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# ABOUT GRF

**G**lobal 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 members being renewed each year.

## 2024 Board Of Directors

**Zeynep Bodur Okyay**

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**Ahmet Üzümcü**

Vice-Chairperson

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**İpek Cem Taha**

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**Rona Yırcalı**

# 2024 GRF EXECUTIVE STAFF



**Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel**  
President



**E. Ruşen İnceoğlu**  
Administrative Director



**Duygu Söyler Aytaç**  
Senior Director  
(until 23.03.2024)



**Ata Mert Aladağ**  
Program Director



**Fulya Kocukoğlu**  
Program Director



**Alp Tanju**  
Program Director  
(until 15.11.2024)



**Maxine İmer**  
Administrative Coordinator



**Çiğdem Şimşek**  
Administrative Assistant

# EVENTS

## **Global Relations Forum (GRF) Meeting with Members Based in Ankara (Ankara)**

January 18, 2024

## **Panel on Turkey's Economy Ahead of the Elections with Dr. Mahfi Eğilmez, Prof. Selva Demiralp, and Tayfun Bayazıt (Moderator)**

Topic: " Looking Ahead to 2024: The Turkish Economy in the Framework of Global Developments"  
January 22, 2024

## **Roundtable Meeting with Kostas Fragogiannis, Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Economic Diplomacy of Greece, and His Delegation**

Topic: "The Current State and Future of Turkey-Greece Relations"  
February 2, 2024

## **GRF İlter Türkmen Diplomacy Seminars, 2024 Term**

February 11-14, 2024



## **Global Relations Forum - German Marshall Fund (GMF) Joint Panel on Turkey-West Relations**

Topic: "Turkey - West Relations: Opportunities for Reset"

Speakers: Dr. Ian Lesser, Prof. Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel (Moderator)

February 14, 2024

## **GRF 16th General Assembly**

February 19, 2024

## **Dinner with Prof. Ayşe Zarakol, Professor of International Relations at the University of Cambridge and Politics Researcher at Cambridge Emmanuel College**

Topic: "Shifts in the Axes of the International Order"  
February 19, 2024

## **Panel on Women in Diplomacy with Prof. Zeynep Alemdar, and Ambassador Armağan İnci Ersoy, and Ambassador Gabriele Juen (Ankara)**

Topic: "Women in Diplomacy: Success Stories?"  
March 6, 2024

**Roundtable Meeting with Julie A. Eadeh, U.S. Consul General in Istanbul**

Topic: “Turkey-U.S. Relations: Current Dynamics and Opportunities for Cooperation”

March 15, 2024

**GRF - Munich Security Conference (MSC) Joint Online Panel on Defense and Security**

Topic: “Reflections on International Security After the 60th Munich Security Conference”

Speakers: Ambassador (R) Ahmet Üzümcü, Dr. Sophie Eisentraut, Murat Yetkin (Moderator)

March 20, 2024



**Panel on Turkey Ahead of the Elections with Bekir Ağır, Sedat Ergin, Dr. Murat Üçer, and Cansu Çamlıbel (Moderator)**

Topic: “Society, Politics, Economy, and the Future After the March 31 Local Elections”

March 27, 2024

**TÜSİAD-GRF Joint Online Panel on Global Developments**

Topic: “Value Chains, International Cooperation, Global Trade, and Their Political Implications”

Speakers: Prof. Güven Sak, Ambassador (R) Fatih Ceylan, Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, Dr. Mustafa Kutlay, Prof. Evren Balta (Moderator)

April 16, 2024

**Dinner with Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA)**

Topic: “Clean Energy and 2024 Global Elections”

April 19, 2024



**Online Meeting on the European Union with Dilek Aydın, Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) Representative to the European Union and BusinessEurope Permanent Delegate**

Topic: “Geopolitical and Economic Challenges, Turkey-EU Relations on the EU Agenda”

Date: April 22, 2024



**Global Relations Forum London Engagements and 15th Anniversary Celebrations**

May 7-8, 2024



***GRF Reception at the Residence of the Turkish Embassy in London, Hosted by H.E. Osman Koray Ertaş, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United Kingdom***

***Global Relations Forum - Chatham House Joint Panel on Turkey - United Kingdom Relations***

Topic: *“Turkey and the UK in the International Environment at a Time of Extraordinary Flux”*

Session 1: *“Prospects for Enhancing Turkey-UK Economic and Trade Relations”*

Speakers: Osman Okyay, Perihan İnci, Ilaria Regondi, Assoc. Prof. İrem Güceri

Moderator: David Lubin

Session 2: *“Turkey-UK: A Turbulent Neighbourhood and the Future of European Security”*

Speakers: Timothy Ash, Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem

Moderator: Ambassador (R) Ahmet Üzümcü

***GRF Community Programs Alumni Event in London***

**Online Panel on Defense and Security with Dr. Can Kasapoğlu, Osman Okyay, Dr. Mathew George, and Prof. Evren Balta (Moderator)**

Topic: *“The New Dynamics of the Global Defense Industry and Their Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Reflections”*

May 29, 2024

**Roundtable Meeting on Internet Governance with Baher Esmat, Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Middle East and the Managing Director of the Regional Office for the Middle East and Africa (MEA) in Istanbul at Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**

Topic: *“Unveiling the Current Debates on Internet Governance and Impacts on Global Internet Community”*

May 30, 2024

**Roundtable Meeting on EU Relations with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs, Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay**

Topic: *“Turkish – European Relations Within the Framework of the European Parliamentary Elections”*

June 26, 2024

**Online Meeting on Global Food, Agriculture, Hunger, and Conflicts with Rein Paulsen, Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office of Emergencies and Resilience**

Topic: *“Food and Human Security, Conflicts, Resilience, and Geopolitics: State of the Acute Hunger in the World; Trends, Challenges, and Solutions”*

June 26, 2024

**Dinner with Alexis Tsipras, Former Prime Minister of Greece and GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Graduation Ceremony**

Topic: *“Turkey-Greece Relations in Light of Global Crises and Polarizations”*

June 28, 2024



**Online Panel on Cyprus with Assoc. Prof. Tolga Bilener, Ambassador (R) Ertuğrul Kumcuoğlu, Ambassador (R) Mithat Rende, Dr. Deniz Tekin Apaydın, and Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel (Moderator)**

Topic: “The 50th Anniversary of the Cyprus Peace Operation and the Changing Geopolitics of the Eastern Mediterranean”

July 18, 2024

**Online Meeting on the Vicente Hurtado Roa, Head of Unit at the European Commission CBAM, Energy and Green Taxation Unit**

Topic: “The State of the EU Green Deal, ETS, and CBAM Practices: What Lies Ahead for the Turkish Economy and Private Sector?”

September 13, 2024

**GRF - TÜSİAD - Berlin Bosphorus Initiative (BBI) Joint Roundtable on Global Developments**

Topic: “Turkey-Germany Strategic Perspectives in Post-U.S. Elections: Future Prospects in Triangulating Relations with the U.S.”

October 7, 2024



**GRF 15th Anniversary Special Event: “Global Relations Summit 2024” (GRS2024)**

Theme: “Navigating an Uncertain Common Global Future”

October 14, 2024

**Opening Speech: George Papandreou, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece**

Panel 1: Economic Development: Global Realities and Challenges

Speakers: Prof. Ufuk Akçigit, Tayfun Bayazıt, Dr. Somik V. Lall, Açıl Sezen (Moderator)

Panel 2: Facing New and Old Conflicts: Can International Institutions Become Relevant Again?

Speakers: Dr. Fonteh Akum, Daniela Carmela Cicchella, Vuk Jeremić, Ambassador Burak Özügergin, Prof. İlter Turan (Moderator)

Panel 3: NATO and European Union Enlargement: Will It Provide Security?

Speakers: Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem, Ana Palacio, Dr. Jamie Shea, Prof. Füsun Türkmen (Moderator)

**Roundtable Meeting on Green Economy and Green Transition with Prof. Ulrich Klüh, Former Secretary General of the German Council of Economic Experts (GCEE) and Founding Director of the Center for Sustainable Economic and Corporate Policy (SECP) at Darmstadt University**

Topic: “The Cost of Inaction: Why Greening the Global Economy Should Be Our Absolute Priority”

October 23, 2024



**Roundtable Meeting with Dr. Ömer Madra, Founder of Açık Radyo**

Topic: "Ecology, Society, and Life - Is Another World Possible?: The Açık Radyo Experience as a Gateway to the Universe"

November 20, 2024

**Roundtable Meeting with Ayşegül Dicle Aydın, Founder and Managing Partner of ADA Global Partners**

Topic: "Talent, Management, and Global Turks in a New World Full of Uncertainty and Risks"

November 29, 2024



**Panel and Reception on "İlter Türkmen: From Diplomatic Mastery to Thought Leadership" (Ankara)**

Speakers: Ambassador (R) Selim Kuneralp, Prof. Füsün Türkmen, Ambassador (R) Rıza Türkmen

Moderator: Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel

December 4, 2024

**Roundtable Meeting with Prof. Levent Kurnaz, Professor of Physics & Director of Center for Climate Change and Policy Studies, Boğaziçi University**

Topic: "The Climate Crisis, COP29, and Humanity: Too Late and Too Little, or Is There Still Time?"

December 10, 2024

**Roundtable Meeting on the Middle East with Murat Yetkin, Journalist and Editor-in-Chief of Yetkin Report**

Topic: "For the Curious: The Middle East and Beyond"

December 12, 2024

**Online Meeting on the Middle East with Prof. Vali R. Nasr, Majid Khaddouri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)**

Topic: "Recent Developments in the Middle East and Shifting Power Dynamics"

December 16, 2024

**Dinner with Prof. Kishore Mahbubani  
President of the 58th session of the General Assembly (F) on Global Developments**

Topic: "The Role of Diplomacy in Light of Changing Power Dynamics and Conflicts in the International System"

December 19, 2024



**GRF Communities New Years Get-Together**

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

December 20, 2024

# YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

GRF's youth-oriented activities bring together bright young minds, providing them with the opportunity to learn and discuss long-term trends, policy options, complex global issues, the socio-economic implications of future-shaping technologies, and many other thought-provoking topics alongside expert GRF members. These programs are organized under two main categories: "GRF Community Programs" and "Other Activities for Young People." GRF Community Programs form the foundation of our youth-oriented activities, and those who complete these programs become part of the GRF Communities. GRF Communities consist of over 300 young individuals from diverse age groups, disciplines, and career paths.

## GRF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### 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 of the program brings together students and GRF members in an interactive exchange. Invited as guest speakers, GRF members share their insights on international affairs, selecting topics that align with their career paths and areas of expertise. This provides students with a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences and perspectives of GRF members—leaders who have represented Turkey

on international platforms and have played, and continue to play, an active role in shaping events in Turkey and around the world. At the same time, members benefit from the fresh perspectives, questions, and concerns of students on contemporary global issues. In essence, this section fosters a dynamic intergenerational dialogue centered on knowledge- and experience-sharing.

The second section consists of in-depth discussion sessions led by GRF and GRF Community members with expertise in the chosen subjects. Acting as speakers or moderators, they guide students through discussions based on articles written by leading global academics and intellectuals. These sessions require active and sustained student participation, encouraging them to make broad, analytical connections across different dimensions of the global agenda—ranging from economics and technology to law and politics. A key objective of this section is to equip students with the intellectual tools necessary to engage with critical debates about the world's future while also helping them refine their professional aspirations and their vision for contributing to their countries and humanity at large.

In the third section, students work in groups of two or three to prepare and deliver a Book Review Presentation on a GRF-selected book addressing global issues. Following the presentation, each student is required to submit an individual written book review, demonstrating their understanding and critical analysis of the text.

Upon successful completion of the program—through active participation in discussions, presentations, and book reviews—students will join the GRF Community as Young Fellows, gaining access to a broader network of like-minded individuals committed to global engagement and intellectual growth.

## GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Term

Throughout 2024, the GRF Young Fellows Program featured a series of insightful discussions on various topics, welcoming esteemed guests to share their expertise.

### **Moderators:**

Mehmet Yalçın Aydın – *Former Consultant at McKinsey & Company, Stanford University MBA Candidate*

Topic: Technological Singularity

Zeynep Ülkü Kahveci – *Research Assistant, Civil Law Department, Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University*

Topic: Artificial Intelligence and Law

Selin Uğurtaş – *Climate Journalist*

Topic: Climate Crisis

Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Uz-Bilgin – *Faculty Member, Faculty of Education, Yıldız Technical University*

Topic: Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality Technologies, and Education

Dr. Müge Dalkıran – *Postdoctoral Researcher, Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoç)*

Topic: *The Concept of Freedom of Movement and the Historical Evolution of Migration*

**Guest Speakers:**

Mustafa Kılıçaslan – Former Director of Public Policy, Microsoft Turkey

Topic: *Technological Transformation and the Business World*

Prof. Levent Kurnaz – Faculty Member, Physics Department, Boğaziçi University, and Director of the Center for Climate Change and Policy Research

Topic: *Climate-Induced Migration*

Özgür Soner – Founder & CEO, BoomByte Games and Lokum Games

Topic: *Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality Technologies, and the Gaming Industry*

Dr. Faik Uyanık – Communications Unit Manager, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Topic: *Global Goals for a Sustainable Future*

In the final session of the program, participants reviewed the following books and engaged in group discussions:

*Reality+ Virtual Worlds and the Problems of Philosophy* – David J. Chalmers

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

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

*Future Politics: Living Together in a World Transformed by Tech* – Jamie Susskind

**Attendees:**

İkbal Baş	Strasbourg University	<b>Faculty of Law</b>
Serra Beldağ	Galatasaray University	<b>Political Science</b>
İnci Çakıcı	Galatasaray University	<b>Political Science</b>
Leyla Kandemir	Boğaziçi University	<b>Economics</b>
Alperen Kars	Koç University	<b>Computer Engineering–Economics– International Relations</b>
Efehan Kaya	Galatasaray University	<b>International Relations</b>
Yılmaz Onat Köylüoğlu	Acıbadem University	<b>Faculty of Medicine</b>
Turan Kerem Öktem	Koç University	<b>International Relations – Economics</b>
Aybars Önder	Princeton University	<b>Philosophy</b>
İmge Doğa Özden	Bilkent University	<b>Law</b>
Mustafa Ege Şeker	Acıbadem University	<b>Faculty of Medicine</b>
Osman Gürem Ulusoy	Bilkent University	<b>Law</b>
Gizem Yaz	Boğaziçi University	<b>Chemical Engineering</b>
Osman Berke Yıldırım	Sabancı University	<b>Computer Science and Engineering – Political Science</b>



## 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 is conducted through discussions on the interaction between technological developments and global issues, as well as participant presentations on these topics. Participants have the opportunity to benefit from each other's knowledge and experiences.

### GRF Young Professionals Program 2024-2025 Term

Meetings for the 2024-2025 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 2024 within the scope of the program are as follows:

**Topic:** Artificial Intelligence, Global Order, and Democracy

**Book:**

*The Coming Wave: Technology, Power, and the Twenty-First Century's Greatest Dilemma* – Mustafa Suleyman

**Topic:** Synthetic Biology and Transhumanism

**Books:**

*The Synthetic Age: Outdesigning Evolution, Resurrecting Species, and Reengineering Our World* – Christopher J. Preston

*The Transhumanist Revolution: How Techno-Medicine and Uberization Will Upend Our Lives* – Luc Ferry

**Guest Speakers**

Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel – President, Global Relations Forum (GRF)

Topic: “The Changing Global Order and the Future of Turkey-EU Relations”

Ussal Şahbaz – Founder and Managing Partner, Ussal Consultancy

Topic: “Global Technology Trends and Turkey”

## 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 2024 Term

In 2024, 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:

Prof. Orhan Güvenen – *Former Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization, Professor of Econometrics at Bilkent University*

Dr. Bahadır Kaleağası – *President of the Paris Bosphorus Institute, Honorary President of BREC-Brussels Energy Club*

Muharrem Kayhan – *Chairman of the Board of Directors at Söktas A.Ş., Board Member at Koç Holding*



## MEETINGS HELD WITHIN THE SCOPE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Term, First Meeting**  
January 6, 2024
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Term, Second Meeting**  
February 17, 2024
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Term, Third Meeting**  
April 20, 2024
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Term, Fourth Meeting**  
May 19, 2024
- **GRF Young Fellows Program 2024 Term, Fifth Meeting**  
June 21, 2024
- **GRF Young Professionals Program 2024-2025 Term, First Meeting**  
June 29, 2024
- **GRF Young Professionals Program 2024-2025 Term, Second Meeting**  
November 23, 2024

## OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### GRF İlder Türkmen Diplomacy Seminars

The GRF Diplomacy Seminars serve as a dynamic platform designed to connect senior undergraduate and graduate students with distinguished academics and practitioners, including diplomats and policymakers. This initiative fosters an environment where participants can engage in critical discussions and in-depth examinations of global diplomatic challenges.

The program is dedicated to facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience, guiding young individuals in shaping their career aspirations, and enhancing their analytical thinking, debate, and policy-making abilities. Participants are encouraged to explore both contemporary and future global challenges within the program's designated themes, broadening their perspectives on international affairs. Through direct engagement with experts, they gain invaluable insights into the distinctions between academic discourse and its practical application in real-world diplomacy.

Beyond immediate policy concerns, participants are expected to analyze long-term structural transformations that impact society, the private sector, and public institutions. By engaging with pressing topics in international politics, they develop a deeper understanding of the evolving global landscape and its implications for governance and diplomacy.

In honor of the legacy of İlder Türkmen, a founding member of GRF and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador, the program was held under the name “İlder Türkmen Diplomacy Seminars” for the first time in 2024, paying tribute to his contributions to Turkish diplomacy and international relations.



## GRF İter Türkmen Diplomacy Seminars 2024 Program Meetings

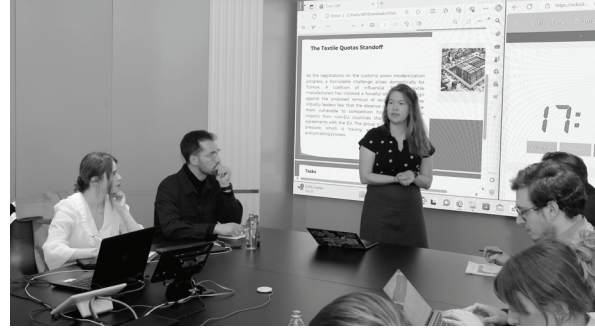
The 2024 term meeting of the program took place from February 11–14 at the GRF office, bringing together participants for an immersive exploration of global diplomacy. The 2024 Diplomacy Seminars centered on key themes such as regional developments, global power rivalries, international organizations, and multilateral diplomacy. Within this framework, expert diplomats and academics led discussions on a diverse range of subtopics, including the European Union, the Middle East, climate diplomacy, and NATO, offering a comprehensive examination of contemporary international affairs.

For young professionals at the beginning of their careers, the program provided a valuable platform for learning and knowledge exchange, equipping them with insights from both academic and practical perspectives. Through direct engagement with experienced practitioners, participants had the opportunity to refine their analytical and policy-making skills while gaining a deeper understanding of real-world diplomatic processes.

The second phase of the program featured a negotiation simulation on EU-Turkey relations, conducted in collaboration with the Brussels-based IPLI Foundation. This exercise brought participants together in mixed groups, where they assumed assigned roles and analyzed potential crisis scenarios. As part of the simulation, participants engaged in diplomatic negotiations on “The Modernization of the Customs Union within the Framework of EU-Turkey Relations,” experiencing firsthand the complexities of international negotiation and policy formulation.

### Participants of 2024 Term

<b>Aydın Yiğit Alfathlı</b>	Galatasaray University	<b>Bachelor's in Political Science</b>
<b>Fevzi Altınok</b>	TOBB ETÜ	<b>Master's in Political Science and Int.Rel.</b>
<b>Özgür Aslan</b>	Koç University	<b>Bachelor's in International Relations – Law</b>
<b>Sidar Aslanoglu</b>	Bilkent University	<b>Bachelor's in Political Science and Public Administration</b>
<b>Baha Fahri Atila</b>	İstanbul University	<b>Bachelor's in Political Science and Int.Rel.</b>
<b>İkbal Baş</b>	University of Strasbourg	<b>Bachelor's in Law</b>
<b>Ertay Çelik</b>	İstanbul University	<b>Master's in International Relations</b>
<b>Pelin Dengiz</b>	Bilkent University	<b>Master's in International Relations</b>
<b>Ela Doğan</b>	Koç University	<b>Bachelor's in International Relations</b>
<b>Costanza Emanuele</b>	Luiss Guido Carli	<b>Bachelor's in Political Science and Int.Rel.</b>
<b>Hüseyin Kağan Erdoğan</b>	Koç University	<b>Bachelor's in Int.Rel. – Economics</b>
<b>Eda Gürler</b>	Sciences Po Grenoble	<b>Master's in International Relations</b>
<b>Zeynep Naz Kalkay</b>	Middle East Technical Univ.	<b>Bachelor's in International Relations</b>
<b>Beyza Karataş</b>	Bilkent University	<b>Bachelor's in International Relations</b>
<b>Zeynep Azra Koç</b>	Koç University	<b>Bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations (European Studies and Diplomacy)</b>
<b>Nisa Özer</b>	Koç University	<b>Bachelor's in International Relations</b>
<b>Ege Pekesen</b>	Koç University	<b>Bachelor's in History- Political Science</b>
<b>Esmâ Nur Serbest</b>	Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal Univ.	<b>Master's in International Relations</b>
<b>İrem Ünal</b>	Middle East Technical Univ.	<b>Bachelor's in Int.Rel. – History</b>



## List of Speakers

**Prof. Zeynep Alemdar** – Faculty Member, Department of International Relations, Okan University; Director, Center for Gender Studies; Founder and Director, Women in Foreign Policy Initiative (WFP14)

**Ambassador (R) Bozkurt Aran** – Former Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Director of Trade Studies Center at TEPAV

**Prof. Evren Balta** – Faculty Member and Head of the Department of International Relations, Özyeğin University; Academic Coordinator of TÜSİAD “Global Politics Forum”

**Ambassador (R) Fatih Ceylan** – Former Permanent Representative to NATO, President of the Ankara Policy Center (APM)

**Prof. Mitat Çelikpala** – Vice Rector and Faculty Member, Department of International Relations, Kadir Has University

**Ambassador (R) Hasan Göğüş** – Former Ambassador to Athens, Advisory Board Member of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

**Ambassador (R) Selim Karaosmanoğlu** – Former Ambassador to Baghdad, Abu Dhabi, and Tehran; Former Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs and Former Special Representative for Iraq at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Prof. Levent Kurnaz** – Faculty Member, Department of Physics, Boğaziçi University; Director, Center for Climate Change and Policy Research

**Ambassador (R) Erdoğan İşcan** – Member of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, Lecturer at Istanbul Kültür University

**Prof. Ziya Öniş** – Professor of International Political Economy, Faculty of Administrative Sciences and Economics, Koç University

**Timothy Reno** – Director, IPLI Foundation

**Leititia Roman** – Project Coordinator, IPLI Foundation

**Prof. Özlem Tür** – Faculty Member, Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University

**Prof. Fusun Türkmen** – Faculty Member, Department of International Relations, Galatasaray University

**Ambassador (R) Ümit Yalçın** – Former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Advisory Board Member at Tanto Capital Partners

**Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel** – President of GRF; Former Undersecretary at the Ministry for EU Affairs; Former Permanent Representative of Turkey to the EU

# 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 2023 (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

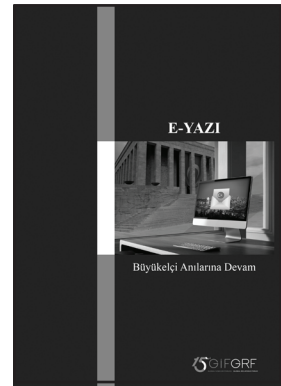
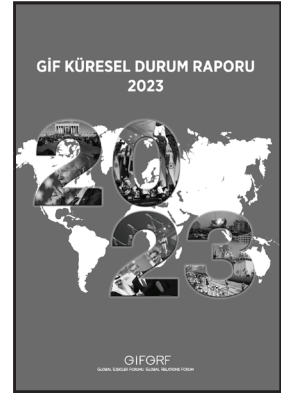


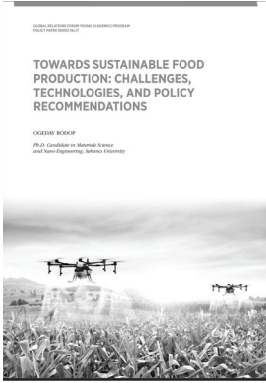
## GRF 2023 Activity Report

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

## E-Yazı: Ambassador Memories Continued (In Turkish)

As a continuation of our 2021 publication, *Açık Telgraf*, this *E-Yazı* brings together a captivating collection of memories and anecdotes from the professional lives of fifteen ambassadors who are members of GRF. Offering a rare glimpse into the behind-the-scenes world of diplomacy, this compilation presents firsthand accounts of pivotal moments, challenges, and reflections from seasoned diplomats. Through their experiences, readers gain a deeper understanding of the intricate dynamics of international relations, statecraft, and the art of negotiation.





### GRF Young Academics Program Policy Paper Series No.17

#### *“Towards Sustainable Food Production: Challenges, Technologies, And Policy Recommendations”*

Ogeday Rodop (Ph.D. Candidate in Materials Science and Nanoengineering, Sabancı University)

Designed around the process of writing and publishing scholarly papers, the GRF Young Academics Program serves as a platform that brings together young academics and GRF members, fostering intellectual exchange and research excellence. Participants engage in a rigorous evaluation process, with their papers reviewed by a committee of distinguished GRF members who provide expert feedback and guidance.

For Ogeday Rodop's paper, the review committee consisted of **Prof. Orhan Güvenen, Dr. Bahadır Kaleağası, and Muharrem Kayhan**, whose expertise contributed to the refinement and enhancement of the research, ensuring its scholarly rigor and policy relevance.

## VIEWPOINTS

- Major Developments in the Fight Against Climate Change in 2023 – Fulya Kocukoğlu, 01.02.2024
- The Only Way to End This War Is to Defeat Putin – Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel, 21.02.2024 (Council of Councils Global Memo “Global Perspectives on Ending the Russia-Ukraine War”)
- The EU's New Due Diligence and Corporate Responsibility Framework on the Businesses: A New Milestone in Turkey-EU Relations? – Fatin R. Durukan, 23.05.2024
- Shared Leadership: What the World Needs Now – Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel, 04.07.2024 (Council of Councils Global Memo)
- The Aftermath of the 2024 European Parliament Elections: Who Won, Who Lost, and What's Next? – Fulya Kocukoğlu, 15.06.2024
- What Awaits the U.S. Presidential Elections After the Biden-Trump Debate? – Prof. Füsün Türkmen, 30.06.2024
- A Helicopter Crash and a U-Turn in Iranian Politics: Iran's New Reformist Government – Dr. Ezgi Uzun Teker, 16.07.2024
- Kamala Harris – Prof. Füsün Türkmen, 29.07.2024
- Possible Consequences of the Elections in the United States – Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel, 31.10.2024 ('Horizons' Online Magazine, Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD))
- G20: More Representation, but So Far Ineffectual – Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel, 26.11.2024 (Council of Councils Global Memo “Brazil's 2024 G20 Summit: Right Agenda, Little Consensus”)
- The Making of a Middle Power: Iran and the Politics of Resistance – Dr. Ezgi Uzun Teker, 20.12.2024 ('Global Affairs/Asuntos Globales' Magazine, Argentine Council on International Relations (CARI))



# PODCAST SERIES

President of GRF, Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel, hosts a different guest in each episode of our podcast series, discussing key topics on the global agenda.

- “*COP28 and Beyond in Combatting Climate Change*” with **Prof. Levent Kurnaz**, Faculty Member at Boğaziçi University and Director of the Center for Climate Change and Policy Research – February 16, 2024
- “*Poland: The Elections and Rising Prospects*” with **Prof. Özgün Erler Bayır**, Faculty Member, Department of International Relations, Istanbul University – March 8, 2024
- “*Latest Developments in the Middle East in the Aftermath of the Israel - Iran Clash*” with **Solî Özel**, Author and Lecturer at Kadir Has University – April 18, 2024
- “*The European Union Parliamentary Elections’ Results and Consequences*” with **Dr. Bahadır Kaleağası**, President of the Paris Bosphorus Institute and Honorary President of BREC-Brussels Energy Club – June 14, 2024
- “*What Happened in the United Kingdom General Election?*” with **Ambassador (R) Ümit Yalçın**, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to London – July 9, 2024
- “*Bangladesh: A Historical Perspective on Current Issues*” with **Ambassador (R) Mustafa Osman Turan**, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Dhaka – August 15, 2024
- Backstage at the Global Relations Summit - I: Interview with **George A. Papandreou**, **Former Prime Minister of Greece** – October 14, 2024
- Backstage at the Global Relations Summit - II: Interview with **Vuk Jeremić**, **Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Former UN General Assembly President** – October 14, 2024
- Global Perspectives: 2024 and Beyond - I: “2024 in Review” with **President of GRF, Ambassador (R) Selim Yenel** – December 27, 2024



# NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUES

Throughout 2024, GRF was invited to participate in and contribute to numerous national and international conferences and meetings by its global counterparts. Additionally, GRF hosted various institutions and organizations visiting Turkey. The key engagements are summarized below.

- January 24, **Paris Sciences Po & Jacques Delors Institute “European Political Community” Meeting**, Paris (Selim Yenel)
- January 31 - February 2 – **Turkish Atlantic Security Conference: Energy Summit**, Istanbul (Fulya Kocukoğlu)
- February 7 – **Council of Councils (CoC) 9th Virtual Conference** (Selim Yenel, Ruşen İnceoğlu, Duygu Söyler Aytaç)
- April 19 – **16th IICEC Conference: Business World and Sustainable Energy**, Istanbul (Ata Mert Aladağ, Fulya Kocukoğlu)
- May 19-21 – **Council of Councils (CoC) 13th Annual Conference**, Washington, D.C. (Selim Yenel)
- May 22 – **Istanbul Policy Center-Sabancı University-Stiftung Mercator Panel: “New Impetus in Hungary-Turkey Relations Since 2013”**, Istanbul (Fulya Kocukoğlu)
- July 25 – **Council of Councils (CoC) 10th Virtual Conference** (Selim Yenel)
- October 4 – **Institut du Bosphore Summit**, Istanbul (Selim Yenel, Fulya Kocukoğlu)
- October 7-9 – **10th Greek-Turkish Young Leaders Symposium (GTYLS)**, Istanbul (Fulya Kocukoğlu)
- October 20-24 – **AmCham Eurasia Economic Summit**, Istanbul (Selim Yenel, Ruşen İnceoğlu)
- October 25 – **European Leadership Network (ELN) & Stimson Center & GRF Joint Scenario-Building Workshop**, Istanbul
- October 27-29 – **Council of Councils (CoC) 15th Regional Conference**, Brussels (Selim Yenel)
- November 11-15 – **Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security (YGLN) Annual Meeting**, Vienna (Fulya Kocukoğlu)

## NEW MEMBERS

### Members

**Ozan Acar** - Executive Committee Member, Trendyol Group; Chairman, The Turkish E-commerce Council

**Ömer Aras** - Chairperson, QNB Bank

**Zeynep Arkan Tuncel** - Assoc. Prof. of International Relations, Hacettepe University

**Mehmet Yalçın Aydın** - Management Consultant & MBA Candidate at Stanford University

**Arda Batu** - Secretary General & Board Member, TÜRKONFED

**Esen Çağlar** - Managing Partner, Policy Analytics Lab (PAL)

**Şirin Çelikel** - Executive Board Member, Anel Group

**Müge Dalkıran** - Postdoctoral Researcher, Migration Research Center at Koç University (MiReKoç)

**İpek Erduran** - Head of New Business Development, Remzi Kitabevi; Board Member, Hisar Educational Foundation

**Ezgi Harmancı** - Genel Müdür, Harmancı & Partners

**Hakan Irgit** - Senior Advisor to the CEO, Socar Türkiye

**Mehmet Can İlkin** - Managing Partner, Afendis Capital

**Kıvılcım Pınar Kocabıyık** - Founder & Chair, Yuvam Dünya Association

**Hakan Korhan** - Group CFO & Board Member, Ak-taş Dış Ticaret A.Ş.

**Rıza İhsan Kutlusoy** - Investment Banker & Management Consultant

**Aydın Adnan Sezgin** - Ambassador (B)

**Cenk Sıdar** - Co-Founder & CEO, Enquire AI

**Semuhi Sinanoğlu** - Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

**Ussal Şahbaz** - Founder & Managing Partner, Ussal Consultancy

**Ergem Şenyuva Tohumcu** - Co-founder, FutureWise Partners; Sustainability Consultant

**Hasan Turunç** - Senior Advisor, Koç Holding A.Ş.; Director, TÜSİAD London Representative Office

**Murat Yücaoğlu** - Board Member, MAP A.Ş.

### Corporate Members

Gedik Holding A.Ş.

Hepsiburada

Otokar Automotive

Otokoç Automotive

TOFAŞ

TürkTraktör



