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Dear colleagues, distinguished guests!

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today and to contribute to this meaningful international gathering. I would like to begin by sincerely thanking all the institutions and individuals who made this event possible—especially "Alecu Russo" Balti State University and the entire organizing committee. I would also like to extent my sincere gratitude to Professor Angela Cosciug for facilitating the scientific collaboration between Alecu Russo Balti State University and Yozgat Bozok University.

I am Dr. Esra Elmacıoğlu, Head of the Department of Eastern Languages and Literatures at Yozgat Bozok University in Türkiye. Our department offers two independent programs: Japanese Language and Literature and Russian Language and Literature. We bring together students and scholars from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. At the heart of this diversity lies a shared bridge that connects us all: the Turkish language. We see Turkish not just as a means of communication, but as a foundation for academic and cultural exchange.

Much is often said about what is "lost in translation." However, I believe that translation also allows us to gain a great deal—new associations, broader readership, refreshed relevance, and entirely new interpretations. Translation carries not only words, but meaning and culture. As translators, researchers, and educators, our role is not only to protect meaning but also to make it accessible, without compromising its depth and richness.

This colloquium expands beyond literary translation. It also addresses terminology translation and mass media interpretation, reminding us that translation is far more than a technical task. In today's world, where information moves instantly across languages, terminological precision is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Especially in media, a mistranslation or misinter-

pretation can influence public opinion, policy, and perception. Therefore, the translator's role is not only technical, but also ethical.

At Yozgat Bozok University, we take this responsibility seriously. Our approach to translation studies is interdisciplinary. We encourage students to engage not only with language, but also with literature, media, politics, and technology. Because translation is not just about knowing another language—it is about understanding cultures and interpreting them responsibly.

As I conclude, I want to return to a simple but essential idea: translation, at its core, is a human act. It builds connections between people. It makes what we share visible, and it respects what makes us different. Through this, translation becomes a path toward understanding, empathy, and peace.

Let us use this colloquium not only to share knowledge, but also to build bridges—between languages, between cultures, and between ourselves as scholars. I look forward to the engaging discussions ahead, and I hope to collaborate with many of you in the future.

Thank you very much for your attention.