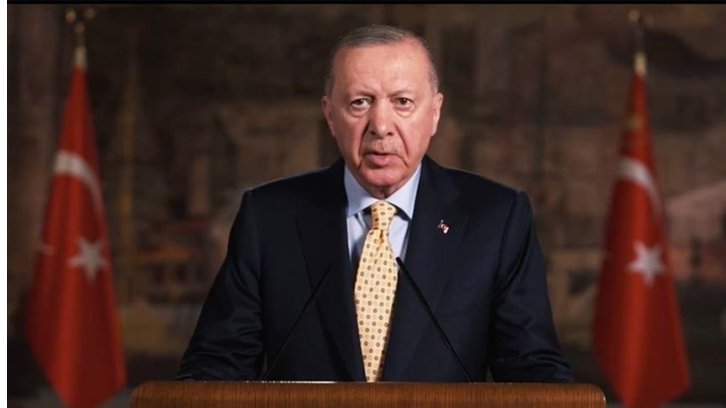


## OIC Transport Connectivity Key to Islamic Economic Growth



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Istanbul: Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Thursday underscored the need for stronger transport integration among member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), stressing that efficient and reliable networks are vital to unlocking the Islamic world's vast

economic potential.

In a video message to the OIC Transport Ministers Meeting held in Istanbul, Erdogan said OIC countries span a strategic geography extending from Asia to Africa and from Europe to the Middle East. He noted that this region commands natural trade corridors, possesses a young and dynamic population, and represents rapidly expanding markets.

He emphasized that geographical advantages can only translate into strategic strength through well-integrated transport systems linking highways, railways, ports, and airports. Improved connectivity, he said, would not only boost trade and investment but also enhance social and cultural ties among member states.

Highlighting Türkiye's major infrastructure initiatives – including the Marmaray rail tunnel, the Eurasia Tunnel, and landmark bridge projects – Erdogan said these investments have strengthened global trade routes while expanding the country's rail, maritime, and aviation capabilities.

He also pointed to Türkiye's support for the Trans-Caspian East-West Middle Corridor Project, describing it as a modern revival of the historic Silk Road. However, he stressed that these efforts go beyond national priorities.

“Our objective is to deepen integration with OIC member states, develop cross-border corridors,

and create added value through joint initiatives,” he said.

Erdogan noted that constructive deliberations during the meeting led to key decisions, including the development of a roadmap to enhance transport links, reinforce solidarity on international platforms, and prepare a transport connectivity strategy document under Türkiye’s OIC term presidency.

He emphasized the importance of sustained technical coordination and effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure successful implementation of the agreed measures.