


**23rd OF APRIL
NATIONAL
SOVEREIGNTY AND
CHILDREN'S DAY**



TÜRKİYE
BÜYÜK MİLLET MECLİSİ







It was on April 23rd, 1920, during the war of independence, that The Grand National Assembly met in Ankara and laid down the foundations of a new, independent, secular, and modern republic from the ashes of The Ottoman Empire.






This national day (23rd April National Sovereignty and Children's Day) in Turkey is a unique event. The founder of the Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, dedicated April 23rd to the children of the country to emphasize that they are the future of the new nation.







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Among the activities on this day, children from all around Turkey gather in the capital city, Ankara, and they replace the selected members of The Grand National Assembly. They have an elected president and prime minister and they govern Turkey for one day in order to emphasize the importance of the children in the society. In many places governmental agencies leave the authority to children symbolically for the day.

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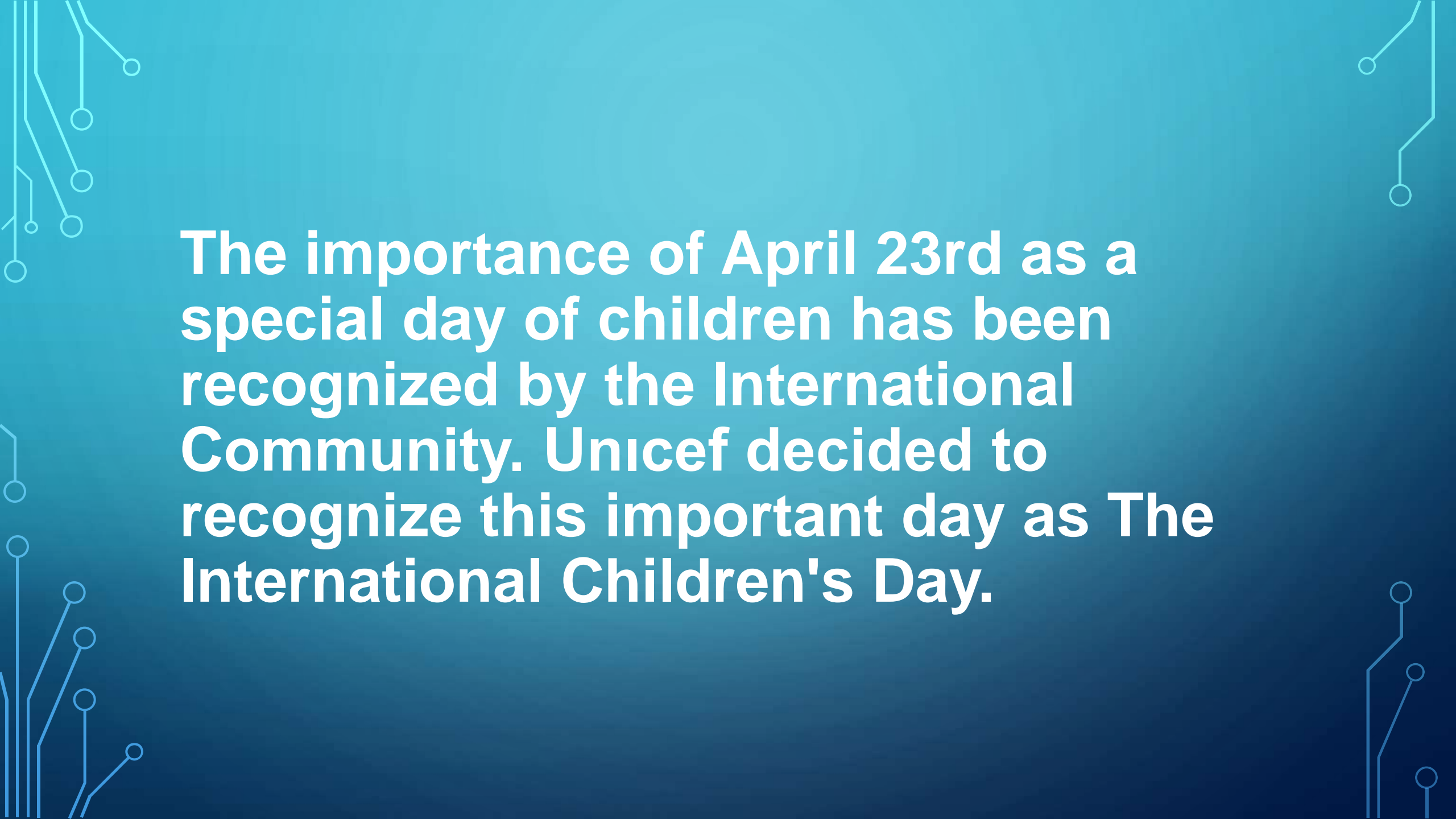
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Traditionally since 1986, children come to Turkey to represent their country of origin to children of the world with artistic performances. During their stay in Turkey, the foreign children are housed in Turkish homes and find an important opportunity to interact with the Turkish kids and learn about each other's countries and cultures. The foreign children groups also participate in the special session of The Grand National Assembly. This results in a truly international assembly where children pledge their commitment to international peace and brotherhood.






unicef

The background is a solid blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines and small circles connecting them.

The importance of April 23rd as a special day of children has been recognized by the International Community. Unicef decided to recognize this important day as The International Children's Day.

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Turkish people hope these children will remember the day for their lives and will contribute to a bond with other cultures. The internationalization is thus aimed toward Turkey's principle of, “Peace at home, Peace in the World”, and “Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the people”.



Peace at home, peace in the world.

— Mustafa Kemal Atatürk —

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