

STATEMENT
by H.E. Osman Bülent Tulun,
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Kingdom of Thailand,
and Permanent Representative to United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific
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Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

At the outset I would like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat of UNESCAP for the excellent organization of the 69th Session of the Commission. We also would like to thank the host country, Thailand, for the generous support extended to the activities of the Commission. At the same time, we congratulate you on your election as the Chair, as well as the Vice Chairs.

Mr. Chairperson,

In recent years, global imbalances have steadily increased and adversely affected all countries. The financial and economic crisis as well as high and volatile energy and food prices reversed some development gains and exacerbated poverty and hunger. Depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity and impact of climate change are limiting the absorption capacity of the Earth.

In these adverse global conditions, it is our shared responsibility to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development without threatening the global balance. Achieving sustainable development in an equitable and inclusive manner has acquired particular importance.

More than five years since the onset of the global financial crisis, the global economy is still facing many interrelated risks including debt sustainability, weak growth prospects, persistently high unemployment levels and commodity price fluctuations. Low productivity growth, rising inequality, rising debt and deficits, low business confidence, slowing world trade and still fragile financial sectors are the unwanted consequences of the crisis. Today, the key challenge for all countries is to ensure long-term growth.

The way out from the crisis requires prudence, forward looking and long-term policies, as well as timely action. In the period ahead, maintaining macroeconomic stability and financial stability concurrently remains a major challenge. New policies as well as new policy tools may be needed to achieve both stability targets. Considering the fact that the cost of preventing a financial crisis is much lower than the cost of the crisis itself, it is high time to incorporate macro-prudential measures into the toolset of monetary policies.

It is evident that the negative impacts of multiple global crises on the developing countries, and on the least developed countries in particular, will persist in the long-term. These countries are facing many challenges which require our urgent attention and action. It is imperative that all development partners, including traditional donor countries, emerging donors and active players in South-South cooperation as well as the UN system and international financial institutions should contribute to the development efforts in a coordinated, coherent and predictable manner.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkey is committed to assisting and supporting developing countries in their efforts towards sustainable growth and development. Our interest in the vulnerabilities of developing countries, and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in particular, must be seen within the broader context of our foreign policy agenda, as a long-term and a high-priority objective.

Turkey is actively supporting and participating in the international efforts for the eradication of poverty, with a special emphasis on the LDCs. It is with this understanding that Turkey hosted the 4th United Nations Conference on the LDCs (UNLDC IV) in Istanbul on 9-13 May 2011, which brought together Governments, parliamentarians, academics, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector. Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs was adopted during the Conference. We have already offered to host the Midterm Review Conference of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkey is of the view that transport is central to sustainable development and sustainable transport achieves better integration of the economy. There is no doubt that transport plays a vital role in the promotion of international trade. It also has a vital role to play in economic and social development. Taking this into consideration Turkey has actively participated in the work of preparing a draft agreement on Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, which, in our

view, together with the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks will constitute an important building block of a sustainable international transport and logistics system. At this juncture we would like to inform the Commission that Turkey is in the advanced stage of domestic ratification process of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network.

As to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, we hope that the Commission will adopt the Agreement during its 69th Session.

Mr. Chairperson,

A comprehensive response to natural disasters and economic crisis is of prime importance. In that sense our theme topic for this year's Commission is a timely and a relevant one.

Situated in a disaster-prone geography, Turkey has a strong tradition of responding to those in need. Drawing from its own painful experiences, Turkey is an ardent advocate of international solidarity and partnership with a view to building a safer world, saving human lives and protecting the environment. Turkey further believes that significant progress in this area can be achieved only through a sustainable and collective strategy.

With this understanding, Turkey strives to rapidly channel humanitarian assistance to those countries in dire straits and supports international efforts to this end. Turkey's humanitarian assistance has been diversified and significantly increased in recent years.

Furthermore, the Turkish Red Crescent Society and numerous Turkish NGOs are also very active worldwide. According to some estimates, their contributions surpass even those made by the government. Turkey strives to rapidly channel humanitarian assistance to the countries in need, irrespective of race, religion, language and gender and supports the international efforts to this end.

Thank you for your kind attention.