GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT 2018
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This report focuses on the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 73) that the theme of general debate is “Making the United Nations Relevant to All People: Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Peaceful, Equitable and Sustainable Societies.” held on September 25 - October 1, 2019. In the first part, it aims to analyze priority topics in Turkey’s statement. Accordingly, it shows how all the remaining 195 speeches matched with the themes of Turkey. In the second part, it staked out the measurement of both global and regional correlation through percentages. It can also be found some graphs showing the comparison with the last year.

Introduction

This short report is a product of a research project we conducted together with our students from Istanbul Kultur University, Department of International Relations. The intention is to find out the amount of proportional correlation between the themes Turkey and the rest of the international community prioritized in the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly.

To achieve that, we first determined the priority topics in President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s statement to the General Assembly by measuring their lengths and then monitored all the remaining 195 speeches to match with the themes in his statement. In the following pages and graphs, we tried to show both global and regional correlation through percentages.

The regions are covered through their organizational patterns as political constructs rather than geographies and African Union (AU), Arab League, European Union (EU), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) are considered as representing their respective denominations.

The report is divided into two parts, followed by a brief conclusion. In the first part, we staked out the priority topics; and the second covers global and regional emphasis on the same topics. Despite all our efforts, the timesheets we produced may not be immune from human error and possible clustering mistakes. Thus the findings of this report should be taken as indicators rather than conclusive evidence.
We are glad to work together with a very good and productive team of students throughout our project. We would like to thank Aslı Kaya, Buğra Namli, Fahima Yusuf, İdil Erdoğan, Nawres Samir Alghali, Serkan Coşkun for their contribution in monitoring the time devoted to each single issue by each participant of the UN General Assembly. We are also grateful for the generous support provided by Istanbul Kultur University’s central administration most among them to the Board of Trustee Dr. Bahar Akingüç Ünver, Rector of IKU Prof. Dr. Erhan Güzel and Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Nihal Sarier.

1. Turkey’s Priority Issues

![Chart 1: Percentagewise Turkey’s foreign policy priorities as stated in the 73rd UNGA](image)

As can be seen in the following chart, in his 27 minutes 10 seconds long speech, President Erdogan devoted 2 minutes 51 seconds to the UN Reform; 2 minutes 38 seconds to Migration, 3 minutes 58 seconds to Terrorism, 31 seconds to Israel-Palestine, 11 seconds to Iraq, 1 minutes 57 seconds to Syria and 20 seconds to the problems people from Rohingya faced.

Percentagewise President Turkey devoted the largest part of his speech to Terrorism with 14.60% of its total. UN Reform (10.49%) and Migration (9.69%) followed it respectively; Rohingya (1.23%) and Iraq (0.67%) became the least important topics among these seven titles of Turkey’s priorities.
With respect to Terrorism, President Erdogan emphasized the need to have a principled approach and criticized those who “equip terrorists with tens of thousands of trucks and thousands of cargo planes loaded with arms and ammunition,” implicitly referring to the U.S. assistance to PYD, the Syrian arm of the PKK. He also warned the friends of Turkey around the world on Fethullah Gulen organization, which staged the July 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2016 bloody coup attempt and demanded solidarity with regard to this organization.

On the UN Reform initiatives, President Erdogan underlined the need for comprehensive reform in the structure and functioning of the Security Council. Reminding that the world was not the same as at the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, he renewed his demand to have permanent rotational seats in the Security Council. He argued that limiting the reform to budgetary matters would not contribute to the settlement of real problems, nor would it make anybody happy and content.

As to the issue of Migration, President Erdogan reminded the participants of the General Assembly Turkey’s contribution to the 4 million (3.6 million being Syrians) refugees within Turkey’s borders. He emphasized that the refugees in Turkey were having access to all forms of services one could ever need. He also criticized the EU countries for not delivering the funds they promised to Turkey and expressed his expectation for more generous and flexible support to be provided to Turkey.
Chart 3: Turkey’s foreign policy priorities as stated in the 72\textsuperscript{nd} UNGA in terms of percentages

The full text of President Erdogan’s speech at the 73\textsuperscript{rd} Session of the UN General Assembly can be found at [https://undocs.org/A/73/PV.6](https://undocs.org/A/73/PV.6) When compared to the previous year (2017) as it is visible from the Chart 3, President Erdogan in terms of the time allocated seems to put more or less the same emphasis on refugees, migration, and issues pertaining to Syria, while the importance attributed to UN reform increases and Rohingya decreases.

2. Global Emphasis

The members of the international community other than Turkey addressing the 73\textsuperscript{rd} Session of the UN General Assembly devoted 10 hours 22 minutes 40 seconds of their time to the same issues raised by Turkey within a total of 64 hours 45 minutes 32 seconds.
Chart 4: Percentagewise the global emphasis on Turkey’s priority issues

The total time allocated by the rest of the international community represented in the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly to the subjects prioritized by Turkey corresponds to 16.03% of the total duration. The highest emphasis was given to Migration. Following Migration, UN Reform came second as represented in the following graph.

Chart 5: Timewise the global emphasis on Turkey’s priority issues (descending sort)
In the representation of the international community devoted 2 hours 19 minutes 59 seconds (3.6%) to UN Reform; 2 hours 52 minutes 37 seconds (4.44%) to Migration, 2 hours 13 minutes 33 seconds (3.44%) to Terrorism, 1 hour 37 minutes 1 second (2.5%) to Israel-Palestine issue, 7 minutes 59 seconds (0.21%) to Iraq, 43 minutes 6 seconds (1.11%) to Syria, 28 minutes 25 seconds (0.73%) to Rohingya.

Chart 6: Comparison between global emphasis and Turkey regarding Turkey’s priorities

Chart 6 compares the share of selected titles for Turkey and global emphasis in the total duration of the 73rd Session of UNGA. The dark blue column demonstrates the calculation of global emphasis (excluding Turkey); the light blue column displays the rates for Turkey. The maximum difference between values in all columns can be seen in Syria. Syrian problem occupied 1.11% of the total time used in UNGA, while Turkey was 7.18% of President Erdogan’s speech. There was also a stark contrast between the times allocated to the theme of Terrorism. While devoting 14.6% of his talk to this topic, the other countries of UNGA utilized only 3.44% for Syria. There is a partial affinity between Israel-Palestine, Iraq and Rohingya, although they do not occupy much space compared to other topics.

3. Regional Comparisons

In this section, seven regional organizations are stated out as representatives of regional clusters likely to have different policy preferences. Turkey’s priorities quantified according to the time allocated are compared with each of these region members’ speech allocations to the same issues.
3.1. Gulf Cooperation Council

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional intergovernmental organization consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The GCC countries devoted **11 minutes 6 seconds to Terrorism** within a total of **1 hour, 56 minutes 54 seconds**. While both the representatives of Oman and Kuwait did not mention Terrorism at all, Saudi Arabia was the country giving the highest priority to this topic with **4 minutes 10 seconds**.

![Chart 7: Percentagewise the GCC countries on Turkey’s priority topics](image)

GCC countries attribute the highest importance to Terrorism with 9.50% in their total speeches. Following Terrorism, Israel-Palestine (9.18%), Syria (5.63%) and UN Reform (3.42%) became the most significant topics respectively. Both Migration (1.20%) and Rohingya (0.68%) became the least emphasized topics in the speeches of GCC countries.
As it is visible from the chart above, there is a decline in GCC time devoted to the subject of Terrorism since the year before. In 2017, however, there was an increase in the Israel-Palestine problem of their speeches.

Accordingly, in 2017, representatives of the Gulf countries allocated 12.98% of their speeches to Terrorism. However, in 2018, this ratio decreased to 9.50%. In 2017, the country’s representatives devoted 7% of their statements to the Israel-Palestine issue, but in 2018 it increased to 9.18%. This shows that both Terrorism and Israel-Palestine issues maintain their importance for the Gulf countries.
Chart 9 compares the share of selected titles for GCC countries with Turkey. The dark blue column demonstrates the proportion of selected titles in the total duration of GCC, while the light blue column shows Turkey's share for the same titles. GCC countries devoted 12.98% of their speeches to Terrorism and 6.11% to Syria while Turkey devoted 14.6% of its speech to Terrorism, 7.18% to Syria. Whereas there is a high affinity between the titles of Terrorism and Syria, a drastic divergence can be seen in Migration and the UN Reform. The topic of Israel-Palestine had a larger share in the speeches of the Gulf countries when compared to Turkey.

3.2. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance, consisting of China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The SCO is widely regarded as the “alliance of the East” due to its growing centrality in Asia-Pacific and has been the primary security pillar of the region. It is the largest regional organization in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and nearly half of the human population.

The SCO countries devoted 14 minutes 51 seconds of the total duration of 2 hours 32 minutes 41 seconds to Terrorism. Among the SCO countries, India was the country that gave the highest priority to Terrorism with 4 minutes 44 second.
Chart 9: Percentagewise the SCO countries on Turkey’s priority topics

Among the topics Turkey prioritized, SCO countries attributed the greatest importance to Terrorism with 9.73% in their total speeches. This was followed by UN Reform (2.06%) and Syria (1.11%). Other titles were found to be statistically insignificant placed in the speeches of SCO countries.

Chart 10: Comparison with the preceding year
In 2018, as in 2017, Terrorism was the most emphasized by the member countries of the organization among the topics staked out by Turkey. Representatives of the Organization devoted 9.73% of their speeches to Terrorism in 2018, followed by UN Reform with 2.06%. In 2017, representatives of the SCO countries allocated 7.08% of their time to Terrorism at the UNGA, while this ratio increased to 9.73% in 2018. If we look at the UN Reform title, in 2017, the SCO state representatives devoted 5.53% of their speeches while decreasing to 2.06% in 2018. Followingly, the Israel-Palestine issue took only 1.79% in 2017 among SCO countries, whereas in 2018, this ratio fell by almost half, to 0.87%.

![Chart 11](chart11.png)

**Chart 11:** Comparison between SCO and Turkey regarding Turkey’s Priorities

Chart 11 compares the share of selected titles for SCO countries with Turkey. The dark blue columns demonstrate the proportion of selected titles in the total duration of SCO, while the light blue column shows the share of Turkey’s entire length for the same titles. We see the closest affinity was on the Israel-Palestine problem. Another visible correlation was on Terrorism. According to the chart, SCO countries reserving 0.87% of their speech to the Israel-Palestine issue as well as Turkey reserved 1.9% of its speech to the same topic.

### 3.3. Arab League

Arab League is a regional organization of Arab states in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Arabia, currently has 22 members including Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, The United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Arab League countries
devoted 58 minutes 17 seconds of the total duration of 7 hours, 51 minutes 13 seconds speech to Israel-Palestine issue. As might be expected, Palestine was the country that gave the greatest emphasis on the subject with 26 minutes 4 second. After Palestine, among the member countries, Jordan became the second country emphasizing the topic.

Chart 12: Percentagewise the Arab League countries on Turkey’s priority topics

Arab League countries attributed the highest importance on the Israel-Palestine issue by devoting 12.37% of their total time in the General Assembly. This was followed by Terrorism (8.76%), Migration (5.53%) and UN Reform (2.94%). Rohingya with 0.60%, became the least important topic ranked in the speeches of Arab League countries.
As shown in Chart 13, Israel-Palestine was the most highlighted topic by the members of the region among the issues Turkey staked out. In 2017, the Arab League representatives devoted 13.98% of their time to this topic. However, this ratio remained at 12.73% in 2018. Terrorism occupied second place in both years after Israel-Palestine.
Chart 14 shows the comparison between Turkey and the Arab League countries emphasizing the topics Turkey prioritized. As visible from the chart, the drastic difference is on the UN Reform and Israel-Palestine issue. Arab League countries devoted only 2.94% of their speech to UN Reform, while Turkey spared 10.49% of their time to this title. On the other hand, Turkey used 1.9% of its entire time to Israel-Palestine issue; Arab League countries spent 12.37%. For the other topics, there cannot be seen as a considerable disparity.

3.4. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)\(^1\) is an intergovernmental military alliance of North American and European countries. The General Assembly speech of the member countries took 9 hours 19 minutes 34 seconds. The issue prioritized was Migration with 44 minutes 9 seconds. Among the member states, Hungary, Spain, Belgium, Turkey and Greece were the countries putting greater emphasis on the topic.

![Chart 15: Percentagewise the NATO countries on Turkey’s priority topics](image)

Among the selected titles Turkey prioritized, NATO countries attributed the largest importance to Migration with 7.80% of their entire time. UN Reform followed this with 3.38%, Syria with 2.26%, and Terrorism with 2.06%. Iraq with 0.14% became the least prominent topic in the speeches of NATO countries.

\(^1\) The analysis of NATO speeches has been done considering Turkey’s membership of NATO. For this reason, while analyzing NATO speeches at the 73rd session of UNGA Turkey statistics are removed from the calculations due to the reason that this study focuses on Turkey’s priorities.
Chart 16: Comparison with the preceding year

As seen in the chart above, Migration takes in the first place in both 2017 and 2018 among the topics Turkey attributed important. Representatives of the NATO countries devoted 7.8% of their speeches to Migration in 2018, followed by UN Reform with 3.38%, which was 4.03% in 2017. Migration, which ranked first in 2017, followed Terrorism with 5.38%. The chart shows that there has been a remarkable change in Iraq, Rohingya and Terrorism titles.

Chart 17: Comparison between NATO and Turkey regarding Turkey’s priorities
Chart 17 compares the share of selected titles for NATO countries with Turkey. The highest affinity can be seen in the Israel-Palestine issue, while the broadest gap is on Terrorism. NATO countries with 1.08% and Turkey with 1.9% seem like both gave almost equal values from their total speech. The greatest approximate was on Migration.

3.5. African Union

The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa. The total duration of speeches of all member states is 17 hours 20 minutes 22 seconds; nearly 1 hour (59 minutes 45 seconds) of the address was devoted to the UN Reform topic. Togo, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were the countries attributing the greatest importance to the topic.

![Chart 18: Percentagewise the African Union countries on Turkey’s priority topics](image)

African Union countries emphasized the UN Reform with 5.74%. It was followed by Migration (4.86%) and Terrorism (4.67%). Rohingya, with 0.32%, became the least prominent title in the speeches of AU countries.
Chart 19: Comparison with the preceding year

Chart 19 shows a comparative analysis of the 2017 and 2018 Regional Trends of the African Union (AU). The chart shows that the most highlighted topics are different in both years, UN Reform was prioritized in 2018 with 5.74% while Terrorism was with 5.50% in 2017. Following this, Migration takes third place with 4.86% in 2018 and with 2.75% in 2017. Moreover, the issue of Iraq was either never mentioned in 2018, or became the least highlighted topic in 2017. Syria, Israel-Palestine and Rohingya titles received more or less the same attention by the AU countries in both years.
Chart 20: Comparison between AU and Turkey regarding Turkey’s priorities

Chart 20 compares the share of selected titles for African Union (AU) countries with Turkey. The most substantial divergence was on the issue of Syria. Yet, there was a double difference in the UN Reform, Migration and Terrorism. Both AU countries and Turkey gave equal emphasis on the Israel-Palestine issue with 1.9% of their speeches.

3.6. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) consists of 57 member states, with a combined population of 53 Muslim-majority countries, which can be seen as “the collective voice of the Muslim world.” The total duration of OIC countries’ speeches in the General Assembly in 2018 was 19 hour 12 minute 6 seconds, from which 1 hour 30 minute 22 seconds was devoted to Terrorism. Among members, Syria and Iran were the countries putting the greatest emphasis on this topic.

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2 The analysis of OIC speeches has been done considering Turkey’s membership of OIC. For this reason, while analyzing OIC speeches at the 73rd Session of UNGA Turkey statistics are removed from the calculations due to the reason that this study focuses on Turkey’s priorities.
Among Turkey’s priorities, Terrorism has been the most highlighted title, with 7.68% for OIC countries. It was followed by Israel-Palestine (6.30%), Migration (4.82%), UN Reform (4.61%). Iraq, Syria and Rohingya were the least frequently mentioned issues in the OIC countries’ speeches.

Chart 21: Percentagewise the OIC countries on Turkey’s priority topics

Chart 22: Comparison with the preceding year
Chart 22 shows a comparison of 2017 and 2018, where Terrorism became the most highlighted topic in the region among the issues emphasized by Turkey, while Israel-Palestine is taking second place. Although these two titles were the main focus of the OIC countries in both years, there was a partial decline in these titles in 2018 compared to 2017.

![Chart 22: Comparison of 2017 and 2018 topics emphasized by Turkey and OIC.](image)

Chart 23: Comparison between OIC and Turkey regarding Turkey's priorities

Chart 23 compares the share of selected titles for OIC countries with Turkey. When compared with Turkey’s priorities, the highest affinity can be observed on Iraq and Rohingya issues; the most significant divergence is on Israel-Palestine and Syria issues.

3.7. European Union

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that governing shared economic, social, and security policies. The EU countries devoted 45 minutes 4 seconds of a total duration of 9 hours 3 minute 19 second to Migration. Among the member states, Hungary was on to the forefront in devoting almost all the time to Migration. (957 second of its 1060-second long speech) followed by Hungary, Malta and Spain while Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, United Kingdom refrained from mentioning on Migration-related discourse.
Chart 24: Percentagewise the EU countries on Turkey’s priority topics

Migration became a prominent topic with 8.29% for EU countries. This was followed by UN Reform (3.52%), Israel-Palestine (1.64%), Terrorism (1.62%). Iraq became the least prominent topic with 0.15% emphasized by EU countries.

Chart 25: Comparison with the preceding year
As shown in Chart 25, Migration was the most highlighted topic for the EU member countries among the issues staked out by Turkey. Followed by Migration, UN Reform agenda took second place in both years. Representatives of EU member states devoted 4.33% of their total speech time to the UN Reform in 2017. This ratio decreased to 3.52% in 2018. The chart shows that the importance of Migration given by EU member states increased in 2018 compared to 2017. The time allocated for Migration in 2017 increased from 6.93% to 8.29% in 2018.

Chart 26: Comparison between EU and Turkey regarding Turkey’s priorities

Chart 26 compares the share of selected titles. Both EU countries and Turkey gave almost equal value to Migration and Israel-Palestine issues. EU states devoted 8.29%, and Turkey spent 9.69% to Migration. Similarly, EU countries allocated 1.64% and Turkey 1.9% to Israel-Palestine. There can be seen vast differences in UN Reform, Terrorism and Syria titles.
Conclusion

This report aimed to demonstrate the priority topics in Turkey’s statement to the 73rd General Assembly. According to that, it showed how all the remaining 195 speeches matched with the themes of Turkey. In the second part, it staked out the measurement of both global and regional correlation through percentages. It can also be found some graphs showing the comparison with the last year.

As shown in this report, Turkey put the highest priority on Terrorism (%14,60), UN Reform (%10,49), Migration (%9,69) and Syria (%7,18) related topics in total duration at the 73rd of UNGA. The members of the international community also devoted largest part of their speeches on Migration (%4,44), UN Reform (%3,60) and Terrorism (%3,44) respectively in the same year.

We have also observed a slight change in Turkey’s foreign policy priorities since the year before. At the 72nd of UNGA, Turkey attributed the greatest importance to Rohingya issue (%12,48) and Migration (%11,68), then Terrorism (%8,51) and Syria (%8,05) respectively. The time allocated and we presume importance attached by Turkey to UN Reform, Terrorism increased while Rohingya, Migration, Israel-Palestine, Iraq decreased. Syrian problem ranked the same as before.

Seen from the angel of regional organization at the 73rd, Terrorism became the most significant topic emphasized by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Shanghai Cooperation Council, and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. On the other hand, Migration came to forefront for North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European Union; Israel-Palestine issue seemed quite important for Arab League countries and demands of UN Reform was commonly voiced topic for African Union countries.
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