

SPEECH NOTES FOR
IPU 141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESS

14 October 2019 / 16:00

Sava Center Hall 1/0 Ground Floor/ Belgrade

**Honourable Speakers of Parliaments,
Honourable Parliamentarians,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to start my speech by expressing my pleasure on behalf of the Turkish Grand National Assembly for being able to attend the 141st General Assembly of the Interparliamentary Union held in this exceptional capital.

Allow me to congratulate the Serbian officials in the person of Madame Speaker Maja Goykovic on account of hosting this challenging yet very pleasant meeting, and to thank them for their hospitality.

I would also like to congratulate and thank the IPU President Ms. Gabriela Cuaves Barron and her team for the

outstanding efforts they have made for organising the 141st IPU General Assembly.

Honourable Friends,

We are going through times in which the course of history has begun to change. Having been spent with wars, conflicts and slaughters, the political, legal and economic equilibriums of the 20th century have been disrupted;

rendered unfunctional and incapacitated. International organisations and platforms of the previous century have failed to produce the conditions for peace, minimum prosperity and humane living for the world and the entire humanity. International organisations and platforms acted on dual standards, which situation has come to offend the eyes more lately.

While certain countries like Afghanistan and Iraq have been intervened on the grounds that they have failed to observe United Nations resolutions, no one is raising their voice against Israel, a country that has disregarded tens of United Nations resolutions and violated the same as if to mock the rest of the world.

And finally, no country other than Turkey and several more have raised serious voices against Israel who declared that they annexed the invaded Syrian territory known as the Golan Heights despite the United Nations resolution.

It is this kind of double dealing that has eaten at and ultimately destroyed the reliability of said international organisations and platforms.

The world and the peoples are in a new search. In international politics, international law, international trade and economy, the entire world is in search of a new order. A new world must be built through a new paradigm which is far from dual standards, is based on the hegemonic equality of all states and not just several states, believes in the equality of all humans and not just those belonging to a

certain race or faith, and subscribes to the conditions of minimum prosperity and humane living for the entire world.

As Turkey, we believe that such a world as desired by the entire peoples of the world will be built soon. That is why we are raising our voice at every platform. We voice our call to all states and peoples at every platform. The existing world,

this dual standard and unjust international order is far from being sustainable.

Based on this understanding, we have developed a proactive and humanitarian foreign policy. Presently, Turkey is one of the few countries that can build and maintain high-level relationships with all countries thanks to the fact that

we have the largest representative network across the globe with 243 foreign missions.

The humanitarian aspect of Turkey's foreign policy, too, is very important, and can set an example for other countries. Today, Turkey hosts the highest number of refugees with over 4 million people, of which over 3,6 million are Syrian Arabs, Kurds and Turkmens.

If that is not enough, Turkey has, according to reports of international organizations, provided the highest amount of humanitarian aid within the last two years. Turkey may not be the richest country of the world, but we are the most generous.

Honourable Parliamentarians,

I would like to avail myself to this opportunity to touch upon the Operation Peace Spring which has been launched to neutralize the threats posed by the terrorist organisation nested at the southern border of Turkey. The sole purpose of this operation is to prevent the terror threat that has recently been directed at Turkey from unstable and uncontrolled areas in the North of Syria.

(This operation is being carried out in line with our right to self-defence as outlined in Article 51 of the UN Charter and Security Council Resolutions 1373(2001), 1624(2005), 2170(2014) and 2178(2014), 2249(2015), on the basis of the rules of international law, and in full respect to the territorial integrity and unity of Syria.)

Turkey is for the territorial integrity and political unity of Syria. We believe it to be crucial for both our own security and regional stability. In line with such understanding,

Turkey takes part in all kinds of initiatives, including primarily the Astana process, which aim at instating lasting peace in Syria.

Turkey has a 911-kilometre border with Syria. In other words, Turkey's position is different from those countries which are not directly affected by the affairs in this country.

Syria is yet to establish control along this entire border and in some parts of its own territory.

Taking advantage of this vacuum, certain terrorist organisations have organised themselves in such way to carry out armed and terrorist attacks against Turkey. Within the last one year, more than 100 terror attacks have been

carried out inside Turkish borders by the terrorist organisation PYD-YPG, the Syrian offshoot of PKK.

Despite Turkey's genuine and patient efforts to exhaust all sorts of non-military options to neutralise such terrorist organisations, it has so far not been possible to neutralise the cross-border structuring of the terrorist organisation

known as PYD-YPG, which is in truth the Syrian offshoot of PKK.

Turkey's sensitivities and its concerns regarding the threats toward its own territorial integrity and the security of its people have so far gone unanswered.

Turkey was therefore forced to intervene –on a temporary basis and for the sole purpose of eliminating the threat of terrorism against itself– in this region which has become a nesting ground for terrorist groups.

This is a limited action which will contribute not only to Turkey's security but also to regional peace and Syria's integrity. Furthermore, the bilateral agreement known as

Adana Accord, which was signed by and between Syria and Turkey in 1998, does openly allow for such action.

Terrorism is an essential threat to national, regional and global security. That is why our country continues and will continue its efforts for eliminating all kinds of threats posed to itself by terrorist organisations like FETO, PKK/PYD/YPG, DAESH and DHKP-C, and for preventing activities of such

terrorist organisations by resorting to military, economic, diplomatic and all other means necessary.

While no one seems to have any problem with other countries, including primarily the US and France, who have come from thousands of miles away to conduct military operations in Syria purporting to be fighting terrorist organisations, criticising Turkey for fighting a terrorist

organisation that is deployed a few meters away from its borders is far from being rational, lawful or sincere.

We will also not shy away from exposing certain countries who fight those terrorist organisations that harm themselves but back those terrorist organisations that attack Turkey. DAESH is a blood-guilty terrorist organisation for Turkey as it is for many other countries. Having said that, the PKK –

and its Syrian offshoot PYD and YPG– is also a blood-guilty terrorist organisation like DAESH. As Turkey, we are astonished to see certain NATO allies of ours siding with a terrorist organisation while we expect them to stand by our side against such terrorist organisations. Hence, we would like to ask those NATO allies of ours who have condemned our operation in Syria: Who is your ally really? Turkey, or the PKK terrorist organisation?

Honourable Friends,

Although we have been unable, due to time constraint, to express our views on the humanitarian crisis taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, the state terror committed by Israel in relation to Palestine, and the Cyprus question, I would like

to note that our stance on these matters is for exercising international law and justice.

I wish for the 141. General Assembly of IPU to bear auspicious results for all participants. I greet all of you cordially and respectfully as I wish outstanding success in your efforts.