

**Statement by HE Mehmet Ceylan
Deputy Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey**

**(Third International Conference of Small Island Developing States, Apia – SAMOA)
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Excellencies,
Honourable Prime Ministers and Ministers,
Delegates,

It is an honour for me to take part in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and I would like to thank the Government and the people of the Independent State of Samoa for their hospitality.

Turkey deems declaration of 2014 as the International year of the SIDS to be of particular importance for the acknowledgement of challenges that the SIDS are faced with.

Turkey is pleased to have lent its support to the preparations of this conference. We are also committed to our continued cooperation for addressing the challenges faced by SIDS.

Turkey's political engagement with the SIDS has gained a fresh momentum with two important meetings held this year in Istanbul. The first meeting was organised on 7-8 June between Turkey and the Pacific SIDS. The second one took place on 18 July 2014 with the CARICOM countries. The outcome documents named "The Bosphorus Declaration on Cooperation between Turkey and the Pacific Small Island Developing States" and "The Istanbul Declaration on a New Era of Cooperation and Consultation between Turkey and the Caribbean Community" will shape our efforts, partnership and dedication towards the SIDS.

Being convinced that international peace, security and development are linked, Turkey has traditionally been a strong supporter of the development efforts of the LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs. In this regard, Turkey has steadily increased the amount and the geographical scope of its ODA in recent years, which now amounts to 3.3 billion US dollars.

Furthermore, Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) is actively engaged in development cooperation efforts towards all SIDS.

Turkey's ODA to SIDS amounted almost 11 million US Dollars in the 2010-2012 period. Turkey will continue to address the development challenges and concerns of the SIDS when we will assume the Presidency of G-20 in 2015.

Considering the existential threat posed by climate change, Turkey is pleased to have partnered with the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change established in 2014 with the participation of Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.

As the natural disasters are on the rise, Turkey also continues to promote international cooperation in the area of disaster management and reduction through initiatives like HOPEFOR, which Turkey currently co-sponsors with the Dominican Republic and Qatar.

Similarly, considering the importance of migration for SIDS, I would like to add that Turkey will play an active role on this issue as the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development for 2014-2015.

As a country, which has become the 3rd largest government donor of humanitarian aid for the year 2013 and as the host country of first ever World Humanitarian Summit to be held in 2016, Turkey stands ready to work with SIDS so that their concerns are properly addressed during the preparations of this important Summit.

Against this background, we believe that Turkey can bring significant added value to global and security in the present era of critical and rapid change. This is the main reason that we are running as a candidate of the Security Council for the term 2015-2016. Turkey is and will remain as a reliable partner of the SIDS, amplifying their voice in different regions and countries of the globe, including international organisations.

SIDS cannot carry the burden of change alone.

To generate the political commitment and international support needed to tackle the challenges SIDS face, Apia conference should be the beginning of the new era for SIDS.

Let's join our forces and opportunities together to make Apia a path for global action.

Thank you very much for your attention.