

*Conference on*

# UN/GOVERNANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

İstanbul - Türkiye November 1-2, 2025

Hosted by

 İSTANBUL  
NİŞANTAŞI  
UNIVERSITY





TÜRKİYE BİLİMLER AKADEMİSİ  
TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

## CONCEPT NOTE

The EMAN-TUBA Conference on “Un/Governance in the Mediterranean Region and the Global System” will be held in Istanbul on 1-2 November 2025, marking the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations (UN). The conference is jointly organized by EMAN and TUBA’s Working Group on International Relations.

The theme of the conference is “Un/Governance in the Mediterranean Region and the Global System,” focusing on contemporary issues of governance and ungovernance in the global system and the Mediterranean region. The conference will mark the 80th anniversary of the UN, which is undoubtedly the most comprehensive governance organization in the modern era. Although there have been debates about the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN system, the UN, along with its various funds, programs, specialized agencies, and related organizations, has played a significant role in the governance of international relations at both regional and global levels.

We are faced with increasing global interdependence because of the new inventions and increased speed in transportation and telecommunication technologies, rendering the world as a “global village”. On the other hand, those inventions and technologies simultaneously enhance regional cooperation and assertion. Furthermore, in addition to conventional challenges such as international security, war and peace, economic cooperation, regional and global transportation, and communication, etc., we are now faced with new challenges such as climate change, epidemics, migration, sustainability, environmental pollution, artificial intelligence, human security and cyber security, etc., to name but a few. Given the destructive capacity of states and non-state actors, and witnessing the increasing number of unilateral attempts, one may even speak of a state of ungovernance rather than governance in the global system. Yet the challenges we are faced with transcend the national and regional borders and thus global and regional cooperation and governance are inevitable for the sustainability of humanity and the planet.

This conference will deal with the said issues both at the global and Mediterranean levels and aim to provide a broad framework for scholars, policymakers and the public. It will form a platform for discussion of multiple practices from multiple perspectives. The themes of the conference will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Global governance and regional governance: together or exclusive?
- The UN system: Evaluation and the need for reform?
- Governance in security and the new challenges: terrorism, underground networks, cyber threats
- Governance in the economy, finance, and trade
- Governance in the energy sector and the security of supply chains
- Governance in health and epidemics
- Governing human security and human rights
- States and non-state actors in global and regional governance
- Governance issues in the Mediterranean region: migration and refugees, navigation and transportation, climate change, environmental pollution, and sustainability

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# PROGRAM

November 1, 2025, Saturday

## 09:30-10:00 Opening Ceremony

Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Komsuoğlu - *Istanbul Nişantaşı University Rector, TÜBA Full Member*  
Prof. Dr. Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev - *AASSA & EMAN President, TÜBA Full Member*  
Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Şeker - *TÜBA President, Union of National Academies of Sciences of the Turkic World President*

## 10:00-11:30 Plenary Session

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Mehmet Akif Kireççi - *Social Sciences University of Ankara*

### Reconsidering Soft Power in Global Un/Governance

Prof. Dr. Ersel Aydınli - *Bilkent University*

### Engineering Secure Corridors from AI to Autonomous System

Prof. Dr. Siraj Shaik - *Swansea University*

### Addressing Cyber Threats in the UN

Dr. Andre Barrinha - *University of Bath*

## 11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

## 12:00-13:30 Session 1. The Science Diplomacy Landscape of Türkiye and Governance

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ali Balcı - *Sakarya University*

### The Council of Higher Education (YÖK)

### TÜBİTAK's Global Vision:

### International Activities and Strategic Partnerships

Dr. Nurulhude Baykal - *The Scientific And Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)*

### Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)

### Advancing Health Research through Science Diplomacy:

### The TÜSEB Perspective Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat Sarğın - *Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB)*

### The Role of Türkiye in International Education:

### Maarif Foundation Experience

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Özkan - *Turkish Maarif Foundation*

## 13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00

**Session 2. Governing Human Mobility, Rights, and Cultural Coexistence**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Üstün - *Nişantaşı University*

**Human Rights Abuses on the Balkan Migration Route**

Prof. Dr. Ilija Vujačić - *Montenegrian Academy of Sciences and Arts-MASA*

**Refugee Integration and Mobility Aspirations in Low and Middle Income Countries: Insights from the Turkish Case**

Dr. Sedef Turper - *Koç University, Member of TÜBA-GEBİP*

**Securing Europe's Cognitive Frontline: Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, Digital Connectivity and EU-Türkiye Relations**

Mr. Samuel Doveri Vesterbye - *European Neighbourhood Council*

**Multipolarity and the Transformation of Global Governance: Integration, Fragmentation, and Fragmegration**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Efe Can Gürcan - *İstanbul Nişantaşı University, TÜBA Young Academy Member*

**Cultural Memorial Coexistence in the Mediterranean and Shared Heritage Governance**

Prof. Dr. Kata Kjulavkova - *Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts*

16:00-16:15

**Coffee Break**

16:15-17:45

**Session 3. Multipolarity and Security Governance in a Fragmented World**

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mürsel Doğrul - *National Defence University*

**Fragile Control: 'De Facto States' and Nuclear Security**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Eliza Gheorghe - *Bilkent University, TÜBA Young Academy*

**United Nations: Global Governance or A Dual-Hierarchy Arena?**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüsna Taş Yetim - *Medipol Ankara University*

**Multipolar Competition and Security Governance in the Eastern Mediterranean**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammet Koçak - *Social Sciences University of Ankara*

**Un/Governance in the Mediterranean Region and the Global System**

Mr. Mile Stojić - *Academy of Science and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**From the European Dream to Global Challenges:**

**Titulescu's Legacy and the UN's Dilemmas**

Dr. Ovidiana Bulumac - *Romanian Academy*

18:00-20:00

**Dinner (hosted by İstanbul Nişantaşı University)**



November 2, 2025, Sunday

**09:30-11:00 Session 4. Sustainability, Innovation, and Global Resilience**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Şener Aktürk - *Koç University*

**Biosecurity in Historical Perspective – The Case of Greece**

Dr. Athanasios Barlagiannis - *Modern Greek History Research Centre, Academy of Athens*

**Adaptive Governance, Resilience, and Cultural Identity in Mediterranean Tourism under Climate Change Pressures**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kevser Çınar - *Necmettin Erbakan University*

**Artificial Intelligence for**

**Predicting Greenhouse Gases Emissions: Case of Methane**

Prof. Dr. Habiba Zerkaoui Drias - *SUNY Binghamton University*

**Fragmented Multilateralism and International Institutions in an Age of Polycrisis**

Prof. Dr. Emel Parlar Dal - *Marmara University*

**Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation in Jordan: The Role of the Royal Scientific Society**

Prof. Dr. Abeer Arafat - *Royal Scientific Society of Jordan*

**11:00-11:15 Coffee Break**

**11:15-12:30 Panel Discussion and Wrap-Up**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Ahmet Nuri Yurdusev

- Prof. Dr. Şener Aktürk
- Prof. Dr. Ali Balcı
- Prof. Dr. Mehmet Akif Kireççi
- Prof. Dr. Çiğdem Üstün
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mürsel Doğrul

**12:30-13:00 Closing Ceremony**

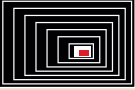
Prof. Dr. Muzaffer Şeker

**13:00-14:00 Lunch**

**14:30-18:00 Social Program**



TÜBA



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