



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE SIXTH ISTANBUL MEDIATION CONFERENCE
(Istanbul, 31 October 2019)

First Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Selim Yenel represented BSEC PERMIS at the 6th Istanbul Mediation Conference held on 31 October 2019.

Turkish Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and United Nations Secretary General H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres made their keynote speeches and spoke of the new challenges to mediation, as the issues have become ever more complex. They mentioned that about 2 billion people are being affected in conflict zones, they outlined how conflicts are rapidly becoming internationalized and that the real players are not always states, but at times unrecognized entities. The importance of digital technology in diplomacy, as well as the effects of social media were also cited.

Examples were given on the significance of trust and how the mediator has a time-limited factor in gaining confidence from those involved. Although the number of unresolved conflicts still increases the message from the Conference was that one should not give up and continue to persevere despite the adversities.

The Conference continued with panels. In addition to the official participants, such as regional organizations currently involved in mediation efforts like the OSCE and the African Union, as well as the UN who explained their experiences, 200 students from several universities were also invited to witness the discussions.