



2. ULUSLARARASI 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
ORTA DOĞU KONGRESİ MIDDLE EAST CONGRESS

( STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT )

**2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST CONGRESS**

**“Change in the Middle East”**

( 7-9 December 2011, Hatay )

With the end of the Cold War in the 1990s, many countries around the world entered a period of change and transformation. Yet, for the formation of a similar atmosphere, Middle Eastern countries have waited for the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The main reason for this delay has been the security-based policies of the Western countries in the region. Maturation of the global and local political conditions in the Middle East such as deepening poverty in the region, inappropriate training policies, the oppressive and exclusionary political regimes, increased opportunities for communication, and acceleration of the flow of goods, capital and human has made a similar change and transformation inevitable. Winds of change deepened the uncertainties about the region.

Today, uncertainties in the Middle East leave the actors related to the region in a difficult situation to develop appropriate policies and make future projections. The main reason for this difficulty is the structure of developments that bears complex interactions regarding the social, political and diplomatic aspects. Therefore, to make healthy analysis and identify sustainable policies about the region; social and political dynamics in the countries of the region and impact of the global international system on these dynamics should be put under the spotlight.

At present, recent education and human development programs in the Middle Eastern countries have proved to be inadequate. That enough employment for the rapidly growing young population in the region could not be provided has led poverty to deepen. The people who become able to compare themselves with the developed countries thanks to the increased opportunities for communication, has become more vulnerable to manipulations coming from inside or outside. Over the last two years, the increase in food prices was the last straw for the people rebellions in the Middle East.



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In the last thirty - forty-year period, qualities of the political regimes in the Middle East are determined at the point of intersection of the basic characteristics of the peoples in the region, colonial heritage and security and energy policies of the dominant forces in the international arena. For this reason, the peoples of the region have remained behind general economic and social dynamism of the world. This situation led to the deepening of the gap between the regimes and peoples. Therefore, the administrations have faced the problem of political legitimacy which is impossible to solve. At this point, Internet access allows people compare themselves with the Western democracies and the sustainability of the current regimes is eliminated. To control the masses who think they would catch a better standard of living through the movements of revolt and revolution has become more and more difficult and the way to change has been opened with the impact of external dynamics. Politically, that the regimes that are the last remnants of the Cold War have difficulties in establishing a meaningful balance between the regional dynamics and policies of international powers in the region have made the changes inevitable.

In terms of global politics, geo-strategic importance of the Middle East and its energy resources have caused the region remained as a direct and continuous area of intervention for global powers.

That the global economy have entered in a period of deep crisis in 2008 have transformed the region to an expansion area with new investment and market opportunities. Because of the central and symbolic importance of the region for the Islamic world, geo-cultural and global strategic considerations have become more complex.

At present, it is needless to say that global powers are struggling with might and main to reshape the region according to their interests. However, we must mention that changes that are likely to occur in the region have the capacity to influence the global international system. Therefore, to develop a healthy and sustainable policies and strategies for the countries in the region, the following questions must be answered well:

What kind of courses of action should be followed in order to develop unique and sustainable training and development policies for the countries in the region? What are the main shortcomings of current education policies? What kind of measures should be taken to submit a comprehensive and urgent solution to the problem of employment? For example, what is the importance of developing vocational and technical education and revising technology, food and agricultural policies? What are the measures to be taken by the Middle Eastern countries in the context of the sustainability of public management and legitimacy today, when the communication facilities reach to top?



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Currently, foreign expansion of the countries in the region has become inevitable. What precautions should be taken to tip the scales politically and economically in favor of the countries of the region as well as possible? Can the foreign expansion of the region that occupies a central place in the main continent of the world pursue broader integration processes?

“2<sup>nd</sup> International Middle East Congress” aims to find meaningful and unique answers to these questions and to contribute to the interactivity among the countries of the region at the basis of equality and brotherhood.

Arranging the second meeting of the Forum in Hatay again is an important message to the entire world considering the city’s plural identity. Hatay is a reference value for the region as a model city which is implementing the principle of "Unity in diversity, wealth and civilization" hundred years ago.

### Main Theme

“Change in the Middle East”

### Sub Themes

- Sociological Basis of the Change in the Middle East
- Parameters of the Political Transformation in the Middle East
- Effects of the International Actors on the Transformation
- Immigration and Refugee Issues in the Middle East



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