

## TURKEY'S STATEMENTS

### **Fourth Thematic Discussion (Measures to be taken in pursuit of solutions, 14 November 2017)**

#### **Panel One: How can we support voluntary and sustainable return?**

First of all, everyone has the right to return to his or her country. In order to support voluntary and sustainable returns, problems that causing massive displacement in origin countries should be solved politically in a peaceful manner.

All stakeholders should support and assist efforts aiming at ceasefire and peace in the origin countries for the benefit of refugees, because international support is also critical to ensure that return is sustainable. In order to achieve at some point this sustainability, multi-year plannings and multi partner strategies in the programme of action will also be definitely useful.

Furthermore we deem that fostering self-reliance of refugees during displacement period is vital. In this regard, Turkey continues to mobilize all her efforts to increase the self-reliance of more than 3.3 million Syrian refugees, including women and youth especially. As we believe that this will certainly enhance the sustainability of return.

On the other hand, all of the origin countries should obey the land and property rights of the returnees. This should also be reflected in the programme of action. International community should closely follow and if necessary give the technical support to origin countries concerning the enjoyment of these rights for the wellbeing of voluntary returnees.

Besides these rights, we attach importance that returnees should have their previous basic rights in the decision making processes and elections and be able to exercise all other democratic rights when they choose the pathway of voluntary return. This will definitely increase self confidence of returnees and pave the way for the others who wait to turn back their homelands.

## **Panel Two: How can we expand access to resettlement?**

As Turkey, we attach great importance to resettlement. Resettlement is indeed a tangible form of burden and responsibility sharing.

As the number of crisis with protracted nature increase, the solution of resettlement becomes even more relevant.

Yet, less than only one per cent of the refugees around the world is submitted for resettlement.

We support the idea of an open and transparent multiyear resettlement pledging process in order to create a coherent global resettlement response.

Turkey encourages and supports a kind of mapping study of the resettlement countries to create an environment of responsibility sharing. In this regard, we welcome the UNHCR's Resettlement Data Finder Portal and encourage this portal's further development.

We are happy to see that new countries have been included in resettlement in the recent years.

We believe that creating a platform where traditional resettlement countries share their experiences and good practices with non-traditional countries may be useful in encouraging others to join. The establishment of the core group suggested in the concept paper may be a good way forward in this regard.

We also welcome the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism (ERCM).

**Panel Four: How can we make local solutions work for refugees and the communities in which they live?**

Hosting countries like Turkey dedicate a lot in terms of both financial and through other kind of support such as investment in education, health, access to labor market and social integration programmes.

If we desire that local solutions work better for refugees, apart from some words and commitments, ensuring concrete and adequate development and financial assistance to national institutions and capacity are necessary. Allocation of resources for short, medium and long term needs of municipal services such as clean water, solid waste, wastewater and recreational areas are required.

On the other hand, we think UNHCR together with World Trade Organization and other relevant bodies should try to create a favorable conditions like preferential trade for example for the exports of the goods that are produced by the refugees in hosting states. We believe such measures will strengthen at first the self-reliance of refugees and also will work as a support mechanism for the hosting states.

As a country that has expertise in local solutions, we highly value the role of the private sector, social actors and civil society.

Lastly, we should underline that promotion of a positive approach to diversity, combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination against refugees in the programme of action is indispensable for the success and sustainability of local solutions.