



*Assembly of Turkish American Associations, Atatürk Society of America  
and The Light Millennium, associated with the United Nations  
Department of Global Communications, proudly present*

**LET'S JOIN IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONVERSATION #UN75,  
AND CELEBRATE TURKEY'S 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AT THE UN**

*In support of the President of the UN General Assembly's 75th Session and his  
Excellency's two of the top priorities "Multilateralism" and "Gender Equality"*



*Keynote Speaker:*

**AMBASSADOR (RET.) FARUK LOĞOĞLU**

*Former Turkish Ambassador to the U.S.*

*UN – Women:*

**MS. MERAL GÜZEL**

*Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Specialist of UN-Women*

*Organized & Presented by*

**Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) &  
ATAA Committee on UN Relations**

*In collaboration with*

**Atatürk Society of America (ASA) & The Light Millennium**

**Sunday, October 18, 2020 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm EDT**

*The ATAA webinar will take place via zoom application.*

*Please register through the link below:*

[us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fw2gocbASFkss2YX\\_e1fEA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fw2gocbASFkss2YX_e1fEA)

**#A\_T\_A\_A #UN75 #UNDay #UN75Turkey #UNWithCivilSociety #UNDGC\_CS0  
#UNWomen #GlobalGoals #Ataturk\_Society #lightmillennium**

## PROGRAM

- **Piano performance by Korkmaz Can Sağlam**, Ahmet Ertegun Memorial Scholarship Recipient
- **Opening Remarks by Mr. Gökhan Özalp**, President, ATAA

### Part I

- **Keynote Speech by Ambassador (ret.) Faruk Loğoğlu**

Speakers:

- **Ms. Meral Güzel**, Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPIs) Specialist of UN Women
- **Ms. Filiz Odabaş-Geldiay**, Founding Board Member, Atatürk Society of America, Executive Director, International Association for Human Values
- **Mrs. Sema Başol**, Social Entrepreneur and Co-Founder of Turkish Women's Initiative - TWI
- **Ms. Bircan Ünver**, Chair, ATAA Committee on UN Relations & New York Region V.P. & Head Representative of The Light Millennium to the United Nations Department of Global Communications.

#### **On the #UN75 Online Survey - Join the World's Largest Conversation "The World Needs Solidarity - Your Contribution Counts!"**

The United Nations is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great challenge, including the worst global health crisis in its history. Will it bring the world closer together? Or will it lead to greater divides and mistrust? Your views can make a difference." ([www.UN75.online](http://www.UN75.online))

### Part II

#### **Brief Presentations by Representatives of Turkish American Organizations**

- **Mr. Mehmet Akçay**, President, Florida Turkish American Association
- **Mr. Engin Ateş**, President, Turkish American Society of Northeastern Ohio
- **Ms. Fatma Aytaç**, Chairwoman, Red Pepper Association
- **Ms. Aydın Durgunoğlu**, President, Turkish American Association of Minnesota
- **Mr. Tufan Erdinç**, President, Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington
- **Ms. Nilüfer Esen-Bilgin**, Exec. Board Member, Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan
- **Ms. Zinnur Fenmen**, President, Turkish American Ladies League
- **Ms. Vildan Görener**, President, Turkish American Cultural Alliance
- **Ms. Ezgi Karasözen**, President, Turkish American Cultural Society of Colorado
- **Ms. Arzuhan Kavak**, President, Turkish American Association of Arizona
- **Mr. Sıtkı Kazancı**, President, American Turkish Association of Washington DC
- **Ms. Hülya Koç**, Founder and President, Empowering The Turkish American Community
- **Ms. Binnaz Leblebicioğlu**, President, Turkish American Association of Central Ohio
- **Mr. Sevgin Oktay**, Founder & Past President, Turkish Anti-Defamation Alliance
- **Mr. Levent Onat**, Vice President, Turkish American Association of Alabama
- **Mr. Özgür Özkurt**, President, American Turkish Association of North Carolina
- **Ms. Vega Sankur**, President, AKM Los Angeles
- **Ms. Nilay Senel-Nylund**, President, Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California
- **Mr. Erdal Sipahi**, President, Turkish American Association of Northern Texas
- **Closing Remarks by Mr. Mazlum Koşma**, President-Elect, ATAA

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **AMBASSADOR (RET.) FARUK LOĐOĐLU**



Dr. Faruk Lođođlu retired from public service in 2006 after thirty-five years in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following his work as Special Adviser to the Foreign Minister (1990-1993), he was appointed Turkey's Ambassador to Copenhagen, Denmark (1993-1996) and subsequently transferred to Baku, Azerbaijan (1996-1998). Ambassador Lođođlu became Deputy Undersecretary for multilateral political affairs in 1998. He then served as Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry from 2000 until his posting as Ambassador of Turkey to Washington D.C., USA in 2001 where he stayed until the end of 2005. He attended Brandeis University, did his doctorate in Political Science at Princeton University and was a lecturer in Political Science at Middlebury College, 1969-1970. He is the author of İsmet İnönü and the Making of Modern Turkey, a political biography of the second President of Turkey. He has published articles on foreign affairs in both Turkish and English languages. Dr. Lođođlu served as President of the think-tank the Eurasian Strategic Studies Center (ASAM) for two years (2006-2008). He was the Deputy Chairman of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO (2006-2010). He was elected a member of parliament from Adana. (2011-2015) and served as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. From August 2011 to September 2014 Dr. Lođođlu was also the Vice-Chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP) in charge of foreign relations.

### **MERAL GÜZEL**



Meral Güzel is Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Specialist of UN Women, working on women's economic empowerment issues with a specific focus on private sector advancing gender equality and women's empowerment at the workplace, marketplace and the communities. Meral has over 14 years of experience in international development across Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East through her work at the UN Women, the World Bank Group and the private sector. Meral's expertise includes women empowerment at the workplace, banking on women, financial inclusion (MSME development, remittances, access to finance) and women's entrepreneurship. Meral is an economist and holds Master's degrees in High European Studies, International Franchise and International Finance. She speaks Turkish, English, French and Spanish. She is the proud mother of three sons.

## FİLİZ ODABAŞ-GELDİAY



Filiz Odabaş Geldiay, Executive Director of International Association for Human Values, a UN associated NGO that implements humanitarian service projects globally. She is one of the founders and Board member of Ataturk Society of America. Previously an executive director of an international NGO, she organized World Children's Day events at the UN General Assembly annually based on the principles of April 23 Turkish National Children's Day. The event attracted 1200 children from 141 countries. She was the Washington correspondent for the USA edition of Hurriyet and also published articles in the Washington Post and Nation's Business. As a member of a speaking group, she spoke about Ataturk's reforms for Turkish women at the US State Department, Harvard Club of Washington and many universities. Filiz was selected as one of the Nation's Top 90 Women Mentoring Leaders at the Global Women Mentoring Summit and received the Vishalakshi Award from the Art of Living Foundation. Filiz holds M.A. in Communications & Conflict Management from American University.

## SEMA BAŞOL



Sema Başol (MBA) is an executive with over 25 years of diverse work experience both in the U.S. and in Turkey. Her experience ranges from multi-billion dollar corporations such as Mattel Inc. and Koc Holding (in Turkey) to small businesses, and non-profit educational and cultural institutions. Currently Sema is focused on building and growing The Turkish Women's Initiative. She is also the founder of Degisim Liderleri Dernegi, TWI's partner organization in Turkey. Throughout her career, Sema has taken active roles in Turkish-American affairs, Turkish community organizations, and Turkish arts. She is deeply committed to improving the status of Turkish women and brings a unique cross-cultural perspective to her work. Sema has a B.A. degree from Bogazici University and an M.B.A. from UCLA Anderson School. She has been living in California for more than 30 years.

## BİRCAN ÜNVER



Bircan Ünver is the independent TV Producer, Originator (1999), Founder-President and Head Representative of the Light Millennium Organization (LM) to the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UN-DGC-CSO); also Executive Producer of LMTV; Content Provider at QPTV since 1992; Co-founder of the Turkish Library & Museum's vision & Ambassador of Peace and Goodwill for Anuvrat (Anuvibha) Global Organization (India); and Member of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (GMCoP, an NGO platform at the UN). She served in several Planning Committees of the UN-Civil Society Conferences (formerly UN-DPI-NGO), and Planning Committee of the High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace (HLF-CoP). Bircan has undertaken LM's e-publications, public programs, and LMTV Series and Specials' in its all aspects since January 2000; also its all UN related activity and programs since 2005. Author of: "En Kutsalı Yaratmak" (1995), "Sanatın Labirentlerinde (2016), "Işık Yollarında (poetry, 2017) and "Bin Yıl Daha" (2020) in Turkish. Holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree from the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Istanbul, 1988) and a Master's Degree (M.A.) from Media Studies of the New School University (New York City 1999). Bircan currently serves as the Chair of the ATAA Committee on UN Relations and New York Region Vice President.

## PIANIST KORKMAZ CAN SAĞLAM



Korkmaz Can Sağlam began studying piano at the age of six, and gave his first recital at the age of eleven. In 2018, he was accepted as a scholar of the “Young Musicians on World Stages” project created and mentored by Guher & Suher Pekinel with financial support of Tupras. In 2020, he received the Ahmet Ertegun Memorial Scholarship. Throughout the years, he played in masterclasses of artists such as Pavel Gililov, Boris Berman, Ilya Itin, Michel Beroff and Jean-Francois Heisser. He has appeared in concerts in France, Belgium, Cyprus and Italy. After studying with Ms. Gamze Kırtıl at the Bilkent University Music and Performing Arts High School, he studied with Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Sergei Babayan at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Korkmaz Can Sağlam, continues his studies with Sergei Babayan in The Juilliard School.

## PARTICIPATING TURKISH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS



**Sunday, October 18, 2020 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm EDT**

*The ATAA webinar will take place via zoom application.*

*Please register through the link below:*

[us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fw2gocbASFkss2YX\\_e1fEA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fw2gocbASFkss2YX_e1fEA)

#A\_T\_A\_A #UN75 #UNDay #UN75Turkey #UNWithCivilSociety #UNDGC\_CS0  
#UNWomen #GlobalGoals #Ataturk\_Society #lightmillennium