

**Dialogue between Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and Heads of Delegation of the
Permanent Observer Countries to the OAS on the theme of the XLII Regular Session of the
General Assembly, "Food Security with Sovereignty"**

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Cochabamba, Bolivia

Permanent Observer Mission of Turkey

Remarks delivered by:

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Distinguished Ministers,
Mr. Secretary General,
Heads of Delegation,
Ambassadors,
Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost allow me to express my gratitude to our host Bolivia, for the warm hospitality accorded to us.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to convey Minister Davutoglu's best regards and wishes to His Excellency David Choquehuanca Cespedes, Minister of Foreign Relations and Worship of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, to his H.E. Secretary general Insulza and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OAS Member States present here today.

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate our hope that His Excellency Mr. Insulza will be able to realize his postponed visit to Turkey in the near future.

Excellencies,

Since the late 90's Turkey has in its policy a strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2006 was the Year of the Americas in Turkey, in which we set out for revitalizing this strategy, putting it into a more systematic context, while defining concrete and achievable goals. We are happy to note that, 6 years from the onset of our revised strategy, we are now reaping its tangible results.

As part of this strategy, we have increased the level of our diplomatic representation in the region, increased the frequency of bilateral visits and contacts and enhanced our economic and commercial ties. There was almost a 10 fold increase in our total trade with the LAC region in the last 10 years to its current level of 8 billion USD in 2011.

While building closer ties with the countries of the region and diversifying relations on a bilateral basis, Turkey also seeks to expand the network of its cooperation with regional organizations.

Turkey enjoys permanent observer status in the Organization of American States (OAS) and Association of Caribbean States (ACS). We have recently established a cooperation and consultation mechanism with MERCOSUR and CARICOM/

Turkey strengthened its cooperation with the OAS as the leading regional Organization where it has been a permanent observer for 14 years now.

The "Framework Agreement on Cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the General Secretariat of the OAS" entered into force on March 7, 2011. The legal foundation for furthering our cooperation in all areas of common interest is now fully in place.

Excellencies,

In today's world, with ever more demanding challenges, a process of continuous adaptation and close cooperation is a must rather than a choice.

In this vein, the choice of "Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas" as the central theme of this General Assembly is timely and appropriate as it is an issue of ever pressing importance that impacts the lives of millions of people at the most fundamental level.

In the face of increasing global interactions, food insufficiency and food insecurity have emerged as new security challenges. Measures to deal with these challenges need to be defined by the international community in a multidisciplinary and well-coordinated manner.

Food security is closely connected to political stability, security and sustainable development. Capacity building and provision of sustainable productivity are key issues in maintaining food security.

Global food insecurity presents a threat not only to the least developed countries directly affected by it, but also to the rest of the world. Economic and financial crisis, climate change, soaring energy prices, rise in the production of biofuels, trade-distorting agricultural subsidies and underinvestment in agriculture have all contributed to the aggravation of food insecurity, also jeopardizing the progress achieved so far in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Turkey, as an emerging donor country, is actively involved in FAO, WFP and IFAD for the adoption of sound and sustainable policies regarding the food crisis.

In this context, Turkey attaches special priority to the problems faced by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Turkey announced an Economic and Technical Cooperation Package for the LDCs at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul on 9-13 May 2011. This package, which envisages the allocation of 200 millions US Dollars per year starting from 2012 to LDCs for technical cooperation projects and programs as well as scholarships, aims to help these countries to overcome their challenges on their way to sustainable development.

Excellencies,

The General Assembly of the OAS provided an invaluable platform to acquire a better understanding and insight of all the issues that matter for this region.

Turkey is committed to support the OAS in its endeavors to promote platform to acquire a better understanding and insight of all the issues that matter for this region.

Turkey is committed to support the OAS in its endeavors to promote integral development, multidimensional security, the protection of human rights and good governance in the Americas, thereby furthering our common values and improving the lives and conditions of the inhabitants of the region. To this end, it will continue its voluntary contributions to the organization. We have in fact increased our yearly contributions to a total on 100.000 US Dollars.

We will continue our commitment in the years to come.

In closing, I wish to reiterate once again Turkey's desire to consolidate its ties with the countries of the region through its status as a permanent observer in the OAS and continued support for the Organization's activities and objectives.

Thank you very much.