The Ankara Conference on Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution

"Using Cultural Diplomacy as a Tool to Build Sustainable Peace"

Ankara, April 17th-19th, 2012
Thank you!

The ICD would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all those in the organisation of the conference and to the entire Cultural Diplomacy in Africa & Mediterranean team, including Dragos Prodan, Pauline Soudier, Rudolf Sulik, Shizuka Arai, Ksenija Kovacic, Madalina Puiu and Julia Richter.

Special thanks go to team leaders Youssef Benbakka and Myriam Zekagh for all of their hard work, inspiration and dedication to the success of the conference.

Finally, the ICD and all of the organisers would like to thank the participants and speakers, whose enthusiasm and participation were a vital contribution to the phenomenal success of this exciting and vibrant international event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.
Introduction

The Ankara Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution explored how Cultural Diplomacy could be used as a tool for peacebuilding and for solving conflicts. The conference agenda focused on analysing current conflicts and what role cultural diplomacy has played in the past and could play in the future in terms of building peace.

The program examined how culture can have a crucial role in the field of conflict resolution and how intercultural dialogue and cooperation through cultural relations can help in terms of building sustainable peace.

The Ankara Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution 2012 was the brainchild of Cultural Diplomacy in Africa & Mediterranean, a program of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy. CDAM aims at sharing the ICD’s philosophy that diplomacy must transcend mere discussion and include practical implementation of theory. Sometimes actions speak louder than words: cultural diplomacy must show rather than tell. For this conference, the ICD had the pleasure of benefiting from the support of the Hon. Yasar Yakis (Former Foreign Minister of Turkey) and from the ARI Movement, a Turkish think tank.

The program consisted of lectures, seminars, debates and panel discussions featuring leading figures from international politics, diplomacy, academia, civil society. It provided everyone with an extraordinary opportunity for networking both during the conference and in the group dinners and social activities.

The following report is a summary of the Ankara Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution. It provides key themes, information on speakers including lecture topics and keynote interviews.
Speakers

Azu Ozyurt
Moderator, CNN Turkey

Gulsun Bilgehan
Member of the Turkish Parliament

Elijah Bush
Managing Director, Syncretic Solutions Research & Consulting

Ali Oguz Dirioz
Researcher, Bilkent University International Relations Department

Çağrî Erhan
Researcher, Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, USAK

Carsten Pauludan-Müller
General Director, The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage

H.E. Amb. Drazen Hrastic
Croatian Ambassador to Turkey

Eirik N. Mathisen
Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ankara

H.E. Amb. Ian Biggs
Australian Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Amb. Jaime Garcia Amaral
Mexican Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Amb. John Holmes
Canadian Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Amb. Marcin Wilczek
Polish Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Dr. Milan Jazbec
Slovenian Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Amb. Osman Faruk Logoglu
Former Turkish Ambassador to the United States

H.E. Amb. Pol De Witte
Belgian Ambassador to Turkey

Shahid Najam
United Nations Resident Coordinator in Turkey

H.E. Amb. Vika M. Khumalo
South African Ambassador to Turkey

Yusuf Kanli
Columnist, Hurriyet Daily News

Arda Batu
Vice Chairman, ARI Movement

Ceren Mutus Toprakseven
Researcher, Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, USAK

H.E. Amb. Dusan Spasojevic
Ambassador of Serbia to Turkey

Isabelle Dumont
Second Political Counselor at the Embassy of France in Ankara

H.E. Amb. Jean-Daniel Ruch
Special Middle East Representative, Foreign Ministry of Switzerland

H.E. Amb. Jorge Arancibia Reyes
Chilean Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Amb. Marilyn J. Alarilla
Philippines Ambassador to Turkey

H.E. Amb. Mohamed El Fatah Naciri
Representative of the Mission of the Arab League of Arab States in Turkey

Özlem Piltanoglu
Turkish Columnist, Member of the Turkish Parliament, the Justice and Development Party

Prof. Dr. Serdar Güner
Professor, Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, Bilkent University

Ural Aküzüm
Chairman, ARI Movement

The Hon. Yasar Yakers
Former Foreign Minister of Turkey, President of the ICD Young Leaders Forum

Dr. Zerrin Torun
Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University, Ankara

Dr. Hatice Sitki
Independent Researcher

Heyecan Veziroğlu
Journalist, Researcher, Bogazici University
The Ankara Conference on Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution
Ankara, April 17th-19th, 2012

Participants

Ibrahim Aytac Anli
Christiana Aposkiti
Sibel Atasayi
J. Paul Barker
Veronica Angela Bascella
Zain Beseiso
Isak Bilalli
Elijah Bush
Nurgul Buyukkalay
Tulin Daloglu
Ali Oğuz Diriöz
Marija Dordeska
Prof. Temisanren Ebijuwa

Katrin Eckstein
Michelle Farley
Dr. Demet Isik
Michele Kasdano
Sevda Keskin
Konrad Kiedrzyński
Prof. Pauline Kollontai
Arife Köse
Lotte Laloire
Hussaini Garba Mohammed
Moritz Neugebauer
Ndudi Abel Obioha
Ignasi Torrent Oliva

Rudolf Šulik
PhD Candidate, IR, Matej Bel University, Slovakia

Sibel Atasayi
Political Psychologist, United Nations Development Program, Lebanon

Prof. Talha Köse
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul Şehir University

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Dean, Postgraduate School, Dept. of General Studies, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology

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Researcher, Faith University, Istanbul

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Participant Papers

A number of academic papers were delivered from participants as part of the Ankara Conference. Papers on a variety of subjects related to Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution were presented by the following people:

Ignasi Torrent Oliva
Researcher, Conflict and Security research Cluster the European Center for Minority Issues Flensburg

J. Paul Barker
Researcher, International Relations, Faith University, Istanbul

Dr. Hatice Sitki
Independent Researcher

Sibel Atasayi
Political Psychologist, United Nations Development Programme Lebanon

Prof. Temisanren Ebijuwa
Dean, Postgraduate School, Department of General Studies, Akintola University of Technology, Ladoke, Nigeria

Heyecan Veziroglu
Journalist, Research, Bogazici University, Istanbul

Elijah Bush
Managing Director, Syncretic Solutions Research & Consulting, California, ISS-PhD Candidate, Jacobs University, Bremen

Carsten Pauludan-Müller
General Director, The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage

Rudolf Sulik
PhD. Candidate, International Relations, Matej Bel University, Slovakia & Coordinator, ICD-Africa and Mediterranean Programs

Ali Oguz Dirioz
Researcher, Bilkent University International Relations Department

Summaries of these papers are now exhibited on the website of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and are available through the following link:

The Ankara Conference on Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution
Ankara, April 17th-19th, 2012

Conference Interviews

Interviews were conducted with the following speakers as part of the Ankara Conference for Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution:

Arda Batu  H.E. Amb. John Holmes  Prof. Dr. Serdar Güner
Cagri Erhan  H.E. Amb. Jorge Arancibia Reyes  Shahid Najam
Eirik N. Mathisen  H.E. Dr. Milan Jazbec  Yusuf Kanli
Gulsun Bilgehan  H.E. Amb. Mohamed El Fatah Naciri  Dr. Zerrin Torun
H.E. Amb. Ian Biggs  H.E. Amb. Osman Faruk Logoglu
Isabelle Dumont  Özlem Piltanoglu

Interviews are available in full on video and transcribed online at:

Conference Summary

Tuesday, April 17th, 2012, Ministry of Finance of Turkey

9:00
Registration

9:30
Welcome Words
Arda Batu, Mark C. Donfried

10:00
Opening Lecture: Using Cultural Diplomacy as a Tool to Build Sustainable Peace
The Hon. Yasar Yakis

10:30
Lecture & Discussion: Ignorance as a Source of Conflict, Knowledge as a Way to Conflict Prevention and Solution
H.E. Amb. Jean-Daniel Ruch

11:00
Lecture & Discussion: The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Human Rights
H.E. Amb. Marilyn J. Alarilla

11:30
Coffee Break

12:00
Lecture & Discussion: Cultural Diplomacy – A Challenge of and an Opportunity for the 21st Century
H.E. Amb. Dr. Milan Jazbec

12:30
Lecture & Discussion: Transitioning from a Neighbor to a Member – Implications of EU and NATO Integration for Croatia
H.E. Amb. Drazen Hrastic

13:00
Lunch Break

14:30
Lecture & Discussion: Prospects for Democracy in the Mediterranean – the Rise of Civil Society in the Region
Ural Aközüm, Arda Batu

15:00
Interactive Panel Discussion: Turkey: a Regional Power, Safeguarding a Fragile Security Balance
Moderated by the Hon. Yasar Yakis, with H.E. Amb. Osman Faruk, Prof. Talha Köse

16:00
Coffee Break

16:30
Lecture & Discussion: Turkey’s Emergent Role as a Mediator
Prof. Dr. Bülent Aras

17:00
Lecture & Discussion: Interception of Migrants in the Mediterranean Sea: Exploring the Legal Implications of the Hirsi and Others v. Italy Judgement of the ECtHR
Ceren Mutuş Toprakseven

17:30
Lecture & Discussion: Building Sustainable Institutions to Avoid Future Conflict
Shahid Najam

18:00
Lecture & Discussion: Mediation Capacity of Turkey as a Regional Power
Rudolf Šulík

Lecture & Discussion: Branding (Inter)National Myths and Symbols for Peace: How to Meet Your ‘Other’ Türkiye and Europe/EU
Dr. Hatice Sitki
# Conference Summary

**Wednesday, April 18th, 2012,** TOBB-ETU Headquarters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: An Analytical Framework for Reconciliation Processes – Two Case Studies in the Context of Post-War Bosnia and Herzegovina Ignasi Torrent Oliva</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: What do German Muslim Converts Have to do With Integration and Peacebuilding? Elijah Bush</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Peace, as a Need for Development? The Chilean Experience H.E. Amb. Jorge Arancibia Reyes</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Democratic Transitions in the Mediterranean: Lessons Learned from the Polish Experience H.E. Amb. Marcin Wilczek</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: The Effect of Religion on Foreign Policy Prof. Dr. Serdar Güner</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Multi-lateral Diplomacy: the Case of Nuclear Non-Proliferation H.E. Amb. Ian Biggs</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Turkey’s Strategic Position in the Mediterranean Security Complex Çağrı Erhan</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: EU and Turkish Communication Strategies (2012-2022) – The Media Heyecan Veziroğlu</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion: Energy Security; Conflict &amp; Peace Ali Oguz Dirioz</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Interactive Panel Discussion: Regional Cooperation as a Factor Leading to Sustained Peace Moderated by the Hon. Yasar Yakis, with H.E. Amb. Marcin Wilczek, H.E. Amb. Ian Biggs, Isabelle Dumont, Yusuf Kanli, Ahu Özyurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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</tbody>
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Conference Summary

Thursday, April 19th, 2012, TOBB-ETU Headquarters

10:00
Lecture & Discussion: Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
Sibel Atasayi

10:30
Lecture & Discussion: EU, Soft Power, and the Promotion of Democracy in the Mediterranean
H.E. Amb. Pol De Witte

11:00
Lecture & Discussion: To What Extent can Serbia Joining the EU Help Build Sustainable Peace in the Balkans?
H.E. Amb. Dusan Spasojevic

11:30
Coffee Break

12:00
Lecture & Discussion: Conflict and Memory: Latest Developments in the Relations between France and Turkey
Gülsün Bilgehan

13:00
Lunch Break

14:30
Lecture & Discussion: The Arab Spring and the Identity Crisis
H.E. Amb. Mohamed El Fatah Naciri

15:00
Lecture & Discussion: Cultural Diplomacy – The Republic of South Africa Experience
H.E. Amb. Vika M. Khumalo

Lecture & Discussion: Cultural Diplomacy – Fighting Stereotypes to Promote Dialogue
H.E. Amb. Jaime García Amaral

16:00
Coffee Break

16:30
Lecture & Discussion: The EU’s Mediterranean Policy: Challenges and Prospects
Dr. Zerrin Torun

17:00
Lecture & Discussion: Europe – A Constrained and Fragmented Space on the Edge of the Continental Landmasses. Crossroad, Battlefield and Melting Pot
Carsten Paludan-Müller

17:30
Lecture & Discussion: Turkish Religious Identity and the Question of European Union Membership
J. Paul Barker

18:00
Lecture & Discussion: Post-Conflict Reconstruction as a Tool for Peacebuilding: Challenges and Opportunities
Prof. Alpaslan Özerdem

Concluding Remarks
The Hon. Yasar Yakis
Conference Voices

The Hon. Yasar Yakis

“There are three main components of sustainable peace – political will, which is the most important, economic interdependence strengthening mutual ties and cultural diplomacy with the complementary role to prepare grounds for previous two.”

“While promotion of race is negative and spread of language is positive for facilitating communication, propagation of belief (religious) abroad is ambiguous.”

“The role of Turkey in the region should not be underestimated, but not overestimated either.”

H.E. Amb. El. Dusan Spasojevic

“For Serbia, integrating the EU is a priority, because it belongs to Europe in a political and cultural sense.”

“The question is not whether there can be lasting peace in Balkans without Serbian EU membership, but whether there can be lasting peace without EU membership.”

H.E. Amb. Jaime Garcia Amaral

“Cultural attachés, and cultural ambassadors more generally, have a difficult task: that of ensuring real understanding. In fact, contributing to better understanding of the other is a real tool of peacebuilding.”
Conference Voices

**H.E. Amb. John Holmes**

“Fragile states are the causes of civil wars and conflict. Syria and Iran are lacking the will to take on international obligations, including the protection and respect of human rights.”

“Fragile states often have poverty, high youth unemployment, and poor governance. This ill-equipped governance leads to outbreaks of violence. In order to manage and prevent conflict, states and regional organizations such as the World Bank, the OECD as well as NGOs and the civil society are key actors.”

**H.E. Amb. Mohamed El Fatah Naciri**

“Mediation is one of the possibilities of how to deal with conflict. Canada has been involved in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Darfur and Sudan for comprehensive peace agreements.”

“How to ensure the rule of law in transitional justice processes in conflict development is crucial. It consists of the capacity building of judges, police, and also the enforcement of impartial judiciary.”

“Transitional justice is key element for national reconciliation, regaining trust in public bodies and for sustained peace and stability.”

“Transitional justice should target not only perpetrators but also who suffer most.”

“What is the answer for dichotomy of secularism and religion: the civic regime, which respects religion just as much as it does citizenship?”
Conference Voices

Ural Aküzüm

“When I visited Armenia, I had fear because of the political situation between Turkey and Armenia. However, I received a warm welcome from local people. This personal experience of travelling through Armenia brought about the reason of starting ARI movement to provide chances to people to expose and communicate others.”

“The ARI movement has workshops in remote and undeveloped area because those who live there have not been exposed to diverse people.”

“Turkey has been a strategic region because the West needs to have Turkey. Capitalism needs to get the places to sell Play-stations and iPhones, therefore the West will focus on Turkey to spread democracy. At the same time, Turkey has a strong orientation towards the West and this condition contributes Turkey to be a regional leader.”

H.E. Amb. Marilyn J. Alarilla

“ASEAN has a different enlargement policy with European Union. ASEAN has communist, democratic, and socialist countries.”

“ASEAN has to be united and incorporated, therefore we do not ask the same political system.”

“ASEAN retain our own concept rather enforce the same political system to countries. In order to advance, ASEAN has to corroborate. This is called the ASEAN’s manner of cooperation.”