



**SPEECH TO BE ADDRESSED BY
H.E. SEBAHATTİN ÖZTÜRK,
MINISTER OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
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**Highly-Esteemed Ministers,
Distinguished Participants,**

I see this meeting as an opportunity to emphasize the security threat which my country faces due to the conflict in Syria and Iraq, as well as our expectations.

No durable solution can be found, without taking effective measures against the root causes of the global spread of the terrorism.

It is high time that international community should take decisive actions with respect to the dire situation in Syria and Iraq.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Turkey has been warning her allies against the threat stemming from radical groups in the region.

Let me underline that the terrorist organizations in the region are, in the first place, a direct and clear threat to Turkey.

Turkey has begun to take the necessary measures on the phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighter (FTF) long before the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Such measures have yielded results in a very short span of time.

In two-thousand and thirteen, **two thousand sixty six persons**, who are suspected of travelling to the conflict zone were included in our no-entry list.

Now, there are more than **sixteen thousand** people from **one hundred and six** different countries in our no-entry list.

In two-thousand and thirteen, the number of persons we deported from Turkey on suspicion of being FTF was **one hundred and ninety two**.

As of today, we have deported **one thousand eight hundred and twenty six** persons in total from **eighty three** different countries.

We established Risk Analysis Units as of April two-thousand and fourteen at our airports and border zones, more than one thousand persons were found risky by these units and their entrance was denied into our country.

Highly-Esteemed Ministers,

We see some simple approaches that attempt to render the FTF problem only to the Turkey-Syria border security measures.

Turkey has provided protection for around two million Syrian and Iraqi citizens and spent over five billion dollars from her own budget and received very little international support.

Yet still, we cannot completely close our borders for transits due to the humanitarian grounds.

The most essential issue with respect to combating against FTF is to prevent such persons from leaving their country of origin.

Such persons must be intercepted at their transit countries before reaching our border gates and timely exchange of information should be ensured.

Besides, we should also combat the groups gathering militia to DAESH and other organisations and assisting their travels.

In the course of last months, Turkish security units have undertaken outstanding operations in this regard.

Distinguished Participants,

Despite all these efforts, Turkey is being subjected to the unfair criticism.

Unfortunately, even after the heinous terrorist attack in the last week in our country, we have again faced some insidious comments questioning the determination of Turkey.

I, at your presence, once again condemn all such these allegations that shamelessly went as far to imply that Turkey supports DAESH.

Turkey, co-chair of Global Counterterrorism Forum and Working Group on FTF of the Coalition against DAESH will maintain her efforts in this sense.

Let me once again repeat that our country is determined to maintain her decisive approach in combating any kind of terrorism in cooperation with her Allies.

Thank you.

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