

Esteemed Participants,

I wish success for the meeting, organized with the aim of Strengthening the Coordination of Anti-corruption Policies and Practices, I wish that it will bring good luck to our country and nation.

As government, we considered the fight against corruption, poverty and bans with determination as one of our most primary duties and accordingly, we have worked honestly and earnestly. We have not covered up any corruption and we have not tolerated any corruption, any unlawfulness. Thus, we have built a powerful Turkey, which has fought against corruption strongly, which has diminished poverty ratio to a serious extent, which has eliminated bans one by one and still does so. As a matter of fact, Turkey, which was in the 65th rank among 102 countries in 2002 in International Corruption Perception Index, has moved up to the 54th rank among 174 countries as of 2012 and has found itself within the One-Third-Group, with the lowest perception of corruption. Within the scope of the fight that we carry out with determination, we have established more transparent, more efficient and more effective public management and we have prevented duty losses in public.

On one hand, by making the highest, the most costly investments of our Republic's history, we have developed our country and on the other hand, we have decreased public's debt burden to a serious extent. Within this scope, we have paid the debt of forced savings to workers and civil servants; we have paid housing acquisition aid, in addition, domestic government bonds, issued to SDIF, public banks and central bank due to banking crisis in 2001. When we took over the duty, our debt to IMF was 23,5 billion dollars. As of May, we have set this debt to zero. On the other hand, we have increased national income of Turkey and national income per capita more than 3 times. We have taken over the Foreign Exchange reserve of central bank with 27,5 billion dollars and we have provided it to achieve the highest levels of our history.

I would like to state kindly that our Prime Ministry Investigation Board has undertaken an important responsibility during this process; as a result of the audits that it has carried out, it has made an efficient and active contribution to the fight against corruption. The effort that our Prime Ministry Investigation Board has made for anti-corruption is praiseworthy. I believe that our Prime Ministry Investigation Board will continue its work with the same sensitivity and attention in the forthcoming period. With these thoughts, I congratulate the President of our Prime Ministry Investigation Board, Esteemed Yunus Arıncı and his team and I would like wish success to the meeting, organized with the aim of Strengthening the Coordination of Anti-corruption Policies and Practices once more and I wish that it would bring good luck.

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
Republic of Turkey
Prime Minister