The issues on our agenda today are complex and many of them global in character. The political, economic, social and human aspects are intertwined. National security and collective security are the two main interrelated pillars of the general concept of security. In an era defined by globalization, the current security environment has further strengthened this linkage and confirmed that security is truly indivisible.

Preparing the ground for the establishment of a secure and peaceful environment to promote international security, stability as well as sustainable development and human progress still consists the general objectives to reach. In this regard, safeguarding territorial integrity; contributing to collective defense and crisis management operations (such as peacekeeping, humanitarian operations and police missions); preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means and supporting disarmament are among the factors need to be considered carefully.

On the other hand, combating asymmetric threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, disruption of the flow of vital resources, uncontrolled mass movement of people as a consequence of armed conflicts, cyber and also nuclear war risks have turned into threats that require implementation of joint efforts to provide international security in the 21st century.

In this regard, factors such as acceleration of cooperation on a global scale and development of a security perspective based on partnership, dialogue and “hard & soft power” gain prominence in the new international security architecture. In other words, we need to employ a “comprehensive approach” to encounter today’s security threats. As a result, Turkey is trying to mobilize its assets in efficient manner to counter these challenges in its near region but also in wider geography. As we know Turkey, through its cultural, religious heritage and geopolitics, a key regional security player in the Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions and beyond.

I would like to express here in this presentation Turkey’ participation to the comprehensive security efforts in the MENA region under the titles of international security initiatives, operational security measures and human security capabilities.

**International Security Initiatives**

**Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative**

North Atlantic Council initiated Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) in 1994. It currently involves seven non-NATO countries of the Mediterranean region: Algeria, Egypt,
Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Dialogue reflects the Alliance’s view that security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. It is an integral part of NATO’s adaptation to the post-Cold War security environment, as well as an important component of the Alliance’s policy of outreach and cooperation. In line with this firm belief and being a Mediterranean country itself, Turkey strongly supports NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue. Main objectives of the MD are to contribute to regional security and stability and to achieve a better mutual understanding between NATO and the MD countries.

The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), which was launched at 2004 NATO Istanbul Summit, constitutes the institutional framework for the relations between NATO and the four Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates). We are pleased to see that Saudi Arabia and Oman have also shown interest to the ICI. This initiative is not only aimed at enhancing interoperability among NATO and the Gulf Countries, but also further strengthening security and stability in the Middle East. Terrorism, energy security, piracy, trafficking in small arms and light weapons and proliferation of nuclear weapons are the main areas of common interests between the ICI countries and NATO.

On 17-20 September, the NATO-Kuwait ICI Regional Center began its activities in Kuwait City, with the organization of a "NATO Week" focusing on cooperation in: NATO Political and Military issues, the NATO Science for Peace Programme, Cyber Defense, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Consequence Management, Critical Infrastructure and Energy Security, Maritime Security, Crisis Management and Civil Preparedness.

Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial Process (SEDM)

Launched in 1996 with the aim of improving cooperation among regional countries and enhancing security and stability in Southeastern Europe, the Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial Process (SEDM) has maintained its regional and international importance and visibility up to today. There are 15 participating nations in the initiative which are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and United States of America. Moldova is also an observer nation in this process. Presidency of SEDM is for duration of two years. Turkey held the presidency in 2003-2005.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE is the world’s largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization. This organization has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politco-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. The Organization comprises 57 participating States, 6 Mediterranean and 5 Asian Partners for Co-operation. Turkey is one of the 57 participating states.
The Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF)

The Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) was established in 2011 to strengthen the international civilian architecture for addressing 21st century terrorist threats. The United States was a founding co-chair of the GCTF with Turkey; the GCTF is currently chaired by Morocco and the Netherlands. Last week in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, the United States and other members of the GCTF endorsed the *Antalya Memorandum on Good Practices on the Protection of Soft Targets* (like restaurants, cultural sites, and stadiums where people gather to shop, dine, and conduct business) *in a Counterterrorism Context*. This document guides governments and private industry alike as they work together to develop polices, practices, and programs to protect potential soft targets from terrorist attacks.

**Operational Security Measures**

**South Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG)**

Among SEDM initiatives, the South Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG), which was established in accordance with the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe Agreement in 1998, has a prominent place. SEEBRIG was set up to support peace keeping and humanitarian aid operations conducted by NATO or EU under UN or OSCE auspices. With its 5000 troops Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Macedonia and Turkey are participants in SEEBRIG. The brigade is an on-call force. One of the most important missions of the Brigade was assuming command of the Kabul Multinational Brigade Headquarter under ISAF auspices for six months in 2006. Turkey hosted the headquarters between 2007-2011 in Istanbul.

**Black Sea Naval Co-Operation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR)**

Another initiative of Turkey is the Black Sea Naval Co-Operation Task Group, established in 2001, with the participation of all littoral countries of the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Turkey). The purpose of the initiative is to enhance cooperation among littoral states' naval forces and to improve mutual confidence and good neighborly relations. The tasks of the BLACKSEAFOR include search and rescue operations, humanitarian assistance operations, environmental protection and mine counter measures. Additional tasks can be assumed if agreed by all the parties.

**Operation Black Sea Harmony**

The Turkish Naval Forces launched Operation Black Sea Harmony on 1 March 2004 with the aim of deterring terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other possible illegal activities in the Black Sea. In 2006 all littoral states were invited to join the Operation Black Sea Harmony. The Russian Federation, Ukraine and Romania have joined the operation.

This security operation involves monitoring and identifying suspect vessels. Operation Black Sea Harmony is in accordance with the aim and purpose of NATO’s Operation Active
Endeavor in the Mediterranean. Information collected is exchanged between the NATO Headquarters in Naples and the Operation Black Sea Harmony Coordination Center in Ereğli, Turkey.

**Operation Active Endeavor**

Operation Active Endeavor (OAE) was a NATO naval operation which was initiated after the September 11 attacks, in the context of Article 5, in October 2001. It was aiming to detect and protect against terrorist activities in the Mediterranean Sea. Turkey actively deployed naval vessels for this Operation.

**Operation Ocean Shield**

Turkey participated in Operation Ocean Shield which was initiated by NATO on 17 August 2009 to contribute to the international efforts to combat piracy off the Horn of Africa. Turkey supports a long-term role for NATO in combating piracy and contributes actively to these endeavors. Within this context, Turkey also participates in Combined Task Force-151 (CTF-151) with naval vessels. A Turkish military vessel is deployed to the region within CTF-151 during the year.

**Turkey’s Contributions to Anti-Daesh Coalition**

Since its formation, Turkey has been actively participating activities of the anti-DEASH coalition which specified five lines of effort to degrade the capabilities of, and ultimately defeat DAESH. In that regard, members of the anti-DEASH Coalition have made significant progress to degrading DAESH on the battle field, challenged them in the media, cut their funding and recruitment, and stabilize the territories they have left devastated. It has been fundamental to anti-DEASH Coalition to degrade and defeat DEASH through denying safe haven and building up military capacity. Within this context, Turkey;

- has participated in the Coalition Campaign military planning from day one,
- has declared its national contributions to the Coalition as part of the Campaign Plan as of February 2015,
- has allowed it airspace to be used by Coalition aircraft for both combat and non-combat roles, including intelligence gathering, personnel recovery,
- has opened its facilities to the US and other Coalition partners, allowing over 60 aircraft with over 1200 personnel to be deployed to support operations, for counter-DEASH operations in Syria and Iraq,
- has been hitting DEASH targets since the beginning through air, artillery and other assets,
- has actively been hosting the Train-Equip Program,
- has put in place a broad array of mechanisms to disrupt or stop the flow of foreign fighters at airports and other border crossing points.
Turkey’s Contributions in the Fight Against Drug Trafficking

Due to its location Turkey is exposed to extensive flow of licit and illicit goods. This location lies at the crossroads of the heroin production sites in Afghanistan and consumption markets in Europe. Turkish counter-narcotics policy is based on three pillars. The first pillar focuses on the fight against domestic distribution networks and street dealers. The second pillar deals with the dismantling of the international drug trafficking networks. The third pillar concentrates on investigations related to the financing of terrorism (particularly the PKK) through drug trafficking.

PKK

PKK as a terrorist organization established at the end of 1970’s and since then around 40,000 people lost their lives because of PKK terrorism. PKK’s ideology is founded on revolutionary Marxism-Leninism and separatist ethno-nationalism. PKK wants to suppress the diversity of Turkey, prevent participation and integration of Turkey’s citizens of Kurdish origin and intimidate the people in the region. PKK is also involved in extortion, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking.

Human Security Capabilities

Turkey has been pursuing an open-door policy for Syrians and others who have had to flee destruction in their own country. More than 3 million Syrians took shelter in Turkey. According to UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Turkey is the biggest host country.

Obstacles and achievements

- Difficulty in cooperation with Russian forces in Syria,
- Iranian eternal support for Esad Regime with the Fatimiyun Brigades mostly consist of Afghans and Hezbollah Brigades,
- Terrorist threats emanating from foreign terrorist fighters who returned home to Europe to plot and carry out attacks.