

**SPEECH NOTE FOR H.E. PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON FOOD SECURITY**  
**(November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2009)**

**Your Excellency General Secretary of United Nations**

**Honorable Heads of States and Governments**

**Honorable General Director of FAO**

Distinguished Participants

At the outset, I would like to express my pleasure to address you on the occasion of this important summit. I, in particular, thank H.E. Jacques Diouf, FAO General Director, and his staff for organizing this prominent event.

The subject of summit is one of the most vital global issues of today's world. For long years, everybody exerted efforts to overcome hunger and poverty in the world. However, in spite of all these endeavors, increasing number of the hungry and undernourished people does not only indicate that something is wrong but also is a global problem and a common responsibility of wealthy and powerful countries.

In my speech, I would like to touch upon global food security problem and Turkey's approach to the solutions, also, what we did about and what is our contribution to the issue, and then share our some recommendations.

**Distinguished participants,**

As is known, the hunger throughout the world has significantly increased due to the food crisis experienced in 2006 and the impacts of economic crisis broken out in 2007. Growing impacts of climate change have exacerbated this situation. Increasing food security considerations, difficulties in accessing the food stuff in reasonable ways and prices led to internal conflicts and demonstrations in many countries.

Today, the fact that over 1 billion people go to bed hungry every night is unacceptable. Although increases in agricultural products' prices during 2007 and 2008 created relatively

positive outcomes for the farmers in developed countries, the farmers in less developed and developing countries were affected negatively by these increases. Increase in cereal production in the world was record high in 2008. However, this production increase was mainly in developed countries by 11%, while it was 1.1% in developing countries. The farmers in developed countries who are already in a good situation tip the scales in their own favor with respect to price increases. The farmers in less developed and developing countries were not able to produce at a satisfactory level since they could not afford the required input. This especially deepened the hunger and poverty in low- and fixed-income populations in rural and urban areas.

Another outcome of the economic crisis was immigrant workers' losing their jobs due to the crisis and could not make remittances to their families.

Likewise, official development assistances and emergency assistance made by developed countries for less developed countries are estimated to decrease due to the economic crisis they went through.

### **Distinguished participants,**

There still exist some problems such as low agricultural productivity, high population growth rate in less developed countries, insufficient water resources, more frequent floods and droughts than normal, insufficient funds for agricultural investment and Research-Development activities. Additionally, income level of people in developing countries is improving day by day, hence their food consumption habits are changing and they tend to consume protein more than ever.

In spite of the developments achieved in many fields, problems are becoming unmanageable. This is because traditional management and understanding reached to its limits, individual and social demand climbed, expectations raised, balances reached marginal, and risk of sensitivity and vulnerability increased.

In order to solve all these problems, we have to begin with encouraging the investments in the agricultural sector. In long term, investment in agriculture will both generate yield for those doing this business and prevent the occurrences of food crisis that we experienced. Giving

priority to small farmers in agricultural support and facilitating their access to production inputs will be quite beneficial in the solution of this problem.

I wish to underline an important point regarding this issue. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is rather important since it is a global resource to produce new food stuff to feed the world's population, overcome food insufficiency, develop new species which are convenient for environment and climate change. Conservation of biodiversity as being an asset and wealth of the earth falls under responsibility of all countries. Turkey will continue to struggle and cooperate with other countries.

**Distinguished participants,**

We support the efforts and energy exerted and initiatives launched by international organizations like FAO and WFP to ensure food security in the world. However, the gradual increase in the number of the hunger throughout the world despite all these endeavors indicates the necessity of restructuring such activities. Giving priority to field studies in the restructuring works, providing a closer coordination and cooperation between the UN institutions and countries will significantly contribute in the solution. Each country should contribute in the process in proportion to its resources and means. And these contributions should be coordinated in compliance with the objectives by an institution or institutions. A mechanism is needed to direct these financial, technical assistance, scientific contribution and administrative and organizational support to regions and areas in need. Consequently, countries should directly involve in the process through their regional and local authorities. On this occasion, I would like to emphasize that we, as Turkey, give full support to the declaration which has been prepared for this summit and, I believe, will considerably contribute in the solution.

**Distinguished participants,**

As it is known, agriculture is such an activity causing green house gas emissions at a considerable extent as well as being a sector producing raw material for food and fiber. Hence, while agricultural productivity is enhanced, its impacts on environment should be well analyzed. Instead of daily solutions, long term and sustainable solutions should be adapted. Otherwise, it is inevitable for human being to face with more serious problems.

**Distinguished participants,**

I would briefly mention Turkish agricultural sector. Turkey is an important agricultural producer. We managed to enhance agricultural productivity considerably by means of some measures we took recently. Our target is to make these production and productivity sustainable. To this end, we enforced a set of legal arrangements. Also we decided to restructure the Ministry of Agriculture considering that food security and safety issue has gained utmost important in the world's agenda lately. We deem suitable to replace the name of Ministry with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Turkey has not been affected by the last food crisis dramatically. In order to meet food need of the poor; our municipalities and the General Directorate of Social Aid and Solidarity provide food aid to predetermined poor families.

Turkey significantly contributes in food security at global scale. We provide food aid by means of international organizations and Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency. Development assistance provided by Turkey in 2008 amounted to 780 million US dollar. Also we reserved a considerable fund for food security projects to be implemented in the countries of interest of FAO Sub Regional Office for Central Asia established in Ankara in 2006. Many projects will be implemented in those countries in the coming period with financial, technical and administrative supports of our Government in order to contribute in sustainable food security programs. Turkish Government will continue to finance such projects. In addition to this, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs organized and will organize training programs in its research institutes for the technical staff from Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia in cooperation with Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency.

Before concluding my words, I would like to underline that we, as being Turkey, will maintain our support for international endeavors in the field of food security. Thank you.