



ANGLO-TURKISH COOPERATION IN CLIMATE AND TECHNOLOGY

Batuhan ULUKÜTÜK¹

Turkey and the United Kingdom have worked in harmony on many global and bilateral issues from the past to the present. They have demonstrated success that will set an example for the whole world thanks to the cooperation they have developed. Undoubtedly, this cooperation is the fruitful result of the intense effort arising from the compassion and need of both countries and nations for the common values of our world. We, humans, have caused serious damage to the nature we live in, especially since the last century, due to the rapid progress of technology. But now the whole world knows what is right and wrong for our nature and future. Now, it is the time to heal.

By hosting the COP26 conference in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021, the United Kingdom took an important step towards ensuring the commitment of all countries to the effective implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement resolutions. According to the British Ambassador to Ankara, Sir Dominick Chilcott, as a requirement of this agreement, the United Kingdom aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 68% in 2030 compared to 1990 and achieve certain zero emissions in 2050. In addition, within ten years, it will outlaw the sale of new vehicles running on petrol and diesel.² The fact that New Year's Eve in 2022 was the warmest New Year's Eve recorded in the UK with a temperature of 16.2 °C supports the necessity of steps taken in this regard.³ The COP26 conference was a good step for all participating countries to talk about such issues and to encourage governments to take concrete steps about the problems that the climate change crisis will bring about in the future. Announcing the winners of the newly established Earthshot Prize during the COP26 conference, His Royal Highness Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, stated that it is more effective to take a step rather than wait, and called on world leaders to support nature conservation studies and projects that are promising for the future.⁴

Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, who participated in COP26, also introduced the "Green Solution Vision", which they created to transform Istanbul into a carbon-free city by 2050, to the participants. In addition, Mayor İmamoğlu also

¹ TED College, Afyonkarahisar, Turkey. E-mail: batuhanulukutuk@gmail.com

² Official Statement of Sir Dominick Chilcott KCMG Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ankara, 9 December 2020.

³ BBC News, 1 January 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59847641>

⁴ *People*, 2 November 2021. <https://people.com/royals/prince-william-praises-earthshot-finalists-cop26-climate-change-conference-glasgow/>



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discussed the risks of a possible earthquake in Istanbul for the nature and the people of Istanbul, and the precautions that have been taken. Expressing his concerns about the Kanal Istanbul Project, İmamoğlu said that they had a bilateral meeting with the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and talked about the measures that could be taken on the basis of local governments regarding climate change.⁵

At the United Kingdom Technology Week events, which took place on 16 – 18 February 2021 with the participation of Mustafa Varank, the Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey, the Minister spoke about the joint and assertive efforts of the two countries in the fields of economy, science and technology in order to prevent some possible negative effects of zero-emission movements in the fields of industry and production.⁶ He talked about the importance of preserving their competitive position within the European Union. Minister Varank also mentioned that Turkey’s research facilities provide exceptionally favourable conditions for environmentally friendly projects such as renewable energy to be carried out jointly by the two countries. Minister Varank stated that the highly favourable incentives of Turkey for technology-based initiatives could play an effective and decisive role in the space and aviation industry programs to be carried out by the two countries in the forthcoming period. The venture capital support program, the Regional Development Fund, the Technology and Innovation Fund, and the Informatics Valley Venture Capital Fund were among the issues shared by the Minister with the relevant authorities and investors as significant steps towards the best use of the technology investments of the two countries.⁷

In the light of all these developments, we can evaluate the consensus and coordination of Turkey and the United Kingdom on the climate change crisis, which has made its impact felt worldwide as positive and progressive. The climate crisis, which is increasing its impact and concern day by day, is an issue that can be overcome with the joint efforts and sacrifices of everyone. Therefore, it is an issue that the world public opinion will appreciate that Turkey and the United Kingdom take firm steps towards a common solution.

The cooperation between the two countries in technology, scientific research and production with high budgets will reinforce the strong position of both nations in the age of

⁵ Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Official Website, 11 November 2021. <https://www.ibb.istanbul/arsiv/38285/imamoglu-glasgowdan-cagri-yapti-istanbul-depr>

⁶ Anadolu Ajansı, 16 February 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/ekonomi/bakan-varank-turkiye-ile-birlesik-krallikin-is-birligi-ab-pazarlarindaki-rekabetci-konumumuzu-korumada-onemli/2146529>

⁷ Anadolu Ajansı, 16 February 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/ekonomi/bakan-varank-turkiye-ile-birlesik-krallikin-is-birligi-ab-pazarlarindaki-rekabetci-konumumuzu-korumada-onemli/2146529>



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technology. It will enable them to lay solid foundations for a solid future. It is obvious that these projects, which can compete with all competing enterprises, will bring bilateral relations closer.