Develoiments in the World and the Process of Globalization

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OBJECTIVES:
LONG-TERM, STRATEGIC
TURKEY'S MEDIUM AND
institutions, mostly trans-national firms and powerful nation-states, have a supranational impact.

The global risk of ideological conflict has disappeared with the end of the system of military and political balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact that emerged after the Second World War, a system in which developing countries took part through the Non-Aligned Movement. However, there is still a limited risk of regional conflict, as the Gulf War, the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, and civil wars in some African countries exemplify.

At the threshold of the twenty first century, pluralist participatory democracy and liberal market economies have emerged as generally approved practices throughout the world. Developments in the world economy, a rapid increase in the volume of trade in goods and services, improvements in financial markets, an increase in direct foreign investment, rapid developments in technology and especially advances in information and communication technology, have increased international relations and interdependence and allowed the emergence of powerful supranational firms. During this process, as a result of the economic expansion of Asia-Pacific area and Latin America, as well as North America and Europe, countries such as Russia, China, Brazil, India and Indonesia have emerged as major economic and political players.

With the trade in goods and services and capital flows rapidly increasing and technologies (especially information and communication technologies) speedingly developing, interaction among countries, firms and individuals are exerting a strong impact on politics, economy, culture and society.

Globalisation, the departure point of which is the result of the impact of technology and power, has its own pluses and minuses like all social and economic facts. However, this process is effective especially in financial markets and, to a lesser extent, in the real economy. We do not fully know what its effects will be. The effective operation of the global system with the minimum of errors depends upon the functioning of pluralist-participatory democracy, market economics, national and international transparency and interactions within an ethical framework (Figure 1).

The most significant drawbacks that can occur from a future disfunctioning of the global system would be gaps that may arise between individuals and societies that can access information and those that cannot. This may be more serious than the problems of wealth inequality within countries and between developed and the underdeveloped countries. It is probable that individuals, institutions and societies unable to access information will form rigid classes that remain outside of the system. Among the basic problems of the first decades of the twenty first century will be to find solutions, to guide and implement measures to reduce the negative effects of the globalisation process to a minimum level and maximise its positive effects.

**TURKEY-WORLD INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE PROCESS OF GLOBALISATION**

During the process of world-wide rapid change experienced in the late 1980s, a new international system emerged upon the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, ending the bipolar system. Within this new international system, Turkey is situated at the centre of the Eurasian region that has become the focal point of the globe. During this process, Europe has ceased to be divided and the Central and Eastern European countries are being integrated with the Western European institutions. In order to extend the European continent beyond its geographical boundaries and to
enhance its geo-strategic impact, Europe should fully integrate Turkey, which is not only already a European country but also one in a strategic geographical location and with an inner dynamism.

Turkey is situated at an important geographical location, where Europe and Asia meet. Its geopolitical location enables Turkey to include all the characteristics of Europe, the Middle East, Balkans, Caucasian, Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions. Indeed, its location at the cross-roads of an East-West and North-South axis enhances Turkey’s geopolitical importance since it is a natural route for the transfer of the rich energy resources from the Middle-East and Eurasian regions to Europe and world markets.1

As the French historian, Jean-Paul Roux, states, “The place of the Turks in the history of mankind has always been fundamental and hence it is almost impossible to talk about mankind without referring to Turks.” “The history of the Turks goes back two thousand years extending from the Pacific to the Mediterranean, from Beijing to Vienna, to Algeria, to Europe.”2

The Turks are among the most important nations who have played a role over thousands of years of history. In the present period of transition from the twentieth to the twenty-first century, Turkey could be among those societies shaping the future of the world if it efficiently utilises its geopolitical location, physical and social capital, human resources, and cultural wealth.

Turkey’s historical background and its delicate and difficult geo-strategic position (with its positive and negative dimensions) require a global approach to national, regional, and international developments. For a country like Turkey to ensure its optimum state of development: In the light of this general assessment, the determination of Turkey’s medium- and long-term strategies is a scientific problem. In this respect, while taking into account the globalisation process, countries must determine their strategies in a very broad context. Thus, Turkey also has to solve the issue of determining medium- and long-term strategies, not only according to the conditions in the country, but also according to global conditions.

For Turkey to enhance its effectiveness within the existing system of interaction in its own region and in the international arena, not only do economic developments have to be followed, but also developments in international relations, culture, arts, science, and technology, and other areas. Developments in all fields should be followed and the economic and social capital and the human resources of the country should be adapted to this process of rapid change.

In a system established under this strategy of global interaction, there are certain conditions for determining the area of movement of the countries (Figure 2). These conditions require the following:

1. a pluralist-participatory democracy
2. a social state based on the supremacy of the law
3. a technological state in which problems are solved on the basis of technical knowledge (i.e., on the basis of scientific and technological infrastructure with minimum cost and maximum efficiency and effectiveness)
4. a market economy
5. harmonisation with international rules and regulations
6. respect for human rights and responsibilities, and
7. the protection of the environment.
The process should be supported by information and decision-making systems especially through co-ordination, one of the most
effective strategies to ensure that the goals of policies are achieved. The system should be designed to ensure that the information and decision-making processes are
coordinated and that the decisions are made in a manner that is consistent with the overall objectives of the system.

For the Governance, Decision Making and Implementation Processes

Governance decision-making involves the management and coordination of the interactions between different levels of government and stakeholders. It is important to ensure that the decisions made at all levels are consistent and that the implementation of these decisions is effective. This requires a comprehensive understanding of the system and the various components that make it up.

Sub-systems affecting the system

The social system (Figure 3) affects the existing economic and social systems, and in turn is affected by them. The social system is characterized by a set of rules and norms that shape the behavior of individuals and organizations. It is important to understand the interactions between the economic and social systems to ensure that the decisions made at different levels are consistent and effective.
important factors in the implementation of this system is to be in close interaction with the world and international institutions, and to provide effective co-ordination and co-operation within the country, among the public institutions as well as the business sector, universities, research institutions, non-governmental organisations and the press. It is also important that people believe and share the goal of Turkey becoming one of the most effective countries of the world in the coming 10-20 years and their participation in the efforts to this end have to be ensured. In this respect, the general outlook of the country should be presented to the public to enable them to harmonise the requirements and priorities of their own social subgroups or regions with national priorities. They will then be able to influence the decision-making and implementation processes in this direction.

It is possible for Turkey, which is in close interaction with the world, to enhance its regional and global influence to a great extent in the coming decade, provided a system exists within which medium- and long-term objectives are defined rationally according to the optimum result for Turkey, effective co-ordination is provided to the maximum extent to reach these aims, resources are distributed in a rational and balanced way, decisions are effectively implemented. In order to attain this aim, the most important requirements are transparency, a pluralist and participatory democracy, individual and institutional ethics, reliability, quality, stability and continuity in interaction with science, culture, the arts, economy, society and life.