



August 20 - 26, 1995

Minister of Culture  
Mr President  
Dear guests and Mr Ambassador  
Dear Collegues

Last night, I was watching the small waves on the surface of the sea, which were like a million pieces of silver and gold, under the moonlight. Unconsciously, I found myself thinking the next IFLA Conference; IFLA'95 in Istanbul, Turkey.

I got thrilled with this idea. I visualized thousands of participants from 135 countries, watching the Golden horn and the Bosphours, shining under the full moon. I visualized thousands of participants joined with their family members, feeling the spectacular monuments of Saint-Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapı Palace, Dolmabahçe Place and many others which reflect the glamour, the happiness, and the faith of the emperors, sultans and their people who had the privilege of sharing the beauties of ISTANBUL for 27 centuries.

The idea of sharing this cultural heritage and the natural beauty with colleagues who are here with us, in Havana and with those, who couldn't come to Cuba, but expected to be participating the next years' IFLA Conference in ISTANBUL, made me get excited like a teenager.

Times has come. This closing session today has two tasks. To thank to the Organizers of 60th IFLA Conference for the wonderful and very successful organization they have presented, and to give the flag of IFLA to the next responsible country to carry it, with all the tasks and responsibilities till the last session of the 61st IFLA Conference.

During the 1990 IFLA Conference, when the tasks of IFLA'95 was given to Turkey, we never thought the time will pass so quickly.

But here we are, ready to take over the flag. It is no more a dream; no more an expectation, and no more a tasks with five years

ahead of us.

From now on, counting backward has started.

As the president of the IFLA'95 Executive Committee I am inviting, those colleagues who are here today, and those who couldn't be with us in Havana, to work hard and seriously, to bring a clear perspective to "Libraries of the Future" in their papers, and contributions during the official sessions as well as during workshops and seminars. If you promise to fulfill your tasks, I promise in the name of the Turkish Organizing Committee, to do our best, to make the Istanbul Conference as productive and enjoyable as it could be.

Before, I leave the floor to my Ambassador, to make the official invitation, I would like to thank to the Organizers of IFLA-Havana Conference for their efforts and success for such a wonderful conference and for their generous offers of assistance, to our organizing committee.

I would also like to thank the Cuban librarians and in general to Cuban public, for their friendliness and all the efforts they have shown, to make our stay in Havana as pleasant as it could be.

We will always remember the smiling faces and shining eyes of Cuban people.

Before I leave the floor to my Ambassador I would like to say "Welcome to Turkey" in Turkish "Türkiye'ye hoş geldiniz" Thank you.

Now, I would like to invite his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador Aykut Berk to make the official invitation for Turkey.

Mr Ambassador.

Altınay Sernikli