



T.C. İÇİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI
AFET VE ACİL DURUM
YÖNETİMİ BAŞKANLIĞI

**ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)
9TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 / DUSHANBE-TAJIKISTAN**

ESTEEMED DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL,

DISTINGUISHED DEPUTY MINISTERS,

DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENTS,

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES,

I GREET YOU ALL WITH RESPECT, LOVE AND AFFECTION.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING HOW PLEASED OUR ORGANIZATION IS TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING, WHERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION ARE DISCUSSED, CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DISASTERS ARE SHARED, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR BROTHERHOOD IS STRENGTHENED.

IN THE PAST TEN YEARS, NATURAL DISASTERS HAVE IMPACTED UP TO 100 MILLION PEOPLE IN OUR MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN THE YEARS TO COME, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE MORE DISASTERS LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE THAT WILL AFFECT US.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, TÜRKİYE SAW ONE OF THE GREATEST CATASTROPHES OF THE CENTURY ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023. THERE WERE **SEVEN MAJOR** EARTHQUAKES RECORDED, **THREE OF WHICH** HAPPENED IN A SINGLE DAY. THE EARTHQUAKES, THE LARGEST OF WHICH WAS **7.7-MAGNITUDE**, AFFECTED APPROXIMATELY **120 THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETERS**, LARGER THAN 30 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, DIRECTLY AFFECTING **14 MILLION PEOPLE**. DURING THE EARTHQUAKES, MORE THAN **107,000** PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND **53,718** CITIZENS LOST THEIR LIVES. BECAUSE OF ITS ENORMITY, THIS DISASTER WAS DUBBED THE "**DISASTER OF THE CENTURY**" IN SHORT.

AMIDST THE RUBBLE OF **39,000** COLLAPSED BUILDINGS, **A TOTAL OF 35,250 SEARCH AND RESCUE PERSONNEL**—11,488 OF WHOM WERE INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL—WERE ENGAGED IN RESCUE OPERATIONS.

2.5 MILLION DISASTER-STRICKEN VICTIMS RECEIVED TEMPORARY SHELTER IN TENTS AND **1 MILLION** IN VARIOUS FACILITIES. WE STILL HOUSE **700 THOUSAND** VICTIMS OF DISASTERS IN CONTAINERS TODAY. **THE DEBRIS OF NEARLY 270 THOUSAND BUILDINGS HAS BEEN REMOVED, AND MORE THAN TWO MILLION BUILDINGS HAVE SUSTAINED DAMAGE.**

OF COURSE, MOVING THE VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER INTO PERMANENT HOUSING HAS BEEN OUR ONLY GOAL AS THE STATE AND THE COUNTRY SINCE DAY ONE. FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE CONDUCTED **DRAW OF LOTS FOR A TOTAL OF 101,254 DISASTER HOUSING UNITS** IN THE REGION AND WE ARE HANDING OVER THE KEYS.

WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OUR DISASTER VICTIMS WITH EARTHQUAKE-RESISTANT PERMANENT HOMES.

I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE A SUCCINCT OVERVIEW OF THE POST-EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY PROCESS. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WITHIN THE FIRST FEW HOURS OF THE EARTHQUAKE—**ALMOST 45 MINUTES**—IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE DISASTER WAS AT **LEVEL 4**, THE **HIGHEST LEVEL** RECORDED IN EARTHQUAKE LITERATURE. AS A RESULT, AN **INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR AID** WAS MADE RIGHT AWAY.

DURING THE MOST CHALLENGING PERIODS FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE, THE NATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION WERE AMONG THOSE THAT GAVE OUR COUNTRY THE MOST ASSISTANCE. WE HAD NEARLY **630** SEARCH AND RESCUE PERSONNEL WITH US, AND OUR FRIENDS FROM THE ECO MEMBER

STATES GAVE A HELPING HAND WITH THEIR TEAMS CONSISTING OF AT LEAST **50** PEOPLE.

ON THIS OCCASION OF THIS MEETING, I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN EXPRESS TÜRKİYE'S SINCERE GRATITUDE TO TAJIKISTAN AND ALL OF THE ECO'S MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR THEIR IN-KIND, FINANCIAL, AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT, AS WELL AS THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSFORMING THE "DISASTER OF THE CENTURY" INTO THE "SOLIDARITY OF THE CENTURY." TAJIKISTAN SENT ITS FIRST EVER RESCUE TEAM ABROAD. THEY SAVED LIVES AND WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THEIR HELP WITH GRATITUDE.

ESTEEMED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT AFTER THE DISASTER OF THE CENTURY, WE HAVE BEGUN INITIATING PROJECTS BASED ON THE KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE ACQUIRED TO RAISE **THE NUMBER OF SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS AND AFAD VOLUNTEERS TO 100 THOUSAND** IN ORDER TO ENHANCE OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN RESPONDING TO DISASTERS.

APART FROM OUR RESPONSE TO DISASTERS, I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT OUR FOCUS ON REDUCING AND PREVENTING RISKS BEFORE DISASTERS OCCUR, WHICH IS OUR MAIN RESPONSIBILITY. WHILE WE ESTABLISH TÜRKİYE'S DISASTER RISK

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TAFRİSK), WE ARE ALSO IMPLEMENTING THE **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SYSTEM (ARAS)** PROJECT TO COMPREHEND AND ANALYZE DISASTER HAZARDS. THIS ALLOWS US TO CARRY OUT **SUSCEPTIBILITY, RISK, AND SPREAD ANALYSES** OF POTENTIAL DISASTERS, EVEN IN THE SMALLEST AREAS.

ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE CARRYING OUT OUR OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBJECTIVES, GOALS, AND MEASURES ESTABLISHED IN THE **PROVINCIAL RISK REDUCTION PLANS** DEVELOPED FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF DISASTERS IN 81 PROVINCES AND **TÜRKİYE'S DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLAN**. WE GIVE PRIORITY TO OUR EFFORTS IN HIGH-RISK AREAS DESIGNATED AS **RED ACTION**.

FOR INSTANCE, FOLLOWING THE RECENT FLOODS, WE HAVE EXPEDITED THE WORK ON MITIGATING RISKS AND REHABILITATING OUR STREAMS. IN A SPAN OF 4 MONTHS, WE USED **111 EXCAVATORS** TO CLEAR **3.5 MILLION CUBIC METERS** OF

STREAMS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION, AND OUR AIM IS TO REHABILITATE **5.5 MILLION CUBIC METERS** BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

OUR WORK IS FOUNDED ON THE **7 OBJECTIVES AND 4 PRIORITIES** OUTLINED IN THE "**SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.**" WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION, WE FOLLOW THE "**ECO REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION,**" WHICH IS BUILT UPON THE SENDAI DOCUMENT.

THE "**ROADMAP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECO RFDRR**" GUIDES US IN OUR ENDEAVORS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE **ECO VISION 2025** WILL SUPPORT THESE INITIATIVES.

SIMPLY PUT, AFAD UNDERSTANDS THAT INVESTING 1 LIRA IN PRE-DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PREVENTS DAMAGE WORTH 15 LIRAS AFTER THE DISASTER. AS A

RESULT, WE GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS.

ESTEEMED PARTICIPANTS;

OUR BIGGEST GOAL IS TO TAKE FIRM STEPS TOWARDS BECOMING A COUNTRY THAT SETS AN EXAMPLE IN THE FIELD OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT NOT ONLY WITHIN OUR OWN BORDERS BUT ALSO AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL.

SINCE DAY ONE, AFAD **HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT HUMANITARIAN AID ACTIVITIES IN 5 CONTINENTS AND MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO ITS DISASTER RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.** WE HAVE DELIVERED AND CONTINUE TO DELIVER AID MATERIALS TO AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, LEBANON, SUDAN AND SOMALIA WITH THE

GREAT SUPPORT OF OUR NGOs.

MOST RECENTLY, ON AUGUST 24, 2024, WE STOOD BY OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD DISASTER IN BANGLADESH **AND DELIVERED MORE THAN 53 THOUSAND AID PACKAGES TO THE REGION.**

IN SYRIA, WE ARE ALSO PROUD TO OFFER A SAFE AND HEALTHY LIFE TO OUR SYRIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS BY BUILDING **MORE THAN 100 THOUSAND BRIQUETTE** HOUSES. WE ARE SHOWING A TRUE BROTHERHOOD TO THE WHOLE WORLD BY PROVIDING ALL BASIC LIFE NECESSITIES FROM EDUCATION TO HEALTH, FROM FOOD TO WATER AND ENERGY SUPPLY IN SYRIA.

WE DID NOT REMAIN SILENT IN THE FACE OF THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA. **IN ORDER** TO GIVE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE OPPRESSED, WE DELIVERED **A TOTAL OF 70 THOUSAND TONS OF AID MATERIALS** TO THE REGION **BY 13 SHIPS AND 13 PLANES WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR NGOs.**

ON THIS OCCASION, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THAT WE WILL MOBILIZE ALL OUR MEANS TO THIS END. IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF OUR DEEP-ROOTED HISTORY, OUR STRONG CIVILIZATION AND OUR ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING OF HUMANITY TO EXTEND A HAND TO EVERY OPPRESSED PERSON WHEREVER THEY ARE IN THE WORLD.

OUR HUMANITARIAN AID EFFORTS TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN GAZA ARE A MANIFESTATION OF THIS UNDERSTANDING. WE HAVE ALWAYS STOOD BY THE

OPPRESSED THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE HOPE OF THE VICTIMIZED...

ESTEEMED PARTICIPANTS;

TÜRKİYE'S RISK REDUCTION AND AID EFFORTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT EVEN ON ITS OWN. BUT THE **SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR EFFORTS WILL ONLY GROW AS THEY ARE COMBINED WITH THE EFFORTS AND JOINT WORKS OF THE ECO MEMBER COUNTRIES, THAT IS, ALL OF US. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS HOW HAPPY AND PLEASED I AM TO MEET YOU ON THIS PLATFORM, ON A COMMON GROUND FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION.**

I AM ALSO SURE THAT TODAY, HERE WE ARE, TOGETHER, EXPERIENCING THE INFINITE SATISFACTION OF THE CONFIDENCE THAT COMES FROM BEING ABLE TO ACT TOGETHER, FROM SOLIDARITY, FROM BEING "ONE" IN THE DISASTERS WE EXPERIENCE.

ON THIS OCCASION, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION FOR ORGANIZING THE MEETING.

BENEFITTING FROM OUR BROTHERLY RELATIONS WITH TAJIKISTAN AND TRUSTING IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR REGRETS FOR THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS, AN ECO OBSERVER, WAS NOT INVITED TO THIS IMPORTANT EVENT. LET US NOT FORGET THAT DISASTERS IMPACT EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF MEMBERSHIP OR POLITICAL STATUS. IT IS VITAL THAT WE STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ACROSS ECO AREA IN THE LARGEST WAY POSSIBLE TO EFFECTIVELY COMBAT AND MITIGATE THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF DISASTERS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE FRIENDLY AND BROTHERLY HOST OF THIS MEETING, TAJIKISTAN, FOR ITS HOSPITALITY AND I GREET YOU WITH MY WARMEST WISHES, RESPECT AND LOVE.