Dear Chairman,

Honourable Participants,

My name is Mustafa CANBEY and I’m a member of Grand National Assembly Of Turkey. I’m here on behalf of Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries – TÜRKPA.

First of all I would like to present the greetings of Chairman of TÜRKPA and Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mr. Binali YILDIRIM.

I want to draw your attention to the future.

Migration is not new but world is not sure about what to do with it. While migration has always been a part of human history, nowadays borders and states are quite different and solid than ever.

Is it possible to eliminate migration? There are different faces of migration, seeking a better life or escaping from unfavourable conditions. Migrants face unspeakable difficulties and dangers during their journey. There is a reason for them to undertake such challenges.

The primary cause for waves of migration is socioeconomic unfairness and inequality. In one hand, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. In another hand, the middle class is in decline. Global stratification has reached such a level that the poor in developed countries have better conditions than middle or even upper-middle class of other countries. Some authors predict that the middle class probably will disappear in the following decades. In that case migration shall increase.

Conscience and clemency should be our guide. I would like to draw your attention to that; one end of migrants meets one end of refugees. Following the New York Declaration on 2016, highly anticipated Global Compact on Migration is a very important achievement, but it must be complemented by the Global Compact on Refugees.

Turkey in particular has been a path for migration throughout history. Recent crises have made this historical path also a destination for refugees. Unlike the gradual characteristics of migration, current refugee waves are acute and massive. When one country bears such a burden, that country also lifts the burden from other countries. For this reason there is a need to assist border and buffer countries. During Syrian Refugee Crisis, Turkey has given shelter to more than three point six million refugees in a period where some governments build walls barbed wires to stop people seeking shelter. Migration and refugee
waves are not an alternative to each other, both can and do happen at the same time and both interlace.

As a member of parliament of a country that deals with very difficult migration challenges, I’m happy to be here. By this opportunity, I would like to thank the organisers of this event, all the participants and the technical staff.

Thank you very much.