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With the financial crisis the US, the EU and Japan aren't in the mood to spend money and display selfishness with self-interest



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TİKA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, is implementing a comprehensive program focused on Africa

Economic growth and sustainable development are a win-win game Page 02



İSTANBUL NEWSLETTER



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CHANDRA MUZAFFAR
MALAYSIAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST



İSTANBUL OFFERS AN ALTERNATIVE VISION FOR LDCs

I sense greater sincerity of purpose on the part of the ruling Turkish elite when it comes to the question of the LDCs compared to what was present in the case of previous hosts. So there's determination on the part of the elite to articulate the interests of the LDCs. I'm sure Turkey will make the effort to raise the voice of conscience on behalf of the poor and the powerless. [SEE STORY ON PAGE 04](#)

MUSTAFA GÜNAY
SECRETARY GENERAL OF TUSKON



WE WANT TO TEACH THEM HOW TO FISH

The Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists continues reaching out to businessmen from the least developed countries, allowing them to have face-to-face talks with their counterparts from around the world as part of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which is hosting the private sector for the first time in its history. [SEE STORY ON PAGE 03](#)



UN Secretary-General Ban delivered the opening speech at the Parliamentary Forum, held at the Lütfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Center in İstanbul on Sunday.

IPOA SET TO OUTLINE BOLD FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

Today's announcement of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) follows a week of intense discussion and deliberation on the challenges facing the 48 least developed countries (LDCs).

Throughout the conference, delegates have reaffirmed their solidarity and partnership with LDCs, debating the critical issues facing these countries and the most effective way of addressing them. Today's Istanbul Declaration is anticipated to form a bold plan of action to address these challenges.

The IPoA is expected to include a follow-up mechanism and aggressive targets for reducing by half the number of LDCs by 2021, when the UN LDC-V will be held. Key elements of

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the document are expected to underscore the importance of integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development policies and practices, technology transfer, infrastructure development and capacity building.

Given the increased role of the private sector at the UN LDC-IV, the IPoA is likely to emphasize that increased investment in LDCs is essential to the eradication of poverty and hunger and the achievement of food and nutritional security. Also seen as a key element of the Istanbul Declaration is the engagement of national parliaments, holding member states of both the LDCs and developed countries accountable for the framework and conditions outlined in the IPoA.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE A WIN-WIN GAME

Davutoğlu says although most of the LDCs are bestowed with rich resources, they are characterized by massive poverty and under-development, poor infrastructure and lack of institutional and technological capacities

AHMET DAVUTOĞLU
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

I would like to warmly welcome you, my colleagues from brotherly member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to İstanbul.

We have gathered in İstanbul for a unique opportunity to draw up the parameters of a renewed and invigorated partnership to the benefit of the least developed countries (LDCs) for the next decade. We should put all our efforts together to agree on a tangible set of commitments and deliverables for the LDCs.

I would also like to express my sincere pleasure to organize this forum together with the OIC. The OIC, the second largest international organization after the United Nations, has taken on a formidable task of reform and restructuring to be more equipped to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century. The crowning achievement of this process, guided by Secretary-General Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, was the adoption of the 10-Year Action Plan and the new OIC Charter. I feel privileged to have been personally involved as a member of the Eminent Persons Group in drafting the 10-Year Action Plan, which is an integral part of these efforts aimed at the overall development of its members in all fields, including political, economic, social infrastructure, science and technology, human rights, good governance and particularly poverty eradication.

To this end, the OIC has today become a more visible, effective, prestigious and credible

player on the international scene.

In today's world, solidarity between our countries is needed more than ever to address the global challenges with a view to devising sustainable development paths for the poor.

The LDCs represent the weakest and poorest segment of our community. Although most of the LDCs are bestowed with rich resources, they are characterized by massive poverty and underdevelopment, poor infrastructure, weak supply-side capacities, a lack of institutional and technological capacities, low labor productivity, brain drain, low levels of saving and a lack of domestic resources for development. These are further reinforced by civil strife and conflict, ill health and new challenges; including global economic and financial crises, climate change, and rising food and fuel prices, which further hinder the development prospects of the LDCs.

The increasing marginalization of the LDCs is creating a future that we, as a global community, cannot afford. The OIC, as half of its member states carry LDC status, cannot remain indifferent to the call to embark on a structural transformation to stop this vicious circle.

We need to focus on helping LDCs to significantly and rapidly improve their physical, human and institutional infrastructure, improve agricultural productivity and expand their export capacities.

So far, we have undertaken many programs, action plans and cooperation activities within the OIC family with a view to enabling wealth creation and a sustainable development path for our people.

Although we have already taken bold steps

towards reaching a sustainable development path, poverty remains one of the most crippling challenges of the OIC community. Hundreds of millions of people in Muslim territories are suffering from famine. In this regard, the Islamic Solidarity Fund is instrumental for implementing more programs.

Furthermore, I would also like to emphasize the fact that rural development and food security are crucial issues of development and sustainable poverty eradication in countries where a substantial segment of the population lives in rural areas. Given that more than 50 percent of the total population of the OIC lives in rural areas, I wish to reiterate our call for the enhancement of cooperation in investments in the area of agriculture and support to the Task Force on Food Security.

This is the time for global solidarity in order to achieve progress even in the poorest countries in the world, which will go a long way in advancing global prosperity and security.

In this context, Turkey will continue to support all efforts and initiatives of the OIC in developing effective responses to the multiple regional and global challenges that humanity faces today. The economic growth and sustainable development is not a zero-sum but rather a win-win game.

*This is an abridged version of the speech H.E. Professor Ahmet Davutoğlu, the minister of foreign affairs of Turkey, gave on the occasion of the Turkey-OIC forum on building productive capacities for poverty eradication at the UN LDC-IV, held in İstanbul on May 11, 2011.



Ahmet Davutoğlu, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Turkey, hosted eight journalists for breakfast to discuss the country's approach to international development and its aspirations for the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA). Journalists from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Yemen attended the session, where they had the opportunity to reflect on the week's event and discuss the potential impact of the IPoA.

During the meeting, Minister Davutoğlu highlighted how responding to humanitarian issues is at the heart of Turkey's foreign

policy, and that closing both the economic and technology gap between developed and emerging countries is of critical importance. Minister Davutoğlu went on to explain Turkey's own experiences and his view of Turkey as a sincere partner of the developing world. Minister Davutoğlu discussed Turkey's ap-

proach to Africa, its historic relations with the continent and the developing world. He also highlighted that the interest of Turkish companies and civil society towards the continent is growing, and that more engagement from the private sector can help address some of the challenges facing LDCs.



TUSKON: We want to help LDCs by teaching them how to fish

The Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists (TUSKON) continues reaching out to businessmen from the least developed countries (LDCs), allowing them to have face-to-face talks with their counterparts worldwide as part of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), which is hosting the private sector for the first time in its history.

We spoke with the confederation's secretary-general, Mustafa Günay, and asked him about the conference as well as TUSKON's goals during and after the big event.

What do you think of the LDC-IV being held in İstanbul?

This fourth meeting could only be held in İstanbul thanks to the government and the prime minister's vision. This is, as you know, the most important meeting of the UN and is held once a decade. The fact that such an important conference is being hosted in İstanbul will for sure raise the city's brand value. The result of this conference will take its place in history as the İstanbul Declaration.

What have you as TUSKON done before and during the conference?

This year for the first time the private sector also participated in the UN conference through the contributions of our minister of foreign affairs. We contributed to the conference attending as TUSKON and the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB). TUSKON opened up country stands and provided international businessmen it flew in from LDCs to talk to businessmen from other countries in face-to-face interaction. We want to allocate their potential more than help these countries because we believe in them. I believe it is better to help them by teaching them to fish rather than giving them fish right away. In total, we brought 605 businessmen from LDCs and got

them involved in face-to-face talks. We also organized four business forum panels during the conference.

What are you planning in the period to follow?

We have so far organized 417 help commissions and took 7,500 Turkish businessmen to 104 countries. We hosted around 11,000 businessmen in Turkey and will continue to provide this service at the same pace. We received our assignment from Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and would like to take the opportunity to thank him for this. This meeting took place in these premises thanks to our prime minister's vision.

TUSKON: Turkey's global face

TUSKON was founded in 2005 as the national confederation of seven regional businessmen and industrialists' confederations. Headquartered in İstanbul, it is the umbrella organization for 160 business organizations in 80 provinces, representing around 25,000 entrepreneurs, often referred to as the "Anatolian Tigers." TUSKON has enabled its member regional confederations to gain a global reach, which they could not have achieved otherwise, through the economies of scale resulting from its large size and combined resources. Global in its outlook, it has representative offices in Brussels, Moscow, Beijing and Washington, D.C. These representative offices have their own websites to provide information to those interested in their respective activities. With its broad national base, including small, medium and large-sized firms in all sectors of the economy, TUSKON has organized, with the support of the Turkish government, several multi-day "international trade bridge" meetings, focusing on different regions of the world, including the Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Eurasia and Pacific regions. These meetings have brought together thousands of business leaders from hundreds of companies as well

as high-level government officials to promote Turkey's mutually beneficial trade and investment all around the world. These meetings have enabled business leaders to talk face-to-face with each other to strike trade and investment deals they might not have done otherwise. These meetings have been especially beneficial for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have more limited means of seeking and finding international business opportunities than large multinational companies. TUSKON has also organized seminars and conferences in Turkey and abroad in cooperation with other organizations from several different countries to develop mutually beneficial bilateral trade and investment relations. The most recent ones were a conference on strengthening Turkish-American economic relations organized jointly with the Center for American Progress (CAP) in Washington, D.C., in March, with the participation of US Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, and the "Turkey-Africa Seminar" organized jointly with the London-based Chatham House and Sabancı University's İstanbul Policy Center last month in İstanbul.

TUSKON has played a leading role in the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government's successful global outreach and diversification strategy in developing Turkey's economic relations. As part of that role TUSKON, as Turkey's leading business association, has contributed significantly to the organization of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), held in İstanbul on May 9-13.

TUSKON, as one of the major Turkish members of the conference's private-sector track steering committee, plays a significant role in the three main events of the private sector track, i.e., the Global Business Partnership Forum, the High-Level Meeting on Investment and Partnerships, and the Trade Fair.

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‘Turkey might help the Least Developed Countries if they focus on right things’

Susan George, a well-known political and social scientist, activist and author, was among the participants of the ongoing United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LCD-IV) in İstanbul. She thinks Turkey can help LDCs if it focuses on the right things and not on the elites or just business in Africa. In an exclusive interview, she answered our questions over the last UN conference in Brussels in 2001, the role of Turkey in the future of LDCs and the İstanbul Declaration.

What do you think has changed since the Brussels Conference?

The LDCs have become less relevant, and less obviously relevant. With the financial crisis the US, the EU and Japan aren't in the mood to spend money and display selfishness with self-interest. When they feel like they have particular problems, they won't spend money. Looking again at what [Anwarul Karim] Chowdhury said in his piece during the last UN conference on LDCs, this group of countries is very, very isolated and this is, of course, very tragic. Globalization excludes, "takes the best and leaves the rest" so others become especially irrelevant [because you] can find workers who are more productive and just as cheap elsewhere.

The Intellectuals Forum is the first of its kind at the LDC conference. What kind of a contribution will it make?

It is interesting because for the first time the UN started to have side conferences (NGO type things) in the early 1970s. The first one I remember was a scientific conference, but has always been conceived as "we will boost the UN objectives." But this is very interesting because we, as the Intellectuals Forum, do not make such promises and may even have a different agenda. It is a very important initiative by the Turkish government because they seem to want a critical facility. This also shows their shift to focus on Africa. [It is] very interesting that they should want a more progressive and critical take on events.

What aspect of the LDCs do you focus on?

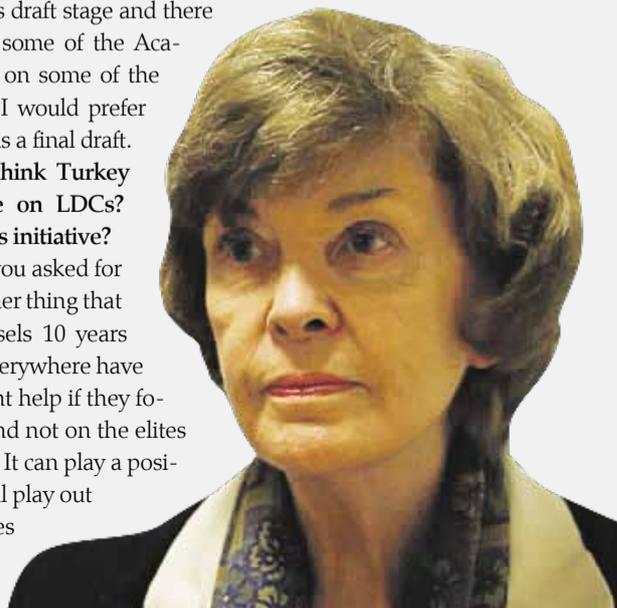
My work has never been specific on LDCs; I look at power and institutions of the North and see what the consequences are for the South. I do not necessarily look at specific countries' policies, etc.

What is the significance of the İstanbul Declaration?

The İstanbul Declaration has to be redone and needs work; it is still in its draft stage and there have been objections of some of the Academic Council members on some of the objectives and therefore I would prefer to comment on it once it is a final draft.

What role do you think Turkey can have in the future on LDCs? How do you see Turkey's initiative?

Going back to what you asked for the first question, one other thing that has changed since Brussels 10 years ago is that inequalities everywhere have grown. Turkey then might help if they focus on the right things and not on the elites or just business in Africa. It can play a positive role, but how this will play out in terms of their policies remains to be seen.



This is very interesting because we, as the Intellectuals Forum, do not make such promises and may even have a different agenda. It is a very important initiative by the Turkish government because they seem to want a critical facility. This also shows their shift to focus on Africa. Very interesting that they should want a more progressive and critical take on events

‘İstanbul declaration offers alternative vision beyond neoliberal capitalism’

Since the Intellectuals Forum and the Academic Council are noble ideas, the İstanbul Declaration is different from the declarations that have emerged from previous LDC meetings. There are two features in the İstanbul Declaration that one could highlight: the first is that it offers a fairly comprehensive critique of existent prevalent attempts to oppress challenges to LDCs

Chandra Muzaffar, a Malaysian political scientist, and an Islamic reformist and activist, also took part in the ongoing LDC-IV. He thinks the İstanbul Declaration is different from the declarations of previous meetings on LDCs and offers an alternative vision that goes beyond neoliberal capitalism. In an exclusive interview, Muzaffar answered our questions.

What do you think has changed since the Brussels Conference?

Looking at the last few years, at the level of nation states, there have been three major developments:

The US embarking on the war on terror, which means that global attention has been diverted to issues of security of a particular type, related to the US and its allies in the global arena, to strengthen its dominance. The LDCs focus, therefore, has not been there since the US has been focused on terror. The global economy has become much more unstable than before. The 2008 financial crisis has impacted all countries. Again, this is a reflection of certain fundamental flaws in the global economy. Since we're much more aware of the environmental crisis, we are also accurately conscious that we are no longer able to ignore the root of the problem.

The Intellectuals Forum is the first of its kind at the LDC conference. What kind of contribution do you think it will make to the LDC conference?

This is a new idea that was not seen in Brussels or in Paris. Looking at it from another angle, seeing how knowledge can govern ideas that will be useful in influencing public policy, I am glad that knowledge is seen as important to generate ideas of change. This is reflected in the İstanbul Declaration and is an attempt to go beyond conventional thinking.

What aspect of the LDCs do you focus on?

I do not look at LDCs in particular in my own work but I look at one of the major forces that impact the poor: global hegemony and how it impacts the poor and inequality, leading to a total dysfunction of priorities. These things impact LDCs as well.

What is the significance of the İstanbul Declaration?

Since the Intellectuals Forum and the Academic Council are noble ideas, the İstanbul Declaration is different from the declarations that have emerged from previous LDC meetings. There are two features in the İstanbul Declaration that one could highlight: the first is that it offers a fairly comprehensive critique of existent prevalent attempts to oppress challenges to LDCs. One won't find such a critique in other documents from the UN on development. One hopes that some of the critical views contained in the İstanbul Declaration will be given the attention they deserve by the powers. The second is that the declaration also offers ideas of an alternative vision of the future that goes beyond neoliberal capitalism. These ideas are in their nascent stages but are worth exploring in greater depth.

What role do you think Turkey can have in the future on LDCs?

I sense greater sincerity of purpose on the part of the ruling Turkish elite when it comes to the question of LDCs compared to what was present in the case of previous hosts of the conference. So there's a certain determination on the part of the elite to articulate the interests of the LDCs. Also, Turkey will also take into account the global environment and prevailing past structures, nonetheless I'm sure Turkey will make the effort to raise the voice of conscience on behalf of the poor and the powerless.



Conference Team



Prime Ministry Public Diplomacy and Foreign Ministry Coordination Committee: Erkan Özoral, Süreyya Er, Gözde Kirişcioğlu, Cemal Haşimi, Ercan Özer, Mehmet Güçük, Mithat Rende, Gökçen Kaya.

Teams well organized for the conference

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), which started on Monday at İstanbul's Lütfi Kırdar Congress Center, concludes today. A total of 8,931 people, including presidents, prime ministers and ministers from all around the world, participated in this busy five-day conference. The Conference Team, including the Prime Ministry Public Diplomacy and the Foreign Ministry Coordination Committee, the Multilateral Economic Affairs Team, the information desk and security teams worked hard during the conference.



The Multilateral Economic Affairs Team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working on this event for the last 15 months.

The Conference Team, including Prime Ministry Public Diplomacy and the Foreign Ministry Coordination Committee as well as the Multilateral Economic Affairs Team, worked hard together with the information desk and security teams during the five-day United Nations Conference on LDCs



Members of the information team pose during the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV).



The support of the security staff and police was integral throughout the LDC-IV conference.



Flags representing all of the countries within the United Nations fly outside of the Lütfi Kırdar Convention Center.



Turkey supports LDCs with TİKA agricultural development program for Africa

The program covers 13 African countries, namely Burkina Faso, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda

The Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency, in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, has implemented a comprehensive program focused on African countries to work toward overcoming food crises, which are common in African nations and stem from insufficient industrialization and the lack of modern agricultural techniques.

The program envisages improving living standards, reducing poverty, using modern technology in agriculture and stockbreeding and training qualified personnel in these fields to increase income in rural areas of African countries, where the economy is based on agriculture and livestock breeding.

The program covers 13 African countries, namely Burkina Faso, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda.

In the first phase of the program, TİKA organized a workshop led by Dr. Mahmut Çevik, the TİKA Africa Agricultural Development Program coordinator, at the Dedeman Hotel in Ankara on Aug. 2, 2008, to bring together the ministers of agriculture and high-level officials from partner countries to discuss the challenges, needs and opportunities in their countries. The outcomes of this workshop constituted a strong basis for the second phase of the project, during which training programs were carried out in line with specific needs of partner countries.

Workshop results of TİKA Agricultural Development Program for Africa

In spite of the industrial and technological structure developing throughout the world, agriculture and stock farming take an important place in the economies of the project countries, and the agricultural sector is considered a sector of socially and economically strategic significance by its ex-

tensive function in these countries.

Common characteristics of project countries include a high rural population rate and deficiencies in the use of natural resources that lead to decreases in incomes from natural resources by increasing the pressure over natural resources.

We understand that the most important factors seen in project countries and affecting agricultural development are water control, land use, fertilizer use and the lack of quality seeds. We recommend prioritizing work in this direction.

Within the scope of the TİKA Agricultural Development Program for Africa prepared for the project countries in order to increase production and production incomes in the agricultural and stock breeding sectors of economically strategic significance for these countries, it is necessary to carry out training activities for trainers and publication activities on agricultural irrigation, vegetables, agricultural stock breeding mechanization, stock farming, fishing, food technology and animal disease prevention in 2009.

During the second phase of the program, 142 experts were trained over 45 days on various topics such as irrigation, cultivation, agricultural mechanization, animal husbandry and mechanization, fisheries, animal diseases and food processing technologies.

The third phase of the project comprises pilot projects to be launched in partner countries. These projects aim at putting transferred techniques into practice and will be implemented with the financial support of TİKA.

TİKA launched the third phase of the Africa Agricultural Development Program, which aims at promoting agricultural production through micro-projects in target countries. The Improving Quality Potato Production project was launched on the

Comoros Islands in December 2010.

Secondly, TİKA announced that the national agricultural master plan for Djibouti had been prepared with the support of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The primary sector achieved sufficient and sustainable food production, even improving upon such production as food security and made contributions to the socioeconomic prosperity of the population. Three modern fishing boats were granted to Djiboutian aqua-farmers as part of the plan.

Project coordinator Dr. Çevik noted that this national vision is to ensure and increase food production in order to achieve food security and provide the best contribution of the primary sector for the national economy. This national vision is the well-being of the population, the socioeconomic equity, environmental respect and a participatory approach.

TİKA announced the following points within the context of the program:

The income of farmers will be increased through the use of high quality and highly productive seeds. Irrigated farming will be preferred wherever water resources are sufficient. New irrigation techniques will be used. Increasing animal production and the organization of farmers will be among the top priorities. This program is a model program in that it is the only program that is simultaneously implemented in numerous countries in a non-imposed manner but instead developed through carrying out need analysis in participating countries and prioritizing the implementation of the best options with their involvement.

Finally, the third phase of the project comprises pilot projects to be launched in the partner countries. These projects aim at putting transferred techniques into practice and will be implemented with TİKA's financial support.

LDC-IV 'Youth Forum' finishes work with adoption of İstanbul Declaration



More than 100 young participants from 50 countries participated in the Youth Forum, which took place as part of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The forum lasted two days, completing its work on May 10.

The Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC), an affiliate of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), organized on May 8-10 the first Youth Forum of the Least Developed Countries Conference on the sidelines of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), held in İstanbul on May 9-13. The Youth Forum was part of the Civil Society Forum of the LDC-IV coordinated by Doctors Worldwide Turkey.

More than 100 young participants from 50 countries (mostly LDCs) participated in the Youth Forum. Speaking at its opening ceremony, Ambassador Elshad Iskandarov, secretary-general of the ICYF-DC, delivered a welcome speech to the participants and stressed the importance of youth involvement in the LDC conference as well as the role of youth in the development of their countries. He also thanked the government of Turkey for hosting such a large-scale event and for the youth of the LDCs being

included for the first time into the LDC conference.

The Youth Forum of the LDC-IV lasted two days, completing its work on May 10 with the adoption of the İstanbul Declaration. It stressed in the document its hope that the international community and government representatives of LDCs will take into consideration views and sensitivities espoused by the youth. It also noted its desire for further support and assistance to the youth of LDCs seeking to be represented in the work of international civil society, networking and alliance-building on the national, regional and global levels. The forum expressed its appreciation for the role the ICYF-DC played in organizing and partnering with the Youth Forum.

Participants of the Youth Forum declared their belief that the contribution of young people in the development of civil society will serve as a considerable contribution to the building of a better future for the youth of LDCs as well as for the development and prosperity of these countries.

They also stressed the necessity of implementing the UN Millennium Development Goals as well as their dedication to achieving the goals and objectives of the Rio Declaration, the Brussels Program of Action as well as the prospective İstanbul Program of Action.

The Youth Forum also welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Countries Youth Entrepreneurs Network (ICYEN), a subsidiary of the ICYF-DC, as a vehicle for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship by providing a meeting ground for young entrepreneurs and accomplished businessmen of OIC countries, global professionals and innovators, and being an important tool to decrease youth unemployment in OIC countries (some of whom are also classified as LDCs).

A cultural program was organized for participants on the third day of the event, enabling the youth to go on a sightseeing tour of İstanbul as well as to observe the experience of Turkey in intercultural dialogue and provide a fruitful basis for social and cultural harmony that is crucial for social development.

A Youth Forum was held on May 8-10 for the first time as part of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The forum was part of the Civil Society Forum of the LDC-IV coordinated by Doctors Worldwide Turkey

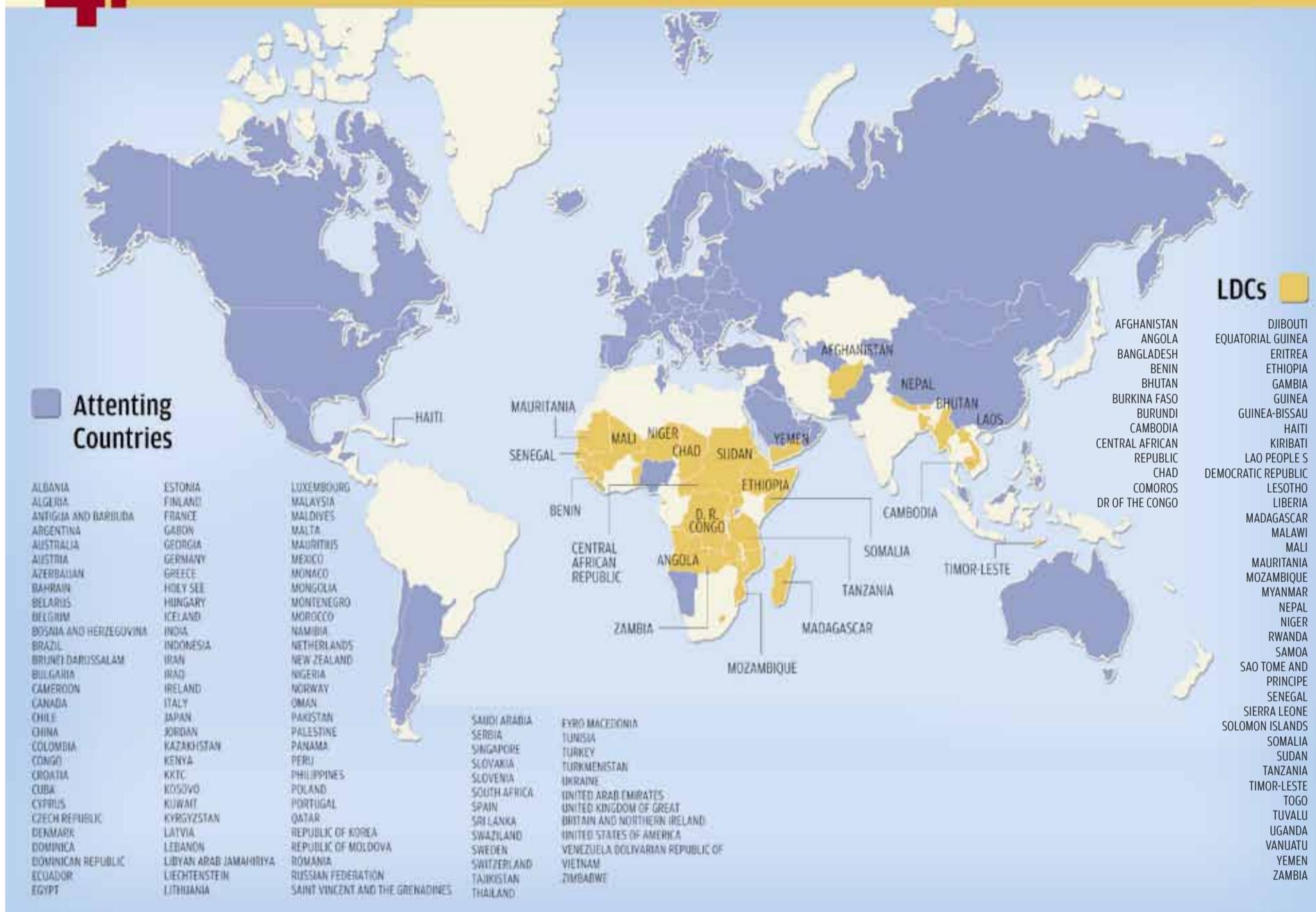
Turkey's development and cooperation experience

Speakers at yesterday's Development Experience Conference outlined Turkey's successes in providing social assistance programs to least developed countries (LDCs). As an emerging foreign aid donor, Turkey has proven its resolve to see LDCs supported economically. Poverty reduction programs that have benefitted underdeveloped nations,

such as Afghanistan and Bangladesh, featured in speeches given by representatives of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC). Mr. M. Metin Eker, head of the COMCEC coordination office, said, "We have started initiatives to target the poor at the grassroots levels." With the estimated financial requirements of LDCs standing at \$147

billion, COMCEC has already raised significant investment from other countries and has begun initiating development strategies, such as women's empowerment and human development initiatives. Turkey's State Planning Organization (DPT) also shared its Interregional Cooperation program, which was implemented as a practice in the South-South cooperation model.

4. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN İSTANBUL



Fourth day of the UN conference at a glance

The fourth day of the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) kicked off with the seventh plenary meeting and thematic debates. The eighth plenary meeting took place in the afternoon session. Thursday's high-level thematic debate was on the topic of human and social development, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Turkish State Minister for Women and Family Affairs Selma Aliye Kavaf was the keynote speaker in the debate session, along with Gervais Rufyikiri, the second vice president of the Republic of Burundi. The debate was co-chaired by Peter Shanel Agovaka, minister of foreign affairs and external trade of the Solomon Islands, and Steven Vanackere, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and institutional reforms of Belgium. The conference's Committee of the Whole held two meetings.

A group of LDCs and the G-20 Development Working Group gathered at a high-level closed meeting afternoon, as the Group of 77 came together to discuss the fourth UN conference.

A number of special events were also held on the third day of the conference. The discussed topics addressed intercultural cooperation for scientific and technological development, organized by the Turkish National Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK); a monitoring tool to track progress in the implementation of the new program of action and the launch of the ECA's African LDCs mapper, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA); Turkey's development and cooperation experience, organized by the Undersecretariat of the State Planning Organization (DPT) of the Turkish Prime Ministry.

Furthermore, accelerating actions to address climate change in developing countries and the untapped role of the media was organized by South-South News and the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations; and harnessing ICTs for development, and opportunities and challenges for LDCs was organized by the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA).

Integrating migration and remittances into LDC national and regional development planning, including through a gender perspective was organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN-Women; delivering for development in conflict-affected LDCs, and the role of governance and state-building was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA); and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building and the World Bank, and mutual accountability for LDCs, a framework for aid quality and beyond, was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UNDP.

Fatih Yılmaz, president of the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA), and Irina Bokova, director-general of UNESCO, held a press conference while another press meeting was held by the Civil Society Steering Committee.