



KARTEPE SUMMIT 2018 DECLARATION

Kocaeli, 2018

Kartepe Summit has been convened with the theme of “Migration, Asylum and Humanity”, between 26-28 October 2018 in Kartepe, Kocaeli, Turkey. Scientists, politicians, media members, representatives from international and non-governmental organizations shared with the public all the cases and problems developed around migration, first and foremost forced migration, and their suggestions for solution. 44 Panel Meetings, 12 Academic Sessions, 11 Case Critical Meetings and 2 Workshops were held as part of the Summit and it went down in history as one of the most comprehensive international intellectual endeavors on the subject. All recorded meetings were presented to the public on a website and via social media channels. The following declaration was prepared in the light of the findings and recommendations presented at the Summit.

From Turkey, **which embraced over 5 million refugees**,
“TO THE WORLD THAT CANNOT MANAGE MIGRATION,
FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY”

SUSTAINING HUMAN DIGNITY

1. Migrants are not problems, those who have problems are humans. Solving the problems of migrants is primarily a matter of humanity.
2. Evaluating the concepts of emigration, immigration, asylum and refugee, with numerical and statistical data, has a potential in nature to shadow the problem that the migrant experiences as a human being.
3. The international community should focus on the causes of migration and try to solve the problem with its causes. Within this framework, the establishment of justice and peace in global scale to eliminate the conditions compelling migration is the basic political responsibility of the century we live in.
4. The fact that migrants who are obliged to migrate because their lives were threatened are exposed to the threats of discrimination, exclusion, alienation, misery and indirect death, is the most important human rights violation that the world witnesses. In this respect, migration is a field of responsibility for all humanity. Maintaining this understanding is the duty of the international community and governments.
5. Governments are liable to keep access to services, such as safe environment, employment, education and health, open for refugees in their countries.
6. Refugees should be able to benefit from human rights without distinction regardless of their status in their countries of nationality. The domestic and international legal barriers that restrict access of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees to basic human rights should be lifted. The international community is primarily responsible for the establishment of this right of refugees.
7. Migration and the concepts developed around it; must be clearly defined in international law and national legal systems to guarantee the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Clear identification of the concepts and the law to be developed around it is the duty of the international community.
8. Discrimination, hatred and the political statements, programs and actions that are not regarded within the freedom of expression and that are identified as violation of the prohibition of discrimination and as a crime should not be tolerated; the crimes against these fragile groups that become evident and often bring about violence, should be effectively punished.

MANAGING MIGRATION

1. The inability of the international community to manage migration well is not only a problem for border countries. Ill-managed forced migration has the potential to create a structural problem in the medium and long term for all countries in the world.
2. For the management of migration and the solution of problems arising from forced migration, each country must contribute to the budget required for migrants to live in humanitarian conditions in proportion to their share of global welfare.
3. Migration management should start from countries that are the source of migration. It is essential that the social, economic, geographical and administrative conflicts that cause migration are resolved at their sources with the arbitration of the international community. Sustainable human development programs should be planned, designed and implemented for these regions.
4. Deepening injustice on issues of democracy, security, human rights, health and environment, deepens the forced migration and the problems developed depending on it.
5. Although humanitarian aid activities are very important and valuable in terms of migration, they are not sufficient to solve the problem.
6. Managing migration is possible by making enough efforts to be able to direct the sociological change resulting from migration to a positive course and to improve the capacity to overcome the problems that may be brought about by the new situation.
7. All countries, which are the subject of emigration and immigration, should establish institutions that will manage migration in accordance with their administrative structures. The international community and the host country governments should ensure the participation of migrants in their decisions and policies in the context of migration.
8. The problems should be discussed and policies should be established for solution by convening International Migration Ministerial meetings every 6 months by the organization and coordination of the United Nations.
9. Establishing awareness of migration and migrants is capable of reducing and preventing the severity of migration-related problems. In this context, works of civil society and the scientific community on migration and refugees should be supported and encouraged.
10. Ethnocentric, xenophobic, exclusionary, alienating, discriminatory statements and the ones inciting hate and hatred should be cleared of the educational curricula.
11. Migration should be included in the education curricula as a citizenship course. The contributions of migration and refugees to human history should be explained to the societies with good examples, and these examples should be used in educational curricula and communication contents.
12. The physical obstacles such as walls and wire fences, which are constructed on the borders of countries in order to prevent forced migration, are capable of deepening the problem; the constructed ones should be removed and new ones should not be constructed. It is not possible to manage migration, an inevitable phenomenon, through security-based prevention policies.
13. Politicians who are sensitive to protect their borders from migrants should also develop sensitivity to the policies of war, exploitation, conflict, terror and destabilization in the emigration countries.
14. Funding structures of international organizations should be strengthened in order to increase their effectiveness and intervention capacities in the areas of migration and refugees.
15. The goodwill and effort put forward by the international community with the Global Compact, the Budapest Process, the Astana Process, the New York Declaration and the Marrakech Migration Pact, should be transformed into the principles of international migration, with the maximum participation and contribution of the countries of migration.
16. Democracy, human rights and freedom discourses are separated from their essence and transformed into an instrument of international interventions made for interests. It is an inevitable need to restore the honor of these concepts developed by humanity.

17. It is both unfair and unconscionable that the citizens of some countries are free to travel all over the world whereas the citizens of some other countries have scarcely any freedom of international movement.
18. More than half of the world's refugees are from Palestine, Syria and Afghanistan. Global actors' provision of solution to these countries' problems is vital for solving the problem of irregular migration.
19. Whether they return or not, the rights of migrants in their countries must be taken under international protection, their access to and use of these rights must be ensured.
20. Arrangements should be made to ensure that immigrants can defend and protect their rights both in their countries of destination and in their countries of origin at the highest level, as well as to facilitate the laws of dual citizenship.

LIFE IN THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

1. The opportunities for housing, security, education and socialization need to be developed for migrants in the countries of destination with the support of the international community; integration of migrants should be encouraged by education and legislation.
2. In the destination countries, migrants should be informed about their basic rights such as health, education, work and travel. The civil servants, teachers and administrative executives of the countries that intensely face with migration should be trained about migrant problems.
3. The foundations to combat crimes against migrants should be established and developed through international cooperation.
4. The sanctions against racist and exclusionary rhetoric based on xenophobia, which is aimed at refugees, should be rearranged in a way to render them deterrent.
5. Countries hosting the displaced persons who were exposed to forced migration should be effectively represented in relevant international organizations and international policies should be developed in light of the experience of these countries.
6. The legislative and executive capacities of local governments in destination countries should be regulated by taking into account the impact of migration.
7. The financial capacities of the countries that accept migrants and refugees should be strengthened and this power should be sustained by the contribution of the international community.
8. Providing educational opportunities for migrants in the host country is an essential part of addressing the problems associated with migration.
9. Cultural art work on migration and refugees as well as the values produced by migrants, should be supported by local governments, governments and the international community.
10. Pragmatic objectives and selectivity in the process of adoption of refugees and migrants should be abandoned urgently and human and moral rules should be developed.
11. What should be done following the transformation of migration into a situation for the country of destination is that the migrant must be provided an identity to be able to use all human rights as a citizen of the world.
12. The placement of migrants should be planned and implemented in a wide area in the country of destination.
13. With the contribution and participation of countries exposed to forced migration, an international conference should be convened where migration will be discussed and solutions will be developed.
14. Migrants who have been settled in a country for some time should be recognized as diaspora and allowed to access group rights.

MIGRATION IN MEDIA

1. The media language for migrants has the capability of provoking adaptation problems in many countries. It is an ethical responsibility for media organizations to arrange the media language with rules with a view to produce solutions, rather than deepening the problem.
2. Professional ethics should be developed in order to prevent disinformation in the areas of media and journalism, and studies on this subject should be encouraged.
3. The awareness of media sector should be raised with regard to the phenomenon of migration with the participation of media managers, gatekeepers and journalists to a conference to be convened.
4. The feed of discriminatory nature that increase prejudice through social media channels, should be fought against by both the aforementioned media channels and public authorities.

CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. Children, women, the disadvantaged, and the elderly are the segments of society that experience the negative impact of migration severely. The crimes against these groups should be included in the criminal law as a penalty-increasing factor.
2. It is the duty of the international community and the host country to control the traumas experienced by children, women and the elderly people who are exposed to forced migration and to provide health services that will eliminate their discomfort.
3. An effective combat program should be initiated against criminal networks that operate by benefiting from the conditions arising from migration.
4. The follow-up of children and women who are either lost or not heard of on the migration routes or in countries of destination should be given weight.
5. Policies should be developed to ensure the safety of migrants within disadvantaged groups starting from the migration routes.

Respectfully presented to the world public for the migrant-centric problems, which have come to being as an accumulation of centuries, not to increasingly continue, for the elimination of these problems, for not to facing new humanitarian plights and for a bright future in our world.

**KARTEPE SUMMIT
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**