

Dinner Speech
H.E. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Turkey
(14 October 2015, 20.00)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct pleasure to host you here this evening in majestic Istanbul, an always sprawling, vibrant and rich metropolis that has for millennia straddled multiple routes of migration.

Turkey is **honored to Chair the GFMD** at this crucial time, when we are confronted with staggering **refugee and migration flows; the worst since World War II.**

Enriched by our centuries-old experience living at the crossroads of international migration, we in Turkey are very familiar with the issue of migration from all its angles: **origin, transit and desired destination.**

While **5 million of our citizens** live abroad, we have also **become a destination** country for migrants, due in large part to our economic growth and prosperity.

As an island of stability in an otherwise volatile region and based on the lessons learned from history, **Turkey today is a safe haven** for **more than two million** Syrians and Iraqis who are fleeing war, conflict, persecution and terror.

We are resolved to do everything we can to strengthen international cooperation with a view to better managing migration and protecting human lives.

At this time of crisis, when we are on the brink of potentially massive migrant movements, **the full commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders is needed more than ever.**

The theme of our Chairmanship speaks to this point; **“Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development.”**

During our Chairmanship, we fully committed to, and actively worked for the inclusion of **migration related targets** to the **Post 2015 Development Agenda**. And **we have succeeded.** This is a significant achievement we must build upon.

Distinguished Guests,

It is clear that **migrants need more than emergency response.**

They also need **prospects for the future**; a future in which their rights are respected and they are able both to benefit from and contribute to development.

Our work within this Forum is **vital** in this regard. As Chair, we will **continue to build on the GFMD's record** of accomplishments, with the understanding that we must enhance and spread the benefits of migration for all.

Dear Friends,

It is truly a **privilege** for us **to host the 8th Summit** meeting in Istanbul and I would like to thank you all for your participation, active engagement, strong support and valuable contributions.

I wish you a pleasant evening and fruitful working sessions in the next two days.

Thank you.