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THE DECLARATION WRITTEN BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE  
“COMMON FUTURE FOR TURKEY AND ARMENIA CITIZENS  
DIPLOMACY PROJECT” 28-30 JUNE 2010 ISTANBUL WORKSHOP



<b>SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG ASSOCIATION TURKEY OFFICE</b>	<b>ANALYTICAL CENTER ON GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION</b>
		
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The deadlock between our countries – Armenia and Turkey- should and can end. This deadlock has been hurting the dialogue between our people for too long. Regardless of our governments' policies, regardless of macro-political constellations, the relationship between our two nations should normalize and step towards a “common future” rather than hiding behind a closed border

We as the participants of “Common Future for Turkey and Armenia Citizen’s Diplomacy” workshop, that took place June 2010 in Istanbul, urge our governments to take the necessary steps towards the opening of the common border between Armenia and Turkey.

There is no doubt that the closed border between our two countries prevents our societies from interacting and communicating and therefore accelerating the normalization process. In that regard, we are more than happy to see that a consensus among us has been reached on the issue of the border opening between Armenia and Turkey.

We should not forget that states are not the sole actors in the domain of international relations. Civil society organizations and other non-governmental actors also have the potential to plan and implement confidence building measures among conflicted countries. In this declaration, we as the participants of “Common Future for Turkey and Armenia Citizen’s Diplomacy” Workshop, have reached a consensus on the necessary steps to be taken on three separate levels. We believe that the governments of Armenia and Turkey should implement and support these steps as listed below in the following three categories: “Bilateral Relations”, “Regional Cooperation” and “Societal Interaction”.

We, ourselves, volunteered to take action and be our own advocates of this “Common Future Declaration”. We call the people of our countries to help us to create a firm basis on which a common and peaceful future can be realized. After all, our shared emotions in hundreds of years of coexistence proves that this is not only 'a thing of the past' but might as well be our way into the future.

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## BILATERAL RELATIONS

- The elected governments of Armenia and Turkey should continuously inform the public about Armenia-Turkey relations
- The oppositions in Armenia and Turkey should play a constructive role in the normalization process
- Civil societies of Armenia and Turkey should continue their influential role in the Armenia-Turkey relations
- More dialogue between domestic opposition and government should be sought in Armenia and Turkey
- Political parties in Armenia and Turkey should be clear in their programs regarding to the Armenian-Turkish relations
- Parliamentary relations between Armenia and Turkey should be established
- Business associations between Armenia and Turkey should be strengthened
- Sister cities or towns should be encouraged between Armenia and Turkey
- Inter-cultural projects should be supported by the government agencies of Armenia and Turkey
- The number of flights between Yerevan and Istanbul should be increased and flag carrier airlines should start direct flights in that route

## REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Armenia and Turkey should play a constructive role in the peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- It should be underlined that the opening of the border will lead Turkey to have more active role in the Armenia-Azerbaijan relations
- The role of the Black Sea Cooperation should be emphasized for regional cooperation
- Armenia should consider to declare her lack of territorial ambitions towards Azeri areas
- Turkey should facilitate Armenia's cooperation with NATO to support Armenia-Turkey cooperation
- The border should be opened in case of emergency such as flood, fire, earthquake, and other natural disasters

## SOCIETAL INTERACTION

- The learning of Armenian and Turkish should be encouraged by universities in Armenia and Turkey
- The accreditation of diplomas in both country should be recognized without waiting for the establishment of diplomatic relations
- Media in Armenia and Turkey should give more time for non-political coverage on Armenian-Turkish relations
- Cultural activities that stress the commonalities among the societies of Armenia and Turkey should be supported
- Reconstructions of historical and religious places should be done by the governments of Armenia and Turkey
- Cooperation between the youth branches of political parties and youth unions should be encouraged
- Cross border university programs should be launched
- Websites and social networks should be founded in favor of bringing Armenian and Turkish youth together
- Workshops should be facilitated in order to remove the negative stereotypes and prejudices between the Armenian and Turkish societies
- A celebratory year of commemoration should be dedicated in both Turkey and Armenia
- Joint sport activities should be organized by interested (local and national) clubs
- The learning of Armenian and Turkish should be supported by civil society organizations of Armenia and Turkey
- The relationship between Turkey and the Armenian Diaspora should be improved with the idea of the Armenian Diaspora is also the “Anatolian Diaspora”
- The welfare of the Armenian society in Turkey should be realized as a state policy
- The usage of offensive words should be prohibited in the context of perceptions and the stereotypes against the other

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