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**Speech note on "Renewable Energies and the Relevance of IRENA"**  
**At the "Founding Conference of the International Renewable Energy Agency**  
**(IRENA)"**  
**Bonn/GERMANY, January 26, 2009**

**Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to convey my special thanks to the organizers of this Conference and to the host government, Germany, for their valuable efforts in bringing together such a distinguished audience today, to establish such an international organisation for renewable energy.

Turkey has been experiencing uninterrupted growth for the past six years. The increase in energy demand has been consistently above the average 7% annual during this period. To meet this sharp increase in energy demand, Turkey needs to maximize utilization of its indigenous resources. Turkey also needs to encourage use of new technologies, to minimize the negative impact of energy generation on environment. We all face the same, serious challenge here: the challenge to both facilitate economic growth, through provision of reliable energy sources, and do this without damaging the environment.

Principals of our strategies available to ensure environmental sustainability are;

- Increasing use of renewables
- Improving efficiency
- Introduction of nuclear power
- Enhancing utilization of efficient co-generation & clean coal technologies

Turkey has taken concrete steps in all these areas. In line with our policy targets, we are trying to increase the share of renewables in our energy mix. Turkey is rich in renewable energy resources: we have hydro, wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. Renewable Energy Law was enacted in 2005 in order to encourage renewables

based generation in competitive market conditions. Supporting mechanisms such as feed-in tariffs and purchase obligation are defined in the law, in conformity with the EU legislation and practice. To display the progress we achieved I just want to state that we had only 17 MW installed wind energy capacity 4 years ago. Now we have nearly 400 MW in operation.

I have to say that we have ambitious targets in the development of renewable energy. These are by 2020:

- 25% of total electricity production from renewable energy ;
- for wind energy 20.000 MW installed capacity ;
- for geothermal energy 600 MW installed capacity ; and:
- for hydropower the whole economically usable potential installed capacity by 2023.

We strongly believe that being a party to IRENA will facilitate to integrate our energy policies and targets. The activities which will be conducted by this Agency will add greater value to the development of renewable energy.

In this context, Turkey is willing to be a founding member of IRENA. We are ready to work together to make renewable energy a growing reality in the years to come.

I would like to highlight that, facing current global challenges requires more collaboration, assistance and understanding among Parties. Turkey is desirous to take play a role in the activities of IRENA.

Thank you for your kind attention, and my best wishes for a successful Conference as a great start for IRENA.