



GİFGRF

GLOBAL İLİŞKİLER FORUMU
GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM

2009-2016

Global Relations Forum (GRF) is an independent, nonpartisan membership association committed to being a platform for imagining, conceptualizing, and advocating a peaceful, fair, inclusive trajectory of progress for humanity.

GRF Overview

Global Relations Forum (GRF), founded in 2009 with the support of prominent Turkish leaders in business, government and academia, is an independent, nonpartisan membership association committed to being a platform for engaging, informing, and stimulating its members and all interested individuals in all matters related to international affairs and global issues.

GRF intends to advance a culture that rewards the fertile tension between passion for intellectual diversity and dedication to innovative and objective synthesis. It nurtures uninhibited curiosity, analytic inquiry, rational debate, and constructive demeanor as the elemental constituents in all its endeavors. It contributes to the shared understanding of and aspiration for humanity's path to peace, prosperity, and progress as an accessible, inclusive, and fair process for all.

*Detailed information about GRF
can be accessed from:*

→ www.gif.org.tr

GRF STUDIES

GRF undertakes policy work on current global challenges ranging from energy to trade, from security to rule of law, synthesizing the contributions of former ministers, diplomats, corporate chairpersons and CEO's, university presidents and prominent academics. GRF's members also work with distinguished individuals in other countries, from the US to the EU, from the Russian Federation to India, to tackle international challenges that threaten the global order. These initiatives to strengthen global cooperative ties are in the tradition of similar institutions in other parts of the world that share the overarching objective of informing, enriching and shaping global policy-making processes.

Task Forces

GRF Task Forces are independent commissions that bring together accomplished individuals to deliberate and reach a consensus on complex topics in foreign policy. Task Forces seek to demarcate the relatively stable long-term trends and structural certainties from the unruly dynamics of complexity and uncertainty and to make balanced judgements on matters that involve medium to long-term uncertainty.

Ongoing Task Forces:

Task Force on Global Trade and Turkey in the 21st Century
Task Force on the Middle East and North Africa Region
Task Force on Higher Education

Completed Task Forces:

Turkey's Approach to Security in the 21st Century
Energy and Climate Change Task Force
Turkey-USA Relations Task Force

Track-II Studies

GRF has initiated Track-II studies with its global counterparts. The objective is to enrich the dialogue between Turkey and other countries and to contribute to foreign policy processes and public diplomacy. It is assumed that this continued exchange will help lay the foundation for new thinking, even a new language.

GRF-Carnegie Moscow Center "Turkey-Russia Relations"

In 2013, GRF and the Carnegie Moscow Center established a Working Group dedicated to exploring the potential for regional cooperation between Turkey and Russia. The Working Group, comprised of senior government officials, diplomats, military officers, and leading experts from both countries, was tasked with developing a constructive framework on how cooperation between the two countries could be practically advanced. The Group presented its consensus policy report to the public in October 2014.

GRF-Ananta Aspen Center "Turkey-India Forum"

In 2015, given the growing importance of India as a global actor and the prospects of Indian-Turkish cooperation, GRF decided to initiate Track-II studies with Indian counterparts. The 4th India-Turkey Forum held on March 28, 2015 paved the way for the establishment of a Track-II study with the Ananta Aspen Centre. In 2016, with the 5th Turkey-India Forum, GRF officially took over the co-leadership of the initiative with its counterpart, Ananta Aspen Centre. Moving forward, GRF members will constitute the Turkish delegation in the Forum.

International Projects

GRF has also launched international projects, which involve the establishment of issue-based partnerships with organizations from around the world whose values, goals and areas of focus coincide with those of GRF. These



GRF Task Forces



GRF Track-II Studies



GRF International Projects



GRF International Projects

initiatives are meant to contribute to the in-depth analysis of various issues of regional as well as global concern, such as security, investment and economic growth, and migration.

Ongoing International Projects:

"Project on the Economic Future of the Middle East and North Africa Region", conducted jointly with Johns Hopkins SAIS

"GRF International Task Force on the Future of the Nuclear Deal with Iran"

Completed International Projects:

The collaboration with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) under the auspices of ISD's "Club of Three" initiative

GRF COMMUNITIES

As a much younger institution compared to its peers around the globe, GRF is also concerned about a relatively new and distinct challenge of policy thinking which reflects the current milieu of fast-paced change. Developing policies that are not easily frustrated by frequent shifts in the global context is a new and overwhelming challenge for the policy community. GRF invests in communities of young thinkers as the main driver of its search for long-term thinking and resilient policy processes. The presumption is that young thinkers are better suited to this intellectual effort as they are less conditioned by current habits and paradigms of traditional analysis.

GRF Young Scholars Seminars

GRF conducts seminar programs for GRF Young Scholars, selected annually from leading universities in Turkey and abroad. The programs aim to instill in its participants an appreciation for the fruitful interaction and synthesis of different opinions, a fundamental premise of GRF.

GRF Young Academics Program

With this program, GRF aims to establish an expanding global community of young academics who, in their policy deliberations focus on global systemic issues. The intellectual capital accumulating as a result of this program will hopefully make a valuable contribution to national and global policy-making in the coming decades.

This program admits young academics who are currently pursuing their doctorate studies or have completed their Ph.D. within the last three years. The program culminates in a policy paper written by the candidate and published by GRF.

GRF Young Professionals Program

Since its foundation, GRF has been directing its resources to enrich Turkey's contribution to the global agenda. The GRF Young Professionals Program was launched to build GRF's practical competence by incorporating young decision-makers into GRF studies. The program is targeted at young professionals who are equipped with the resolve, background, and experience to contribute to the future of Turkey and the world.

GRF Young Global Program

Launched in 2015, GRF's Young Global Program is a unique thought exercise that engages young individuals of the world to reflect on the main constructs/concepts/institutions of human life, imagine their possible paths of evolution over the next two centuries, and identify core values and structures that we wish to preserve in the era of rapid transformation that lies ahead of us.

The participants of the program are individuals who have successfully completed GRF's Young Scholars and Young Scholars Abroad programs, and international participants from the leading universities of the world who were nominated by Young Scholars.



GRF Young Scholars Seminars



GRF Young Academics Program



GRF Young Academics Program, Board Meeting



GRF Young Professionals Program



GRF Young Global Program

Some of the speakers who have visited GRF to share their views on the key issues in Turkey and around the world are listed below



Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister of Australia (F)
"Turkey and Australia: Opportunities for Cooperation on Global Issues"
January 31, 2011



Lawrence H. Summers
U.S. Treasury Secretary (F)
"Global Economic Crisis and Possible Solutions"
September 15, 2011



Madeleine Albright
U.S. Secretary of State (F)
"Turkey-USA Relations"
November 17, 2011



Chuck Hagel
U.S. Secretary of Defense (F)
"The State of Global Relations and the USA"
November 17, 2011



David Willetts
UK Minister of State for Uni. & Sci. (F)
"Co-operation between UK and Turkey in Education, Research and Science"
April 3, 2012



Mr. Sandy Weill,
Former Chairman of Citigroup
"Ongoing crisis in Europe and the global role of the US"
May 15, 2012



Muhtar Kent
CEO of Coca Cola and GRF Member
"Key Skills of Tomorrow's Business Leaders"
June 7, 2012



Dora Bakoyannis
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece (F)
"The Euro Crisis and its Implications for Greece"
June 22, 2012



George Papandreou
Prime Minister of Greece (F)
"Greece and the EU in the Aftermath of the Economic Crisis"
January 25, 2013



Dominique de Villepin
Prime Minister of France (F)
"Turkey and France Relations"
May 15, 2013



David Gardner
Intl. Affairs Editor at the FT
"Evolving Conflicts in the Middle East"
September 24, 2013



Prof. Joseph E. Stiglitz
Vice-President of the World Bank (F)
"Current Global Economic Outlook and Prospects for Growth"
December 19, 2013



Dr. Fatih Birol
Executive Director, IEA & GRF Member
"Macro Changes in the World Energy Outlook"
December 23, 2013



Dr. Patrick Low
Chief Economist at the WTO (F)
"Recent Trends in Global Trade"
May 12, 2014



Michael R. Bloomberg
108th Mayor of New York City
"Global and Local Governance: Social and Economic Trends and Policy Implications"
June 13, 2014



Prof. Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the Earth Inst.-Columbia Uni.
"Sustainable Development Goals and the Prospects for a Long-Term Positive Trajectory"
June 27, 2014



Paul E. Martin
Prime Minister of Canada (F)
"Turkey's G20 Presidency"
October 22, 2014



Abdullah Gül
President of Turkey (F)
"The State of the Turkish-European Relations in the Changing Regional and Global Context"
February 11, 2015



Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey
"Turkey-EU Relations"
June 26, 2015



Frank G. Wisner,
US Under Sec. of Def. for Policy (F) & Under Sec. of State for Int. Sec. Affairs (F)
"The United States, The Middle East, and Turkey"
May 24, 2016



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