

**STATEMENT BY MS. AYŞEN VOLKAN INANIROĞLU
DIRECTOR FOR RELATIONS WITH ECO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
AT THE 36TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF
THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION
(TEHRAN, 17-20 MAY 2026)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN,
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**

IT IS A GREAT HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO ADDRESS SUCH A DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE AT THE 36TH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION. I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO YOU THE HEARTFELT GREETINGS OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS.

AT THE OUTSET, I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE ECO SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR PRECIOUS EFFORTS IN CONVENING THIS MEETING. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. ASAD M. KHAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION, FOR HIS SUPPORT AND COOPERATION EXTENDED TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,**

TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS SHARES A COMMON HISTORY AND CULTURE WITH THE ECO MEMBER STATES WHICH FORMS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR STRONG TIES. WE HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION AT ALL LEVELS SINCE 1992 AND DOING OUR UTMOST TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORKS AND ADVANCE OUR COLLECTIVE GOALS. WITH THIS

SPIRIT, WE HAVE BEEN FULLY COMMITTED TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION AT LARGE AND THE ECO VISION 2025 IN PARTICULAR IN RECENT YEARS.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, WE HAVE CO-HOSTED NUMEROUS SUCCESSFUL ECO EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY. WE HOSTED THE 4TH ECOTOURISM EXPERTS GROUP MEETING HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT IN NOVEMBER 2024.

MOST RECENTLY, IN NOVEMBER 2025, THE 2ND TOUR OPERATORS FORUM WAS HELD IN OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY OF GİRNE WITH WIDE PARTICIPATION. THIS EVENT PROVIDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR TOUR OPERATORS AND TOURISM AGENCIES TO COME TOGETHER AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND CO CREATE OPPORUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE WHILE DISCOVERING THE WARMTH OF TURKISH CYPRIOT HOSPITALITY AND EXPERIENCING THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.

WITH APPRECIATION FOR OUR ONGOING COLLABORATION, WE REMAIN READY TO WELCOME AND HOST NEW EVENTS IN THE FORTHCOMING YEARS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

AS A PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO UNJUST EMBARGOES AND ISOLATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR DECADES, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT HOSTING AND PARTICIPATING IN SUCH EVENTS CARRIES PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE AND PRIDE FOR US. AS SUCH, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO FURTHER STRENGTENING OUR COLLABORATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS WHERE OUR COUNTRNY POSSESSES CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE, SUCH AS HIGHGER EDUCATION AND TOURISM.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

LIKE IN MANY COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, FOREIGN INVESTMENT PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC

GROWTH. AS WE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO NORTH CYPRUS, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE INVESTORS FROM ECO MEMBER STATES TO VISIT OUR COUNTRY, THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO GET FIRST HAND INFORMATION ABOUT THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, INCENTIVES OFFERED BY OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN OUR COUNTRY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING INVESTORS AND EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE THE TRADE VOLUME BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE ECO MEMBER STATES WHICH IS AROUND 3,5 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY, AS WELL AS FOR MUTUAL PROSPERITY.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,
MR. SECRETARY GENERAL,**

BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK, ONCE AGAIN, H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. ASAD M. KHAN AND THE ECO SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN MAKING THIS MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE FOR IT'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT IN TRYING TO OVERCOME THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF THE INHUMAN ISOLATION IMPOSED ON THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.