

Official Reception Address
Ambassador Naci Koru, Deputy Foreign Minister, Turkey
(15 October 2015, 19.30)
(Istanbul)

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening,

I warmly welcome you all to this reception marking the end of the second day of GFMD deliberations.

This Summit is being held when issues of migration and refugee movements are high on the international agenda. The worst humanitarian crisis in recent history is unfolding in Syria, right before our eyes.

Since both natural and man-made disasters of our time affect millions of people globally, much more is needed to be done. One in seven persons on our planet is a migrant, one billion in total, and billions more are impacted by migration daily.

The Summit presents us a great opportunity to strengthen and come up with new paths for further global cooperation with a view to better managing migration and protecting human lives. This is also the right platform for strengthening the networks between and among states and international organizations and civil society.

At the same time, this GFMD gathering is the first high level international event following the adoption of “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This makes our efforts and our work within the GFMD ever more important.

As the Chair of 2014-2015 of GFMD, we intend to promote the positive linkages between migration and development; by protecting the human and labour rights of migrants and devising policies to strengthen the impact of human mobility for sustainable development.

Distinguished participants,

Turkey has a long tradition of providing safe harbor for people in dire need, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds.

Based on this legacy, we are today engaged in a humanitarian diplomacy aiming to alleviate all types of humanitarian crises.

Rather than giving voice to negative perceptions of migrants, the international community must challenge anti-migrant sentiments and focus on promoting the positive benefits provided by migration, both to countries of origin and destination.

With these thoughts in mind, I extend my sincere thanks to all of you for joining us and wish you a successful conclusion for the Summit meetings tomorrow.

Thank you.