

**8<sup>th</sup> PPP Week 2024**

**05 March 2024, Le Meridien Istanbul Etiler**

**Minister of Treasury and Finance of Türkiye Mr. Mehmet Şimşek,**

**President of Investment Office of Türkiye Mr. Burak Dağlıoğlu,**

**Head of Department at the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye Mr. Murat Nesimoğlu,**

**Chairman of İstanbul PPPCOE Dr. Eyüp Vural Aydın,**

**President of WAPPP Mr. Ziad Alexandre Hayek,**

**Dear Participants,**

On behalf of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye - DEİK, I am delighted to be with our guests on the first day of our PPP Week, organized under the coordination of our Ministry of Trade and Invest in Türkiye, in collaboration with DEİK PPP Committee and İstanbul PPPCoE.

It's my honor to welcome our panelists and participants from more than 50 different countries including significant decision-makers in both the public and private sectors today.

The theme of this year's PPP week is **“PPP: Global, Greener and Growthful”**. This theme is especially meaningful for this year when we consider the global developments.

The world is witnessing significant challenges that started with Covid-19 and even today continues with Russian-Ukraine war and with the recent developments in the Middle East. We are confronted with wars, climate change, natural disasters, disruptions in trade and economic and financial problems. At COP 28 conference held in Dubai last year, the transition from fossil fuels, transforming climate finance, enhancing climate action, and promoting inclusivity have been discussed in detail to achieve net zero carbon emission targets. All countries in the world have similar problems and similar targets: achieving growth with a focus on green transformation. Hence, we choose this year's topic as "PPP: Global, Greener and Growthful", meaning that we need a global growth with a focus on environmental problems.

We are aware of our global problems, and we are aware of our targets. The only thing we should do is to increase investments and to find the necessary policies and strategies. One significant tool to solve global problems and to achieve growth with a focus on environment is to use PPP model in our investments.

As Türkiye, we extensively used PPP model within the last two decades especially in big infrastructure projects, in transportation projects in the construction of highways, airports, in health sector with construction of famous city hospitals and in energy sector. We used different models like Build-Operate Transfer (BOT), Build Operate (BO), Transfer of Operating Rights, and Build-Rent-Transfer Models. I am also a partner of a large PPP Project with my company. I have the experience of what kind of opportunities it gives, what kind of problems can arise if it is not managed well.

Although Türkiye had a significant expertise and experience in using PPP model, we need more investments to further upgrade our infrastructure and to achieve transition to a green economy. So, we need to increase use of PPP projects with a new understanding and maybe with new models. I personally call this next generation PPP projects.

I believe you also have similar problems and similar targets as Türkiye. Throughout this forum, we will share our experiences, form new partnerships and collaborations. I know very well that each of you offers a unique and telling perspective that we appreciate very much.

In this forum, we will discuss crucial issues in PPP projects, from developing PPP framework to roles of partners, from conflict management to sustainable development goals and more. The forum will also include training programs and site visits to mega projects in addition to our regular panels. And one more surprise, PPP Awards will be presented for the first time this year. I congratulate them in advance on receiving the awards.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to our Trade Ministry, our PPP Committee and Istanbul PPPCoE and all international organizations for their support to make this event possible.

I wish fruitful PPP Week that is going to continue for the next 4 days.

Thank you for all.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**