

MESSAGE BY H.E. AHMET NECDET SEZER

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I warmly welcome all participants to the seminar on peace operations. I am confident that this seminar will contribute to a better understanding of the problems encountered in conducting peacekeeping operations and to the international efforts aimed at finding a solution to these problems.

In the changing geostrategic environment of our era, we must be ready to face new risks and challenges. Following the end of the Cold War, uncertainties surfaced in the sphere of security, especially ethnic and religious conflicts, that threaten global peace and stability and underscore how cautious we ought to be in maintaining peace.

The escalation of regional conflicts poses a threat to world peace. In order to cope with the new risks and challenges of the 21st century, prudent nations have acknowledged the need for peacekeeping operations and that new military capabilities are required to conduct these operations successfully.

Finding solutions to problems threatening peace, conflict prevention and establishing, quickly and efficiently, a durable and just peace are of utmost importance. In close cooperation with the United Nations, Turkey takes part in various activities aimed at preventing conflict and securing peace.

In order to establish peace and stability in its region and beyond, Turkey has actively participated in peacekeeping operations led by the United Nations, NATO and the OSCE and will continue to provide concrete contributions to ongoing efforts in that direction.

I believe that this seminar will offer a good opportunity for a productive exchange of views on the problems of peacekeeping operations. I congratulate the distinguished organizers and executive officials of the Center for Strategic Research, Bilkent University and the Folke Bernadotte Academy of Sweden. I wish success and health to all those who will contribute to this useful seminar.