STATEMENT BY H.E. PROF. DR. VEYSEL EROĞLU

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Honorable President,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Republic of Turkey, I would like to express my most sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for hosting this historic Conference.

Combating climate change goes beyond the sole capability of any single state.

I believe that, in order to ensure our economic, environmental and social future, we need to achieve a meaningful outcome during this Conference.

Distinguished Colleagues,

At this stage, I would like to briefly touch upon the steps taken by Turkey in combating climate change.

Comprehensive projects and programs are undertaken in the sectors of energy, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry, waste management as well as other related fields.

Extensive investments have been made to utilize our hydro-power, wind and geo-thermal potential in an effective manner.

We aim at increasing the share of renewable energy resources in our total energy production up to thirty percent (30 %) by the year two thousand twenty three (2023) .

Extensive investments were encouraged in order to improve and expand public transport modes, as well as the improvement of fuel quality and use of bio-fuels in transportation.

Comprehensive work is also conducted with respect to the protection of forests, as major carbon sink areas, in particular by aforestation activities.

An ambitious aforestation and reforestation campaign has been started with a target of two point three (2.3) million hectares of land in a five-year period.

Turkey has made considerable progress in the fight against forest fires and we are further undertaking strong measures and long-term investments in this field.

Distinguished Participants,

The post-2012 regime has to be fair, balanced and inclusive.

For utmost efficiency, It should also demonstrate some degree of flexibility in structure.

This is the only way we can reach a fair and a long-lasting agreement.

However, it is imperative that long-term mitigation and adaptation actions are undertaken in accordance with national and regional circumstances as well as economic and social development requirements .

Developed countries, based on their historical responsibilities, should take a strong lead in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, financing and technology transfer.

On the other hand, we believe that the classification of country parties under the Convention is not reflecting the realities and needs of today. We therefore would like to continue discussion of this issue.

The special circumstances of Turkey were recognized in COP7. This has placed Turkey in a special position within Annex I and deleted its name from Annex II. Following that, Turkey has became a Party to the Convention.

Once again, I would like to emphasize the special circumstances of my country . Turkey is an Annex I country and a member of the OECD. Turkey's historical cumulative greenhouse gas emissions are significantly lower than other Annex I countries. In fact, the historical share of Turkey in global greenhouse gas emissions is only zero point four percent (0.4 %).

Turkey has been undergoing a rapid and continuous growth. Such process has been scaling up our energy demand considerably. The annual average increase in demand for electric power, in Turkey is now about seven per cent (7%)

In line with our development process, we foresee that the demand for energy will further increase in the long-term.

Therefore, it would not be realistic to reduce emissions with respect to a specific base year.

Our aim is to reduce emissions from the business as usual scenario.

In this respect, Turkey made a submission regarding her special circumstances to the Conference of Parties.

The negotiations during the last two weeks were based on this argument and now we expect it to be fully adopted.

I hereby would like to call for your valuable support for the adoption of Turkey's proposal.

Our objective is to obtain the necessary flexibility and support provided for those country parties whose per capita green house gas emission profiles, economic and social development indicators are similar to Turkey, in order to enhance Turkey`s ability to better implement the Convention

Concluding my words, I hope that an acceptable and functional outcome for all Parties can be reached.

Furthermore Honorable Madame President, I would like to assure you of our support in your efforts to reach a successful outcome in Cancun.

I thank you.