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ABOUT GRF

Global Relations Forum (GRF) is an independent, non-profit membership association committed to being a platform for engaging, informing and stimulating its members and all interested individuals in all matters related to international affairs and global issues.

GRF was founded with the enthusiastic support of 40 accomplished Turkish men and women who have assumed prominent roles in international fora and have received international recognition for their efforts throughout their careers. The founding members include former ministers, university presidents, members of the armed forces, central bank governors, ECHR justice and retired ambassadors as well as leading business leaders, scholars, artists, and journalists. It was officially registered on May 11th 2009 and its first General Assembly was held on November 9th, 2009.

GRF intends to advance a culture that rewards the fertile tension between passion for intellectual diversity and dedication to innovative and objective synthesis. It nurtures uninhibited curiosity, analytic inquiry, rational debate and constructive demeanor as the elemental constituents in all its endeavors. It contributes to the shared understanding of and aspiration for humanity's path to peace, prosperity and progress as an accessible, inclusive and fair process for all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GRF Board of Directors consists of 15 full and 15 substitute members. The board members are elected for three-year terms, with one-third of the board members being renewed each year.

Board Members 2023

Zeynep Bodur Okyay

Chairperson

Ahmet Üzümcü

Vice-Chairperson

Fusun Türkmen

Vice-Chairperson

Ayşe Canan Ediboğlu

Secretary-General

Tayfun Bayazıt

Auditor

Feride Acar

Gülay Barbarosoğlu

Altuğ Bilgin

İpek Cem Taha

Hikmet Çetin

Nüket Küçükkel Ezberci

(Replaced by Taşkın Osman Aksoy as of 12.10.2023)

Muhsin Mengütürk

(Replaced by Gözde Küçük Adıyaman as of 24.04.2023)

Bertil Emrah Oder

(Replaced by Sibel Asna as of 12.10.2023)

Doğan Taşkent

Rona Yırcalı

2023 GRF EXECUTIVE STAFF



Ambassador (R) Selim Yenal
President



Ruşen İnceođlu
Administrative Director
(from 01.09.2023)



Duygu Söyler Aytac
Senior Director



Ata Mert Aladađ
Program Director



Fulya Kocukođlu
Program Director



Alp Tanju
Program Director



Hüsnu Arın Demir
Associate
(until 14.07.2023)



Maxine İmer
Administrative Coordinator



Çiđdem Őimşek
Administrative Assistant

EVENTS



Roundtable Meeting with Ambassador (R) Matthew Bryza, Managing Partner of Ballard Partners Istanbul Office and CEO of Lamor Turkey

Subject: “The Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on Global Energy Markets”

January 17, 2023

Roundtable with Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs

Subject: “Current Situation and Future of Turkey-EU Relations”

January 31, 2023

GRF’s 15th General Assembly

February 20, 2023

Global Relations Forum and Ankara Policy Center Joint Panel Meeting

Subject: “Latest Developments in South Caucasus”

Panelists: Richard Giragosian, Zaur Shiriyev, Thomas de Waal, Prof. Mitat Çelikpala, (Moderator)

March 10, 2023

Online Meeting with Hatice Evren, Global Business Functions Leader at Getir

Subject: “Growth Journey from Startup to Scaleup”

March 24, 2023

Roundtable Meeting with Ambassador Jeffry L. Flake, United States Ambassador to Turkey

Subject: “Global Implications of the Russia-Ukraine War and the Future of Turkey-US Relations”

April 4, 2023

GRF Izmir Economic Congress 100th Anniversary Meeting

Keynote Speaker: Tunç Soyer

Subject: "Economy in the Fractured World of the 1920s"

Panelists: Prof. Şevket Pamuk, Prof. Zafer Toprak, Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel (Moderator)

Subject: "The New Economic Structure Amidst the Fractures of the 2020s"

Panelists: Prof. Ufuk Akçığıt, Dr. Osman Cevdet Akçay, Tayfun Bayazıt (Moderator)

April 24, 2023

Online Meeting with Can Selçuki, General Manager of Istanbul Economics Research

Subject: "May 14, 2023 General Elections in Light of Public Opinion Polls"

May 1, 2023

Global Relations Forum and Ankara Policy Center Joint Panel Meeting

Subject: "Rising China and Global Competition"

Panelists: Prof. Seriye Sezen, Dr. Ümit Alperen, Dr. Emre Demir, Asst. Prof. Tolga Bilener, Afşin Yurdakul (Moderator)

May 2, 2023

Online Meeting with Can Selçuki, General Manager of Istanbul Economics Research

Subject: "2nd Round of May 14, 2023 General Elections in Light of Public Opinion Polls"

May 25, 2023



Dinner with George Perkovich, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Vice President for Studies

Subject: "Nuclear Disarmament Policy"

June 7, 2023

GRF-TSKB Joint Panel

Subject: "Towards a Net Zero Future"

Panelists: Nazlı Azergün, Meral Murathan, Bahar Ubay Güçlüsoy, Fatih Özkadı, Tayfun Bayazıt (Moderator)

June 9, 2023

Global Relations Forum – Bain & Company Joint Online Panel Meeting

Subject: "Bold Steps Towards a Green Future: The Status of Energy Transition in 2023 and the Road to Success"

Panelists: Neelam Phadke, Alessandro Cadei, Armando Guastella

June 20, 2023

Dinner with Sir Michael Moritz KBE, Chairperson of Sequoia Capital

Subject: “Milestones of the Recent Developments in Modern Technology”

June 23, 2023

Global Relations Forum - Ankara Policy Center Joint Online Panel Meeting

Subject: “Global South and West”

Panelists: Prof. Atul Kohli, Asst. Prof. Emre Demir, Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel (Moderator)

September 20, 2023

Global Relations Forum - Ankara Policy Center Joint Online Panel Meeting

Subject: “Countering Populist Movements: Addressing Current Political Trends”

Panelists: Prof. Sheri Berman, Prof. Evren Balta, Prof. Ersin Kalaycıođlu (Moderator)

September 29, 2023



GRF Communities Meetup

Guests: Alumni of GRF’s Young Scholars, Young Fellows, Young Professionals, and Young Academics Programs

October 6, 2023

“The Effects of Green Transformation on Turkey’s Industrial and Trade Policies” Panel Meeting & Reception

Panelists: Prof. Güven Sak, Bahar Güçlü, Bengisu Özenç, Ambassador (R) Bozkurt Aran (Moderator)

October 12, 2023, Ankara

“The Israel - Hamas War and the New Probable Balance in the Middle East” Online Panel Meeting

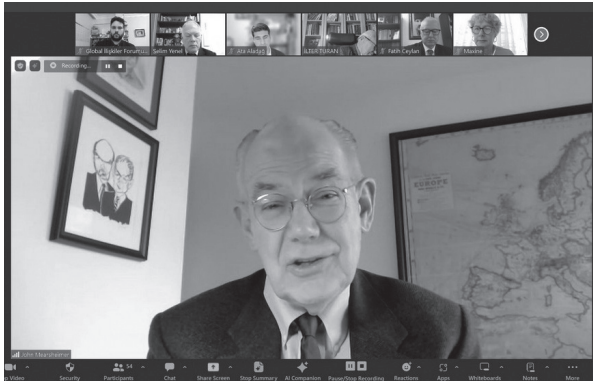
Panelists: Ambassador (R) Ömer Önhon, Prof. Özlem Tür, and Asst. Prof. Ezgi Uzun Teker, Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel (Moderator)

October 13, 2023

Online Meeting with Prof. Andrea Renda, Head of Research at CEPS

Subject: “Global AI Governance: Current Landscape and Potential Implications of Distinct Regulatory Strategies by Primary Actors”

November 22, 2023



Roundtable Meeting with Nacho Sánchez Amor, Member of the European Parliament and Turkey Rapporteur

Subject: “Is There a Future for European Union – Turkey Relations?”

December 5, 2023

Global Relations Forum - Ankara Policy Center Joint Online Panel Meeting

Subject: “A Realist Perspective on a Multipolar and Multilayered World”

Panelist: John J. Mearsheimer, Professor of Political Science at University of Chicago

December 18, 2023

GRF Communities New Year Meetup

Guests: Alumni of GRF’s Young Scholars, Young Fellows, Young Professionals, and Young Academics Programs

December 25, 2023

GRF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

GRF's community programs bring together young and bright minds to learn and discuss long-term policy challenges, complex global issues, socioeconomic implications of future-shaping technologies, and various other seminar topics with GRF members who are experts in their fields. These programs are also referred to as "GRF Groups" and their alumni form the GRF Communities.

GRF YOUNG FELLOWS PROGRAM



The GRF Young Fellows Program was created to provide undergraduate students studying at the leading universities from Turkey and the world with a platform where they can analyze and discuss global issues in a free, rational and constructive manner. The meetings are organized in three sections:

The first section brings together students and GRF members. Invited as guest speakers, our members share thoughts on topics of international affairs that they have selected based on their own career paths and areas of interest. This gives the students the opportunity to benefit from the wisdom and experiences of GRF members, who have represented Turkey in international platforms, and have played and are still playing a personal role in the shaping of events in Turkey and the world. In turn, our members find the opportunity to enrich their ideas with the questions and comments of the young participants, who have minds shaped by the challenges of our day and an interest in a wide array of subjects resulting from their intellectual curiosity. In short, this section of the program is about the exchange of knowledge and experience between generations.

The second section of the program consists of meetings where GRF and GRF Community members who have experience with the subjects at hand convene with students as speaker or moderator. The discussions in these meetings revolve around the articles written by leading academics and intellectuals of the world and require the active and sustained participation of students. One of the important goals of this section is to enable students to form connections, on a macro scale, among many different aspects of the global agenda, from economy to technology and from law to politics. Additionally, this section of the program aims to provide students with the tools to understand central debates concerning the world's future in the long-term; and help them shape their professional and personal ideals as well as their dreams of contributing to their countries and humankind.

In the third section of the program, students are expected to conduct a "Book Review Presentation" in groups of two or three on a book written on global issues, and selected by GRF. Subsequently, each student is expected to individually write a 1000-1500 word book review.

Upon completion of the program, students who have attended the meetings, conducted their presentations, and written their book reviews will join the GRF Community as "Young Fellows".

GIF Young Fellows Program 2022-2023 Term

The following guests were hosted during the sessions held within the scope of the GRF Young Fellows Program in 2023.

Moderators:

Selin Uğurtaş - *Climate Journalist*

Subject: "Climate Crisis"

Güneş Ünal - *Assoc. Prof. of Psychology at Boğaziçi University*

Subject: "Neuropolitics"

Guest Speaker:

Ambassador (R.) Fatih Ceylan - *Former Permanent Representative of Turkey to NATO and President of Ankara Policy Center (APM)*

Subject: "Possible Reflections of Artificial Intelligence Technologies on Security and Defense"

Participants evaluated the following books in groups in the last session of the program:

Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World – Jason Hickel

Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology – Chris Miller

Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence – Max Tegmark

GRF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM



The GRF Young Professionals Program was launched to build GRF's practical competence by incorporating young decision-makers into GRF studies. The program is targeted at young professionals who are equipped with the resolve, background, and experience to contribute to the future of Turkey and the world.

Participants of the GRF Young Professionals Program are individuals for whom it is second nature to think comprehensively, to share their opinions with modesty, and to consider the opinions of others with curiosity. It is crucial for the diversity of the group that participants in the program have different educational backgrounds and pursue different career paths. Participants are expected to have a minimum of four years of work experience, and be no older than 38. Each year, a maximum of two qualified participants can be selected for the program without meeting the work experience requirement.

The program involves presentations by participants and group discussions on various issues that shape the global agenda.

GRF Young Professionals Program 2022-2023 Term

Meetings for the 2022-2023 term of the program revolved around presentations and discussions about the changing dynamics brought on by technological advancements and how they may shape the established social, economic, and political structures.

The themes covered, speakers hosted and books evaluated throughout 2023 within the scope of the program are as follows:

Space

Books:

The Next 500 Years: Engineering Life to Reach New Worlds – Christopher E. Mason

The Space Barons: Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and the Quest to Colonize the Cosmos – Christian Davenport

Technology and Inequality

Books:

A Brief History of Equality – Thomas Piketty

Innovation + Equality: How to Create a Future That is More Star Trek Than Terminator – Joshua Gans & Andrew Leigh

Technology and Geopolitics

Books:

Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology – Chris Miller

Technology and Climate

Books:

How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need – Bill Gates
Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future – Elizabeth Kolbert

Guest Speakers

Memduh Karakullukçu – *Founding Director of İTÜ-ARI Teknokent, Founding Partner of Kanunum.com, Chairman of Kroton Consulting*

Subject: “Energy, Climate, and Geopolitics in the Midst of an Unruly Transition”

Osman Okyay - *Vice Chairman and Group Head of Technical Division, Kale Group of Companies*

Subject: “Prominent Technological Developments in the Defense Industry and Turkey”

Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel – *President, GRF*

Subject: “Turkish Foreign Policy and the Future of Relations with the EU After the May 14 Elections”

GRF YOUNG ACADEMICS PROGRAM

Global Relations Forum launched the Young Academics Program to engage with academics who are willing to contribute to national and international policy discussions by drawing on their strong academic and theoretical backgrounds. Through this ever-expanding network of promising young academics, GRF hopes to contribute to bridging the divide between policy circles and academia.

While the overarching aim of all GRF Community programs is to advance a culture of intellectual diversity, constructive debate and analytic coherence, the Young Academics Program has an additional objective as it is uniquely designed to culminate in the preparation of a policy or an analysis paper authored by each participant. These papers are then published as part of the Policy Paper Series or the Analysis Paper Series. While both series are concerned with thoroughly analyzing a topic of interest related to global systemic issues, the former additionally, proposes policy recommendations.

The Young Academics Program is open to applications from academics of all disciplines, and the articles published within the scope of the program is prepared with a wide readership in mind. GRF invites all young academics who are currently pursuing their studies or have completed their doctorates within the last three years to apply.

As part of the program, applicants are periodically joined by GRF members who have taken leadership positions in academia, governmental institutions or business circles in order to give their expertise and provide direction in ensuring the papers are well-developed and applicable within the field of study.

The program is designed around two meetings. First meeting brings together all participants, and enables them to clarify and improve their research topics based on the feedback they receive from their peers. During this stage, participants are expected to deliver a presentation on their topic of choice, followed by a discussion after each presentation.

The second meeting is organized individually for each participant. At this stage, the expertise of GRF members comes into play more explicitly as GRF assembles a different commission for each participant. These commissions are made up of a select group of at least three GRF members with knowledge and expertise in the participants' chosen topics. Participants present the first drafts of their papers to their commissions and receive detailed feedback.

GRF Young Academics Program 2021-2023 Period

In 2023, one policy paper was published under Young Academics Publications; with others still in the writing, feedback, and approval stages. The list of Review Committee members for the second stage of meetings is as follows:

Committee Members

Fatih Kemal Ebiçliođlu - *President of Consumer Durables, Koç Holding A.Ş.*

Orhan Güvenen - *Former Undersecretary of DPT, Professor of Econometrics at Bilkent University*

Bahadır Kaleađası - *President, Institut Bosphore; Honorary Chairman, Brec-Brussels Energy Club*

Muharrem Kayhan - *Chairman, Söktaş A.Ş.; Board Member, Koç Holding A.Ş.*

Selim Kunalp - *Ambassador (R)*

Çiğdem Nas - *Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Yıldız Technical University; Secretary General, Economic Development Foundation (IKV)*

MEETINGS HELD WITHIN THE SCOPE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- **GRF Young Professionals Program 2022-2023 Term, Third Meeting**
January 7, 2023
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2022-2023 Term, Second Meeting**
March 11, 2023
- **GRF Young Professionals Program 2022-2023 Term, Fourth Meeting**
April 8, 2023
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2022-2023 Term, Third Meeting**
May 10, 2023
- **GRF Young Professionals Program 2022-2023 Term, Fifth Meeting**
June 17, 2023
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2022-2023 Term, Fourth Meeting**
June 20, 2023
- **GRF Young Academics Program Evaluation Commission Meeting (Dr. Kerem Çelikboya)**
November 28, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

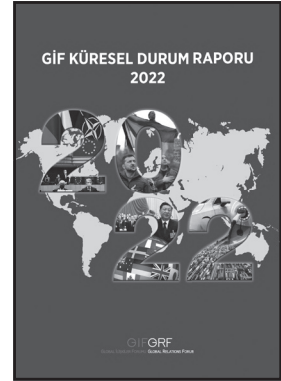
GRF shares the knowledge of its members and the research of its expert staff with its members in the form of periodical and non-periodical publications. While meeting notes and monthly newsletters are shared only with members, reports, articles, podcasts and viewpoints are published on the website as open-access sources.

Monthly Newsletter (In Turkish)

The monthly newsletter, published exclusively for GRF members, is prepared by GRF's team of experts. The newsletter includes a recap of the activities conducted in the past month, a preview of upcoming events, highlights of GRF members' publications, a synopsis of noteworthy issues and events, analyses on international politics, diplomacy and economics, as well as book, article and report recommendations.

GRF Global Outlook Report 2022 (In Turkish)

Since 2020, the Global Outlook Report has been regularly published, bringing together assessments on global agenda issues from the preceding year by GRF members who are experts in their respective fields into a cohesive annual publication.



GRF 2021-2022 Activity Report

Activity reports, which provide detailed information on GRF's activities, publications, structure and functioning, are published every two years in both Turkish and English.

GRF Young Academics Program Policy Paper Series No: 16

“Climate Lobbying as an Action to Strengthen Relations between the EU and Turkey”

Fatin Reşat Durukan (Paris Panthéon Assas University, PhD Candidate)



GRF Young Academics Program, built around the process of writing and publishing an article, brings together the expertise of young academics and GRF members. Articles are evaluated by a commission consisting of GRF members. In the commission that evaluated Fatin Reşat Durukan's article, GRF members Mr. Fatih Kemal Ebiçlioğlu, Ambassador (R) Selim Kuneralp and Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas took part.

VIEWPOINTS

- ***The Latest Situation in the F-16 Negotiations and the Different Attitudes of US Institutions*** – Arın Demir, 20.03.2023
- ***Sweden's New Anti-Terrorism Law and the Future of its NATO Membership Application*** – Arın Demir, 11.07.2023
- ***Global Organizations*** – Selim Yenel & Fulya Kocukoğlu, 07.09.2023
- ***Nothing New on the Western Front, Again*** - Selim Yenel, 14.09.2023
- ***The Ouroboros of the Middle East: What the Latest Offensive Between Israel and Palestine Means for the Region*** – Alp Tanju, 17.10.2023
- ***International History of Combating Violence Against Women*** – Duygu Söyler Aytaç & Fulya Kocukoğlu, 25.11.2023
- ***EU's Assessments and Recommendations on the Future of Turkey-EU Relations*** – Selim Yenel, 30.11.2023

GRF PODCAST SERIES

GRF President Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel addresses the prominent issues of the global agenda by hosting a different guest in each episode.

- “Dynamics of China” with **Asst. Prof. Tolga Bilener**, Director of Galatasaray University's Strategic Research Center (GSÜ-SAM) and Co-Head of the International Relations Dept. – January 20, 2023
- “Natural Disasters Through the Prism of Gender Equality” with **Prof. Yakın Ertürk**, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women – March 8, 2023
- “The Socioeconomic Dimensions of the Gaziantep-Kahramanmaraş Earthquake” with **Dr. Cevat Giray Aksoy**, Senior Research Economist at European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) London Headquarters & Lecturer at King's College London - March 17, 2023
- “The Effects and Potential Dangers of Future Technologies” with **Dr. Rıza Kadılar**, Honorary Chairman of eExec Turkey - June 19, 2023
- “The Latest Violence Between Israel and Hamas, and Its Reflections on Turkey” with **Ambassador (R) Namık Tan** – October 25, 2023
- “Legal and Societal Challenges to Gender Equality” with **Prof. Feride Acar**, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at METU & **Hülya Gülbahar**, Lawyer and Women's Rights Activist – November 20, 2023 (Hosted by Fulya Kocukoğlu, GRF Program Director)
- “Egypt, the Israel-Hamas War and Regional Security Ties” with **Ambassador (R) Şafak Göktürk** - November 30, 2023
- “The Turkey - Greece Relationship in Light of Recent Developments” with **Ambassador (R) Hasan Göğüş** - December 11, 2023

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUES

GRF has been invited to numerous international conferences and meetings throughout 2023 to engage with global counterparts and provide its contributions. GRF also hosted organizations visiting Turkey within the scope of its activities. The highlighted contacts are summarized below.

- February 8; March 15; June 6, **GMF-Mitvim Policy Dialogue**, Online, (Selim Yenel)
- April 6; May 11; June 15, October 9, **Group Voisinages**, Online, (Selim Yenel)
- April 26-29, **Delphi Economic Forum**, Greece (Selim Yenel)
- May 7-9, **Council of Councils 12th Annual Conference**, New York (Selim Yenel)
- May 16, **European Parliament Meeting**, Sofia (Selim Yenel)
- June 21-23, **European Leadership Network (ELN) Russia-Western Relations Contact Group Meeting**, Istanbul (Hosted)
- September 6, **Council of Councils 8th Virtual Conference** (Selim Yenel, Duygu Söyler Aytaç)
- October 7, **British Institute at Ankara**, London (Selim Yenel)
- October 20, **Institut Bosphore**, İstanbul (Selim Yenel)
- November 22, **European Leadership Network & Younger Generation Leaders Network: Building Mutual Security in the Euro-Atlantic Region**, İstanbul (Selim Yenel & Fulya Kocukoğlu)