

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE
MR ŞUAY ALPAY AT THE PUTRAJAYA FORUM**

(18 APRIL 2016)

***“The effects of the Big Powers on the
Establishment of Regional Security”***

His Excellency the Prime Minister,

Distinguished Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Guests,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address you, esteemed guests, on the occasion of the fourth Putrajaya Forum and extend my greetings to each and every one of you. I would also like to congratulate those who have contributed to the success of this Forum.

GENERAL

There has been an extensive transformation in the regional and international threat perceptions since the first meeting of the Putrajaya Forum titled “The Emerging Regional Security Architecture” organized in 2010 in parallel to the leading defence fair in Asia, namely Defence Services Asia. We believe that the Putrajaya Forum hosted by Malaysia in this period when we are more and more in need of dialogue and cooperation in the fields of security and defence plays an important role.

As you all know, security in the 21st century has a complex structure comprising both geopolitical tensions and conflict risks depending on the political and military changes and a search for stability required to

maintain economic gains. This era of fast transformations experienced in the history of humanity strongly distorts the international balance.

Together with the contribution of the People's Republic of China, it is expected that Asia will surpass the Western world in terms of population size, gross domestic product, military spendings and technological investments in the next two decades; just as, the economic center of power is shifting from North-West to South-East, new centers of power are emerging, and a geopolitical transition period is experienced at the global level.

On the other hand, interactive social and political turmoil and internal conflicts experienced in some countries in North Africa, Middle East and Arabian Peninsula are destroying the state structures, rendering some political borders indistinctive, increasing the competition among the groups, countries and centers of power, which eventually brings along instability.

The most significant duty and a test for the decision makers today is to keep up with the pace of this changing environment and developments taking place in the world and to take timely steps.

Events taking place in such an atmosphere show us that international legality, reciprocal economic dependence, respect for human rights, a sustainable environmental policy and harmony among individuals from different religions and ethnicities are the crucial needs of the forthcoming era for the establishment of long lasting peace, stability and prosperity; making the analysis of international dynamics through a perspective of global peace with correct tools inevitable.

In such a world resembling a vessel drifting to the unknown in a stormy weather, the countries are revising their defence structures and

there is an increasing trend in the importance attached to defence organisations and cooperation among countries with common threat perceptions.

The threats and risks towards national security present a hybrid structure.

Asymmetric risks that may arise from illegal activities such as terrorism, human trafficking, spread of weapons of mass destruction, and risks emerging in economic field and social structure in the struggle of sharing resources, and environmental disasters as well as state-led/supported threats further extend the range for risks/threats. Moreover, effective use of technology by illegal actors is further increasing the security risks.

Globalization facilitates interaction in the field of security as well. Local crises can easily get regional, laying the foundations for indirect competition among global and regional actors. This, inevitably, makes the countries sensitive to potential crises not only in their region, but also in other ones.

On the other hand, the interdependence strengthened by intense economic ties necessitates the protection of a stable environment, where economic activities can be performed regularly, by all parties, and entails cooperation in the field of security. Therefore the security atmosphere of the 21st century presents a complex structure comprising both geopolitical tensions and risks of conflict depending on the political and military changes, and a search for stability necessary for the protection of economic gains.

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Dear guests,

As we all witness, the Asia-Pacific region has become an important center of power and attraction in the world in the last half century with its remarkable social and economic development.

Following the successful economic leap of Japan and South Korea, the Southeast Asian countries, including Malaysia, together with China and India are among the emerging economies. The stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, hosting more than the half of the world population, is closely related to international development, and the economic growth achieved in the region enabled millions of people to pass the poverty line in the last quarter of the century.

Turning the rise of Asia into sustainable development requires a robust and comprehensive regional security architecture. There is no doubt that instability, uncertainty and conflict will threaten economic and commercial relations, which are the locomotives of this rise. In opposition to the bipolar world of the Cold War era, nowadays, the emerging powers, multipolar structure and non-state actors are forming our understanding of regional and international security.

Southeast Asia countries, having witnessed the hot conflicts of the Cold War, achieved a remarkable leap forward in economic and commercial fields with the establishment of regional security and stability. The Southeast Asia region has attracted the attention of those outside the region with its young and dynamic population, and strategic position between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. This attention and trend

are also reflected in recent foreign policies of not only the USA but also Japan, India, Russia, Australia and the European Union in general.

This “tendency towards Asia” brings along some important opportunities as well as some risks. Intensifying and sustaining international commercial ties, which are the drivers of economic welfare and development, necessitates the responsibility for maintaining regional security and stability.

Taking the motto of *union is strength*, it is important that a collective approach should be adopted rather than individual efforts of the countries in the fulfillment of this responsibility. In the atmosphere of changing regional and international security, prevention of nuclear armament, peaceful settlement of conflicts and fighting against global terrorism require us to act together.

As there is no regional alliance similar to the security network in Europe provided by NATO in the Asia-Pacific region, all the countries in the region should share responsibility in the establishment of a regional security architecture. We believe that the political, cultural and geographical differences among the countries in the region do not pose an obstacle in front of a strong and effective regional architecture in the field of defence and security. On the contrary, we think that there is a common interest of both regional and non-regional actors in keeping regional peace and enhancing prosperity.

TURKEY

Esteemed guests;

The transformation processes experienced globally in political, social and economic fields are deeply felt particularly in our vicinity, and

our country is passing through a period facing huge humanitarian tragedies nearby.

Turkey is situated in an extremely important region at the crossroads of the Balkans, Caucasasia and the Middle East, but at the same time, it is a region suffering from instability requiring continuous update of effective security needs. More than 10 out of 20 current areas of conflict in the world are unfortunately in the geographical area surrounding our country.

Our country has a critical geographical position in the heart of the Afro-Eurasian region, which has been the focus of various geopolitical theories for centuries. Having presence in this challenging geography, sustaining a stable and prosperous state throughout history necessitated being strong not only in terms of other factors, but also in military terms.

Turkey is situated at the center of the Afro-Eurasian Region, where global competition is intensely present, in a critical zone open to the effects of geostrategic interactions in the north-south and east-west axes. Our country being at the intersection of Asia, which is becoming the geoeconomic center of gravity of the world, Africa, which is getting more attractive with her emerging economy and natural richness, and Europe, which is relatively losing its weight in the global balance in terms of its economic, political and military power, is exposed to the tensions caused by all these global scale transformations.

The fragile structure of the Middle East became even more fragile with the process of the “Arab Spring” which started in North Africa in 2010 and quickly spread to a wide geographical area. This regional dynamic process, which has changed the bilateral relations systematics with the countries in the region according to the new parameters, turned into a global geopolitical competition involving international actors as well in a short period of time.

The actions of radical/terrorist groups, who have found a vast field of movement in the emerging unstable environment, on the one hand, rendered some of the political borders in the region indistinctive, and on the other hand, it started to negatively affect the relations of the Western world with the Muslim communities elevating the perception of terror in a vast geographical area including Europe. Irregular migration may cause significant social and security problems both for our country and for European countries.

All these developments push the current global order to change. However, in this period of time; when the unipolar world of the post-Cold War environment is evolving into a multipolar structure, the will and capacity to intervene of traditional centers of power are decreasing, and there is still ambiguity regarding how the emerging powers will integrate with the global order; it is estimated that it will not be easy to establish a new comprehensive and stable order.

It is almost impossible for the countries to counter the risks and threats that increase with globalization and the content of which diversify day by day alone. For that reason, Turkey takes place in many international cooperation mechanisms and participate as much as possible to peace support operations within the framework of her international liabilities, national interests, potential and capabilities.

Nevertheless, some crises in our region have shown that sometimes interests may precede the spirit of alliance in international relations, and an organisation regarded as terrorist by us can unfortunately be accepted as safe by others. This is the reason why, in our geography, there is always a need for a strong Armed Forces taking its roots from the heart of our society, depending on national industry and policies.

In this period of time, it is important to be a strong country of peace and stability in the region more than ever. Having sea and land borders with many countries, our country is surrounded with a circle of fire.

In this constantly changing and increasing complex and uncertain security environment, our country attaches great importance to the safeguard of NATO's military and political effectiveness in terms of our national security. The situation ended up with in the Balkans in our close vicinity in the crises experienced in the last two decades despite the interventions of NATO and the United Nations is clear. Stability has not been fully achieved yet in the region.

Having the Turkish Armed Forces ready at all times in ensuring the security of the country by having a dissuasive impact on the risks and threats in the environment of instability and uncertainty in this geographical area hosting risks and threats such as international terrorism, ethnic and sectarian conflicts, as well as in having peaceful settlement of disputes in the region, in relieving the tension, in preventing them from developing into armed conflicts or in limiting the aggressors, is one of the crucial elements of our security strategy.

Turkey is following a dynamic and visionary foreign policy in order to further the developments in the region, where the changes are deeply felt, in a favorable environment. Within this framework, implementing a multidimensional, prudential, constructive, preemptive, realistic and responsible foreign policy is one of the most important tools that would enable Turkey to reach her targets in both national and international arena.

In this period of time, when the threats are increasing day by day, Turkey is determined to play a constructive role in her region and beyond within the balance that we achieved between the universal and long-

lasting values that we defend, and our national interests. The political and economic power possessed by our country, the opportunities and stability enabled us to maintain our decisiveness and our will to sustain solution and human based policies against the huge problems we are surrounded with.

As a result of this approach and efforts, Turkey has become a leading country aiming to establish a growing circle of peace and prosperity in her region with her increasing potentials and capabilities, providing stability and security, spending great efforts to establish an order that would pave the way for prosperity, human development and long-lasting stability.

Thanks to this understanding of foreign policy, Turkey is regarded as a country safeguarding human rights, democracy, rule of law and social justice in the region and as a country looking for the dissemination of these values.

Accepting the accession process to the European Union as an indispensable part of our strategic targets and foreign policy, our country takes active role in all the operations of NATO to establish global security. In addition, our country is holding the Secretariat Chairmanship for 2015-2017 of the Southeast Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Process, which was established to maintain peace and stability in the Balkans.

Deep-rooted state and democracy tradition of Turkey, her advantages stemming from history and geography, young and productive population and dynamic economy are the key factors in her success in this policy.

On the other hand, Turkey is strengthening her relations with both USA and European countries within the framework of Transatlantic relations that are deemed highly important; and Turkey furthers her relations with the countries in the Balkans, Middle East and North Africa, South Caucasus, South Asia and Central Asia, which she has close relations and historical and cultural ties with. In a world, where distances do not matter anymore with the effects of globalization, we are opening our horizons to Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific regions and developing close relations depending on concrete cooperation with the countries in the region hosting many emerging powers.

While our foreign policy is enhancing the bilateral and regional relationships, we also aim at ensuring global peace, stability and security with the help of the synergy that will emerge from these enhanced relations.

With her human focused foreign policy attracting the attention of the whole world, our country is the leading actor of the hope for a stable, secure and prosperous future in the region surrounded by crises and various risks.

At the end of the day, Turkey is putting her foreign policy in practice on the basis of the principle of “Peace at Home, Peace in the World” of our Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, with an extensive and constructive vision, taking full advantage of all the opportunities we have.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

His Excellency the Prime Minister,

Esteemed Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear guests,

At the end of my remarks, I would like to, once again, thank and congratulate those who spent efforts in the organization and contributed to the success of the Putrajaya Forum. I would like to say that I strongly believe that the Forum will serve the global peace and stability by facilitating the exchange of information by high level participants on both regional and global issues.

Thank you.