



**STATEMENT OF THE GREEK-TURKISH FORUM
ON THE PASSING OF
H.E. AMBASSADOR (Ret.) İLTER TÜRKMEN
July 6, 2022**

The Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) mourns the passing of His Excellency Ambassador (ret.) İlter Türkmen, former co-coordinator of the Forum.

Ambassador İlter Türkmen was an outstanding personality who devoted his life to his country and humanitarian issues through serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye and international duties.

Born in İstanbul in 1927, İlter Türkmen studied at Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences, before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to his other posts, he served as the Turkish Ambassador in Athens, Moscow, and Paris, as the Permanent Representative at the United Nations (Geneva and New York), and as the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye between 1980 and 1983.

After his retirement, he worked as General Commissioner for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East between 1991 and 1996. He also contributed to *Hürriyet* and *Yeni Yüzyıl* as a columnist on international issues and Turkish foreign policy.

Ambassador Türkmen has been a member and a valuable contributor to the activities of the GTF with his dedication to resolving differences through dialogue. He will be remembered as a firm supporter of the Greek-Turkish dialogue and a person of kindness and integrity.

He will be dearly missed by all current and former members of the GTF. His legacy will inspire us in the Forum in our future collective efforts.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Professor Füsün Türkmen, and his son, Güner Türkmen.