



### A MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

H.E. DR. AYŞE SÖZEN USLUER, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AMBASSADOR TO OMAN

# 'I RENEW MY WISHES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE STRONG FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TURKEY AND OMAN'

As we draw closer to the centennial of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, we are celebrating the 98th anniversary of our Republic with pride and joy. Completing my third year in Muscat as the Turkish Ambassador, I have the honour and privilege to once again celebrate our National Day in this beautiful country with the friendly and brotherly people of Oman, as well as our distinguished citizens.

For the last two years, the Covid-19 pandemic has negatively affected our daily lives and global affairs. We have lost millions of people untimely and inconceivably, May Almighty Allah bestow his mercy upon their souls. On a separate note, I would like to reiterate my Government's condolences to the brotherly Government and people of Oman once again, regarding the Shaheen Cyclone that caused many lives.

On 29 October 1923, the newly formed Grand National Assembly of Turkey proclaimed the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. The founder of the Turkish Republic Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was unanimously elected as the first President of the Republic. Our Republic Day signifies a nation's rebirth with an ex-

emplary spirit of unity, solidarity, sacrifice, dedication and determination. We will always take pride in this spirit and pass it on to the future generations.

With its geo-strategic location, dynamic economy, profound historical outreach, young and educated demography and a strong army, Turkey aims to protect its interests in a volatile regional and global environment. In the pursuit of this primary goal, Turkey contributes to peace, prosperity, and stability around the world. Guided by our enduring objective to achieve "Peace at Home, Peace in the World" as set out by Atatürk, we implement an "Enterprising and Humanitarian Foreign Policy" that, in President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's words, reflects the enterprising spirit and humanitarian values of our nation. In line with the enterprising aspect of its foreign policy, Turkey uses several complementary political, economic, humanitarian, and cultural tools and conducts a diplomacy that thinks globally but also acts locally in every corner of the world. With 252 diplomatic and consular missions, Turkey has spawned the 5th largest diplomatic network globally.

Turkey and Oman have been enjoying a warm and brotherly

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relationship for more than five centuries. Based on our strong historical bonds, our excellent bilateral relations are gaining momentum through high level visits. Our Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has paid a fruitful visit to Oman in February 2021. He met with his counterpart Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi and he was also received by His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers. Most recently, Minister Çavuşoğlu also held an online meeting with Minister Al Busaidi, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, and reiterated Turkey's commitment to further deepening our bilateral ties with Oman in every field. As a leading country

in conflict resolution and mediation, we wholeheartedly support Oman's balanced and constructive approach to contribute to the advancement of peace at all regional and international levels. From the Palestinian Cause to the Yemeni Civil War, we are willing to cooperate with Oman on many issues.

Economic cooperation constitutes an important dimension of our excellent bilateral affairs. Our trade volume has steadily increased starting from 2017 onwards. Turkey-Oman bilateral trade volume was at 500 million and 860 million Dollars, respectively in 2018 and 2019. Due falling oil prices and the pandemic, this trend was negatively affected but we still managed to reach 854.1 million Dollars trade volume in 2020. Moreover, it has surpassed 900 million Dollars in the first eight months of 2021. Even these figures are far from reflecting the true potential of our capacities. We believe there is a huge potential of cooperation in several fields, including health tourism and defence industries. As a bastion of security and an oasis of prosperity and progress in the region, the Sultanate of Oman continues its further advancement in every field under the visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin

Tarik following the path blazed by Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour. Despite the pandemic, His Majesty's Government has taken significant steps for further economic development with respect to Oman Vision 2040. As brotherly nations, Turkey is more than willing to cooperate with the Sultanate in terms of reinforcing Oman's economic structure. This year, we have taken an historical step to further enhance our relations with a landmark project. With the invaluable support of the Government of Oman, Gebze Organised Industrial Zone (GOSB) and Public Authority of Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) have reached a principle agreement on establishing a Turkish industrial zone in Duqm. With this initiative, Turkey is ready to realize a big investment project which will tremendously contribute to both countries' economies.

Deep rooted humanitarian bonds amongst our peoples constitute the biggest asset that enables us to build a fruitful atmosphere for developing Turkish-Omani cooperation. Taking this opportunity, we are working closely with the Sultanate to increase cultural and educational exchange and tourism between our countries. To this end, the

Oman-Turkey Friendship Association, which was established by the Omani Foreign Ministry this year, will be a glorious symbol for our continued cooperation.

Stronger cooperation on culture, language and higher education is an indispensable way to enable our future generations to have a better understanding and sympathy towards each other. There is an increasing interest of Omanis to the Turkish culture and language. Turkish drama series and TV shows played an important role in this realm. Opening a Yunus Emre Centre for Turkish language teaching in Oman can meet this demand and further develop the cultural exchange between the two peoples.

Once again, I would like to celebrate the Republic Day and pay my heartfelt tribute to our Great Leader Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, as well as his comrades and all the fallen heroes of our Liberation War. I renew my wishes for the continuation of the strong friendship between Turkey and Oman; and pray to Almighty Allah for the well-being of our beloved leaders His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, and for the welfare and prosperity of the peoples of Turkey and Oman.

#### OMAN-TURKEY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

## Diplomatic contacts between Turkey and the Sultanate of Oman continued during the pandemic

THE WORLD has witnessed an incredible year in every sense due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Visits of Heads of States and Governments, as well as state Ministers were cancelled or postponed for a while. However, diplomatic contacts and visits between brotherly Turkey and Oman were not halted. His Excellency Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, paid a visit to Muscat on 9-10 February 2021. This was Minister Çavuşoğlu's first official visit to Oman after 2017. He met with his counterpart, His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamud Al Busaidi. He was also received by His Highness Deputy Prime Minister, Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, and met with Turkish professionals residing in Oman.

Minister Çavuşoğlu's visit to Oman enabled the parties to make fruitful, open and candid discussions numerous bilateral items, as well as regional and international issues. Both sides have confirmed to further improve political, economic, commercial and cultural relations. During the joint press conference held by the two Ministers, Minister Çavuşoğlu emphasized Turkey's appreciation for Oman's neutral and independent foreign policy by defining the Sultanate as

"a voice of reason and wisdom" in the Middle East. He assured Turkey's support to the efforts of Oman for peaceful resolution of the conflicts in the region. Eight months after their face-to-face meeting in Muscat, the two Foreign Ministers held an online bilateral meeting on 28 September 2021 during the UN General Assembly. Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated Turkey's commitment to further deepening its bilateral ties with Oman in every field. Once again, he praised Oman's role in the region.

Heads of the two brotherly countries, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik also have maintained close contact this year. Like last year, they had candid and warm phone conversations both in Eid-al Fitr and Eid-al Adha. Following the disastrous effects of the pandemic, our two brother nations continue to further develop and advance on many fronts, under our leaders' wise leadership.

This year, we have also hosted Sheikh Khalifa Al Harthi, the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs in Turkey, on the occasion of the first Antalya Diplomacy Forum. The Forum is designed as an innovative platform to exchange views on global and

regional issues and provide solutions to key foreign policy issues. We will hold the second forum in March 2022.

We have also realised reciprocal visits in the field of economy. President of Gebze Organised Industrial Zone in Turkey, Vahit Yıldırım visited Oman in May to initiate the establishment of a Turkish industrial zone in Duqm; and, President of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ridha bin Juma Al Saleh visited Turkey to attend the 15th Turkish-Arab Cooperation Summit in August. On the other hand, we are planning to hold the next round of Turkish-Omani Joint Economic Commission and Business Council meetings.

As a part of our general perspective towards the region, Turkey strives to increase its political, economic, social and cultural cooperation and engagement with friendly and brotherly countries, to the extent possible. In this framework, Turkey's vision for its future with Oman, in particular, is to develop social, economic and cultural interaction, within a stable environment, and on the basis of the win-win principle. With this vision, we wish and seek to increase the prosperity and well-being of not only the Turkish people, but also the brotherly people of Oman.



His Excellency Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Oman Foreign Minister His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamud Al Busaidi.

29 EKİM CUMHURİYET BAYRAMI

# TURKISH NATIONAL DAY

98 ANNIVERSARY  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY



# TURKEY

## APPEALS TO EVERY TASTE



**BLESSED** by a phenomenal geographical location, a pleasant climate and a rich history and culture, Turkey appeals to every taste. With a great diversity of natural beauties, historical treasures, outdoor activities, life-style varieties and culinary wonders, Turkey offers a wide selection of touristic services that can satisfy the demand of different market segments including the sophisticated Omani traveller.

Turkey has different climatic regions ranging from temperate rainy climate of the Black Sea Region, to the continental in the Central Anatolia and subtropical Mediterranean on the south.

From west to east there are also considerable differences and contrasting climatic regions, with hot summers and mild winters in the Marmara and the Aegean regions to the Eastern Anatolia with heavy snow fall. The flora and fauna of Turkey are correspondingly diverse. With nearly ten thousand species, Turkey is a botanical paradise. It is on the migration routes of birds and there are a number of areas which are the natural habitat for many different species, including rare ones.

Turkey has a historical heritage of successive civilizations from Hittites, Phrygians, Lycians, Lydians, Ionians, Romans, Byz-

antines to the Seljuks and Ottomans. And Istanbul, the city of an unmatched beauty, proudly preserves the historical legacy of successive empires and their cultural heritage. While Istanbul presents a treasure to tourists, other Turkish cities have their own appeal. Enjoy the verdant surroundings of the lush greenery of Trabzon, take a famous "mud bath" in Dalyan, float in the air together with hundreds of balloons over the volcanic rocks of Göreme. Omani divers of Bander Khayran will love the ancient wrecks of Bodrum and the unique corals of Kaş. Wherever you go, you will discover an exclusive side of Turkey.

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# TURKEY: A TOP DESTINATION FOR HEALTH TOURISM

**HISTORICAL** healthcare hub of the Mediterranean Basin, Turkey continues to attract millions of patients around the world. Each and every year, more and more foreign patients choose Turkey to receive medical care. The most preferred clinical branches by international patients are respectively: Gynaecology, internal diseases, ophthalmology, medical biochemistry, general surgery, dentistry, orthopaedics and traumatology, infectious diseases and otorhinolaryngology. Highly qualified medical staff, fast and effective health care services, world-class technological and medical equipment, affordable price advantage, thermal underground resources, as well as traditional Turkish hospitality, continue to keep it on top. International Patient Support Unit operates under the Ministry of Health provides a 7/24 call centre in many languages including Arabic.



demically and took precautions at an early stage. We are also honoured to have been able to extend our hand of friendship and solidarity to more than 150 countries. Thanks to our health system reform and the investments made in our healthcare infrastructure in the last two decades, we have been successful in holding the pandemic under control. We opened many new city hospitals throughout the country, particularly in Istanbul.

Guided by the leadership of President Erdoğan, the Turkish health sector was quick to realise the serious nature of the pan-

Today, there is annual global traffic of 30 million people who seek health services abroad. Health tourism expenditures in the world are realised nearly

at 500 billion USD. In 2002, the share of health expenditures in tourism revenues of Turkey was 1%; however, this rate increased to 4.5% in 2020. In 2019, 662,087 patients received health services, within the scope of health tourism and tourist health. The amount of tourism income from foreign visitors and citizens residing abroad visiting for health and medical reasons was 1 billion USD in 2019. In 2020, 388,150 patients preferred Turkey to receive health services as the global pandemic caused a noticeable decrease in the number of health tourists. The amount of tourism income from foreign visitors and citizens residing abroad visiting for health tourism and medical reasons decreased to 550 thousand USD in 2020. In the first quarter of 2021, 110,716 people received health services and the amount of income obtained was 200 thousand USD. Turkey's target for 2023 in health tourism is to reach 1.5 million health tourists with a 10 billion USD revenue.



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# ARSLANTEPE MOUND

## BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE



A RICH archaeological mound in Malatya, south-eastern Turkey dating back some 8,000 years has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List on 26 July 2021. With the mound, which is among one of Turkey's earliest religious and civil sites, the number of Turkish sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List reached 19.

Arslantepe - meaning "Lion Hill" - is a 4 hectares wide and 30 metres high archaeological mound dominating the plain and formed by the superimposition of settlements for millennia, from at least the 6th millennium BCE to the late Roman period. The long history of the site, located at the crossroads of the main civilizations of the Near East, reveals crucial events and processes of change in connection with the

contemporary developments in Mesopotamia, Anatolia and the South Caucasus. More than 50 years of archaeological excavations have brought to light rich material remains of the many civilizations that called the site home, from their formation to their collapse.

Arslantepe illustrates the processes which led to the emergence of a civic society in the Near East and a sophisticated bureaucratic system that predates writing. These crucial stages in the human history are: The birth of hierarchical societies, the first centralized political and economic systems, the origin of bureaucracy and its first working system, the rise of a systematic control on human labour. In other words, Arslantepe is the origin of power and the State.

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29 EKİM CUMHURİYET BAYRAMI

# TURKISH NATIONAL DAY

98<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY



# YUNUS EMRE

**A PIONEER OF HUMANISM AND TRAILBLAZER OF TURKISH LANGUAGE, A POET BORN FROM THE HEART OF ANATOLIA**

**13TH CENTURY** Turkish poet and mystic Yunus Emre left an eternal influence on Turkish language, literature, culture and philosophy. His poems, which are devoted mainly to the themes of divine love and human destiny, are characterized by a deep feeling of selflessness. He wrote in a straightforward, almost austere style and mainly in the traditional

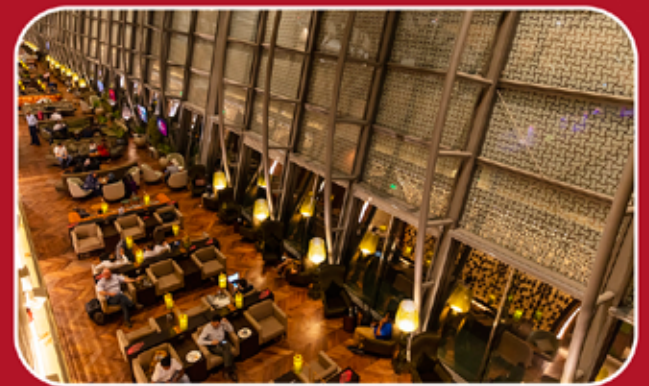
syllabic metre of Anatolian folk poetry. His verses had a decisive influence on later Turkish mystics and inspired the poets of the renaissance of Turkish national poetry in the early 20th century.

2021 was dedicated to commemorations and celebrations of Yunus Emre by UNESCO on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of his passing. In January,

the Government of the Republic of Turkey declared 2021 as "Year of Yunus Emre and Turkish Language". Within this framework, various events were carried out under the motto "Turkish as a World Language". Yunus Emre Institute (YEI) carried out many activities in Turkey and abroad to promote Yunus Emre and his contribution to the humanity.



**CELEBRATING 98<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
TURKISH REPUBLIC!**



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