



STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE
14TH SESSION OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE
ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

New York, 31 May 2005

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election, and express our gratitude to the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation for its valuable work in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.

My delegation has aligned itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. However, given the importance of the issue, I would like to briefly touch upon a few additional points.

Mr. President,

Turkey, as a strong supporter of the South-South cooperation, sees it as one of the important means of international cooperation for development. We are particularly pleased that the findings of the reports before us, underline the increasing role and importance of developing countries in driving the world trade and growth and the resulting expansion of South-South cooperation.

We share the reports conclusion that South-South cooperation is beginning to change the geography of international relations, particularly in the areas of trade, finance, investment and provision of development assistance and in the efforts towards regional integration. In this context, I would like to give a brief summary on Turkey's activities in enhancing south-south cooperation.

Turkey attaches utmost importance to strengthen its multilateral and bilateral technical and economic cooperation with other developing countries in order to increase its effectiveness in development cooperation as well reinforce its emerging donor country status at the global and regional level.

Our national development cooperation programmes have been carried out bilaterally, regionally and in line with the international technical cooperation processes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the official channel and has the overall responsibility for coordination of multilateral and bilateral technical cooperation activities. The Under-secretariat of State Planning Organization is the technical counterpart for identification, preparation, approval and monitoring of multilateral and bilateral technical cooperation programmes.

Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) was established in 1992 in order to effectively coordinate the technical assistance programmes for developing countries. Since its establishment this agency has been providing assistance to the CIS and the Balkan countries. During the period of 1992-2004 TICA has completed almost 3000 financial and technical assistance projects in many of these countries and organized educational programmes and provided experts in various fields. TICA's total assistance has reached approximately 200 million US dollars for this period.

Turkey has also a TCDC (Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries) umbrella project, co-funded by UNDP and the Turkish Government. As of 2005, over 200 TCDC arrangements have been put into practice in the field of group training, study tours, job training consultancy services and project implementation.

In 2005, State Planning Organization and UNDP country office in Turkey agreed on five sub-projects under Turkey's TCDC project on the following fields:

- strengthening the capacity of TICA in identifying and managing technical cooperation with particular focus on private sector development;
- Facilitating transfer of know-how to small and medium size enterprises in Balkan countries;
- Networking among CIS and Turkey for disaster mitigation;
- Organizing an international meeting on industrial property applications in Turkey and neighbouring countries;
- Organizing a study visit to Danube Basin.

Mr. President,

Turkey's active participation in many regional and global cooperation initiatives such as the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Conference (COMCEC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and D-8 also shows our government's commitment to enhance south-south cooperation.

Turkey's 8th five year development plan for the years 2000-2005 stresses as in the past multi-year plans, the importance of Turkey's technical cooperation activities with other developing countries and with the countries in transition. We sincerely believe in the benefits of cooperation among developing countries as a key factor in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and equally desire to share our experiences and resources. Therefore, I would like to reaffirm our government's decisiveness in continuing our efforts in taking appropriate measures to create a favorable environment for more dynamic south-south cooperation.

Before concluding Mr. President, I would like to state that we concur with the view that the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation should be encouraged to help to deepen South-South and triangular cooperation arrangements and its resource mobilization efforts must be intensified through new innovative mechanisms that will attract more resources both financial and in kind. We strongly support the idea of enhancing the cooperation between the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the UN development system, particularly UNDP country offices.

Thank you Mr. President.