 11.1%. The agricultural sector was responsible for 9.3% of emissions and the remaining 4.7% stemmed from the shipping, oil, and gas sectors in Türkiye. According to Minister Kurum, it is also expected that Türkiye's emissions will peak by 2038 at the latest. Considering, Türkiye only received 3.1 million US dollars in financial support within the scope of the Paris Agreement, it will need to look for variable funds in order to achieve these targets.

Finally, Türkiye has announced its candidacy to host the COP31, which is expected to be held in 2026.