

**Mrs. President,  
Mr. Rector,  
Esteemed Members of Our Assembly,  
Esteemed Honorary Members of Our Assembly,  
Ladies and Gentlemen and Distinguished Members of the  
Press,**

Before proceeding to share my opinions with you in this assembly meeting for November, I would like to extend my kindest regards to all of you on behalf of myself and our Board.

Starting my remarks, I would like to state how sorry we are to lose yet another valuable elder. Mr. Ali Asaf Kermen, a founding member of our Chamber and a former member of the Board, recently passed away. He was an esteemed industrialist who served highly for our industry. May he rest in peace. I would like to extend my condolences to his family and to our community.

As we have previously emphasized in various assembly meetings, the violence caused by global terrorism victimizes mankind more and more each passing day.

The latest painful example to this is the brutal terrorist attacks that took place in Paris in mid-November, a series of assaults unprecedented in Europe. These bloodthirsty attacks against humanitarian values are also proof that terrorism is not restricted to a single geography any more but manifests itself all around the world.

International solidarity grows more important than ever in the face of such a globalized threat of terrorism.

I would like to strongly emphasize our faith in that terrorism, hatred and fanaticism will never win and state that we share the indescribable pain the French people feel.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that violence is prevalent around the world and it reveals itself in more severe tensions and clashes right beyond our borders. Yesterday's downing of a Russian military aircraft by Turkey indicates the critical shape that the recent developments grew into.

The relations between the two neighboring countries have been growing rapidly in many fields, specifically in economy, in recent years. It is obvious that both sides benefit from this example-setting relationship of neighborhood. In the face of yesterday's worrisome development, we believe it will serve the interests of both Turkey and Russia to act in common sense and sobriety.

**Mrs. President, Esteemed Members of the Assembly, Distinguished Guests,**

Now I would like to speak of an exciting development: We have recently started a significant collaboration effort called 'ISO – ITU CORE ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM' ('ISO – İTÜ ÇEKİRDEK GİRİŞİMCİLİK EKOSİSTEMİ') in cooperation with

Istanbul Technical University, a university that has taken its scientific knowledge and reputation beyond our borders.

During ITU Core Big Bang finals on November 14, 2015, we extended support to two ventures/entrepreneurs among the entrepreneurs applying for 'Core capital' through a total prize of TRY 200,000 under the name "ISO Grand Prize for Future's Industrialists".

On the occasion of this significant collaboration, we have Professor Mehmet Karaca, Rector of Istanbul Technical University, with us today. Professor, we are glad to have you here. Welcome.

Today, we also have with us Mr. Kenan Çolpan, CEO of ITU ARI Technocity. Welcome, Mr. Çolpan. Furthermore, we have the teams of the two entrepreneurship projects, which won the prize. I would like to welcome them as well.

Although we will be watching a brief video clip on this collaboration shortly, I still would like to share my thoughts on the matter.

Looking at the world globally, we can see that globalization and the relentless economic struggle are constantly evolving into a great challenge. In the face of this, Turkey must not only improve its competitive power but also engage in continuous innovation.

That is why we should always keep in mind that entrepreneurship, global talent and innovation are of vital importance for our future. Based on this very fact, we persistently emphasize in Istanbul Chamber of Industry the need for the development of an entrepreneurship approach and spirit that take production at their core.

At this point, I am speaking of a multi-stakeholder system: ITU Core Entrepreneurship Ecosystem has a very important mission in bringing together members of the academia, mentors, entrepreneurs, industrialists and investors. Istanbul Chamber of Industry becomes one of the main stakeholders of this project as of this year and commits to make the following contributions to the ecosystem:

In this framework, industrialists who are members of our Chamber also have a say as Jury members in the process of evaluating entrepreneurs' applications as of 2015. Every year, ventures or entrepreneurs will be given the **'ISO Grand Prize for Future's Industrialists'** as it was the case on 14 November this year.

Young people and industrialists have never been closer. We serve as a bridge between entrepreneurs and industrialists by bringing together young entrepreneurs having creative ideas with successful and experienced industrialists. In this framework, we have established an overarching framework called **'ISO COCOON'** ('ISO KOZA') to include entrepreneurs who are vested with the right to be a part of ITU Core

Ecosystem for one year as well as the entrepreneurs who are awarded the 'ISO Grand Prize for Future's Industrialists'.

This will enable us to make creative ideas available for manufacturing industrialists within an environment of manufacturing and production culture and awareness. Furthermore, we will make sure young entrepreneurs are matched with industrialists to improve the former's manufacturing and factory experience. This is how we will pave the way for creative ideas to get out of the cocoon and fly like free butterflies.

Through the **ISO COCOON Model**, we will support entrepreneurs via '**mentoring**' in order to help them develop their business strategies.

We will extend '**industrialist trainer**' support in order for them to transform innovative ideas into commercial value.

In summary, we are in the process of building an ecosystem which includes dynamic entrepreneurs and industrialists who have clear missions and visions and create employment opportunities. Inspired by various success stories on the matter around the world, we are truly glad to establish such a model in Turkey in a way to set the first precedent.

**Mrs. President, Esteemed Members of the Assembly,**

The main item on our agenda focuses on expectations from the recently formed government. Held in a democratic

environment in peace and sobriety, November 1 elections in Turkey were marked by a high level of voter participation. Voters opted for a parliament in which there was a stable, long-term single-party government that is very crucial for our economy.

This result presents a valuable opportunity in terms of rendering our economy that stagnated for so long the main agenda item for the country and in terms of the much needed structural reforms.

We would like to congratulate H.E. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Prime Minister of the new government formed yesterday, and the ministers of the government alike. We cordially believe our government will make the best use of the opportunity I previously mentioned and wish the government success in its efforts.

We will conclude some work that reflects our expectations from and suggestions for the new government as soon as possible after getting your input today.

Now, before proceeding with my opinions on this month's main agenda item and our ongoing work, I would like to spend some time to comment on an important development on the agenda of both Turkey and the world.

Our country had the privilege and pride of hosting a successful global event very recently. I attended the G20 Summit organized in Turkey on November 15-16 as a member

of the B20 Executive Committee. I would like to summarize some of the key points from the Summit:

Turkish presidency defined its priorities on three pillars. These are to implement the decisions previously made, to increase investments that will ensure growth and to expand inclusiveness.

The Summit placed emphasis on the determination to achieve growth that is robust, inclusive and able to create more qualified employment. The importance of using all required tools and cooperating with all stakeholders in order to improve the inclusiveness of growth and strengthen confidence was underlined.

A very important platform has been established this year within the framework of the G20 principle of inclusiveness. Established by B20 and International Chamber of Commerce, the Global SME Forum emerged as a mechanism that advocates the interests of SMEs in diplomatic processes. I would like to stress that I believe this mechanism will present significant opportunities for SMEs in the upcoming period.

Another point underlined was that while enjoying the benefits of financial globalization in an environment where risks are enhanced, the global financial security network should be safeguarded and all types of protectionism should be resisted to.

Increasing inequalities pose a risk on social cohesion. The ministries of finance and labor from the member states are invited to review their growth strategies and employment plans in a way to ensure their inclusiveness.

G20 leaders also deliberated on the refugee crisis that has recently exacerbated. They underlined the need to produce a comprehensive response in order to fight both the crisis and its long-term social and economic outcomes.

**Mrs. President, Esteemed Members of the Assembly,**

Now, I would like to share with you my thoughts regarding our main item on our agenda:

Istanbul Chamber of Industry has contributed to the development of industry in Istanbul and Turkey for 64 years. Considering the importance of Istanbul for the industry and economy of our country, it is apparent that the effort of our chamber to transform itself and Istanbul's industry for better is also an effort to transform Turkey.

I mentioned previously that the results of November 1 election presented an opportunity for the necessary structural reforms. Speaking on that opportunity, I would like to specifically emphasize that Istanbul Chamber of Industry wants to contribute –through its own opinions and suggestions– to the structural reforms which Turkey is on the brink of.



As Turkey sails off to a wave of transformation, ISO organized two important Industry Congresses in the last two years. During the 12<sup>th</sup> Industry Congress held in May 2014, we proposed a holistic development approach and defined it as “the simultaneous and coherent development of economic development, social development, human development and sustainability”.

On the other hand, during the 13<sup>th</sup> Industry Congress held in October 2015, we emphasized the fact that the kind of transformation which we considered to be meaningful and valuable was one that freed people and improved their well-being.

In our day, such a transformation is only possible through complementary collaboration efforts, not through single or individual efforts. Thus, a working approach that is based on collaboration is on the rise today. Collaboration needs to be transformed into an individual and corporate value rather than just remaining the name of a one-time strategic choice.

We identify our suggestions and policies to this end on the basis of the efforts of the political authority, chiefly on the Tenth Development Plan.

**Mrs. President, Esteemed Members of the Assembly,**

The conceptual framework on the basic aspects of the required structural transformation is set by the Tenth

Development Plan as well as the 2015-2017 Medium Term Plan and 2016-2018 Medium Term Plan based on the Tenth Development Plan.

In addition to these documents, Priority Transformation Programs and 2015-2018 Industry Strategy for Turkey, which included concrete steps, were publicly shared by the previous government at the beginning of the year.

I would like to emphasize specifically that all these valuable efforts set the framework for the reforms requested by the business world and the action steps for implementation very ably.

Defined with 1,300 different actions, the Priority Transformation Programs aim at making sure Turkey emerges as a developed country.

In Istanbul Chamber of Industry, we stated right after the announcement of the Priority Transformation Programs what we believed were the five most important points regarding the success of these programs:

- Introducing clearer details for action plans,
- Starting implementation immediately,
- Implementing the process in maximum transparency,
- Making sure that audit mechanisms function soundly,
- Ensuring that maximum cooperation and contribution comes from the business world in practice.

In addition to all these, we publicly shared the Industry Strategy Document for Istanbul in February 2015, which is the first response from the business world to such programs.

70 practical actions are defined in the Industry Strategy for Turkey, which is announced by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology.

A robust representative of our country's industry, Istanbul Chamber of Industry is ready and willing to do its best in terms of putting the actions in the Industry Strategy for Turkey into practice.

To sum up, the Priority Transformation Programs and the Industry Strategy Document for Turkey constitute a road map for us, the industrialists, ahead of the upcoming reform period.

**Mrs. President, Esteemed Members of the Assembly,**

Taking this into consideration, the work that reflects our expectations from and suggestions for the new government is based on these two documents. I would also like to share with you that the ongoing work by Istanbul Chamber of Industry is a piece that indicates our short-term, medium-term and long-term priorities.

We consider this work to be the start of a dialogue process based on a culture of collaboration between our government and Istanbul Chamber of Industry. We plan to present our work to the new government during a face-to-face meeting rather than sharing it through the press.

We want this work to become a system that breathes, is measurable and constantly develops. I strongly believe that this work will be further strengthened and enriched by the valuable contribution you –our distinguished assembly members– will make today and in the upcoming days.

**Mrs. President, Esteemed Members of Our Assembly,  
Esteemed Honorary Members and Distinguished Members  
of the Press,**

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to extend my kindest regards to all of you once again on behalf of myself and our Board.