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SOURCE: VEDAT KURT

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President Erdoğan's call on Gaza: I invite the international community to unite on the front of humanity

President Erdoğan said, “(Gaza) In these dark days when mass deaths from hunger have begun, I invite the entire international community to unite on the front of humanity.”

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, speaking at the opening of IDEF 2025 held at the Istanbul Expo Center, said he was very pleased and excited to be there.

Erdoğan welcomed the guests who attended the fair from Turkey and various countries around the world to “Istanbul, the city where culture, civilization, and technology meet,” and expressed his hope that the meetings, agreements, and partnerships they will establish during this event would be beneficial for the countries, companies, and sectors involved.

He congratulated the Ministry of National Defense, the Presidency of Defense Industries, and the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation for successfully organizing IDEF, which has become a global brand. Erdoğan thanked the companies participating in the fair with high-tech defense products, stating:

“This year, we are organizing the 17th edition of the International Defense Industry Fair, which is among the world’s top three fairs in its field in terms of size and influence. Today, we are not only witnessing the development of the Turkish defense industry but also the story of a nation’s march toward independence—of a country rising under its own sky, with its own wings.”

President Erdoğan said he took great pride and honor in the growing interest shown in the fair each year.

“More than 120,000 professional visitors are expected to attend the fair”

“In this year’s organization, we are honored to host 937 delegation members representing 219 delegations from 99 countries and international organizations,” Erdoğan said, and continued:

“Nearly 1,000 domestic and over 400 foreign companies will have the opportunity to showcase their products developed in the fields of land, air, sea,

space, and cybersecurity over the course of six days. More than 120,000 professional visitors are expected to attend the fair until Sunday.

I would especially like you to know that we do not consider this valuable gathering solely a commercial activity or a marketplace for the international promotion and sale of defense industry products.

As I always say, the issue is not just about buying and selling. The real issue is establishing long-term partnerships based on a win-win approach. It is about developing lasting cooperation alongside trade. As Turkey, we are ready for this and open to multidimensional collaborations.

I wish success to all the companies participating in IDEF 2025 with their products and equipment and express my gratitude to each of our guest delegations.”

Erdoğan expressed his hope that IDEF 2025, particularly in the field of defense, would contribute significantly to relations between sectors and companies, open the door to new collaborations, and strengthen friendship and brotherhood.

Stating that he wanted to underline a particular point, Erdoğan said, “We are going through a period in which the balance of power is being redefined, global centers of gravity are shifting, and international competition is increasingly intensifying.”

President Erdoğan said that every day they wake up to a new crisis and no one knows or can predict what will happen tomorrow.

He stated that the rules-based international system established after the Second World War has been replaced by a new order where “might makes right,” adding:

“We are rapidly becoming accustomed to a mindset where the strong are considered right, rather than the righteous being strong. International mechanisms where the righteous can seek their rights are failing to fulfill their expected roles.”



Pointing out that Turkey is one of the countries most affected by this new status quo due to its geographical location and historical, human, and cultural ties, Erdoğan said:

“The genocide in Gaza that has been intensifying for 22 months, Israel’s attacks aimed at destabilizing our region, the war between Russia and Ukraine now in its 3.5th year, and the recurring tensions in a wide area from South Asia to North Africa, from the Balkans to the South Caucasus—all these concern us in one way or another and require us to take measures and become involved.

When we say we are surrounded by a ring of fire, we are not saying it for rhetoric’s sake. On the contrary, we are describing a reality we live through every day.”

“The hot conflicts that threaten the security of the Black Sea are likewise a major source of concern for us”

“I want to say this clearly and openly,” Erdoğan continued: “In Gaza, where children are left skin and bones from hunger due to the denial of humanitarian aid, their suffering is our suffering. The attacks targeting Syria, where hope has been rekindled after the December 8 Revolution following 13.5 years of oppression, are our concern. The hot conflicts threatening the security of the Black Sea are likewise a major source of concern for us. From Libya to Sudan, from Pakistan to Afghanistan—wherever there is trouble, conflict, or instability, all are sensitive issues that must be carefully followed by our country.

Turkish foreign policy is based on the principles of peace, justice, international law, respect for sovereignty, fairness, and solidarity. We are not pursuing population or domination. We absolutely have no intention of interfering in anyone’s internal affairs. With all our hearts, we desire peace, solidarity, and stability in our region. Of

course, while wishing for this, we do not hesitate to fulfill its requirements. Wherever we see injustice, unfairness, and oppression, we voice our stance and reaction clearly, within a certain decorum.

With this understanding, we continue to keep Israel’s genocide against the people of Gaza—far surpassing even the Nazis—in the focus of all humanity.”

Pointing to the increased diplomatic efforts alongside humanitarian aid to stop the atrocities in Gaza, Erdoğan said: “Our goal is to achieve a ceasefire as soon as possible. Another priority is allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza. Unfortunately, we are witnessing a truly horrific situation where even the Red Cross is not permitted entry. As I have said before, Netanyahu and his network of massacres have long surpassed Hitler in their barbarism.”

President Erdoğan stated that even during the Holocaust in Europe, there were not scenes as inhumane as those witnessed in Gaza.

Erdoğan said:

“No one with even a shred of human dignity can accept, let alone remain silent about, a brutality where dozens of innocent people die every day because they can’t find a bite of bread or a sip of water. This state of madness cannot be condoned. Anyone who remains silent in the face of the genocide in Gaza becomes complicit in Israel’s crimes against humanity. While humanity dies in Gaza—while babies and children die, while people are killed trying to obtain a sack of flour—none of us can remain silent. And we will not.”

“Let us say ‘Enough is enough’ to this cruelty and this savagery”

“We will never forget, and none of us can forget, the severed heads of innocent babies, the torn limbs of children, the unburied corpses that dogs have begun to eat out of hunger, that hunger, those cries, the heart-wrenching screams of mothers,” said Erdoğan, and added:



“In these dark days where mass deaths from hunger have begun, I invite the entire international community to unite on the front of humanity. Let us all together respond to this brutality. Let us all say ‘Enough is enough’ to this cruelty and this savagery. Let us not allow a handful of humanity’s enemies, whose eyes are blinded by the lust for power, to stain the name of humanity any further.

Otherwise, this bloodstain will not only be on the hands of Netanyahu and his network of murderers but also on the hands, the foreheads, and—if any remain—the consciences of those who remain silent about the genocide in Gaza. As Turkey, we have, from the very beginning, strived at every platform with our friends for a just and sustainable global order. While taking every necessary step to ensure global peace and security, we are mobilizing all our means to prevent further tragedies.”

“We have taken the following principle as our guide in this process: ‘A peace worth a thousand coins is better than a conflict worth one.’ Everything we do in the name of peace diplomacy is under the light of this wise saying. And we never forget our other principle: ‘If you desire peace, be prepared for war.’ In other words, if you want peace, security, order, and prosperity, you must maintain the highest level of deterrence. If you want to live in your homeland with honor, dignity, and your head held high, you are obliged to strengthen your defense capabilities. Without a doubt, the path to this lies through a domestic and national defense industry.”

“Our friends and allies have made Turkey a defense industry power”

President Erdoğan noted that Turkey has faced serious challenges in the field of defense throughout its recent history. He emphasized that they have experienced the consequences of dependence on foreign countries many times, saying: “In the Cyprus incidents of the 1960s and in the fight against terrorism during the 1990s, we unfortunately could not receive sufficient support from these so-called friendly and allied countries. After the 1974 Peace Operation, which we launched to protect the rights and laws of the Turkish Cypriots, embargoes peaked. Aircraft we sent for maintenance were confiscated, and our country was even charged storage fees for planes kept in hangars. Even the most basic communication devices such as radios were not supplied to us for a time.

During tensions with the Assad regime, we again witnessed the same disloyalty to agreements. In our efforts to strengthen our air defense capacity, we faced closed doors everywhere. So much so that during the days when our airspace was being constantly violated, air defense systems were removed from our country as if smuggling goods from a fire.”

Erdoğan stated that similar practices continued in many places, from Libya to the ending of the occupation in Karabakh, and recalled the saying of their ancestors, “A bad neighbor makes one own property,” noting that Turkey’s so-called friends and allies inadvertently made it a defense industry power.

“Turkey has reached a position of stamping its mark on global markets with its defense industry products”



President Erdoğan said that every embargo, every pressure, and every injustice opened a new door and added: “We used all our strength to walk through those doors. Turkey, which once suffered from embargoes, double standards, and diplomatic pressure, has today reached a position where it stamps its mark on the global markets with its defense industry products. We said, ‘We will cut our own umbilical cord,’ and by mobilizing our own resources, we have made significant progress in this field in a short time. On this foundation, while pursuing a humanitarian and proactive foreign policy, we have also accelerated our investments in defense and security.”

President Erdoğan: “We have propelled the Turkish defense industry into a new era, from design to mass production, from R&D to innovation.”

President Erdoğan emphasized that they had overcome what was once a major challenge—foreign dependency—in the defense sector.

He continued: “When we first took office, the domestic production rate in our defense industry was around 20 percent. Today, that rate has exceeded 80 percent. Our sector, with over 3,500 companies and a qualified workforce of 100,000 personnel, continues its work with great success.

The Turkish defense industry is writing a success story with over 1,380 projects, an annual turnover exceeding \$20 billion, and a wide range of products.

We are now able to meet nearly all the needs of our security forces with our own resources in the most efficient way. Our domestic products play an active role in counterterrorism operations both inside and outside the country.

Turkey is now one of the top three countries in the world in UAV and UCAV (unmanned combat aerial vehicle) technology. Last year, Turkish firms provided 65 of every 100 UAVs sold globally.

The game-changing concept of our UCAVs is making a global impact, transforming traditional tactics and strategies.

Likewise, Turkey is now one of only ten countries in the world capable of designing, developing, and producing its own warships.

Our main contractors, subcontractors, SMEs, research institutions, and universities are contributing to our export success with original products that continue to shine globally.”

“Turkey is now the 11th largest defense exporter in the world”

President Erdoğan noted that Turkey has become the world’s 11th largest defense exporter. He added that Turkey’s unmanned aerial vehicles, national warship projects, electronic systems, land vehicles, weapons, and ammunition are being followed and demanded with admiration.

He stated: “Last year, our defense industry companies exported products to 180 countries—an outstanding success.

Here’s a striking figure: In 2024, our exports in the defense and aerospace sectors—including NATO and service exports—increased by 29 percent, reaching a record \$7.154 billion.

We exceeded our 2024 export target of \$6.5 billion by 11 percent. In June 2025 alone, our exports rose 10.4 percent compared to the previous year, reaching \$623 million. Our total exports over the past 12 months grew by 23.1 percent, totaling \$7.5 billion.

With sound strategies in laser and electromagnetic weapon systems, autonomous systems, cybersecurity, quantum technologies, and artificial intelligence, we will further increase our competitiveness in the near future.”



President Erdoğan emphasized that one of Turkey’s greatest advantages is its well-educated and dynamic human capital. He stated that the country has the skilled manpower to advance its technological breakthroughs even further—especially in the defense industry—and that they are committed to developing this capacity.

He congratulated all institutions, companies, and individuals involved in these achievements—especially President of Defense Industries Haluk Görgün—and said he is proud of Turkey’s defense sector, expressing his firm belief that it will reach even greater heights in the future.

“We are moving forward with firm steps toward a fully independent Türkiye in defense”

President Erdoğan highlighted that, under the vision of “Global Power Türkiye,” the country is advancing confidently toward full independence in defense.

He announced the launch of a major transformation initiative called the “National Capability in Defense Industry”, for which he personally gave approval and directives.

“Through this national capability initiative, we aim to create a systematic structure within our defense industry ecosystem. With our work in this area and our defense and security investments, we will continue building a bigger and stronger Türkiye—one that inspires trust among friends and fear among foes. We will work together, produce together, and walk into the future together. May God be our helper and guide.”

Closing Remarks

President Erdoğan concluded by expressing his hope that the 17th International Defense Industry Fair would bring prosperity to all participating countries, sectors, and firms.

He thanked the friendly and brotherly nations who attended the event and wished for the signed agreements and collaborations at the fair to contribute meaningfully to bilateral relations.

He extended his gratitude to the Ministry of National Defense, the Presidency of Defense Industries, the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation, and all companies contributing to the fair.

Program Notes

The event featured a promotional film for IDEF.

Speeches were delivered by National Defense Minister Yaşar Güler, Defense Industries President Haluk Görgün, and

Turkish Armed Forces Foundation Director General Bilal Topçu.

The program included a military parade with air and land vehicles.

President Erdoğan was presented with a symbolic gift titled “The Flood of Noah,” containing a translation of the Surah Nuh (Noah).

Following the ceremony, President Erdoğan and accompanying officials cut the ribbon to officially open the fair.

4th Meeting of Heads of Institutions Responsible for Human Resources Development in the Turkic States Held in Issyk-Kul

An Important Meeting Under the Auspices of Kyrgyzstan



The fourth meeting of the heads of institutions responsible for human resources development in the member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) took place in the city of Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The event was held under the chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan, which currently holds the presidency of the OTS, with the support of the State Agency for Civil Service and Local Government under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting carried particular significance in terms of regional cooperation.

OTS Secretary General Kubanychbek Omuraliev Highlights: Human Capital is the Foundation of Development

The meeting was opened by the Secretary General of the OTS, Kubanychbek Omuraliev, who emphasized that human resources development plays a vital role in the progress of the Turkic World. Omuraliev stated: “Investing in human resources is the foundation of sustainable development for societies and states. Within the framework of the OTS, we must strengthen cooperation in this area.”

Joint Projects and Innovative Approaches Discussed

During the session, participants thoroughly examined joint projects in the field of human resources, educational programs, as well as issues

of digitalization and improving the quality of public services in the member states. Attendees exchanged experiences and discussed the dissemination of best practices.

Modernization of Public Administration and Citizen-Oriented Services

Secretary General Omuraliev underlined that the development of professional and citizen-oriented public services will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration systems in member states. The meeting aimed to deepen institutional cooperation in this area.

Strengthening Cooperation in the Turkic World

The session held in Kyrgyzstan laid the groundwork for further strengthening of cooperation in human resources development among OTS member states. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to give momentum to the modernization of public administration and the support of sustainable development across the Turkic World.

Final Remarks by Omuraliev
At the conclusion of the meeting, Secretary General Kubanychbek Omuraliev stated that strengthening cooperation in human resources development will play a key role in achieving the shared goals of prosperity and progress in the Turkic World.

President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh on an Official Visit to Kyrgyzstan



President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh has arrived in Kyrgyzstan on an official visit at the invitation of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Sadyr Japarov.

President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh was solemnly received by President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov at the "Intymak-Ordo" residence. Following the welcoming ceremony, bilateral talks were held. During the meeting, the relations between Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia were comprehensively reviewed, and possible steps to deepen cooperation were discussed.

President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov noted the historical commonalities between Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. Japarov emphasized: “We are descendants of a great nomadic civilization that for centuries created a rich cultural heritage and extended its influence beyond the region.” The Head of the Kyrgyz Republic expressed confidence that cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia will continue to develop in all areas.

In turn, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh called Kyrgyzstan one of his country’s most important partners in Central Asia. The guest noted that Mongolia aims to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in all areas, primarily in trade and economy. As part of the visit, the President of Mongolia also met with the Chairman of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan, Nurlanbek Turgunbek uulu.

Following the negotiations between Presidents Sadyr Japarov and Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh in both narrow and expanded formats, 13 agreements were signed between the two countries.

The signed documents will elevate bilateral cooperation and friendly relations between Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan to a new level. The visit is expected to give new impetus to cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, transport, tourism, and culture.



IDEF 2025 Opens Its Doors: A Global Gathering in the Defense Industry

Uzbekistan aims to develop tourism and promote national brands by increasing the number of products with geographical indications in the country.

The 17th International Defense Industry Fair (IDEF 2025) has kicked off in Istanbul with the participation of high-ranking officials from 33 countries and more than 400 international companies. Among the prominent figures at the fair are media publisher and defense industry entrepreneurs Atillahan Kurt and Hasan Salih Kurt.

The Heart of the Defense Industry Beats in Istanbul

IDEF 2025 is being held at the Istanbul Expo Center (IFM) under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defense, supported by the Presidency of Defense Industries, and organized by the Turkish Armed Forces Foundation (TSKGV). This year, the fair is hosting ministers from 33 countries, over 120 deputy ministers, chiefs of general staff, and commanders of various branches of the armed forces. Participants from 44 countries are presenting their national pavilions, while more than 400 international companies are showcasing their products. Atillahan Kurt and Hasan Salih Kurt, known for their activities in the defense industry, also attended the fair and held meetings on national and international projects.



On Display: Land, Air, and Naval Systems

The exhibition features main battle tanks, armored vehicles, electronic warfare systems, missiles and guided munitions, tactical ballistic missiles, and unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs). The aerospace section includes fixed-wing platforms, air defense systems, electronic warfare technologies, satellites, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and aviation engines. In the naval section, combat and support ships, surface and underwater unmanned systems (USVs and UUVs), as well as command and control systems are on display.

IDEF 2025 Takes Place Across Four Venues

This year, IDEF 2025 is being held across four locations: Istanbul Expo Center, Atatürk Airport, Ataköy Marina, and WOW Convention Center. The last two days of the event will be open to the general public.

Topçu: “IDEF Has Become a Global Focal Point”

Speaking at the opening ceremony, which was also attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, TSKGV General Manager Hüseyin Topçu highlighted the contributions of key defense companies

such as ASELSAN, TUSAŞ, ROKETSAN, HAVELSAN, İŞBİR, and ASPİLSAN to strengthening the Turkish Armed Forces.

“IDEF has become the largest platform for our defense industry to step onto the global stage,” said Topçu, adding that this year’s fair includes both static and dynamic demonstrations.

Atillahan Kurt and Hasan Salih Kurt Played an Active Role

Atillahan Kurt and Hasan Salih Kurt, media group representatives and entrepreneurs in the defense sector, held key talks on the future of Turkey’s defense industry in the global market. After exploring the innovative products of domestic companies, the Kurt

brothers emphasized that Turkey will secure a stronger position on the international stage thanks to its achievements in defense technologies.



Foreign Minister Fidan: The stability of the Balkans is of great importance for the peace and security of the neighboring regions

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan stated that they hosted the first meeting of the Balkan Peace Platform in Istanbul and said, "The stability of the Balkans is of great importance for the peace and security of the neighboring regions, especially Europe."

Fidan spoke at a press conference and answered questions after the Balkan Peace Platform meeting held at a hotel in Istanbul.

Stating that Istanbul is at the center of a very intense diplomatic traffic, Fidan reminded that the talks between Ukraine and Russia were hosted on Wednesday and the nuclear talks between Iran-Germany-UK-France took place in Istanbul yesterday.

Stating that they hosted the first meeting of the Balkan Peace Platform in Istanbul, Fidan said that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan gave the order to organize this meeting, and that the leaders of other countries also expressed interest in this issue, so that they came together with participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania and Kosovo. Minister Fidan stated that the Balkans is a strategic crossroads between Europe, the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea basins, and has been at the



center of political, economic and security balances throughout history.

Stating that the Balkans maintain the same level of importance today, Fidan continued as follows:

"The stability of the Balkans is of great importance for the peace and security of the neighboring regions, especially Europe. This geography is not only strategic for Turkey, but also a priority area intertwined with cultural and human ties. With the contribution of these ties, we are a country that can closely feel the internal rhythm and reality of the region. Our bilateral cooperation with the countries of the region continues to develop in a multidimensional manner. With mutual high-level contacts, our cooperation is gradually moving into new areas every day. We believe that stability in the Balkans will become permanent primarily through further strengthening cooperation and dialogue among the countries of the region. This approach is based on the principle of regional ownership."

Stating that the Balkan Peace Platform constitutes a new link in the regional ownership approach, Fidan emphasized that their goal is to develop a result-oriented and unique structure that addresses the problems in a sincere manner and enables regular contacts between the parties.

Fidan stated that they want to create a ground where the word Balkans will be used in the sense of cooperation and solidarity, not division and separation, and that they endeavor to contribute to the welfare and peace of both their region and their immediate surroundings.

"We do not aim to replace any process, but to support the existing mechanisms. We offer a framework that supports the efforts of the international community, especially the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue process." Fidan said that they came together with the participants today to find Balkan solutions to Balkan problems and to create concrete projects.

"We cannot leave our future to coincidence or in the hands of others"

Fidan said that they discussed regional issues with the participants and emphasized that the establishment of stability and prosperity in the entire Balkans is their main priority.

"In addition to political developments in the region, we exchanged views on many topics, including energy security, strengthening connectivity and opportunities for regional cooperation and capacity building. Of course, we also discussed the future of the Balkan Peace Platform. We aim for this platform to create a complementary format in terms of existing platforms and initiatives in the region." Fidan emphasized that there was a common will to continue the meetings at regular intervals and to prioritize projects that will concretize regional cooperation. Pointing out that they are going through a period in which crises are intertwined on a global scale, international norms are eroding and uncertainties are increasing, Fidan said that joint solutions should be sought in the face of these challenges, not individual ones.

Fidan pointed out that there is a need to strengthen regional dialog mechanisms more than ever, and that decisions regarding their own regions should be taken together, and made the following assessment:



"We have a common history and this history has painful and beautiful aspects. However, we should not let this history condemn us to the dead ends of the past. We should take lessons from our common history and assume the responsibility of shaping the future together. We cannot leave our future to coincidence or in the hands of others."

Fidan stated that they hope that the Balkan Peace Platform will serve this quest and that they have launched this initiative with the effort to work together for a Balkans that produces together and sees its differences as richness.

"We have decided to work together on the issues related to the candidate countries" When asked what concrete decisions were taken in today's talks, Fidan reminded that six of the seven participating countries are candidate countries for European Union (EU) membership and said, "One of our common agenda items is how can we share experience together within the European Union membership process? What are our common attitudes and positions? What do we understand differently in our relations with the European Union? How can we take this further? How can we, as candidate countries, raise awareness in Brussels, especially for the region we belong to? In other words, we mainly went over this issue."

Pointing out that the EU has serious economic, cultural, political and technological policies towards the region, Fidan said, "There are responsibilities that come with being a candidate country. These responsibilities can become more and more binding. Candidate countries can take steps to implement or not implement the decisions taken by the European Union depending on their own preferences. Now, the synchronization of all of this is something that Turkey has been thinking about from the beginning, and we have been looking for a common point and a common position based on this common point. Therefore, an agreement was reached to create a more coordinated environment in our work on the European Union."

Minister Fidan said that the Balkan Peace Platform is a platform that allows for detailed discussions on issues such as what

kind of experience can be shared together on these issues, especially Europe's visa and Customs Union policies, what kind of changes the geostrategic environment brings, when the membership of the candidate countries will be realized, whether there are any economic, political and security-related problem areas that they have suspended until the membership is realized, and if so, how they can be compensated again, how much the European Union's awareness on this issue is, how much the region's awareness of the sensitivities of the European Union is.

"Historically, geographically, culturally, each of these countries is a continuation of each other," Fidan said, emphasizing that it is important for a community of countries with high interdependence to act jointly on certain issues.

"At the same time, how can we turn the common points that provide this interdependence between us into trade, economy, political cooperation and defense industry cooperation in modern times? We agreed to work on that as well." Noting that there are two projects that the EU is currently developing with two types of special funds, namely Security Action for Europe (SAFE) and rearmament of Europe, and that there are special rights granted to EU member states in these projects, and that there are different definitions made regarding candidate countries, Fidan said, "We have decided to work together on those related to candidate countries."

"At the same time, apart from SAFE and Rearm Europe (Europe's rearmament plan), how can we make our own defense industry cooperation? Because every country around the table has different capacities. We discussed this issue as an agenda item."

Turkish tourists' interest in Balkan countries is increasing Stating that it is important for the countries to get to know each other through more education and observation, Fidan said that they touched upon the importance of mobilization on youth and education at the meeting.

Minister Fidan continued as follows:

"In six of these six countries, Turks come first in the number of tourism. As you know, Balkan tours are now very popular. Our citizens go to the Balkans with tours. In every capital city we visit, Belgrade, Pristina, Skopje, Tirana, Turkish tourists are increasing. These countries are also very happy about this. Istanbul and the rest of Turkey are also a big attraction for these countries, both in terms of tourism and business. How can we carry this further? Are we observing this enough? Are we able to evaluate it? We have been in search of this. We will continue to do so."

"We agreed to produce regional solutions to regional problems"

Emphasizing that they also agreed "to produce regional solutions to regional problems" at the meeting, Fidan said that if there is a capacity to solve the problems themselves, it is a duty and a debt for them to put it forward. Stating that they had discussions on raising awareness and consciousness on this issue, Fidan said, "We have seen that there is a common ground on this issue with satisfaction. We decided to meet again every six months. Istanbul will continue to be the center of the Balkan Peace Platform for now." Stating that the Balkan Peace Platform, the first of which was organized for the first time, is an informal format, Fidan said, "We agreed to bring our leaders together in this format when we make some progress in the coming time period."

"There is a consensus on solving the problems through diplomacy"

Recalling the tensions between some Balkan countries, Fidan said, "We have observed here with satisfaction, without naming some of the participants, that no one wants a hot war, a conflict like in the old days. There is a consensus around the table that the problems should be solved through diplomacy by talking, by agreement, and that the agenda should be advanced in this way. Therefore, the existence of such a platform will also serve to solve the existing problem areas." Fidan pointed out that due to the region's focus on problems, areas of opportunity were missed, which had negative economic and security repercussions. Noting that there is awareness and mental consensus on how to cooperate in economic and other areas and how to increase connectivity in peaceful ways while bracketing certain problems or continuing to solve them, Fidan said, "The parties expressed this around the table. I think this is the biggest output (of the Platform) for the continuation of regional peace."

"Our President wants to speed up this process (leaders' meeting) a little more"

Responding to a question about the possibility of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan meeting with US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Fidan said that one of the important agenda items of the Istanbul talks between Russia and Ukraine was the bringing together of the leaders, "Now on the humanitarian front, it is really agreed that more and more prisoners, wounded, detainees are being exchanged in increasing numbers, and both sides are implementing this by showing their best goodwill and efforts. This obviously pleases both our President and us very much." Reminding that Russia and Ukraine have declared their will to come together in Istanbul



hosted by Turkey, Fidan said, "But there is an ongoing negotiation process on when and under what conditions. As negotiators, we are obviously trying to bring together the different positions of Ukraine and Russia on this issue somewhere in the middle."

Fidan pointed out that Trump showed interest in the ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine and said, "Therefore, our President wants to speed up this process a little more. He believes very much in leaders' diplomacy. In other words, he has an idea that certain blocked points between the negotiating delegations can be opened by the leaders coming together. Maybe we can take an initiative to make this possible." Noting that the leaders of Russia and Ukraine want to come together but there is a "dispute" over the conditions, Fidan said: "When the leaders come together here, on what kind of discussion grounds will they take what decisions? The delegations need to advance this beforehand. At the moment, there is no dispute between the leaders about whether to come or not. Everyone wants to come. But there are different opinions on when and under what conditions and at what stage. We are at the stage of bringing them together. Hopefully, if that happens in the near future, I believe that all three leaders will come together in Istanbul, hosted by our President."

Fidan shared a post on the Balkans Peace Platform on social media platform X

Fidan stated that the first meeting of the "Balkans Peace Platform", which was established upon the instruction of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to contribute to peace and stability in the Balkans, was held today in Istanbul at the level of Foreign Ministers. Fidan said that the platform creates a ground for a sincere and target-oriented informal dialogue at the political level, and thus aims to institutionalize dialogue and cooperation on the basis of the principles of regional ownership and inclusiveness, to create opportunities for constructive consultation among the countries of the region and to promote projects that prioritize common prosperity. In this framework, Fidan announced that in today's meeting, they agreed to exchange information on issues related to EU accession processes, to form opinions on connectivity, youth, education, defense industry and regional problems, to convene this platform at the level of leaders in the future, and to agree that Istanbul will host the next meetings and that the platform will meet regularly every six months. Stating that these initiatives are not an alternative to the existing mechanisms, on the contrary, they will support these processes, Fidan pointed out that Turkey attaches strategic importance to peace and stability in the Balkans and will continue to make constructive contributions in different platforms in this direction.

Visa-Free Regime for Turkish Citizens in Kazakhstan

As part of its ongoing migration policy, the government of Kazakhstan provides for the possibility of visa-free stays for Turkish citizens for up to 90 days.



The government of Kazakhstan is introducing amendments to the rules governing the entry and exit of migrants, as well as to migration control regulations. According to the draft document prepared by the government of Kazakhstan, citizens of 66 countries — including Australia, the United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Japan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), South Korea, Canada, Italy, and others — will be able to enter and remain in Kazakhstan without a visa for up to 30 calendar days from the date of crossing the border. Additionally, the total period of stay must not exceed 90 days within a 180-day period.

NO VISA REQUIRED FOR TURKISH CITIZENS

If a migrant's purpose of visit changes after entering Kazakhstan, or if the permitted stay period is exceeded, a visa must be obtained prior to entering the Republic of Kazakhstan. According to the published document granting privileges to Turkish citizens, they will be able to enter and exit Kazakhstan without a visa, provided their stay does not exceed 90 days within every 180-calendar-day period from the date of entry.

"THE GOAL IS TO DEVELOP CLOSE COOPERATION WITH TURKEY"

The document published by the government of Kazakhstan regarding the visa-free regime for Turkish citizens states: "The goal is to develop close cooperation with Turkey, create favorable conditions for investment and tourism in Kazakhstan, and strengthen economic diplomacy." The event concluded with a concert by the Turkic World Music Ensemble.

SOURCE: VEDAT KURT

Russia: Agreement Reached on Another Prisoner Exchange Involving Around 1,200 People

Russian presidential adviser Vladimir Medinsky announced that an agreement had been reached with the Ukrainian side on continuing the exchange of prisoners of war, and both parties agreed on another exchange involving approximately 1,200 individuals from each side.

Medinsky and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin spoke at a press conference following a trilateral meeting between Russia, Ukraine, and Turkey, held in Istanbul with Turkey's mediation. Medinsky stated that the third round of negotiations had concluded, and all recent agreements on humanitarian issues had been implemented. According to him, a prisoner exchange involving around 250 servicemen along the Ukraine-Belarus line was carried out. He emphasized that this was the final stage of a large prisoner swap involving around 1,200 people, and he also noted that an exchange of the bodies of the deceased had been completed. Medinsky pointed out that since the fallen should be buried in their homeland, the bodies of the deceased were handed over to the Ukrainian side, though a smaller number of bodies were returned from the Russian side. The presidential adviser also shared proposals made to the Ukrainian side during the meeting: "First of all, we decided to create three working groups that will operate online to save taxpayer resources and funds. These are a political working group, a humanitarian group, and a group on military issues involving relevant experts." He reported that the Ukrainian side had agreed to consider the proposal and continued:



"The second proposal is to declare a short-term ceasefire for 24–48 hours along the front line so that medical teams can retrieve the wounded and the bodies of the deceased." Medinsky stressed that due to drone activity in the conflict zone, the proposed measure posed a serious risk to medical personnel, and added: "Every life is priceless." He also said: "We agreed to continue the exchange of prisoners—about 1,200 people on each side. Frankly speaking, we offered the Ukrainian side a higher number. If they can assemble a matching number on their side, the figures could be increased." Medinsky stated that the Ukrainian side was facing technical problems, such as refrigeration units and transportation, but added: **"Nevertheless, we proposed handing over an additional 3,000 bodies to the Ukrainian side."** Russia to Transfer Bodies of Ukrainian Soldiers with Red Cross Involvement Medinsky reported that the bodies of the deceased would be transferred to the Ukrainian side with the involvement of the Red Cross, so they can be buried in accordance with Christian traditions. He also noted that the return of civilians displaced by hostilities was discussed, and that the exchange of bodies and wounded along the front line would continue indefinitely. Medinsky added: "Unfortunately, one of the points of our agreement was not fulfilled. Some prisoners from the coastal zone were returned by the Ukrainian armed forces

to the region. Frankly, I don't understand why this was done. If you captured them as Hamas-style fighters—then call them prisoners. In that case, we are ready to exchange them for our soldiers or other individuals, but we want things to be called by their proper names." The Russian presidential adviser emphasized that both parties agreed to maintain contact at the delegation level as well as through new working groups, and said: "Finally, I want to raise the issue of the tens of thousands of children allegedly taken from Ukraine. We have verified the complete list of 329 names and have started the process of their return. Work on other cases is also ongoing. If parents or legal guardians are found, those children will be immediately handed over. This is our priority." "An Agreement Is Needed Before a Leaders' Summit Can Take Place" Medinsky noted that if the parents or legal guardians of Ukrainian children are identified, the children will be

handed over and their safety guaranteed. Responding to a question about a possible meeting between the leaders, Medinsky said: "For a leaders' summit to happen, a prior agreement is needed. Such a meeting should have a clear agenda. It must be the conclusion of a process, not its starting point. Therefore, we must first complete this process." When asked how many of the 329 Ukrainian children had already returned, Medinsky stated that Russia had completed work on the list provided during the last round of talks and added that many of the children listed by Ukraine had never been present in Russian territory. Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin added that the issue of Russian children currently in Ukraine and European countries had also been raised during the meeting. He reported that a list of 20 Russian children and their legal guardians had been handed over to the Ukrainian side.



Gaza Health Ministry: Israel's Declared “Humanitarian Pause” Means Nothing

Munir al-Bursh, Director-General of the Health Ministry in Gaza, stated that Israel's so-called “humanitarian pause” means nothing unless it turns into a real opportunity to save lives.



In a written statement, al-Bursh said that during the temporary “humanitarian pause,” which has been marked by international silence and hesitation, the wounded continue to cry out for help, children are dying of hunger, and mothers are struggling to survive with the children who remain alive. He called for the immediate evacuation of patients in critical condition—those with brain and spinal cord injuries who cannot be treated under current conditions and face a high risk of death without transfer.

“The humanitarian pause must become a real opportunity to save lives”
Al-Bursh emphasized the urgent need for medical supplies and food for children and infants in Gaza, including therapeutic milk and high-protein, high-calorie supplements. He reiterated that Israel’s declared “humanitarian pause” is meaningless unless it becomes a real chance to save lives.

He added that every delay means another funeral, and every moment of silence results in yet another child dying in their mother’s arms due to lack of medicine or milk. Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs had announced on July 27 that, in light of increasing international pressure and a worsening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza—marked by mass starvation—it would implement a limited “humanitarian pause” in its attacks. The Israeli military later confirmed that the pause would begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. local time.

Gaza Government: Israel’s Aid Spectacle Won’t End Starvation — The Real Solution Is Lifting the Blockade
In a separate statement, the Gaza government said that despite talks of allowing aid passage, “even if implemented, the move will be limited and will not end the crime of starvation that Tel Aviv has imposed on Gaza.” The statement highlighted that aid deliveries have been blocked for 148

days, and infant formula has not been allowed into the region. Gaza requires 600 aid trucks per day, and to save the lives of infants, 250,000 boxes of milk and formula monthly. It emphasized that Gaza is facing a severe humanitarian catastrophe, and that the continued blockade, closure of border crossings, and obstruction of aid are worsening the crisis. Although the Israeli army claimed this morning that it would halt localized military operations and allow aid into certain areas of Gaza, this does not change the reality: 2.4 million Palestinians are still facing starvation and genocide.

“The only real solution is the unconditional lifting of the blockade”
The Gaza Government stressed that the only comprehensive and lasting solution is the immediate and unconditional lifting of the blockade, full opening of border crossings, and ensuring continuous access to aid and fuel. Temporary measures, it said, will not resolve the crisis.

UNRWA: Airdrops Are a Distraction from the Catastrophe
Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), commented on aid efforts by air, describing them as “a distraction aimed at covering up the humanitarian catastrophe.” Following the famine caused by Israel’s blockade, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan began airdropping aid into Gaza.

Gaza Is Dying of Hunger
Under Israel’s relentless attacks and tight



siege, the Gaza Strip is experiencing a full-blown humanitarian disaster—marked by widespread hunger, a lack of clean water, shortages of medicine, and no hygiene supplies. Deaths due to hunger—especially among children—are on the rise. Both local and international groups have accused Israel of using hunger and thirst as weapons of war. Having destroyed 88% of Gaza’s civilian infrastructure, the Israeli military frequently targets displaced Palestinians with bombardments, even in areas where it previously ordered them to relocate. Of the 2.3 million residents in Gaza, around 2 million have been displaced, many multiple times. These displaced civilians, lacking basic necessities, are trying to survive in makeshift tents or overcrowded, unsanitary schools where disease is rampant and toilets are scarce. Meanwhile, the Israeli military continues to bomb civilian areas and tents sheltering displaced people with daily attacks.



President of Iran Pezeshkian: We Must Strengthen Relations with Neighboring Countries

President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian stated that strengthening ties with neighboring countries is a priority of the country's foreign policy.



During a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pezeshkian addressed the staff of the institution. He noted that diplomacy remained active even during attacks by Israel and the United States.

“Despite the fact that, under conditions of military conflict, some of our missions were closed, Iranian diplomats continued to fulfill their duties. They maintained international communication and, by constantly monitoring developments, conveyed the voice of the Iranian people to the world,” he emphasized.

Pezeshkian highly praised the solidarity shown by the people during this period: “For 12 days, a difficult and courageous defense was organized. The enemy tried to break the country with all its might. However, our proud

people played a vital role by demonstrating exemplary resistance and unity, for which they deserve gratitude and respect.” The President of Iran conveyed to diplomats that, in accordance with the recommendations of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, it is necessary under current conditions to actively and effectively advance the agenda in defense, security, and diplomacy: “Our colleagues in diplomacy are doing their utmost. We, acting in coordination with the country's macro policies, will focus on developing foreign relations, especially with our neighbors. We will make these relationships closer, deeper, and more stable,” Pezeshkian noted. He emphasized the importance of expanding cooperation with BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states: “In this direction, we will act in coordination with countries such as

Russia and China, as well as with our other partners. We will continue this process with European and other countries based on reason, dignity, and mutual interests.”

Pezeshkian declared that the first priority of foreign policy must be strengthening relations with neighboring states: “We must develop ties with our neighbors, including Turkey, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf countries. If we establish good relations with our neighbors, we can achieve outstanding results. We need to be more active. From businessmen and traders to cultural representatives, from scientists to those working in tourism — everyone must show greater initiative,” he added.

Touching on the ongoing genocide committed by Israel in Gaza and

criticizing the supporters of Israel, Pezeshkian said: “Some speak about human rights, but what is happening in Gaza is unbearable to watch. European countries and human rights organizations talk about humanity, but how can they justify the brutal actions against the people of Gaza? Some Persian-language media outlets abroad are shamefully covering these events. Don't they see the reality and what is truly happening?”

Pezeshkian also instructed that measures be taken to ensure that Iranians living abroad can return to their homeland without hindrance.



ULUSLARARASI SİVİL DİPLOMASİ GAZETESİ

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At least 26 people have been killed in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip

At least 26 Palestinians were killed and many others were wounded in the Israeli military attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Israel bombarded people waiting to receive aid, tents sheltering displaced people and civilian homes in Gaza. According to sources at al-Awda Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, the Israeli army targeted civilians waiting to receive humanitarian aid on Salah al-Din Street, south of the Gaza Valley area in the central Gaza Strip. Eleven people, including 1 woman, were killed and 101 people were wounded in the attack. According to information from local sources, the Israeli army struck the Mevasi area west of Khan Younis city in the south of the Gaza Strip, where displaced families took refuge. At least 6 Palestinians, including 2 children, were killed in the attack, which directly targeted a tent in the area that Israel declared a so-called "safe zone". In the attack of the Israeli army on a house in the center of Gaza city, 5 Palestinians were killed and many people were injured. Israeli warplanes bombed a tent where refugees were staying in al-Birke area, south of Deir al-Balah city in the central part of the Gaza Strip. 4 people lost their lives and 6 people were injured in the attack.



The death toll increased by 88 to 59,821 in the last 24 hours
In a written statement made by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, the latest information on the casualties and injuries in the ongoing Israeli attacks was shared. In the statement, 88 dead and 374 wounded were brought to hospitals in Gaza in the last 24 hours. It was stated that 8,657 Palestinians were killed and 32,810 people were injured in the attacks carried out by the Israeli army since March 18, breaking the ceasefire reached on January 19 in Gaza.



It was reported that the number of people who lost their lives in Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023 has risen to 59,821 and the number of wounded to 144,851.

It is stated that there are still thousands of dead under the rubble in the Gaza Strip.
Since May 27, the number of deaths in Gaza has reached 1132 and the number of wounded has reached 7,521 as a result of systematic attacks targeting Palestinians in the distribution areas established by the Israeli-US-led "Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation" under the name of humanitarian aid. It was reported that 6 more Palestinians, including 2 children, died of hunger in the last 24 hours in the Gaza Strip, where Israel imposed famine, and the number of deaths due to hunger increased to 133, including 87 children.

The Israeli army announced that the "humanitarian break" in Gaza will begin at 10 am this morning. In a statement released by the Israeli army, which prevented the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, causing civilians to starve to death, it was claimed that the army will stop its attacks on the Gaza Strip for 10 hours in line with the government's "humanitarian pause" decision to increase the entry of humanitarian aid. It was claimed that the "humanitarian pause" will be applied every day until further notice in the al-Mawasi area in the southern Gaza Strip, Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip and Gaza City, where there are no Israeli ground troops. It was also claimed that "safe routes" were designated to be used from 06:00 am to 23:00 pm to ensure the safe passage of convoys of UN and humanitarian organizations that deliver and distribute

food and medicine to the people throughout the Gaza Strip. The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced on July 27 that a "humanitarian pause" of a few hours had been imposed on attacks on Gaza after the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza led to mass deaths from starvation and increased international pressure.

Hamas: Israel's aerial aid show is an attempt to hide genocide
"The urgent delivery of food, medicine and humanitarian aid to our people in Gaza is a natural right to stop the imposed humanitarian catastrophe," Hamas said in a written statement. The statement said that Israel's airdropping of a limited amount of aid to some parts of Gaza was a "show and deceptive step" and emphasized that it was "an attempt to whitewash the image of the occupation in front of the world public opinion" and "an attempt to cover up the rights of the Palestinian people to lift the blockade". Emphasizing that this step "seeks to cover up the policy of starving the Palestinians led by the war criminal (Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin) Netanyahu's government", it said: "The Israeli occupation's plan to airdrop aid and its efforts to control the so-called 'humanitarian corridors' are not meant to end the policy of starvation, but to manage it and create a reality imposed on the ground by force, accompanied by bombs and starvation. These plans endanger the lives of civilians, humiliate their dignity, and oppress them instead of offering them comprehensive protection and assistance." Hamas said in the statement that in order to end the crime of starvation in Gaza, the attacks must stop, the blockade must be lifted and humanitarian aid must be delivered safely under UN supervision. "The steps of the war criminal Netanyahu government to create inhumane mechanisms to manage hunger by controlling aid have led to the death of more than a thousand people, including children, and the injury of nearly 6,000 civilians," the statement said.

"It is vital to maintain international and popular pressure to lift the blockade and stop the brutal starvation and genocidal crimes. The deceptive propaganda of the fascist occupation government should not be fooled." The Israeli army had claimed that it would take some steps for the entry of humanitarian aid due to international pressure in the Gaza Strip, where it caused a humanitarian catastrophe with the blockade it imposed and caused starvation deaths.

German Chancellor Merz calls on Netanyahu to deliver urgent humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza
German Government Spokesperson Stefan Kornelius stated in a written statement that Chancellor Merz had a telephone conversation with Netanyahu. Merz expressed her deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, "Merz asked Prime Minister Netanyahu to do everything in his power to achieve an immediate ceasefire. Merz called on Netanyahu to immediately deliver urgently needed humanitarian aid to the starving civilian population in Gaza." The statement emphasized that this aid must be delivered to the civilian population quickly, safely and to the extent necessary and that effective action must be taken quickly following the measures announced by the Israeli government. The German government will closely monitor developments and will decide in consultation with France, the UK and other European partners, as well as the US and Arab countries, how it can contribute to improving the situation in the coming days. The statement argued that the German government "has no doubt that Hamas initiated the fighting in Gaza on October 7, 2023" and reiterated that the recognition of the State of Palestine is not currently on Berlin's agenda. The statement added that the German government continues to see the recognition of the State of Palestine as one of the last steps towards the realization of the two-state solution.

Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan Agree on Joint Exploration and Production of Oil and Gas in the Ustyurt Region



The State Oil and Gas Company of Uzbekistan, Uzbekneftegaz, and the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) have agreed to conduct joint exploration and production activities of oil and gas in Uzbekistan’s Ustyurt region.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan, in this context, a Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) was signed between Uzbekneftegaz and SOCAR, covering geological exploration, development, and extraction of oil and gas in the Ustyurt oil and gas-bearing area located in Karakalpakstan.

Under the agreement, the first phase foresees conducting three-dimensional seismic surveys on an area of at least 1,000 square kilometers, followed by geological exploration work. In case of discovery of oil and gas fields,

the parties will proceed with joint production.

The signing of the agreement marks an important step in the development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in the energy sector, as well as providing a long-term legal framework for interaction between the two countries in the oil and gas industry.

Напомним, что в августе 2024 года между «Узбекнефтегаз» и SOCAR уже было подписано соглашение о сотрудничестве в нефтегазовом секторе.

4th Meeting of Heads of Institutions Responsible for Human Resources Development in the Turkic States Held in Issyk-Kul

An Important Meeting Under the Auspices of Kyrgyzstan



The fourth meeting of the heads of institutions responsible for human resources development in the member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) took place in the city of Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. The event was held under the chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan, which currently holds the presidency of the OTS, with the support of the State Agency for Civil Service and Local Government under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting carried particular significance in terms of regional cooperation.

OTS Secretary General Kubanychbek Omuraliev Highlights: Human Capital is the Foundation of Development

The meeting was opened by the Secretary General of the OTS, Kubanychbek Omuraliev, who emphasized that human resources development plays a vital role in the progress of the Turkic World. Omuraliev stated: “Investing in human resources is the foundation of sustainable development for societies and states. Within the framework of the OTS, we must strengthen cooperation in this area.”

Joint Projects and Innovative Approaches Discussed



During the session, participants thoroughly examined joint projects in the field of human resources, educational programs, as well as issues of digitalization and improving the quality of public services in the member states. Attendees exchanged experiences and discussed the dissemination of best practices.

Modernization of Public Administration and Citizen-Oriented Services

Secretary General Omuraliev underlined that the development of professional and citizen-oriented public services will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration systems in member states. The meeting aimed to deepen institutional cooperation in this area.

Strengthening Cooperation in the Turkic World

The session held in Kyrgyzstan laid the groundwork for further strengthening of cooperation in human resources development among OTS member states. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to give momentum to the modernization of public administration and the support of sustainable development across the Turkic World.

Final Remarks by Omuraliev

At the conclusion of the meeting, Secretary General Kubanychbek Omuraliev stated that strengthening cooperation in human resources development will play a key role in achieving the shared goals of prosperity and progress in the Turkic World.

Historic Visit of Turkmen Leader to Karabakh: "We Are Part of the Turkic World"

The National Leader of Turkmenistan and Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, paid an official visit to Azerbaijan, sending a powerful message of unity to the Turkic world. This visit, made with the support of Presidents Erdoğan and Aliyev, is seen as the beginning of a new phase in Turkmenistan’s regional policy.

Intensive Program in Baku and Karabakh

During the two-day official visit, Berdimuhamedov first met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku. On the second day, he traveled to Karabakh, where he toured territories liberated from occupation. The visit of the Turkmen leader received wide resonance across the Turkic world.

"We Are Part of the Turkic World"

Emphasizing that Karabakh holds a special place in the collective memory of the Turkic world, Berdimuhamedov made more than a diplomatic gesture—he expressed Turkmenistan’s firm commitment to Turkic unity. For many years, Turkmenistan pursued a policy of neutrality and remained distant from regional processes. With this visit, the country took a step toward more active diplomacy.

Full Membership in the Organization of Turkic States on the Agenda

Turkmenistan's transition from observer status to full membership in the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) is accelerating. It is expected that full membership will be formalized at the OTS leaders’ summit, set to take place in Azerbaijan in October. This move will enable Turkmenistan to play a more active role in decision-making within the Turkic world.



Support from Turkey and Azerbaijan

The vision of Turkic unity long promoted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the calls of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev for regional integration following the Karabakh victory, have reinforced Turkmenistan’s steps toward unity. Aliyev’s multidimensional relations with Turkic countries have elevated regional cooperation to a new level.

Strategic Steps Toward Turkic Unity

This process, which echoes the ideals of Turkic unity as envisioned by Ziya Gökalp, encompasses not only political and economic cooperation among Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, but also the revival of shared historical awareness and cultural heritage. Energy diplomacy is also a key component of this process. The 2021 “Dostluk” (Friendship) agreement signed between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan paved the way for joint development of disputed areas in the Caspian Sea and enabled Turkmen gas to be transported to Europe via Turkey, thereby strengthening the geopolitical ties of the Turkic world.

In-Depth Familiarization Tour in Karabakh

Berdimuhamedov’s visit to Karabakh began at the Fuzuli International

Airport. Leaders were briefed on the ongoing reconstruction work in the liberated territories. In Shusha, they visited the Yukhari Govhar Agha Mosque, the house of renowned singer Bulbul, the historic Mehmandarov family mansion, and the Jidir Plain. President Aliyev presented the Turkmen leader with a horse named “Dostlug” (Friendship), which has become a symbol of Karabakh.

"Brotherhood, Friendship, and Cooperation"

“The relationship between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan can be described in three words: brotherhood, good neighborliness, and cooperation,”



said Berdimuhamedov, stressing that these ties are rooted in shared history and will grow through new joint projects and fields of collaboration. President Aliyev also noted that the visit would give fresh momentum to bilateral relations.

SOURCE: VEDAT KURT



Ukraine: We thank Turkey for its facilitating role



Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Rustem Umerov, regarding Turkey's role in the talks between Russia and Ukraine, said: "We would like to thank Turkey for its facilitating role on this platform, an important platform for dialogue and peace."

Members of the delegation representing Ukraine spoke at a press conference following the Turkey-Russia-Ukraine Trilateral Meeting hosted by Turkey in Istanbul.

Umerov said that they completed the third meeting with the Russian delegation and that Ukraine clearly conveyed the priorities expressed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Emphasizing that the first priority is to organize a meeting between Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Umerov said that the participation of US President Donald Trump and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in this possible meeting would be extremely valuable.

Umerov underlined that a real ceasefire and the cessation of attacks on all civilian structures would be the first steps necessary for lasting peace.

Umerov stated that they have proposed to the Russian side to organize a meeting between the leaders by the end of August, and if this is accepted, Moscow will show a constructive attitude and show this to all partners.

"Ukraine is ready for ceasefire and peace talks"

Stating that his country sees a comprehensive and unconditional ceasefire as the basis of diplomacy, Umerov said, "We are ready for a ceasefire and significant peace talks here now. We expect the other side to take the most fundamental step towards this peace."

Umerov said that the ceasefire must be sincere and the attacks on civilian structures and critical infrastructure must stop, adding that they expect more progress on the exchange of prisoners of war.

"We thank Turkey for its facilitating role"

Noting that they hope that civilians, especially children, will be released, Umerov said, "We would like to thank our partners for supporting our efforts for peace, especially Turkey for its facilitating role in this platform, an important platform for dialogue and peace."

Umerov pointed out that real steps are possible and that the Russian side should also take a constructive and realistic approach and that they will continue to work to achieve this.

Russia agrees to release those held captive for more than 3 years

Yuri Kovbasa, Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Ukrainian Parliament, stated that they will continue to work on prisoners of war as before and said, "We made an appeal to the Russian side to release those who have been held captive for more than 3 years. The Russian side agreed to this, especially for the exchange of wounded and prisoners in such situations."

Answering the questions of the press members, Umerov said that regarding the

release of civilians, this concerns more than 1200 people and that they will continue to work on this process.

Regarding the possibility of a leaders' meeting between Russia and Ukraine, Umerov said, "We expressed our expectations here. We suggested what could be discussed here and said that we could prepare the agenda in this way."

On whether there will be a fourth meeting with the Russian delegation, Umerov stated that the exchange of prisoners of war in the humanitarian sense will continue and reiterated their call for an end to all hostilities and a full and unconditional ceasefire.

Umerov also noted that they see the leaders' meeting as a priority, adding that they will wait for the results on these issues and that there is progress in humanitarian terms at this stage.

Pointing out that his country is always ready for negotiations on ceasefire, Umerov emphasized that they have started negotiations in the process initiated with the US and that ceasefire is always a priority for Ukraine.

Pointing out that there is no step to be taken by the Ukrainian side at this stage, Umerov said, "The world should be aware of this and support Ukraine for a ceasefire. We are ready, it is the Russian side that does not agree on this issue."

Umerov said that they started working with the Russian side after 6 p.m. and ended the talks around 9:30 p.m. They discussed humanitarian, political and cessation of hostilities issues, and only one issue was resolved.

Members of the delegation representing Ukraine spoke at a press conference following the Turkey-Russia-Ukraine Trilateral Meeting hosted by Turkey in Istanbul.

Tykhyi stated that this meeting took place in a more constructive and calm atmosphere compared to the previous meeting and said, "Both sides repeated their positions."

Emphasizing that it is wrong to call the documents shared between the parties as "memorandum", Tykhyi said, "Russia expresses it this way, but the memorandum is a document agreed upon by both sides. We think these are drafts," Tykhyi said.

George Tykhyi reminded that the documents were shared with the press and said, "In this sense, the public can make its own decision regarding these documents. When we look at Ukraine's document, it is very logical, very constructive, very doable. When we look at Russia's draft, it shows demands that are supported by ultimatums and trying to get maximum benefit. So I can say that both documents are very different from each other."

Stating that the basic principle for Ukraine is a ceasefire, Tykhyi said, "First, the guns must stop so that diplomats can talk. It is extremely simple. If there is a full-scale

ceasefire, then diplomacy will be much more effective."

"We want to achieve peace"

Tykhyi stated that if Russian President Vladimir Putin agrees to meet, he can immediately meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and said, "Why do we insist on a meeting of leaders? Because there is one person in Russia who takes the decisions."

"Why is it so hard to sit down and talk? We do not understand this," Tykhyi said, noting that Zelenskiy is ready to meet.

George Tykhyi emphasized that Ukraine is the side that suffers the most from the war, "Civilians, military personnel are losing their lives and we want to achieve peace and we were not the side that wanted this war in the first place. Therefore, we will use every opportunity. Even the smallest one, we will use it to promote peace, to reach a just peace. That is why we are coming to this format, we are participating at the highest level."

Stating that they have achieved only humanitarian results with the peace negotiations format and that they have seen very little progress in the political sense, Tykhyi said, "The reason for this is this. There is only one reason. It is Russia's reluctance to make political progress in this sense, but we will continue this even for humanitarian developments."

Tykhyi pointed out that his country has no conditions for a ceasefire and said, "If Russia says 'we are ready for a ceasefire today', the ceasefire will start."

Stating that the Ukraine-US dialog continues, Tykhyi said, "President Zelenskiy and (US President Donald) Trump are in contact and there have been some important developments here. There have been positive signs from President Trump regarding Patriot missiles. We think that some of this is important for better defense of Ukraine."

Tykhyi pointed out that the pressure on Russia should continue and said, "We think that the more pressure on Moscow, the more constructive they will be."

At the meeting, the Russian side said, "We are advancing. Why should we cease fire?" Tykhyi said, "This is a very bitter statement and interrupts peace developments."

"We do not think that they have won the war," George Tykhyi said, adding that the Russian side has not achieved any of its strategic goals for two and a half years.

"We are grateful to President Erdogan"

Emphasizing that his country is fighting with a large army, Tykhyi said, "It is necessary to express once again the heroism of Ukrainian soldiers."

When asked about the "24 or 48-hour ceasefire proposals proposed by Russia" in the Russian press, Tykhyi said the following: "These are not sincere ceasefire proposals. If we are talking about humanitarian breaks on the front line, we need to understand that

this is something that happens from time to time. Local commanders mutually agree. They say let's take the bodies of our soldiers who lost their lives. These are not ceasefires, these are humanitarian breaks. For us, it is incomprehensible that the Russian side is trying to sell this as a ceasefire."

Tykhyi emphasized that a ceasefire means "a full-scale ceasefire on land, air and sea and a complete cessation of hostilities."

Speaking about President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's reception of Andriy Yermak, the head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office, before the talks, Tykhyi said:

"We highly value President Erdoğan's leadership, his strength, his support for the norms that we all share, and his role in different peace formats is really valuable. We remember how President Erdoğan facilitated the Black Sea Grain Agreement. It was a really important work in the first year. It enabled maritime trade and the flow of grain. And now we see how much time he is devoting to the issue and to the peace process. We are very grateful to him."

Tykhyi thanked Turkey for the "Istanbul Peace Negotiations" and said, "Turkey has done something that no one else has done and we appreciate it very much."

"So far, 1,200 prisoners of war have been exchanged and this platform enables this," Tykhyi said, adding that agreements on further exchanges were also reached during the talks.

Turkey-Russia-Ukraine Trilateral Meeting ended

The Turkey-Russia-Ukraine Trilateral Meeting organized in Istanbul under Turkey's mediation between Russia and Ukraine ended.

The meeting, which was held at Çırağan Palace and chaired by Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, was also attended by İbrahim Kalın, Head of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), and General Metin Gürak, Chief of General Staff.

The Russian delegation included Vladimir Medinskiy, Counselor to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin.

Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Rustem Umerov and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergiy Kyslytsya attended the meeting on behalf of Ukraine.

Turkey succeeded in bringing the parties to the same table after 3 years

Immediately after the bloody war that started in February 2022, Turkey brought Russia and Ukraine together at the same table in Antalya and Istanbul in the same year, and in May 2025, again in Istanbul, Turkey managed to bring Russian and Ukrainian delegations to the same table after 3 years.

Negotiations between Russia and Ukraine were held in Istanbul on May 16 and June 2.

Nature's Smart Healer: Sage



Dear Readers

Nature sometimes hides its healing power in the most quiet and unassuming plants. Sage is one of these silent healers. Used for centuries both in the prevention and treatment of diseases, sage nourishes not only the body but also the soul with its aromatic leaves.

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However, caution should also be exercised with excessive consumption of sage. Long-term and excessive use, especially due to the high doses of tujone, can lead to some side effects.

This valuable plant of nature grows with patience, is collected with labor and prepared with care. Knowing its value is a reflection of the respect we show to our health.



Hasan YİĞİT

From the Roof of the Sky: Turkish Mythology and Silent Heroes

When you listen to the sound of the wind, sometimes you hear the footsteps of an animal, sometimes the neighing of a horse, sometimes the tears of a woman. Turkish mythology is the sum total of these sounds. It is not only in the past, nor is it only told to the future. It is the trace left behind by a nation as it walks. It is hidden in every stone, every star, every child's gaze. Because the mythology of the Turks is the movement of a pendulum between heaven and earth. Sometimes it comes from the heart of the mountain, sometimes from the leaf of the tree, sometimes from the walk of the wolves. It neither begins nor ends with a book. The sky is at the heart of this mythology. The Turk always walks with his head up. He calls out to God from there. That is why the Sky God is not just a belief, but a sense of direction. All figures speak by looking up to the sky. The tales of a nation that gives birth to the sun, rules the moon and reads the stars are, of course, close to the sky. Oğuz Kağan is blessed with a light from the sky as he walks between day and night. His story begins when his mother sees a light in her dream. Because every born leader is born with the permission of heaven. The earth is like an echo of this heaven. Mountains speak, stones listen, wolves guide. In Turkish mythology, it is said that a mountain is not just a stone, but an ancestor. Sometimes a mountain is a mother, sometimes a mountain is an enemy. But always the mountain carries a secret. That secret is sometimes the answer to a war, sometimes the beginning of a nation. Ergenekon is not just an exit; it is a birth. In a place where iron is like a mountain, if people melt the mountain with their hands, destiny is rewritten. The nation born from that molten iron is now closer to the sky.

Figures in Turkish mythology are not only in human form. Animals have as much say as humans. The wolf is the most ancient guide of this mythology. Those who follow a she-wolf become the founders of a nation. In the teeth of that wolf there is neither death nor fear; there is only the way. Because for the Turk, the road is not just a relocation; it is a search for meaning. The wolf shows the way. The one who follows him finds not only his path but also himself. That is why the wolf is not a symbol in mythology, but a companion. The horse is not alone in this journey either. The horse is the embodiment of the Turkish soul. Sometimes it is winged, pierces the sky, runs through the floors of the sky.

It skips the distance between earth and sky. Sometimes it carries its owner on its back, sometimes it senses danger before its owner. In shamanic rituals, the sound emitted by the beating of the horse drum is the sound that makes the heart of the sky tremble. With that sound, both horse and man change. There are horses that come in dreams, those that run in dreams. They are the messengers of destiny. And the horse that brings fate never lies.

In mythology, female figures have a special power. The White Mother is born from the waters of creation. She comes flying over the waters and whispers to the Creator the inspiration to create. She is not a woman; she is the breath of creation. Mother Umay is the protector. Her shadow is over every child. Every fear that vibrates in a mother's heart goes to Umay's ears. That is why she is the one who is prayed to at birth and called upon when the child is sick. Because Umay envelops not only the body but also the soul. She not only protects but also gives direction. Ayzit comes out of the night, her sword is like a star from the sky. She carries beauty and wisdom, grace and courage in the same pot. In Turkish mythology, the woman is neither behind nor in front of the man. She stands in a completely different place. Sometimes as silent as a mountain, sometimes as exuberant as a flood. Sometimes she is a guiding dream, sometimes the pole of a tent. But she is always there. And with her presence, she keeps the spirit of the nation in balance.

There are other beings as great as the mountains. Alp Er Tunga is not just a warrior. He is a ruler, a sage, an epic. Hearts devastated by his death lament his death. These laments that permeate epics are not only for one man. In those laments, an era ends, a sky is plunged into darkness. Alp Er Tunga grows more after his death than while he is alive. Because it is not only the living who carry a nation; it is the traces left behind by the dead. Tengri watches these traces from the sky. He is neither a god of anger nor a warrior. He maintains order. He maintains balance. For him, not the one who sheds blood, but the one who dispenses justice is sacred. That is why in Turkish mythology, not only power but also measure is glorified. Anything in excess is punished for deviating from balance. The shaman calls on Tengri to reach the sky. Each floor is a test. The one who passes the test gets one step closer to the truth. And this journey is actually a journey inward.

Man finds himself on his way to Tengri. This mythology lives not only in the sky and the mountain, but also in the root of the tree and the wing of the bird. The tree of life carries nine dimensions with its nine branches. Each branch extends in one direction. Each direction symbolizes a nation, a destiny, a piece of time. That tree is in the middle of time. Its root is deep in the earth, its top is at the highest point of the sky. The heart of Turkish mythology beats there. Every birth begins in the shadow of that tree. Every death ends in a branch of that tree. That is why this mythology is not just a tale; it is a ruler of time. There are stories that come with the wind. There are those that go to the abyss. Death is not a departure from this world, but a transition to another world. Souls are taken up into the sky and mingle with the stars. Stars are not only the ornament of the sky; they are the mirror of the past. In every star lies the soul of an ancestor. Every light that shines at night is a memory. That is why night is not something to be feared in Turkish mythology. Night is a time of remembering.

All these figures become the mirror of a nation. There is not only a face in that mirror; there is history, there is faith, there is march. Turkish mythology has never been something just told. It was lived. Oğuz Kağan was not a ruler, but a sense of direction. Ayzit was not just a beautiful woman; she was the light of truth. Bozkurt was not just an animal; he was an awakening. Umay was not just a mother; she was tranquility. And Tengri was not just a god; he was justice. That is why Turkish mythology has never been forgotten. Because it did not live in tongues; it lived in eyes. In every eye that looked like a mother looks at her child, there were those figures. Because there was a story behind everything one owned. The source of those stories was hidden in the voices coming from the sky. And those voices were still blowing in the steppe. A nation carries its past not only in written sources but also in the figures in its heart. The Turkish nation carries in its heart a wolf looking up to the sky, a horse reaching for the stars, a woman guiding it in its dreams, an alpine leaning his back against a mountain, a shaman carrying fire in his heart. They neither forget nor make us forget. Every narration is a new awakening. Because mythology is not about understanding the past; it is about taking root in the future.



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