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C20 TURKEY ESTABLISHES THE DEMANDS OF GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY

C20 Summit was held on 15-16 September 2015 at Boğaziçi University with the participation of more than 400 civil society representatives across the world coming from 52 countries. C20 Summit became a significant platform for global civil society representatives to share their experiences and recommendations to G20 leaders with regard to current global issues.

C20 Turkey Steering Committee Chair and IKV Vice-President Zeynep Bodur Okyay gave the opening speech of the C20 Summit. During her speech, Okyay underlined that civil society organisations have an important role to tackle the injustices in the world which have been on the rise for the last 30 years and where the gap between the "haves" and "have nots" is growing each day. In this process, she mentioned, that the C20 Turkey Steering Committee acts as a facilitator to bring together the experiences, wealth of knowledge and expertise of the global civil society. C20 Chair Okyay further underlined that C20 Summit creates an opportunity to accumulate all the efforts and to finalise the C20 *Communiqué* that would convey the message of civil society to the G20 leaders. Following the opening speech of C20 Chair Okyay, participants of the Summit developed common policy positions and recommendations on different issues ranging from support measures for women's businesses to long-term decarbonisation goals; from exploring causes to fight against poverty and inequality to the role of civil society in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

At the second day of the C20 Summit, the participants came together with the representatives of G20 engagement groups namely B20, W20, L20, T20 and Y20 to discuss common issues on the agenda. In addition Dr.

Sare Davutoğlu gave a speech on improving people's lives within G20 and beyond and addressing global challenges with a particular focus on the refugee crisis. The keynote speech of the C20 Summit was given by Prof. Daron Acemoğlu (MIT) on the relationship between democracy, economic growth and civil society. Underlining the findings that economic growth increases by 25 percent in the following years after democratization, Prof. Acemoğlu highlighted that inclusive political institutions are essential for the effective distribution of political power within which civil society has a significant role.

At the end of the C20 Summit, reflecting his comments on the C20 *Communiqué*, Deputy Prime Minister Cevdet Yılmaz underlined the importance of democratization both at the national and international level to tackle global injustices. During his speech, Former Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan mentioned that the growth policies following the global financial crisis are not inclusive and the current global economic growth is a result of monetary expansion rather than structural reforms. In this respect, he mentioned that G20 Turkish Presidency identified priority areas as inclusiveness, innovation and implementation. Finally, G20 Sherpa Ambassador Ayşe Sinirlioğlu underlined that G20 Turkish Presidency puts inclusive growth at the centre since inequality is the major impediment for economic

growth. C20 *Communiqué* was presented to Deputy Prime Minister Cevdet Yılmaz, former Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan and G20 Sherpa Ambassador Ayşe Sinirlioğlu.

The C20 *Communiqué* which was developed on the basis of policy recommendations of the C20 Working Groups and finalized at the C20 Summit conveys the message of civil society to G20 leaders. The C20 *Communiqué* calls upon G20 leaders to address the multi-faceted inequalities facing the world today by integrating inclusive growth, gender equality, sustainability, anti-corruption and tax justice into all aspects of its work, and finding solutions that create a world economy that works for all. With regard to inclusive growth, the C20 *Communiqué* calls upon G20 leaders to devise strategies that target decreasing inequality and fighting against poverty as well as committing to tackle the multidimensional nature of inequality by way of facilitating access to social protection and public services.

With regard to anti-corruption, the C20 *Communiqué* asserts that G20 leaders should ensure transparency in procurement processes through disclosure of awarded contracts; ensuring legal right to access public information and to implement the Los Cabos High Level Principles on Asset Disclosure by Public Officials. On international taxation, civil society organizations call upon G20 leaders to commit



to a multilateral mechanism for automatic exchange of information including Beneficial Ownership information, to collect and publish annually statistics on the aggregate sums passing through their financial systems and to reaffirm that the aim of international tax rules should be to ensure that multinational enterprises are effectively taxed.

With regard to gender equality, the C20 *Communiqué* asserts that G20 leaders should recognize and reduce women's unpaid work, to create gender-responsive policies and legislation and to monitor commitments made by G20 by setting up a

national monitoring mechanisms and systematically measuring progress in gender equality and empowerment.

On sustainability, the C20 calls upon G20 leaders to agree on a fair and equitable long-term emission reduction and decarbonisation goal, to commit to a 100 percent renewable energy future by 2050, to make energy efficiency and renewable energy an infrastructure investment priority and to take action to phase out fossil subsidies by 2020.

The C20 *Communiqué* and policy papers produced by C20 Turkey Working Groups could be found at www.c20turkey.org.



"NO TO TERROR, YES TO SOLIDARITY"

14 organizations representing NGOs, trade unions and trade organizations have gathered under the leadership of TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu to assemble on 17 September 2015 at the Ankara Sıhhiye Square to protest terror and to show a united national stance against terror. At the "No to Terror, Yes to Solidarity" Meeting, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu read the joint proclamation released by TOBB and 261 civil society organizations including IKV, at the first Parliament House, the symbol of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey. The key message delivered in the joint statement emphasized the importance of unity and solidarity to fight terrorism as well as to protect the democracy in the country.

GLOBAL YOUTH CAME TOGETHER AT Y20 TURKEY SUMMIT

The Y20 (Youth 20) Summit was held on 17-21 August 2015 with the participation of 94 young representatives from 24 different countries as well as Low Income Developing Countries such as Afghanistan, Madagascar, Mongolia and Vietnam.

At the Summit, the then Deputy Prime Minister Babacan stressed that the future lies in the hands of youth and ensured that youth would build a better future. He also emphasized on the importance of creating a synergy between universities, youth, civil society organizations and governments.

Y20 delegates focused on 3 key issues which are youth unemployment, education in the 21st century and the contribution of youth to global peace. The main recommendations finalized by Y20 are as follows:

- Creating effective ecosystems in order to support SMEs, young and innovative entrepreneurs;
- Facilitating the access of the disadvantaged and marginalized youth to the labour market by eradicating digital inequalities;
- Reducing the gap between the education system and skills required by the labour market;
- Enhancing opportunities for qualified internships and vocational education;
- Encouraging the free movement of students;
- Recognizing the rights and needs of refugees and immigrants.

TURKISH GENERAL ELECTIONS AHEAD

As a result of the failure of coalition negotiations after the June 2015 general elections in Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan authorized Prime Minister Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu to form the temporary election government for the first time in the history of the Turkish policy. Turkey set date of snap on 1 November 2015.

Interim Government before snap election

Prime Minister Prof. Davutoğlu sent out invitations to 5 Members of Parliament from the Republican People's Party (CHP) and 3 Members each from the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). The invitation was rejected by CHP and MHP. Therefore the Interim Government approved by President Erdoğan on 28 August is formed by 11 ministers from the Justice and Development Party (AK Parti), 2 ministers from HDP, 1 minister from MHP who acted in contravention of the Party's instructions and 12 independent politicians.

In this new Interim Government, Ali Haydar Konca from HDP was appointed as the new Minister for EU Affairs. In his first statement on Turkey-EU relations as the newly appointed Minister, Konca underlined that Turkey's primary objective should be to make itself politically, economically, socially and democratically ready to the EU while normalizing its relations with the EU. However, Minister for EU Affairs Konca and Minister of Development Müslüm

Doğan from HDP resigned from their posts on 22 September 2015 protesting that the interim government was not able to handle the security concerns and political tensions ahead of the November 2015 election.

Following these resignations, Prof. Beril Dedeoğlu was appointed as the new Minister for EU Affairs and Cüneyd Düzyol was appointed as the new Minister of Development. With these two new Ministers, the number of independent politicians in the Interim Government rose to 14.

Despite all these interior political uncertainties in Turkey, high level meetings between EU officials and Turkish new ministers continued to take place in September. Following an invitation of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs Feridun Sinirlioğlu attended the Informal Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers (Gymnich) which took place in Luxembourg on 4-5 September 2015. In the joint press conference, Minister Sinirlioğlu stated that both countries have common responsibilities

in tackling global problems including the refugee crisis.

Rising concerns about terrorist attacks and freedom of press in Turkey

Along with the internal political concerns in Turkey, terrorist attacks of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) continued to claim the lives of policemen and soldiers including an ambulance driver in September. While the total number of deaths exceeds 120 from mid-June onwards, tension among citizens started to increase following the death of 16 soldiers during the attack by PKK on 6 September 2015 in Dağlica, Hakkari. The official response was to launch a massive air operation. The rise of violence and increasing number of deaths also sparked strong protests on the streets by nationalists. Prime Minister Prof. Davutoğlu called on people to preserve unity against the terrorist attacks when headquarters of HDP in Ankara and other party buildings across the country were attacked during these demonstrations.

Following the terrorist attack in Dağlica, Turkey witnessed another attack against Turkish daily *Hürriyet's* Istanbul

headquarters. The demonstrators accused *Hürriyet* of misquoting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's words regarding 400 members of the Parliament during a TV interview. IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu condemned the attack and stressed that a free press is one of the pillars of a free democratic society.

The attack to Turkish daily *Hürriyet* was condemned not only by political party leaders, national NGOs and other related parties but also by the International Press Institute (IPI), the South East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO), as well as the EU. While reminding that "the Commission had repeatedly highlighted the significance of press freedom and criticized all kinds of intimidations against journalists," Spokesperson for the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Majia Kocijancic expressed the EU's concerns regarding the attack towards *Hürriyet* and HDP's party buildings. These were also the main topics discussed during President of the European Council Donald Tusk's visit to Turkey in September 2015.

B20 TURKEY CONFERENCE WAS HOSTED BY TOBB

The B20 Turkey Conference hosted by B20 Turkey and TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu was held on 3-5 September 2015. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan along with more than a thousand businessmen from 60 countries attended the B20 Turkey Conference in Ankara.

At the opening speech of the Conference, B20 Turkey Chair and TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu stated that B20 Turkey developed 19 recommendations to be conveyed to G20 leaders. These recommendations cover areas ranging from investment and growth strategies to SMEs, from global financial reform to world trading system, from digital economy to structural reforms.

B20 recommendations aim to support G20 leaders to implement structural reforms and to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth. In this respect, B20 calls upon G20 leaders to address the recommendations developed by B20 to complete implementation of agreed policies, to invest in correcting imbalances, to foster inclusiveness and to enhance competition.

At the B20 Conference, a joint declaration was signed between B20 as the representative of employers in G20 countries and L20 as representatives employees. During his speech, President Hisarcıkloğlu stated that the joint declaration between B20 and L20 aims to convey the common messages with regard to growth and employment.



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY'S EU ACCESSION PROCESS: CRITICAL ISSUES AND PROSPECTS AHEAD OF THE 2015 PROGRESS REPORT

IKV hosted a meeting on 11 September 2015 entitled "Latest Developments in Turkey's EU Accession Process: Critical Issues and Prospects Ahead of the 2015 Progress Report" with the participation of Commission of Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations' Acting Head of Turkey Unit Patrick Paquet.

At the opening speech of the meeting, IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu assessed the latest developments regarding Turkey's EU accession negotiations and spoke about the ongoing Turkey-EU visa liberalization dialogue process and the revision of the Customs Union. While emphasizing the importance of enhancing dialogue in other areas such as energy, foreign policy and economy, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu stressed that these initiatives should however not constitute an alternative to Turkey's EU accession process.

In his speech, Acting Head of Turkey Unit Patrick Paquet stated that despite the slow pace of the accession negotiations, Turkey remains a strategic partner for the EU. He stressed the importance of reinforcing cooperation, especially in the context of the ongoing refugee crisis and the rise of terrorism.

Furthermore, Paquet announced that the Commission is preparing to launch a High-Level Economic Dialogue and that it is expecting to open Chapter 17 on Economic and Monetary Policy to negotiations following the establishment of a new government in Turkey. Paquet added that the possibility of including Turkey to the Commission's Investment Plan for



Europe was discussed among European representatives. Paquet also underscored that major developments could materialize in 2016 with the opening of Chapters 23 on Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and 24 on Justice, Freedom and Security. Regarding the Cyprus issue, Paquet indicated that the fact that both leaders have renewed negotiations within the framework of the UN offers new opportunities for a long-lasting solution in the island.

Paquet announced that the 2015 Progress Report which is scheduled to be launched by the Commission on 14 October 2015 will see a substantial change in its methodology which would

help the government to better understand the expectations of the European authorities. The Commission is especially increasing its focus on issues pertaining to the rule of law and economic governance. This new format of the Progress Report would also facilitate the comparisons between candidate countries in the different areas of the EU acquis.

In the debate session, Paquet also touched upon the ongoing negotiations on the Turkey-EU Visa Liberalization Dialogue and the revision of the Customs Union which is expected to begin officially in 2016 with the launch of an impact assessment.

In this regard, Paquet stressed that Turkish stakeholders would be able to share their comments regarding Turkey-EU Customs Union on the Commission's official website. These feedbacks would be reflected afterwards in the interim report scheduled to be published in March-April 2016. Paquet also indicated that official consultation with Turkish and EU public opinions is planned to start in April 2016. As regards the ongoing negotiations on the Turkey-EU Visa Liberalisation Dialogue, Paquet agreed that visa requirements in countries within the Schengen system creates an undesirable situation and that they did not manage to overcome it.

NEW REGIONAL TRUST FUND FOR TURKEY IN RESPONSE TO SYRIAN CRISIS

Since the breakout of the Syrian crisis, the EU has been the leading donor in response to the crisis with around 4 billion euros mobilized for the refugees. The financial support provided by the EU to Turkey, which has been hosting approximately 2 million Syrians, amounted to 175 million euros. With the aim of increasing its financial aid to Turkey, the EU established in September 2015, a new fund known as the EU Regional Trust Fund amounting to 17.5 million euros and financed from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. According to figures announced by the government, Turkey spent nearly 6 billion dollars until now to aid the refugees.

The 12.5 million euros of the newly established financial assistance is allocated for improving the inclusiveness and quality of the education and for providing psycho-sociological support to Syrian children. The first part of the financial aid will be used for teaching Arabic language as well as for educational materials and school facilities. The second part of the fund which amounts to 5 million euros will be used to provide food vouchers for 41,000 Syrians residing in three different camps in Turkey.

In regard to this issue, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, during his State of the Union Address delivered at the European Parliament, ensured that the EU's first priority should be to address the ongoing refugee crisis.

IKV believes that solutions to this tragedy endured by the refugees should be searched at the international level. There are Member States within the EU which showed a constructive approach in accepting new refugees in their own country. On the other hand, many countries have failed to take their responsibilities in finding solutions to the refugee crisis and have shown an attitude that is not only in contradiction with the EU's principle of solidarity but also against humanitarian values.

Furthermore, all EU Member States should adopt policies in line with the principle of common responsibility. It is of utmost importance to reinforce the rules regarding the acceptance of refugees within the framework of the Schengen regulations, to increase the financial sources for the migration policy and to embrace a more realistic approach in devising a migration policy that takes into account humanitarian concerns.

AMBASSADOR HANSJÖRG HABER WAS APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD OF EU DELEGATION TO TURKEY

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini announced on 31 August 2015 that German Ambassador Hansjörg Haber has been appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Turkey. He will be replacing Stefano Manservigi following his appointment as Head of Cabinet to High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Ambassador

Haber is currently serving as German Ambassador to Egypt. Before his appointment to that position, he served as Head of EU Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability at the European External Action Service. Ambassador Haber served as Political Counsellor to the German Embassy in Ankara between 1992 and 1996. He also held responsibilities in Paris, Moscow, Manila, Beirut and Tbilisi.



PRESIDENT TUSK VISIT'S TO TURKEY

During the meeting with President Erdoğan, President of European Council Donald Tusk expressed the will of the EU to closely cooperate with Turkey against terrorism and ensured the EU's commitment to fight against PKK's presence in Europe. President Tusk also expressed his concerns about the attack directed towards HDP headquarters and *Hürriyet* newspaper. Regarding the current refugee crisis, President Tusk pointed out Turkey's key role in bringing back the peace stability to the region, specifically in Syria.

The main topic which was discussed between President Tusk and Prime Minister Prof. Davutoğlu was terrorism. Concerning the challenges brought by the war in Syria, President Tusk stressed the need for further cooperation to ensure more stability in the region and to tackle together the refugee crisis. He expressed that Turkey and EU could also strengthen their cooperation in other areas such as foreign policy, economic and trade relations, counter-terrorism and energy cooperation.

W20 WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

The official launch of the W20 engagement group (Women20) created with the initiative of the Turkish G20 Presidency was held in Ankara on 6 September 2015. The opening remarks were delivered by Prime Minister Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu, G20 Turkey Sherpa Ambassador Ayşe Sinirlioğlu and W20 Turkey Chairwoman Gülden Türktan. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría were also among the many distinguished speakers of the launch event. As emphasized by W20 Turkey Chairwoman Türktan, W20 constitutes an important platform for the improvement of women's rights across the world.

At the meeting, G20 Turkey Sherpa Ambassador Sinirlioğlu stressed the importance of increasing women's participation in the labour market. In that respect, it is aimed at including over 100 million women within the workforce by 2025. Prime Minister Prof. Davutoğlu emphasised that Turkey has accomplished many reforms to improve women's rights in recent years and ensured that Turkey will pursue its efforts to reduce by 25 percent the employment gap between men and women by 2025. While IMF Managing Director



Lagarde denoted that women participation in the economy contributes in reducing poverty and inequalities, OECD Secretary-General Gurría deplored that the talents and capabilities of women are not being properly served to fully ensure economic growth and development prospects.

Gender equality and prospects for the enhancement of women's rights were the

two key issues discussed at the launch event. The importance of supporting women-owned SMEs, enhancing women's economic, social and political networks and facilitating women's access to financial resources were highlighted. Many participants called upon governments to further increase their support for women-owned SMEs and to encourage women's participation

in decision-making positions both in public and private sectors. In that context, it was suggested that a link should be created between policies regarding education, employment and entrepreneurship. It was also reminded that one of the objectives of the UN is the elimination of all forms of violence, inequality and discrimination towards women by 2030.

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NEGOTIATIONS IN CYPRUS RESUME AFTER SUMMER RECESS

Leaders of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities came together on 1 and 14 September 2015 within the framework of the UN-led reunification talks. UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide indicated that the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Mustafa Akıncı and the leader of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades discussed the state of play in key chapters concerning the Cyprus issue. Announcing that the next leaders' meeting was set to take place on 12 and 30 October 2015, Eide stated that the leaders agreed to intensify their efforts and increase the frequency of their meetings in the upcoming months.

In late August and September, there have been important exchanges between Turkey and the TRNC. On 25 August 2015, TRNC's newly appointed Minister



for Foreign Affairs Emine Çolak paid a one-day official visit to Turkey. On 6-7 September 2015, Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs Feridun Sinirlioğlu paid his first official visit to the TRNC and underscored that finding a just, prompt and permanent solution which guarantees the political equality and legal rights of the Turkish Cypriots, is Turkey's and

TRNC's main objective and that Turkey and TRNC would continue cooperating in all areas.

On 11 September 2015, President of the European Council Donald Tusk, who held meetings on both sides of the Green Line, met with President of the TRNC Akıncı during his first visit to the Island. Following the meeting, Akıncı informed

reporters that they discussed the latest developments in the negotiations and that Tusk reaffirmed his firm support to the ongoing negotiation process. According to Akıncı, Tusk confirmed the EU's readiness to support the Turkish Cypriot side in its efforts to align with the EU acquis.