**TURKEY’S CONTRIBUTION**

**"PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS: THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION"**

**1. Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia, and intolerance**

Turkey attaches importance to protection of the human rights of all migrants.

The “Law on Foreigners and International Protection” (LFIP) No:6458 has entered into force on 11 April 2013 with a view to protecting human rights of migrants on the basis of national and international legislation and ensuring effective migration management. Within the framework of this law, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) was established in order to meet all needs of foreigners, make migration management more efficient and form a migration policy. Provincial organization of the Directorate General in all provinces of Turkey was completed as well.

The Foreigners Calling Centre (YIMER Line: 157) became operational as of 20 August 2015 with a view to responding all questions of foreigners in Turkish, Arabic, English and Russian. This calling center also serves as a hotline for victims of human trafficking. It assists the foreigners in need in coordination with the law enforcement agencies. Besides, this line provides translation service to the foreigners in the case that they need to contact with a law enforcement agency.

The principle of *non-refoulement****,*** placed in the international conventions, also takes part in Turkish national legislation. According to the Article 55 of the LFIP, removal decision shall not be issued in respect of those foreigners considered within the “vulnerable groups” regardless of whether they are within the scope of Article 54 of the LFIP on the persons subject to a removal decision. Assessment and decision for removal shall be made on case by case basis according to both national and international legislation.

Syrians in Turkey are the best and concrete example of Turkey’s policy towards the issue of the human rights of migrants. Turkey’s hospitality for Syrians made it an example-model for all countries. Since 2011, Turkey has followed an open-door policy towards Syrians and has strictly adhered to “non-refoulement” principle. Syrians admitted to Turkey are granted “temporary protection” status. As of 27 July 2017, the number of Syrians registered under temporary protection is 3.106.932. This amount corresponds to about 15% of Syria’s pre-war population. Nearly 240 thousand Syrians under temporary protection live in 22 accommodation centers set up by AFAD in 10 provinces. In these centers, all needs of Syrians, ranging from food to health, education to psycho-social support are met by Turkish Government.

Acting upon the fact that a stable, democratic and prosperous Syria will be rebuilt in the hands of the Syrian children, we prepare the young Syrians for the post-conflict era, when their skills will be vital for the future of their country.

Education of Syrian children is of utmost priority on our agenda. There are 835.000 school-age Syrian children in Turkey, 508.000 of them have access to education. School enrollment corresponds to 60% of the total.

Turkish Government extends financial support, scholarship, accommodation and transport aid to Syrians for education. During 2015-2016 academic year 9.689 Syrians went to universities in Turkey. This figure increased to 13.663 during 2016-2017. Turkish Government granted scholarships to 1.400 Syrians for higher education.

Turkish language courses are provided for Syrians. In 2015, 69.503 Syrians (40.904 female, 28.639 male) attended these courses, while this figure was registered as 62.186 for 2016 (35.985 female, 26.201 male). For the last two years, a total of 131.729 Syrians (76.889 female, 54.840 male) went to Turkish language courses.

With regard to their economic integration, Turkey allowed Syrians to access to the labor market in Turkey as of January 2016. In this framework, almost 20 thousand work permits were issued to Syrians in 2016.

We also prioritize vocational training especially for the Syrian youth. As of December 2016, over 75 thousand Syrians have attended these courses and started to build their future and make a life of their own.

Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey can benefit from health care services without any charge. Over the past 6 years, more than 25 million policlinic services have been provided to Syrians, more than one million Syrians have received inpatient treatment and almost 950 thousand surgeries were carried out. Furthermore, some 225 thousand (224.750) Syrian babies have been born in Turkey since 2011.

Turkey has mobilized all its resources to meet the needs of Syrians since day one. From the national budget Turkey has spent almost 15 billion US Dollars for Syrians. Concurrently, our municipalities and the local NGOs have made an expenditure of nearly the same amount. On the other hand, the amount of the financial assistance provided by the international community directly to Turkey for Syrians remains only 526 million US Dollars.

The guest community interacts with the host community and socializes better, so that we have been able to overcome prejudgment or act of intolerance successfully. Turkish society shows empathy towards and welcomes Syrians who fled war and violence in their country. This is an invaluable contribution for social cohesion and peace.

Apart from Syrians, for years, Turkey has been home to Iraqis and Afghans, too. The number of Iraqis residing in Turkey is more than 200 thousand. 7 thousand of them are residing in temporary accommodation centers. It is estimated that there are around 100 thousand Afghans in Turkey, majority of whom have “conditional refugee” status and look forward to be accepted by a third country. Both nationalities have access to medical care and education services in Turkey.

Hereby, hosting more than 3.3 million refugees, today, Turkey is the biggest refugee-hosting country in the world.

Besides protection and services provided to Syrians within Turkey, together with the NGOs, the Turkish authorities give shelter and all necessary assistance to Syrians in the cross border camps.

**2. Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human- made crisis trough protection and assistance sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution**

Sustainable solution to irregular migration can only be attained if the push factors such as wars and conflicts, human rights violations and economic deprivation in many of the origin countries are prevented. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that destination countries support peace processes and promote peaceful settlement of disputes in conflict-affected areas and to step up humanitarian aid and development investments in the countries of transit and origin with a view to improving standards of living in these countries.

Turkey’s efforts in mediation, development and humanitarian assistance also serve to curb irregular migration.

The “Mediation for Peace” initiative launched by Turkey with Finland in September 2010 in New York under the auspices of the UN also takes as a basis the principles of coordination and complementarity for the success of a mediation process.

This initiative, which was launched with a view to enhance the prominence of mediation in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution and, consequently, to affect additional resources for mediation efforts, also aims at enhancing the preventive diplomacy/mediation capacities of the UN, regional organizations and individual countries.

Recognizing the need for harnessing the growing interest on the peace making agenda in general and mediation in particular at home and in line with its pioneering role in that field, Turkey also hosts “Istanbul Conferences on Mediation” with wide international participation, under the auspices of our Minister. “Istanbul Conferences on Mediation” bring together experts and practitioners and embody a significant platform for the exchange of knowledge and practice in mediation. The last Conference was held last June.

Turkey firmly believes that it is a collective and shared responsibility to help the LDCs, not just because it is a moral and ethical imperative, but also because global peace and security is directly linked with global sustainable development. In this vein, Turkey hosted the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in Istanbul on 9-13 May 2011. The Conference has constituted a significant step forward in addressing the problems confronted by the LDCs and represented the political will and determination of the Heads of State and Government of the member states, the leaders of the International Community and other stakeholders.

Turkey’s humanitarian assistance has been diversified and significantly increased in recent years. In 2016, according to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report Turkey ranks the second largest donor country world-wide with its 6 billion US Dollars humanitarian assistance. Turkey also ranks first when the ratio of official humanitarian assistance to national income is taken into consideration.

Furthermore, the Turkish Red Crescent Society and numerous Turkish NGOs are also very active on a global scale. Turkey’s humanitarian contributions are not confined to bilateral assistance projects. Turkey aims to further increase its contributions to various international organizations.

**Thematic Session 3: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration**

Keeping in mind the complex and cross-border nature of the problem, international cooperation and solidarity are indispensable in order to find a solution for irregular migration, Turkey participates in almost every international and regional activity in this field.

Turkey holds the chairmanship of the Budapest Process on migration management since 2006. Furthermore, as of 1 July 2014, Turkey has taken over the Chairmanship of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) and hosted the GFMD Summit in October 2015. In 2016, Turkey participated and contributed to the works of the GFMD as the member of troika. Afterwards, Turkey also continues to participate and contribute to the GFMD activities.

In Turkey’s G20 chairmanship in 2015, the refugee and migration issues were also included to the G20 agenda. The first ever World Humanitarian Summit in İstanbul in May 2016 was also significant opportunity to deal with the issue.

Upon Turkey’s proposal in 2015, an agenda item on irregular migration and the tragedy of the Syrians was included in the agenda of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly and a high level meeting was held in the General Assembly on 20 November 2015.

This was a unique moment for the UN as the Secretary General unveiled a roadmap on refugees. The roadmap consisted of 4 major international events. These events were as follows:

* Syria Donors Conference in London, 4 February 2016
* High Level Meeting on Resettlement in Geneva, 30 March 2016
* World Humanitarian Summit in İstanbul, 23-24 May 2016
* High Level Meeting (HLM) on Refugees and Migrants on the margins of the UNGA 71, 19 September 2016

The agenda item on irregular migration and the Syrians has also been transferred to the agenda of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

Turkey attaches importance to the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) process. To this end, Turkey held a Budapest Process consultation meeting on the GCM on 2 March 2017 in Istanbul. Furthermore, we hosted the MIKTA Migration and Refugee Meeting with the participation of experts from MIKTA members in Istanbul on 16-17 May 2017. Turkey also hosted the IOM Istanbul Regional Conference on Counter Migrant Smuggling on 5-6 July 2017 in İstanbul. This Conference was very timely to ensure feedback to the 5th thematic session of the Global Compact on Migration in September in Vienna which will be on migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

Turkey actively participates in the GCM thematic sessions. In this regard, Turkey moderated one of the panels at the third thematic meeting in Geneva last June.

The 18 March agreement is also stunning example of international cooperation to overcome regional migration crisis. The agreement is based on the proposal made by Turkey only for humanitarian purposes with three main objectives namely; to prevent loss of lives in the Aegean, to break the migrant smuggling networks and to replace illegal migration with legal migration.

According to the agreement, Turkey started to take back all irregular migrants as of 4 April, while on the same date resettlement of Syrians in Turkey towards the EU countries was launched. With regard to the implementation of the Turkey-EU agreement, so far, 1.288 irregular migrants have been taken back by Turkey. Concomitantly, resettlement of Syrians in Turkey started as of 4 April towards the EU countries and 7.772 Syrians have been resettled in the EU**.**

This exercise constitutes the most stunning example of burden and responsibility sharing that Turkey has been advocating since the eruption of the Syrian crisis in 2011.

In fact, due to Turkey’s resolute action against irregular migration, irregular crossings in the Aegean Sea already decreased since October 2015, when daily data was around 7.000. The effective implementation of the Turkey-EU Action Plan on Migration by Turkey contributes to this decline.

Furthermore, since we reached the 18 March agreement, we have been witnessing a significant decline in the scores. With the implementation of the agreement on 4 April, daily irregular crossings dropped from 7.000 in October 2015 to 70. This shows that our agreement has already put forward a positive outcome.

Between January 2015 and March 2016 more than 1.000 people died in the Aegean, afterwards only 46 loss of life occurred in Turkish waters. If Turkey were not there, since 18 March, almost 1.000.000 irregular migrants would have reached the EU

**4. Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits**

Turkey allowed Syrians to access to the labor market in Turkey as of January 2016. In this framework, almost 20.000 work permits were issued to Syrians in 2016. We also prioritize vocational training especially for the Syrian youth. As of December 2016, over 75 thousand Syrians have attended these courses and started to build their future and make a life of their own.

We assumed the chairmanship of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is a global forum dealing with migration and development together, for July 2014-December 2015.

In the framework of our presidency, we have hosted the 8th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit in Istanbul on 14-16 October 2015 under the theme of “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development”. With this theme, Turkey aimed at making sure that human mobility contributes to sustainable development. The 8th Forum Meeting had utmost importance in this respect, being the very first high-level international gathering after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore it provided us a great opportunity to discuss migration and its relationship to development at a time when issues of migration are high on the international agenda.

During the Forum, human mobility and the well-being of migrants, migration as an enabler in development, enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility, have been thoroughly discussed in the Summit by more than 1000 representatives from 150 countries and international organizations, as well as participants from civil society. It also shed light on decent work for migrants and social inclusion of migrants, as well as partnerships for action.

**5. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims**

Based on the “Law on Foreigners and International Protection” enforced in 2013, “Regulation Against Human Trafficking and Protection of Victims” was issued in March 2016. In the framework of the regulation, **“Coordination Commission Against Human Trafficking”** was established and it assumed the responsibilities of the Task Force. First meeting of the Commission was held on 1 March 2017 with the participation of all relevant governmental institutions and some non-governmental organizations. The Commission decided to develop and put into practice an updated “**National Action Plan on Fight against Human Trafficking”** in the coming period was decided.

Turkey is a party to relevant international legal instruments to combat human trafficking. In order to align with the international instruments, necessary amendments are made in relevant legislation, most significantly in the Turkish Penal Code and Law on the Work Permits for Foreigners and the Turkish Nationality Law to help combatting THB. Turkey is providing two type of services for the victims of human trafficking. The first one is **Victim Support Program** and the second one is **Voluntary and Safe Return Program**. Victims of human trafficking can benefit from support services to be provided in Turkey upon their consent or can return to their home countries if they choose so on a voluntary basis.

According to the **Victim Support Program**, six-month humanitarian visa and short-term residence permit are granted to the victims of human trafficking during their treatment, healthcare and legal proceedings. The visa and residence permit can be extended for the same period of time depending on the length of legal proceedings or treatment.

According to the **Voluntary and Safe Return Program**, voluntary return of victims is ensured in a safe way in cooperation with the law enforcement agencies, IOM, counterpart agencies in source countries and local non-profit organizations.

With the new regulations, combat against human trafficking gained momentum after 2014, and therefore the number of identified victims of human trafficking increased as well (2014-16: 339 victims).

Within the framework of fighting against human trafficking, the “Department for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking” is established under the DGMM according to the LFIP. The said Department is responsible for fighting against human trafficking and protection of victims; implementing projects related to fight against human trafficking; setting up, operating and outsourcing the operation helplines for victims.

Departments of Combatting Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking were also established separately within National Police and Gendarmerie.

Turkey has been faced with enormous irregular migrant flows recent years. Under these conditions, while rescuing migrants to be abused in the hands of smugglers, Turkish law enforcement agencies have apprehended more than 11.000 smugglers since 2014.

Turkey also hosted the IOM Istanbul Regional Conference on Counter Migrant Smuggling on 5-6 July 2017 in İstanbul. Participants from various countries and international organizations as well as academics and experts shared their views on the issue.

**6. Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labor mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, and other relevant measures**

Due to its geographical location, which is on a major historical migration route, Turkey is a transit country for irregular migration towards Europe. On the other hand, with its emerging economy in recent years, Turkey has also become a target country for many irregular migrants.

In fact, only by hosting almost 3.1 million Syrians and approximately 300,000 Iraqis and Afghans, Turkey assumes an important role in managing and containing mass influxes. Turkey, while focusing on successful migration management and hosting the highest number of refugees in the world, is at the same time taking every precaution to prevent irregular migration. In this context, number of irregular migrants, apprehended while attempting to cross our territory during 2005-2016, has been approximately 900.000. In 2016, almost 175.000 irregular migrants were apprehended by the Turkish authorities. Almost 37.000 of whom were rescued at sea by the Turkish Coast Guard Command.

Readmission agreements are effective instruments in combating irregular migration and encouraging states to take serious measures against this phenomenon.
Turkey has readmission agreements with 15 countries (Greece, Russian Federation, Yemen, Nigeria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Romania, Syria, Ukraine, Belarus, Montenegro, Moldova, Kosovo and Norway). Turkeys proposed readmission agreements to additional 14 countries.

In the subject of decent work, the By-Law dated 15 January 2016, allowing access of Syrians under temporary protection to the labor market, constitutes the latest example of this approach. So far, more than 20.000 work permits have been granted.