

ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) 38th Session, Transcript of Mr. Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu's message

Dear Secretary General,

Madame Executive Secretary, Dear colleagues,

-I am **pleased to address** the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC, where we will discuss the global impact of COVID-19.

-While it has almost been a year since the first cases, the pandemic shows **no sign of weakening**.

-In addition to the **tragic loss of life**, COVID-19 had a **severe impact on global economy**.

-No country and no one is immune from the disease. That is why our **fight** should be a **global one**.

-At home, while exerting huge efforts in the **healthcare sector**, we also work hard to keep our **economy running**.

-So far, we have been successful thanks to our **strong healthcare system**. We managed to keep the pandemic under control.

-We also prioritized **manufacturing basic medical equipment** including ventilators, which have already been put to use across the world.

-Turkey also adopted **innovative initiatives** to support sectors most affected by the pandemic.

-A key example is our **“safe tourism”** program. Through a **comprehensive certification process**, we were able to keep this vital sector alive and kicking.

-As a result of this hard work, we hosted more than **10 million tourists** in Turkey this year so far.

-Turkey also acted with a sense of responsibility and **solidarity towards all countries**

-We extended help to **155 countries and 8 international organizations** in the form of donations, aid or export permits for critical material such as medical supplies and ventilators.

-While repatriating over 100 thousand Turkish citizens from 141 countries, we assisted with the repatriation of more than **37 thousand** foreign nationals from **91 different countries**.

-In this difficult time, we also helped our friends and partners in Latin America and the Caribbean.

-Having supplied **medical equipment to 18 countries**, we also contributed to **CARICOM** and **SICA’s emergency plans**.

-In August, I visited the **Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela** to express solidarity in our joint fight in the midst of the pandemic.

Dear friends,

-The pandemic also demonstrated that we must build a **more open and effective international economic system**.

-We witnessed that **isolation and building barriers offer no solution** to the challenges of our time.

-We must ensure the free **flow of trade** by fixing the shortcomings of the **global supply chains**.

-Within the G-20, Turkey already addressed some of these issues.

-And **Turkish companies** have proven their **diligence and reliability** within **global supply chains**.

Dear friends,

-In our common efforts during this pandemic, we should **share experiences and best practices** between our health experts and research institutions.

-These exchanges are critical for developing an effective **vaccine** that will be available to all.

-We should also share best practices in other areas, such as **tourism, economic stimulus packages, employment strategies** and **crisis management**.

-ECLAC serves as a useful platform to join our forces with the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

-We remain committed to strengthening our ties to this region through ECLAC. Thank you very much.