

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Cihad Erginay, Ambassador, Deputy Undersecretary of  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Turkey**

**(Special Segment on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework  
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- First of all, I would like to thank High Commissioner Mr. Grandi and The Chair of the Executive Committee, H.E. Ambassador McCartney for their valuable remarks.

- My thanks also for the kind invitation extended to us. We highly value being a part of this special segment on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

-Today, the human tragedy of forced displacement continues to unfold around the world. The conflicts in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Africa and South East Asia deserve particular attention. While protracted situations like the issue of Palestinian refugees remain a source of continuous concern, the recent plight of the Rohingya population in Myanmar constitutes a worsening and very serious humanitarian crisis.

- One year after the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the number of people exposed to forcible displacement is more than 65 million. On the other hand, the number of refugees has reached 22 million and counting.

- These figures reflect a stark reality, not only for those who left their homes, but also for the communities hosting them.

- In this challenging state of affairs, countries, including Turkey, facing mass influx of migrants and refugees continue to seek a more coordinated effort and assistance from the international community to strengthen the resilience of refugees and host communities.

- However, we are glad to observe that there is a consensus on the need to create more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches towards refugees.

- Indeed, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants demonstrated the international community's concrete commitments and the political will to address the needs of migrants and refugees. The Declaration also attested the importance of responsibility and burden sharing.

- We are aware of the fact that following the adoption of the New York Declaration, more countries are engaging themselves in the processes of applying more coordinated and effective measures in addressing displacement issues. Nevertheless, there is still much more to be done, especially in easing the burden on host countries and creating an environment of equitable responsibility sharing on a global scale.

- Using this opportunity, I have to underline that the efforts for development of Global Compact on Refugees by 2018 and implementation of "CRRF" are encouraging steps that have Turkey's full support.

- Having said that, as a country who has experience in being an origin, transit and destination country, I would like to touch upon our approach towards addressing displacement issues with several examples, which we deem could be useful for others.

- Although we are not an official roll-out country of the CRRF, we have already been implementing most of its principles even before its adoption in New York.
- Following a wholesome and inclusive approach, all our relevant Ministries and Institutions have worked hard to do their best for the inclusion of Syrians in our national policies, in a planned and comprehensive way.
- In line with the CRRF's mentality to secure protection for refugees, Turkey today is sheltering 3.3 million people that had to flee from war, violence and desperate conditions in their homelands. The number of Syrians in Turkey has exceeded 3 million. We are currently the largest refugee hosting country.
- In addition to our ongoing efforts for a political solution to the conflict in Syria, we continue to pursue an open door policy for the Syrians seeking refuge in our country.
- We mobilized all our resources in order to ameliorate living conditions and alleviate the sufferings of people who sought shelter in Turkey. The aim of Turkey is not only to save the lives and provide a safe harbor for these people, but also to ensure their active participation in social and economic life, as well as their self-reliance.
- For example, Syrians are not forced or restrained to live in camps. Less than 10 percent of Syrians (around 230.000) are accommodated in temporary protection centers and the rest live in urban areas across the country. Apart from some sporadic incidents, the vast majority of Turkish society shows empathy towards and welcomes Syrian people. This is very crucial for maintaining social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.
- Language courses, education and vocational training, access to labor market, as well as social and health services are major components of Turkey's integration policy.
- We granted Syrians right to work in Turkey as of January 2016. This was a timely step taken for improving the living conditions of Syrians. More than 22.600 work permits have been issued for Syrians so far. We promote their legal participation in the economy.
- We deem it necessary that conditions concerning access to labour market, legal and administrative regulations in this matter should be ameliorated in the roll-out countries of the CRRF. Of course, international community should assist more to these countries through increasing foreign direct investments and creating job fields, as well as attracting the interests of the international finance institutions and private sector to this problem. Sectoral meetings that will bring together the representatives of the international financial institutions, private sector and relevant authorities of refugee accepting countries will be useful exercise on this matter. I think UN and its relevant agencies have satisfactory success and expertise in such kind of gatherings especially in the processes of 3RPs.
- For us, education of Syrian children is of crucial importance since they will be the ones to eventually rebuild their own country. There are approximately 835.000 school-age Syrian children in Turkey and 508.000 of them can attend school.
- Schooling ratio has increased twofold and reached 60 % in 2017 compared to the previous year, due to an aggressive campaign that has been launched to bring children back to school. Our aim is to reach 100 %.

- More than 170 thousand Syrians have participated in Turkish language courses and over 80 thousand Syrians attended technical and vocational training provided by Turkish authorities.
- In addition to this, more than 14 thousand Syrians pursue higher education in Turkey and most of them receive scholarships from various Turkish institutions.
- Not only Turkish academicians and teachers are providing education to these people, but we also create employment for Syrian instructors. As such, more than 13 thousand Syrian teachers contribute to our education efforts and they receive monthly financial incentives. We have very good cooperation especially with UNICEF concerning this topic.
- In addition to this, we have created employment for around 400 Syrian academicians in our universities.
- For our people-centred refugee policy and efforts aiming at strengthening the resilience of refugees, which are totally in line with objectives of CRRF, I would like to mention also another initiative, which is “Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE)”.
- This national social assistance initiative is developed for vulnerable refugee children and implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, in cooperation with UNICEF and other partners.
- According to CCTE, vulnerable foreigners residing in Turkey, who are assessed as eligible, can benefit from the CCTE support for every month.
- This initiative encourages families to send their kids to schools regularly. We expect that the participation in this program will reach around 230,000 children by the end of 2017.
- If I may switch to the subject of health opportunities provided by Turkey, I should underline that Syrians have free access to health services in Turkey. Over the past 6 years, around 26 million polyclinic services have been provided to Syrians and more than 950 thousand surgeries were carried out. The number of Syrian babies that have been born in Turkey has exceeded 224 thousand.
- The implementation of all these projects and efforts that I mentioned is by no means easy for Turkey or any other country for that matter. We have spent almost **30 billion US Dollars** (including municipalities and Turkish NGOs) for the people we host. Despite this fact, the total contribution we received from the international community is far from meeting our expectations.
- Of course, our means and capabilities are not endless. We always emphasize the global character of the Syrian humanitarian crisis. None of the neighbouring countries are able to shoulder alone against this heavy burden that affects their infrastructure needs and municipal services.
- That is why easing pressures on host countries, also equitable and meaningful burden and responsibility sharing, which are stressed in the New York Declaration and targeted by CRRF, are critically important for Turkey.

- In this framework, we believe that the international community should intensify its efforts to address the root causes of forcible displacement and support peace processes and promote peaceful settlement of disputes in conflict-affected areas. In the meantime, it should also be more active in allocating further financial assistance to host countries.

- I think for both CRRF and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), there is a need to create a stronger link between the level of GDPs and humanitarian/development assistance. Rich and industrialized countries should increase their humanitarian and development assistance according to the ratio of their GDPs. This is also directly related to the responsibility sharing approach of CRRF. Therefore, in the improvement phases of CRRF and GRC in the forthcoming period, we would like to see more encouraging commitments on this matter to be contained in the documents.

- For us, increasing the resettlement quotas is another way to share responsibility and burden, as resettlement is a needed way to open legal pathways for forcibly displaced people, as well.

- On the other hand, CRRF roll-out countries should be supported more in order for enough institutional and legal infrastructure to be created. In our experience, the creation of Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) by the Turkish Government in 2013 facilitated the formation of a more comprehensive and well planned migration management in Turkey on the verge of challenging global displacement conditions.

- As I reach the final part of my remarks, I also would like to share with distinguished participants that apart from the efforts we spend for refugees in our country, bearing in mind the vital importance of responsibility and burden sharing, we are very sensitive against humanitarian needs occurring outside of our geographical vicinity, too.

- To give you some examples, we are supporting the vital role that “The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)” plays for the well-being of millions of Palestinian refugees.

- Within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Turkey led a field visit in early June to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya and Somalia in order to observe the situation on the ground and raise awareness among the OIC members for durable solutions in the region.

- Of course, the ongoing crisis in northern Rakhine State of Myanmar that caused forcible displacement of more than 400,000 Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh is extremely worrying and requires urgent attention. Attention that has not been forthcoming from international community or organizations so far. We were among the first countries to send emergency aid to the region and continue our effort in meeting the need of the displaced.

- To sum up, the responsibility to address the needs of refugees should not fall solely on the shoulders of certain countries in certain regions.

- Hereby, I should also express our satisfaction that the CRRF is being successfully implemented in the roll-out countries and there is an increased engagement of non-traditional actors in this process.

- We believe that the CRRF and the Global Compact on Refugees will indeed bring a much more predictable response towards displacement issues and affected populations.

- Finally, I would like to stress that Turkey is thankful for the cooperation of the UNHCR under the able guidance of Mr. High Commissioner and his successful team and continues to stand ready to work with the international community and the UNHCR in addressing challenges in the field of displacement and large refugee flows.

- Thank you.