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.