



AB ve Dış İlişkiler Genel Müdürlüğü

Statement of Turkey

**73th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
18 May 2020**

**Statement of Turkey:
H.E. Dr. Fahrettin KOCA, Minister of Health**

**Theme of the WHA: “COVID-19”
Time Limit: 2 minutes**

Honorable Chair,

Esteemed Director General,

Distinguished Delegates,

We have been going through different times in which we are facing the harsh reality of many issues that we have talked about in theory. We have echoed concepts such as Universal Health Coverage and preparedness to health emergencies at World Health Assemblies. The COVID-19 pandemic has put both our national health systems and global health management to a difficult test with regard to these concepts.

Regardless of development level, this test has brought to light which country has better infrastructure and how its health system was designed. As policy makers, we should be able to properly analyze the results of this picture and take sound steps. Only then, we will be able to contribute to a safer future both nationally and globally.

Turkey has been one of the countries, which detected cases the most rapidly and took an important step by starting treatment at an early stage centrally. Thus, it is among the best performing countries in terms of mortality



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rate and burden on the healthcare system. Thanks to the measures taken, Turkey was able to delay the arrival of the virus for 3 months and used this time to prepare its hospitals and healthcare system for the outbreak. Occupancy rate in our hospitals is still below 40% and below %60 in our intensive care units. Turkey is one of the few countries providing all services to its citizens free of charge under universal health coverage. We are always ready to exchange knowledge and experiences.

While we mourn for the ones we have lost, I believe that we should not waste this historical opportunity COVID-19 is offering us with conflicts and disagreements. With this in mind, I would like to emphasize that Turkey will be a part of the global solidarity and the global quest to find solutions.

I would like to thank you and wish you all a fruitful Assembly.