Opening Remarks

Louisa Vinton
Chair of UN Result Group on Good Governance and Rule of Law/Human Rights, Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Louisa Vinton is the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Republic of Turkey from May 2021. Vinton is a development professional with more than 30 years of work experience in the region covered by the Regional Bureau for Europe and Central Asia. Previously she served as the UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia from November 2018 to March 2021. Earlier she held the dual roles of UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia, from November 2013 to October 2018, and Croatia, from July 2010 to June 2014. In these roles, she successfully championed UNDP initiatives focused on job creation and self-employment, vocational training, public service delivery, local and regional economic development, social inclusion, gender equality, human rights, flood prevention, nature protection, energy efficiency, climate resilience, and crisis prevention and post-conflict recovery. She led the UN response to the migration crisis of 2015-16 in North Macedonia and spearheaded COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery efforts in Georgia in 2020-21. She has a strong track record in building partnerships with Government, civil society, the private sector, academia and the international community. Her first post with UNDP was as Division Chief in the Regional Bureau for Europe and Central Asia in New York, starting in February 2004, where she was responsible for UNDP activities in seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine. She also led UN coordination on issues related to the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear accident of 1986.

Sir Dominick Chilcott
Ambassador of United Kingdom to Turkey

Sir Dominick Chilcott is a career diplomat who joined the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in 1982. He has served as High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Maldives (2006 to 2007), Deputy Ambassador to the United States (2008 to 2011), Ambassador to Iran (for six weeks only in late 2011 - the posting was ended by the attack on the embassy) and Ambassador to Ireland (2012 to 2016). He is now serving as the UK’s ambassador to the Republic of Turkey. In addition to those postings, Dominick has served in Ankara (1985-8), Lisbon (1993-5) and at the UK’s mission to the European Union in Brussels (1998-2002). Between overseas assignments, Dominick has worked in the FCDO in London on European, African and Middle Eastern affairs. He has been a private secretary to two Foreign Secretaries, Sir Malcolm Rifkind and the late Mr Robin Cook. He was director of the Iraq Policy Unit in 2003 and director for bilateral relations with European countries from 2003-6. The Ambassador represents Her Majesty The Queen and the UK government in the country to which they are appointed. They are responsible for the direction and work of the Embassy and its Consulates, including political work, trade and investment, press and cultural relations, and visa and consular services.

Malin Stawe
Counsellor/Head of Pre-Accession & Humanitarian Assistance, Embassy of Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Ms Stawe is a Counsellor and Head of the Section for Pre-accession and Humanitarian Assistance at the Embassy of Sweden in Ankara since August 2018 and she is the representative of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, in Turkey. She has 20 years of experience from development cooperation in the areas of civil society, human rights & democratic governance including conflict prevention and has been involved in designing and managing programs at global level as well as regional and country level in the Middle East and Northern Africa region.

She holds a BA in political science, has a background in Swedish civil society and politics and has worked for the Swedish government as well as for the European Commission since 1999.
Panel 1: Governance of Climate Justice, Multi-Stakeholder Participation in Policy Design and Implementation

Nuran Talu - Moderator
Environment and Climate Change Policy Expert

One of Turkey’s leading female climate advocates, career started after graduation at METU, Department of City and Regional Planning. She completed her M.A. (2004) and PhD on political science and public administration (2007). She has worked as an expert and manager for 22 years, in the government and in international organizations (United Nations, OECD, EU, WB, Islamic Development Bank) in the field of environment and climate change. Her first book titled “Environmental Politics in Parliament” was published in 2004. In her 2nd and 3rd books, she challenged the European Union environmental policies in terms of Turkey nationally and locally. In her 4th book, “Climate Change Politics in Turkey”, she evaluated the bond between climate crisis and politics on a global basis and with country experiences in detail. She still works voluntarily and professionally for everyone in the society to be active in the fight against climate change. Her main mission is to ensure that policies on combating climate change are placed rightfully in Turkey’s political agenda.

Yasemin Kaya - Foundations of Climate Justice
Vice Dean of Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Uludağ University

She was born in 1978 in Hamburg. In 2000, she graduated from the Public Administration Department in Uludağ University. She then received her MA in 2004 and her PhD in 2010 from Institute of Social Sciences, Urbanization and Environmental Problems in Uludağ University. In 2013, she was appointed as a faculty member at Uludağ University Political Science and Public Administration. She still continues to carry out her work as the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Head of Department of Urbanization and Environmental Problems. Her research areas are international environmental policies, environmental regimes, climate change and urban environmental problems.

Gökhan Candoğan - Climate Case Litigation, Legislation and Environmental Law
Greenpeace Mediterranean Legal Consultant

Born in 1971, Gökhan Candoğan graduated from Ankara University Law School in 1994 and started his internship to become a lawyer in the same year. He has been working as an attorney at law since 1995. Mr. Candoğan who defended Greenpeace Mediterranean for many years, has chaired the Environmental and Urban Law Commission of Union of Turkish Bar Associations between 2018 and 2021.

Özlem Katısoz - Cost of Action vs Cost of Inaction: A Vision for Just Transition and Transformation Society
Climate and Energy Policies Coordinator for Turkey, Climate Action Network Europe

Özlem Katısoz coordinates Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe’s climate and energy work in Turkey. It promotes is Europe’s leading NGO coalition fighting climate change and with over 170 member organisations active in 38 European countries, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy, and development policies throughout Europe. She formerly worked for national and international non-governmental organizations for over 10 years. She has a bachelor’s Regional Planning from the Middle East Technical University (Turkey) and an MSc in Urban and Regional Studies from the University of Birmingham (UK).

Haydar Özdemirooflu - Impact of Climate Crisis on Working Life
President of Tez-Koop-İş Union

He was born in Ankara in 1959. He is a graduate of Anadolu University, Department of Biology. In 2001, while working at TÜBİTAK, he was elected to Ankara Branch No.2 of the Union. He held this position for 8 years and then became the General Education Secretary at the Extraordinary General Assembly held on 10-11 January 2009. He was elected as the General Financial Secretary at the 10th Ordinary General Assembly held in 2015. He was appointed as the General President on January 20, 2017. In the 11th General Assembly held in 2019, he was re-elected as the President of the Tez-Koop-İş-Union.
Panel 2: Climate Justice and Human Rights
Nexus in Climate Change

M. Emre Küçükşahin - Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights
Human Rights and Equality Expert, Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey (TİHEK)

Muhammed Emre Küçükşahin completed his undergraduate education in 2017 at Istanbul University Department of Political Science and Public Administration. In 2020, he completed his M.A. at Istanbul University Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Political Science and International Relations. He continues his PhD on Political Science in Hacettepe University. Since 2019, he has been working for the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey. As an Human Rights and Equality Expert, his work is focused on climate justice and its impact on human rights in general and on the fundamental rights of disadvantaged groups in particular.

Gülay Toksöz – Climate Justice, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
Chair of Executive Board, Association for Monitoring Gender Equality (CEİD)

Gülay Toksöz is the retired faculty member of Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations. She was Head of the Department of Women’s Studies between 2004-2008. She continues her academic studies and has many national and international publications that include the examination of the labor market and women’s labor with the perspective of international labor migration and gender. She is the Chair of Executive Board of Association for Monitoring Gender Equality (CEİD).

Barış Gençer Baykan – Civil Society, Youth and Climate Justice
Deputy Chair of Public Administration Department, Yeditepe University

Barış Gençer Baykan is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration at Yeditepe University where he has been a faculty member since 2013. He received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Public Administration from Marmara University. Baykan completed his Ph.D in Sociology at University of Kent (UK) and MA in Political Sociology at University of Paris X/Nanterre. His research areas include Green Politics, Climate Politics, Green Movements, Environmental Movements, Urban Movements, Green Parties and Local Governments. He has authored journal articles and book chapters in the aforementioned topics. Baykan works as a consultant/expert for civil society organizations and local governments.

Melisa Akkuş - Youth Engagement for Climate Justice Action
Climate Activist and ‘İklim Öncüleri’ Representative

Melisa Akkuş is a 17-year-old high school student working for the change. Now she is a volunteer in a social initiative called Bilim Virüsü, a leader in İklim Öncüleri initiative, and an ambassador in International Children Rights Association. She is an activist for climate crisis, climate justice, and social justice for a long time and she says, “Climate is social justice.” She loves dancing, walking, and writing. She believes that change will start with us, and she works very hard for this aim.