

HATAY DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST CONGRESS

(TEMPORARY DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENCY)

1 - The “1st International Middle east Congress” was held in Hatay from 10-12 November 2010 in a creative and insightful atmosphere.

The Congress was organized by the Turkish Asian Strategic Studies Center (TASAM) in cooperation and with the kind support of the Governance of Hatay, The overarching theme of the Conference was the development and issues in the Middle East particularly focusing on the Emergence of Iraq and Issues related to the growing need for an Iraqi Territorial Integrity and National Unity.

Personalities, Senior Officials, Representatives of Diplomatic Missions, Academicians from neighboring countries of Iraq, USA, European countries, India, UN and the League of Arab States and Representatives of the Media Sector were all amongst the participants in the meetings. During the congress the problems related to the existing situation in Iraq have been discussed in detail.

Within this framework an exchange of views on the following topics :“„Iraq“ as an International Security Problematic”, “The Political Actors in Iraq: conflict and cooperation”, “Federalism in Iraqi Type: Democratization and Political Stability”, “Regional and Global cooperation for the stability of Iraq”, “Iraq as a Multidimensional Element in Turkish Foreign Policy” have been discussed as well as the fields where cooperation between the countries and institutions in question have been reached.

2 - During the congress, the importance of selecting Hatay as the hosting location has been accentuated and it has been decided to stress that the actors engaged with Iraq have to support the political, economical, cultural and strategic fields in order to maintain the regional and global peace, taking into consideration the security and territorial integrity of Iraq as the utmost priority.

It was agreed unanimously that this decision will be presented to the related parties.

3 - The territorial integrity of Iraq has a strategic importance for all the neighboring countries. Given that it will contribute tremendously to find a solution to the conflicts among these neighboring countries and will ease the tension regionally and globally. However, the Identity Politics applied in the region by the

USA and supported by some regional actors constitute a serious obstacle towards restoring the territorial integrity of Iraq and the regional and global peace.

4 - The solution to the problems in the Middle East can be obtained by activating the dialogue between all concerned parties in the region. In this transition period Iraq needs all the help and support from its neighboring states while taking into consideration that interference of external actors shall be kept to a minimum.

The re-emergence of Iraq of the region is indispensable and will benefit the entire region and will help maintain regional and global peace. Iraq Neighboring Countries Initiatives must be strengthened and sustained and the efficiency of organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States on Iraqi and regional levels has to be intensified.

5 - The religious and ethnical identities problematic in Iraq are among the most challenging obstacles towards achieving the territorial integrity of Iraq. The arrangement of the newly formed institutions as per the ethnic and sectarian component is a serious source of conflict. ??? The most important actor position has to belong to Iraqi State as a whole ???. A secured Iraq can only be possible with the adoption of fully democratic institutions that is constituted from all different Iraqi political, religious, sectarian components. The prudent preparation of a constitution necessitate a sufficient period, in order to be discussed by all related parties taking into consideration the principles “to live together”, “national sovereignty” and “Individual freedoms” in which all components forming the Iraqi nation are represented, as an inevitable obligation. The Congress also proposed that a reform of public administration is needed to be effected during the transition period.

6 - Facilitating visa obtaining as well as promoting healthy communication channels amongst the countries of the region will further contribute to peace and diminish the lack of confidence.

7 - The dependence on Iraqi energy sources constitutes a threat to the global energy security. Furthermore its instability and inability to prevent the terrorist activities, has made of Iraq a country perceived as a threat by the world public opinion, particularly the western countries. Hence, it is necessary for Iraq to conduct a sound “public diplomacy” at all levels, to explain that the cause of security problems are mainly due to external sources and that Iraq is the victim.

8 - The withdrawal of the US troops will leave Iraq as a torn state with a vast potential, and will increase the possibility of the neighboring countries of Iraq to interfere more taking advantage from this situation. Despite the advantages all actors could benefit from assuring the stability of Iraq, serious divergences between them on how to achieve this stability. At this point, in order for the concerned

actors to reach National reconciliation all healthy communication channels should be kept open, unspared and altruistic. The neighboring countries have to encourage the elements within which they have close relations in Iraq, to exert the outmost effort to protect and preserve the unity of Iraq.

9 - This information exerted in the Middle East in general and within Iraq in particular, has to be abolished. The only way to assure this is that the concerned parties in the region should take their responsibility to diffuse trustworthy information.

November 12th, 2010, Hatay