

PERMANENT DELEGATION OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE

THE FIFTH WORLD WATER FORUM AND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Turkey, situated in the traditional and developed water cultures of East and West, will host the Fifth World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference in Istanbul in March 2009, in cooperation with the World Water Council.

The First Water Forum was held in Marrakech in 1997, followed by those in the Netherlands in 2000, Kyoto in 2003 and Mexico City in 2006

The theme of the Fifth Forum has been determined as “Bridging Divides for Water”, a theme under which all aspects of water resources are envisaged to be elaborated on. “Bridging Divides” in this context encompasses understanding and improved information exchange between and amongst water users, decision makers and practitioners, at local, regional and global levels. It equally encompasses the connection and interaction between the various uses of water, such as health, energy and climate, as well as bridging the technology, financing, capacity and management gaps amongst countries.

The Forum will enable thousands of experts engaged in water related issues to come together; create synergies between governments, organizations and businesses around these issues; provide an opportunity to unite around common commitments for the sustainable use of water and to obtain tangible results on a diverse range of matters from water services and sanitation, to food production and water conservation.

The kick-off meeting of the Fifth Forum was realized in Istanbul on 19-20 March 2007, starting the preparatory process.

The first regional preparatory meeting was held in Antalya on 22-24 March 2007 with the participation of more than 700 eminent water-related personalities from over 70 countries.

The Fifth Forum will provide an outstanding opportunity to also tackle all issues relating to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals concerning water.