

**To:**

**Mr. Ertugrul Apakan**, Ambassador, and **Mr. Fazlı Corman**, Deputy Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations;

**Mr. Zahir Tanin**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations;

**Mr. Agshin Mehdiyev**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations;

**Mr. Pajo Avirovikj**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the United Nations:

**Proposal date:** July 8, 2011

*Initial Proposal to the Permanent Mission of Turkey: January 11, 2011*

**Project Title**

*For the Observance of International Peace Day . . .*

***Peace at home, peace in the world – Mustafa Kemal Atatürk  
Atatürk’s vision through the lenses of the Millennium Development Goals  
for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Birth***

*Atatürk set an outstanding example in promoting the spirit of mutual understanding between peoples, and lasting peace between the nations of the world.*

— UNESCO, the Executive Board, November 1979

*Even the most powerful nation cannot establish peace and prosperity at home by itself without establishing global peace and prosperity. We have to think of the whole world like a body, and every nation is a part of this body. — M. K. Atatürk*

**Alternate title ideas:**

1) A Visionary Leader for Universal Education, Girls’ and Women’s Rights, Development, and International Peace: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Birth

2) “Science is the genuine guide to humanity”: A Visionary Leader for Universal Education, Girls’ and Women’s Rights, Development, and Peace in the Middle East and the World: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Birth

**Venue:** General Assembly Hall of the United Nations (preferably) or conference room #4

**Proposed date:** Thursday, September 15, 2011

**Alternate dates:** Friday September 16, 2011, or Monday September 19, 2011

Time: 3-6 pm (presentations and Q&A: 3-5 pm; performances: 5-6 pm)

Art opening and reception: 6:30-8 pm

**Sponsored by** the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations,  
the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and the  
Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the United Nations

**Concept and Proposal by** Bircan Ünver, The Light Millennium, Permanent  
Representative of *The Light Millennium* to the UN DPI/NGO (2005)

**Organization:** The Light Millennium – Associated with the UNDPI (2005)

As an NGO-led project in collaborations with other Turkish-American Organizations

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**Projected collaborators:** ATAA (DC), Ataturk Society (DC), TADF (NYC), TACCI (NYC),  
ATS (NYC), Turkish Business Forum (NYC), TUSIAD-US (DC), and the Turkish Cultural  
Foundation, DC.

## Project Summary

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, regarded universal education and equal rights for girls and women as the pillars of the society he started building in the 1920s. He said, "Peace and development necessitate the equal participation of women in every field." He established the necessary institutions and took measures during his lifetime to ensure these rights for all citizens of Turkey. The implementation of his vision was followed by the formation of Turkey in 1923, through a radical and immediate series of reforms.

Atatürk championed the motto, "Peace at home, peace in the world," and was one of the top visionary leaders of the twentieth century, according to Prof. Arnold Ludwig in his book *King of the Mountain: The Nature of Political Leadership* (2002). He immediately created a friendship with Greece, which he recognized with a respect that threatened the formation of Turkey. He shaped the country based on criteria and values that are very much in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as with the UN's International Peace Day. His vision and reforms remain some of the most pioneering and compelling examples for the Middle East, Developing Countries (DCs), Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as in some developed countries.

On the occasion of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Atatürk's birth, in conjunction with the

**"Associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations effective on December 12, 2005"**

The Light Millennium, is a 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt and Public Benefit Organization and member of the Non-Profit Coordination Committee of New York  
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observance of International Peace Day, we propose to take a new look at this remarkable leader's accomplishments through the lenses of MDG #1, #2, #3, #4, #7, and #8.

- Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty**
- Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education**
- Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women**
- Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality**
- Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development**

The joint celebration will take place at the United Nations HQ in New York City. The program will also highlight a powerful and effective model for the developing countries by inspiring them to implement the MDGs.

### **The proposed project will contain three parts:**

1) The first part of the program will focus on Atatürk's pioneering and achievements, while pointing out their relevancy to international peace and the MDGs via formal presentations by the sponsored member states and other potential ambassadors from countries such as Greece, Romania, Switzerland, Russia, India and Pakistan. The Secretary General, President of the General Assembly, and the director of the UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Women will also be invited to speak.

2) The second part will present selected examples of Atatürk's methods of modernization and democratization of Turkey in the areas of culture, art, music, and poetry. This part will include both multi-media presentations and live performances. This section will present the changes in Turkish daily life as a result of the westernization of Turkey, through examples of fine arts, music, theater, literature, and film. Within the context of international peace, the perspective of each of Turkey's neighboring countries will also be presented.

3) Art exhibit and reception in the main lobby of the UN at 6:30 pm.

### **Part 1: Ideas for potential speakers and presenters**

**Opening remarks by** Secretary General, President of General Assembly and/or Kiyoo Akasaka/Director-DPI

Ambassador H.E. Ertuğrul Apakan and Deputy Ambassador Fazlı Corman: Atatürk's vision for Turkey at the beginning of the 1920s and during his fifteen-year tenure, within the context of the Millennium Development Goals-2015 and in comparison with the least developing countries.

**Global Peace:** the ambassadors of Afghanistan, Macedonia, Romania, Greece, Azerbaijan, Swiss, India, Pakistan, Russia and directors of the UNESCO, UNDP, UN-Women..

**Moderator:** Professor Talat Halman. He will also will be presenting from his book: "Atatürk: In His Words"

**Goodwill Ambassador:** author Paulo Coelho

**Universal Education:** G.L. Lewis, Can Dundar, and a speaker from UNICEF (in relation to the MDGs 2, 3 and 4)

**Girls' and Women's Rights:** Madam Michelle Bachelet, UN-Women, Dr. Gül Celkan, Prof. Ciğdem Kağıtcıbaşı, Pınar İlkaracan, Women for Women Rights, or Muazzez İlmiye Çiğ (first Turkish female archeologist and sumerologist).

**Development – Economy & Global Partnership/MDG #8:** Dr. Gary Leiser, or Prof. Asim Sen, along with a speaker from the UNDP

**Modernization** through the arts, music, literature, and archeology, with Stephen Kinzer, a speaker from UNESCO. Multi-media presentations and performing artists will also be included.

**Environment:** Professor İlknür Güntürkün Kalıpçı

**Respectful leadership during combat, and setting up a vision, regulations, and practice for international peace prior to and following the formation of Turkey:** Dr. Arnold Ludwig, Dr. Edward Erickson, and Professor İlber Ortaylı

**World View of Ataturk:** (*Retired*) Ambassador Robert Finn

– *Questions and answers*

**Part 2: Archival films of Atatürk from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary speeches; comparing Turkey with other developing countries yesterday and today**

**Documentary:** A short documentary on the first Turkish female pilot, Sabiha Gökçen (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1gq2L5LdQ4>)

**Documentary:** The Last Queen of Sumer: Muazzez İlmiye Çiğ (followed by a brief presentation). A short version of the documentary could be shown within the context of "gender equality and empowering women" starting in 1938 in Turkey.

A short documentary on Turkish ballet as one of the key examples of the modernization of Turkey, along with a presentation by the filmmaker, Figen Phelps.

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**Music:** Two arias from Yunus Emre and Adnan Saygun; Sertap Erener; Makber; and Fahir Atakoğlu

### **Part 3: Art exhibit and reception** (Proposed exhibition ideas)

1) **“From the Coffee Ground to the Canvas”:** Oil painting by Utku Özden Otman  
<http://www.isikbinyili.org/docView.php?d=article&id=271>

2) **“The Women – Our Women”:** Oil painting by Mustafa Ali Kasap  
(<http://www.isikbinyili.org/docView.php?d=article&id=342>  
<http://www.isikbinyili.org/docView.php?d=article&id=333>)

3) **Girls and Women in Turkish Paintings 1900-1950** (A selection of Turkish oil paintings on canvas that depicts changes in lifestyle, attire, schools, and professions in Turkey.)

### **About The Light Millennium/LM**

The LM (2001) provides an international platform for the free expression of ideas and experiences in order to foster a global dialogue and better understanding among all people and cultures. It is also a channel for removing prejudice between various cultures and countries. As an innovative public benefit multi-media and arts-culture organization, the LM uses the Internet, TV, and public events to conduct research, and to compile and publish information concerning global issues, peace, UN, MDGs, art, and literature, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or cultural background.

The organization has been associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, effective on December 12, 2005. E-published 50 issues; organized 57 events and produced/promoted more than 70 TV programs since 2000. Selected themes: “Voices for Peace,” “Choices for Humanity.” “UN Vision and MDGs Speak Through the Arts,” “Human Security for All,” “Wild Cards in Climate Change,” “A World without Nuclear and All Weapons,” “2015 & Beyond in Science and Arts”, “MDGs: Where are we now and Freedom of Expression.” Was a member of the DPI/NGO Annual Conf./Planning Committees in 2006, 2007, and 2008, and led two events in 2006-07. The LM’s website is visited in 165 countries; monthly hits are over 600,000.

### **References for Atatürk’s centennial birth year:**

1) 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly – Official Document – 19 December 1979  
<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/landmark/pdf/a34pv107e.pdf>

2) UNESCO - Turkey, Profile of Education:

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/worldwide/unesco-regions/asia-and-the-pacific/turkey/profile-of-education.html>

3) UNESCO Centenary of Ataturk's birth - The Executive Board

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0003/000370/037018e.pdf>(Page: 21) November 1979

4) The UNESCO COURIER - November 1981

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0007/000747/074752eo.pdf>

5) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atatürk\\_Centennial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atatürk_Centennial)

6) Anniversaries of Great Personalities and Important Historical Events 1981-1982

(Dated: Paris, November 27, 1980)

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0004/000423/042343Eb.pdf>

7) "Ataturk and Modernization of Turkey" Symposium, Jerusalem, Israel, October 1981

(also as a published book)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=8\\_n93Kq5PwMC&pg=PR9&lpg=PR9&dq=Centenary+of+Ataturk,+Jerusalem,+October+1981&source=bl&ots=MYutiSYng-&sig=8oanBCsJumgceqALwKhppwmLjGM&hl=en&ei=AvMrTcuRIoL\\_8Aa3hpTYCQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Centenary%20of%20Ataturk%2C%20Jerusalem%2C%20October%201981&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=8_n93Kq5PwMC&pg=PR9&lpg=PR9&dq=Centenary+of+Ataturk,+Jerusalem,+October+1981&source=bl&ots=MYutiSYng-&sig=8oanBCsJumgceqALwKhppwmLjGM&hl=en&ei=AvMrTcuRIoL_8Aa3hpTYCQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Centenary%20of%20Ataturk%2C%20Jerusalem%2C%20October%201981&f=false)

8) Prof. Asim Sen, Leadership, Inequality, and Economic Crisis

<http://orgs.bloomu.edu/gasi/2009%20Proceedings%20PDFs/SENLEADERSHIP,INEQUALITY%20AND%20ECONOMIC%20CRISIS%202012.pdf>

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