

**STATEMENT BY  
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Mr. President, distinguished delegates,

I am honored to address the General Assembly. Turkey attaches great importance to volunteerism and appreciates the efforts of all countries trying to bring volunteerism to forefront in the development agenda.

Indeed Turkey is one of the countries which consider volunteerism as an integral part of its development and EU process. We have volunteer programs and projects in Turkey within EU Education&Youth Programmes scheme which benefit both the volunteers and the society. Turkey has the 1st rank in volunteer number among 33 European Countries within this programme. We strongly believe that every person's potential to help others should be benefited.

To spread this vision and understanding, we allocated funds to celebrate European Year of Volunteerism and translated the first ever State of the World's Volunteerism Report of UNV into Turkish. Indeed, today the report is launched in Turkey with the participation of various stakeholders including civil society organisations and volunteers themselves. And there are also some nice coincidences as a symbolic sign of importance given by us to volunteerism:

- SWVR project coordinator is a Turkish national
- Report's first consultation meeting was held in Turkey (İstanbul)
- And Turkey is the only country that translates this report into her language voluntarily.

We are pleased to see that with State of the World's Volunteerism Report, for the first time, the impact that volunteers have made has been documented. While thanking Ms. Helen Clark for introducing this report, I also would like to congratulate the United Nations Volunteers programme and salute millions of volunteers working for sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, environmental preservation, and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Turkey is committed to carry the targets of voluntarism forward. Hence, we support the Resolution that would pave the way for a better understanding of volunteerism with the understanding that it would make enormous contributions to the efforts of volunteers throughout the globe.

Thank you Mr. President.