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9 - 10 MAY 2015 • ISTANBUL

**WOMEN AS THE BENEFICIARIES
AND ACTORS OF
HUMANITARIAN ACTION**





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THE ISTANBUL SUMMIT 2015

The Istanbul Summit is an international, non-governmental, multi-sector forum, which aims to gather primarily women leaders and stakeholders from every quarter of the international community with a new topic each year. It aims to provide a setting for networking and experience sharing among stakeholders around the world to exchange ideas and seek ways of cooperation to address contemporary global challenges in a gender sensitive manner.

First held in May 2014 with the title 'Women's Perspectives on UN Post-2015 Development Agenda', more than 300 participants from 45 countries discussed the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be worked towards after the 2015 deadline passes for the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Under the umbrella title 'Women as the Beneficiaries and Actors of Humanitarian Action' the Istanbul Summit 2015 brought together more than 300 participants, including prominent civil society representatives, academics, parliamentarians, journalists and activists from 51 different countries debating humanitarian action from a gender sensitive perspective and working towards sustainable and innovative solutions.

The second Istanbul Summit took place at Gorrion Hotel in Istanbul on May 9-10, 2015. The Summit was organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) and its Women's Platform. Main partners of the Summit are the African Union, Kimse Yok Mu International Humanitarian Aid and Development Association with Special Consultative Status at the UN ECOSOC. The Summit supported UN Women's HeForShe campaign.

The summit specifically aimed to draw attention to the perspectives, experiences, and inputs of women as catalysts in the work with, and strengthening of, humanitarian action. Vital topics, such as the efficiency of humanitarian action, women and humanitarian action, women refugees and internally displaced women, and the plight of women in humanitarian action, were debated throughout a series of sessions. Participants also contributed to the dialogue by submitting oral statements and through active engagement in a line-up of different working groups at the second day of the Summit. Besides, parliamentarians from different parts of the world were very active during the Summit and also they had a roundtable discussion to propose solutions to the problems of women in humanitarian action.



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SPEAKER LIST



Hüseyin Hürmalı

The Vice President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation - Turkey



Meryl Frank

Executive Director at FilmAid International, Former Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



Millicent Otieno

Founder and CEO, Local Capacities for Peace International - Nairobi, Kenya



Atefeh Riazi

CITO/ASG, Office of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Management, UN - by video



Siobhán Foran

Senior Officer, Gender & Diversity, Policy and Programme Support Unit, Programme Services Division - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) - Switzerland - Ireland



Prof. İftar Gözaydın

Professor of Law and Politics (Moderator)



Dr. Cengiz Aktar

Süleyman Şah University - Turkey (Moderator)



Ayşe Özkalay

The Vice President of the Kimse Yok Mu - Turkey



Suna Vidinli

International Broadcaster Turkey (Moderator)



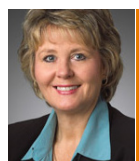
E. Oya Özarslan

Chair of Transparency International Turkey



Maria Eugenia Crespo

Director of Global Cooperation Circle Support, United Religions Initiative - Argentina (Moderator)



Brenda Halloran

The CEO of the Waterloo Innovation Network, Former Mayor, Waterloo - Canada



Victoria Morales Gorleri

Deputy, Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, President of the Committee on Education, Science and Technology - Argentina



Della Sowah

Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection - Ghana



Tomoko Ohji

Editor & Senior Staff Writer at The Mainichi Newspapers - Japan



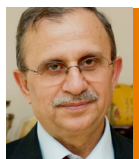
Natalia Marcela Molina

First Instance Judge of Penal, a Member of the Directive Commission of Women Judges of Argentina



Dr. Ranjana Kumari

Director, Centre for Social Research New Delhi, India



Cemal Usak

The Vice President of The Journalists and Writers Foundation - Turkey (Moderator)



Hadia Hussien Hamad

Journalist - Kurdistan Regional Government



Cristina Reyes Hidalgo

Member of Parliament - Ecuador



Evar Ibrahim

President of Women Commission, Parliament of Kurdistan Regional Government



Dr. Semiha Topal

Fatih University - Turkey (Moderator)



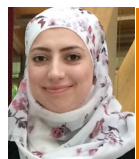
Dr. Zakia Belhachmi

Strategic International Education & Gender Specialist - Morocco and Canada



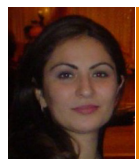
Bukky Shonibare

Founder, Adopt-A-Camp - Nigeria



Reem Doukmak

PhD Student at the University of Warwick - Syria



Yusra Moez

Activist - Afghanistan - Austria

PROGRAM

MAY 9, SATURDAY – 2015

09.00 - 09.40

Opening Session and the Keynote Speech

Hüseyin Hürmalı – The Vice President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation - Turkey

Ayşe Özkalay – The Vice President of the Kimse Yok Mu - Turkey

Meryl Frank - Executive Director at FilmAid International, Former Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women - USA

09.40 - 11.00 Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action

Moderator : Suna Vidinli - International Broadcaster - Turkey

Do No Harm

Millicent Otieno - Founder and CEO, Local Capacities for Peace International – Nairobi, Kenya

Cost-Effectiveness and Fundraising

E. Oya Özarslan - Chair of Transparency International - Turkey

Technology for Humanitarian Action

Atefeh Riazi - Chief - CITO/ASG, Office of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Management, UN - by video

11.00 - Family Photo

11.00 - 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 - 13.00 Women and Humanitarian Action

Moderator : Maria Eugenia Crespo - Director of Global Cooperation Circle Support, United Religions Initiative - Argentina

Gender - Based Violence

Siobhán Foran - Senior Officer, Gender & Diversity, Policy and Programme Support Unit, - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) - Switzerland - Ireland

Women's Health

Brenda Halloran - The CEO of the Waterloo Innovation Network, Former Mayor, Waterloo - Canada

Gender Sensitive Reporting in Humanitarian Crises

Tomoko Ohji - Editor& Senior Staff Writer at The Mainichi Newspapers - Japan

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.45

Women Refugees and Internally Displaced Women

Moderator : Dr. Semiha Topal - Fatih University - Turkey

Law as an Instrument of Reducing Vulnerability of Women Refugees and IDPs

Natalia Marcela Molina - First Instance Judge of Penal, a Member of the Directive Commission of Women Judges of Argentina

Empowerment of Women Refugees and Building

Long Term Resilience

Dr. Zakia Belhachmi - Strategic International Education & Gender Specialist - Morocco and Canada

Preventing Abuse of Women Refugees and IDPs

Dr. Ranjana Kumari - Director, Centre for Social Research New Delhi, India

Women Refugees as Leaders of Humanitarian Action

Bukky Shonibare – Founder, Adopt-A-Camp - Nigeria

15.45 - 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 - 17.15

The Plight of Women in Humanitarian Action

Moderator : Cemal Usak – The Vice President of the Journalists and Writers Foundation - Turkey

Reem Doukmak - Phd Student at the University of Warwick - Syria

Hadia Hussien Hamad - Journalist – Kurdistan Regional Government

Yusra Moez - Activist – Afghanistan – Austria

MAY 10, SUNDAY – 2015

10.00 - 13.00 Working Groups on:

- Gender Sensitive Emergency Response;
- Empowerment of Women Refugees and Long Term Resilience;
- Preventing Abuse of Women Refugees and IDPs;
- Role of CSOs and Responsibilities of State Authorities;
- Do No Harm

Parliamentary Roundtable (Closed Session):

Gender-Sensitive Humanitarian Action

Moderator : Prof. İftar Gözaydın

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.30

Parliamentary Session: Gender-Sensitive Humanitarian Action

Moderator : Dr. Cengiz Aktar - Süleyman Şah University - Turkey

Victoria Morales Gorleri - Deputy, Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, President of the Committee on Education, Science and Technology - Argentina

Della Sowah - Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection - Ghana

Cristina Reyes Hidalgo - Member of Parliament - Ecuador

Evar Ibrahim - President of Women Commission, Parliament of Kurdistan Regional Government

15:30 - 15:45 Coffee Break

15.45-16.30

Announcement of Final Declaration & Closing Ceremony

18.00 – 20.00 Bosphorus Cruise



OPENING CEREMONY AND THE KEYNOTE SPEECH

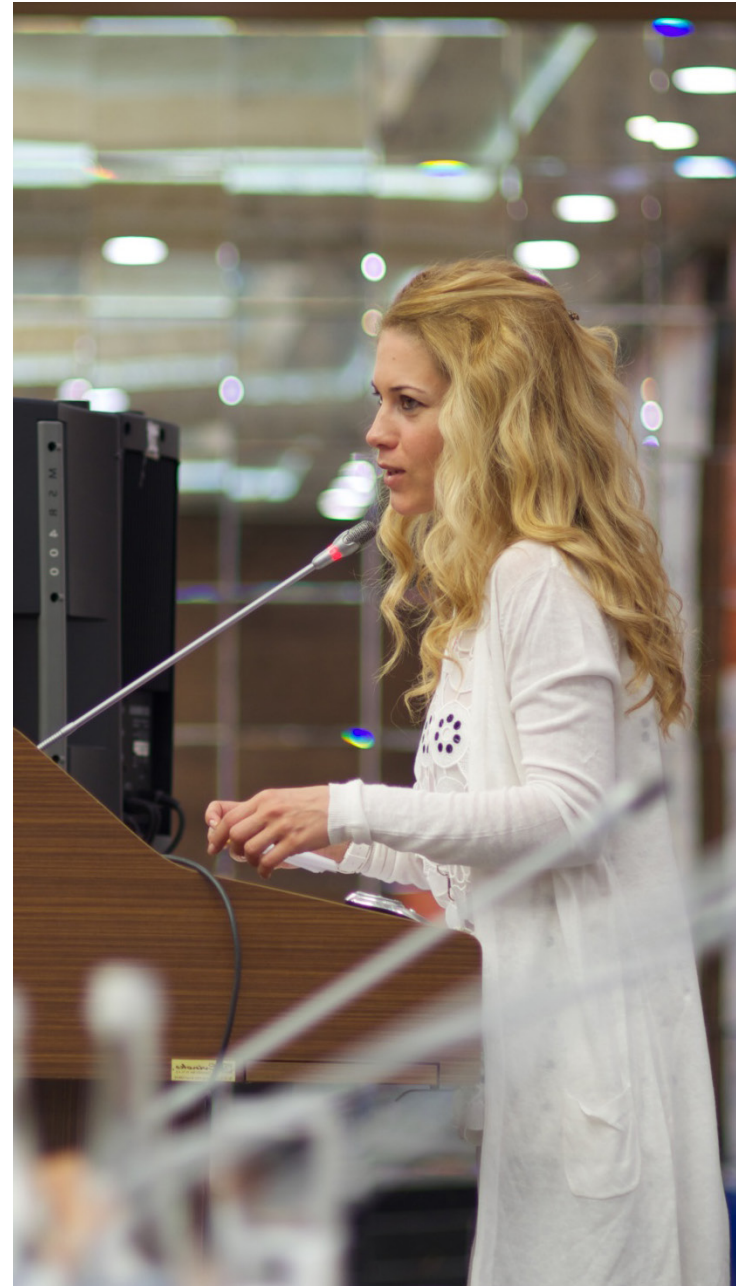
The Summit took a dynamic point of departure with the opening ceremony on May 9th, 2015. The floor was opened by the Vice President of JWF, Hüseyin Hurmali, emphasizing that ‘in order to benefit from the humanitarian action, it is crucially important that women themselves are involved in the process of designing it.’ He continued that ‘we believe that women, if incorporated more actively into the process of humanitarian aid, would bring both fresh perspectives and new resources, to the table.’

Next, the Vice President of KYM, Ayşe Özkalay offered hands-on examples of how the organization strives to incorporate women at all levels of its engagement with humanitarian aid, from receiving cash assistance and working as volunteers to occupying board and executive positions. She highlighted that, “We are hoping that the power of civil society will succeed in raising awareness to the condi-

tions of refugees in conflict zones by highlighting the special condition of women refugees and providing full and equal recognition to the role of women as beneficiaries and actors of humanitarian action.”

Finally, the former ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Meryl Frank, spoke about the challenges of being a woman leader. In struggling to balance family and professional life she brought encouragement to the audience: “We have big enough hearts to love our families, but to also love our communities, and to want to help to take care of our world.” Relating her recent engagement in film, she invited the audience to ask themselves, also, what it is that is really, truly motivating them, and let their civic engagement spiral from that essential place of truth.







EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The first session titled ‘The Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action’ was moderated by journalist and anchor-woman Suna Vidinli. In various ways, the distinguished speakers of this session drew attention to key challenges in conducting efficient humanitarian action and pointed to ways of improving efficacy.

Millicent Otieno, founder and CEO of Local Capacities for Peace International, Nairobi, talked about the principle of ‘Do no harm’. She called attention to the importance of a thorough understanding of the context in which humanitarian aid is carried out in order to avoid unintended negative consequences, such as exacerbation of tensions and re-traumatization of the victims. Calling for a long-term perspective, she stressed that humanitarian aid is not about ticking of boxes on a checklist, but about human lives.

The second speaker, E. Oya Özarslan, Chair of Transparency International, Turkey, spoke about cost-effectiveness and anti-corruption strategies in fundraising. Drawing upon case studies from different corners of the world, she highlight-

ed the negative consequences of widespread corruption and mismanagement of funds in humanitarian aid. Pointing to possible solutions, she encouraged donors to adopt anti-corruption strategies, enhance transparency, and empower monitoring mechanisms, by providing relevant support and training to governments, humanitarian aid providers and affected populations.

The panel ended with a video message from Atefeh Riazi, CITO/ASG, Office of Information and Communication Technology. Taking as point of departure her own upbringing in Iran, she emphasized, “I wanted to be an engineer because I believed that technology was the way out of many of the issues that women are confronted with and faced.” Thus she pointed to the importance of embracing technology when “we address the underlying issues of education, healthcare, income disparity and civil unrest,” while also cautioning against the negative impact of technology, for example in relation to organized crime and human trafficking.



WOMEN AS THE BENEFICIARIES AND ACTORS OF HUMANITARIAN İNSANİ FAYDA KİTAPÇIĞI VE FAYDALANAN OLARAK KATILIM





WOMEN AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The second session, focussing on 'Women and Humanitarian Action', was moderated by Maria Eugenia Crespo, Director of Global Cooperation Circle Support, United Religions Initiative, Argentina. The speakers, all experts within different fields of humanitarian action, offered their inputs on the possibilities and advantages of incorporating a more gender sensitive perspective into these endeavours.

The first speaker, Siobhán Foran from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Switzerland, spoke about gender-based violence in emergencies. Recognizing the need for a more research on what gender-based violence is and what constitutes an emergency, she emphasized that for IFRC the more significant challenge lies in the gap between knowledge and action. Thus she encouraged a shift in attention from international experts to "gender-based violence prevention initiatives by local actors in natural disaster-prone countries and areas."

Next, Brenda Halloran, the CEO of the Waterloo Innovation Network and the former mayor of Waterloo, Canada, stressed the challenges in

relation to women's health, which is still marked by "significant gender-based disparities in many countries". Stressing the intimate relationship between the health of women and that of entire families and communities, she said, she urged that, "Accessible, affordable and sustainable health care must be available for every woman throughout the globe."

Last, Tomoko Ohji, editor of the Mainichi Newspapers in Japan, discussed issues in gender sensitive reporting from conflict zones, based on her own personal experiences as a reporter in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Talking to the importance of incorporating local female narratives and perspectives in reporting from conflicts in the region, she cautioned that, "Failing to do so may produce a distorted and inaccurate portrayal of reality, and reinforce stereotypes and misconceptions of the region, which are unfortunately found in abundance in international reporting of humanitarian crises in the Middle East."





WOMEN REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN

The moderator of the third session, 'Women Refugees and Internally Displaced Women', was Assistant Professor in Sociology, Semiha Topal, from Fatih University, Turkey. In this session the speakers highlighted the particular vulnerability of women in contexts of war and conflict, and offered their various perspectives on modes of empowerment.

The first word was given to Natalia Marcela Molina, First Instance Judge of Penal and a Member of the Directive Commission of Women Judges of Argentina. She drew attention to the potentials of law as an instrument of reducing vulnerability of women refugees and IDPs through the creation of dynamic emergency protocols and emergency committees. Moreover, she encouraged the organization of roundtable discussions and interdisciplinary teams, establishing a channel of communication between volunteers, governments in host nations, and the international community. She powerfully stressed that, "Dialogue has to be a tool for social peace."

Dr. Zakia Belhachmi, Strategic International Education & Gender Specialist, from Canada, then talked about the empowerment of women refugees and building long-term re-

silience. She emphasized that resilience policies ought to focus on the everyday life realities of humans, rather than hard science and statistics.

In a similar vein, Dr. Ranjana Kumari, director of the Centre for Social Research in New Delhi, India, concentrated on the prevention of abuse of women refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). She emphasized that although the majority of the world's refugees and IDPs are to be found in developing countries, the developed nations ought to acknowledge their share of the responsibility in creating the disasters, which has brought people on the move in the first place.

Last, but not least, Bukky Shonibare, Founder of Adopt-A-Camp, Nigeria, delivered a powerful speech on women refugees as leaders of humanitarian action. She highlighted that it is "It is imperative that States implement their National Policy on Displacement and Refugee Management and ensure that it is gender-sensitive to women" while also encouraging the audience to ponder upon their individual role in alleviating the suffering of refugee women in their communities.









THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

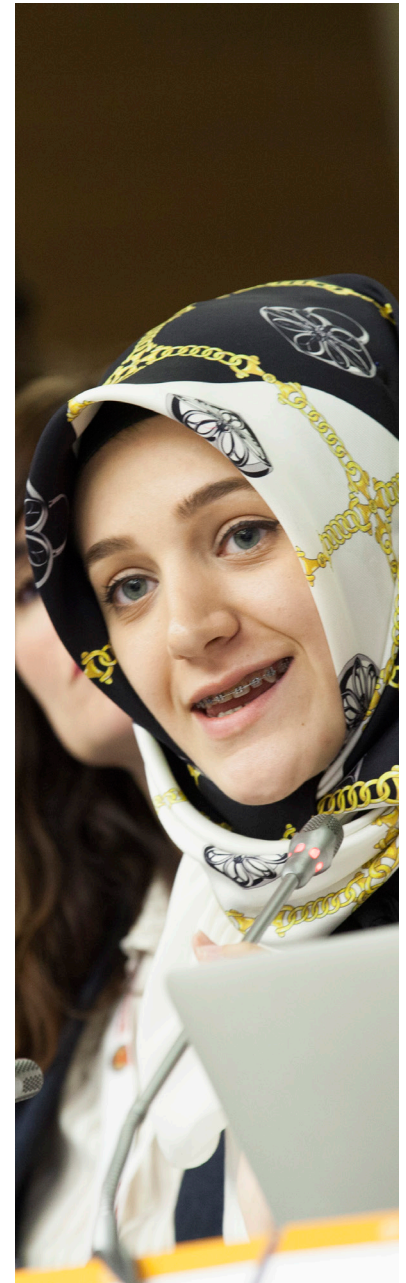
The fourth session centred on the “The Plight of Women in Humanitarian Action” and was moderated by Cemal Usak, the Vice President of JWF, Turkey. In this session the speakers shared their professional and personal experiences from three different conflict zones.

The first speaker, Reem Doukmak, Ph.D. student at the University of Warwick, but originally from Syria, spoke about the difficulties of her fellow countrymen living as refugees in Turkey. She stressed the importance of providing especially the children and the young among the Syrian refugees with adequate education and language instruction, helping them to work through the traumas of the war and opening possibilities for the future.

The next speaker, Hadia Hussien Hamad, journalist from the Kurdistan Regional Government and Yazidi woman herself, informed the audience about the atrocities conducted by ISIS against the Yazidi population on the Iraqi-Turkish border.

The session ended with the speech of Yusra Moez, an Austrian-Afghan activist, speaking about her success story as a humanitarian actor despite being a refugee woman herself. She said, “Refugees are people with dignity. We still have the courage and we will keep our struggle to make a change in the world.”





ORAL STATEMENTS

NGO's and participants were encouraged to submit oral statements on the topics of the four different sessions at the Istanbul Summit 2015. The call for oral statements where intended to offer the various participants in the Summit an opportunity to share their own experiences, commitments, and concerns

in relation to the issue of women as beneficiaries and actors in humanitarian action. The oral statements included recommendations, policy advices, innovative success stories, and examples on best practices or initiatives. Please see the list of oral statements below:

Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action

1. Burcu Kugu - Support to Life / Hayata Destek Dernegi - The General Secretary

- Effective Humanitarian Aid in the Middle East

2.Fikriye Yilmaz - Turkey - Platform for Stopping Femicide - Communication Director

- Femicide in Turkey

3. Dinara Chochunbaeva – Kyrgyzstan - CACSARC-kg, Central Asia Crafts Support Association's Resource Center in Kyrgyzstan - Director

- Life story of Monus, The Happy Weaver



Women and Humanitarian Action

- 4. Khanzad Sadi Ali** - Kurdistan Regional Government - Secretary of Women's Rights Monitoring Board – Kurdistan Regional Government
• Gender Sensitive Emergency Respond
- 5. Rana Yesildag** - Turkey - Genç İz Academy – Student - Turkey
• Genç İz Academy
- 6. Sin Ying Venus Chan** - China - EMIC Culture Union (HK-China) - Founder & Programme Director
• Gender & Cultural Sensitivity in Humanitarian & Development work
- 7. Banu Yalvaç Pehlivan** - Turkey - The Federation of Marmara Women Associations – President
• Women for Social Benefit
- 8. Rozetta Aitmatova** - Kyrgyzstan - Women Support Centre - President
• Kyrgyzstan Experience in Conflict Prevention
- 9. Rümeysa Dilekçi** - Russia - Turkish- Russian Culture Centre Women's Platform – President
• Turkish- Russian Culture Centre

Women Refugees and Internally Displaced Women

- 10. Zarine Shamte Madabida** – Tanzania - Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania – Member of Parliament
• Empowerment of Women Refugees and Long Term Resilience
- 11. Tatiana Mitrafhonova Barsukova** - Russia - Ministry of Family – Deputy Minister
• Women and Humanitarian Activity
- 12. Prof. Silvia Perazzo** – Argentina - ANU-AR - Researcher
• Refugees, NGOs and States: We Must Work Together
- 13. Lazzat Suleimen** – Kazakhstan – Member of Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan
• Women's Affairs and Family-Demographic Policy
- 14. Virginia Simari** – Argentina - National Judge - Member of the International Association of Women Judges
• Neither Exclusivity of Fields Nor Sphere of Geography

The Plight of Women in Humanitarian Action

- 15. Dr. Vian Sulaiman Haji** – Kurdistan Regional Government – President of Kurdistan Women Union
• Women in Kurdistan



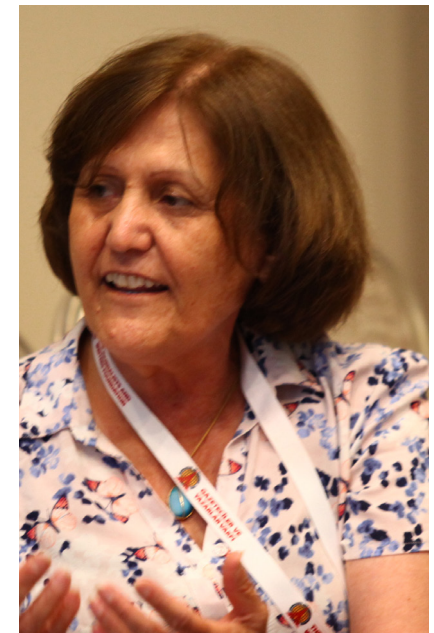
WORKING GROUPS

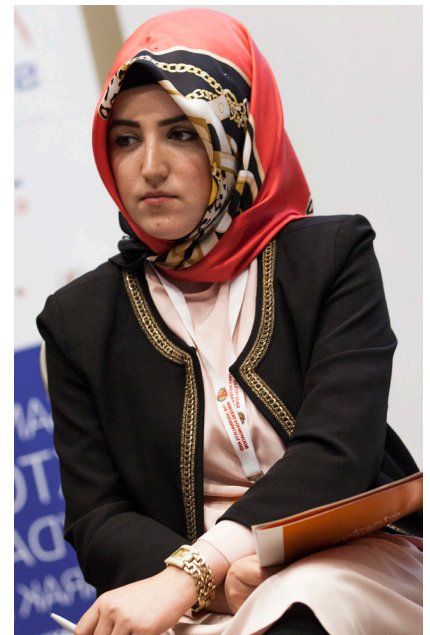
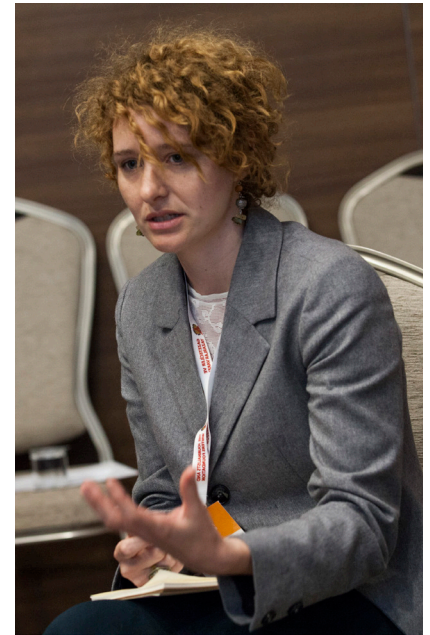
The second day took a more interactive approach. In the morning participants were offered a line-up of workshops on five topics, including:

- **Gender sensitive emergency response**
- **Empowerment of women refugees and long-term resilience**
- **Preventing abuse of women refugees and IDPs**
- **Role of CSOs and responsibilities of state authorities**
- **Do no harm**

Here participants were invited to share their own concerns and commitments in a dynamic and engaged envi-

ronment. With the assistance of a moderator, who was selected at the time of the working session by the votes of the participants, groups generated their discussion around the specifics of their given topic. At the end of their working session, they presented five final statements to conclude their suggestions. All the bullet points from the working groups formed the Working Groups Outcome document for the Istanbul Summit.







PARLIAMENTARY ROUNDTABLE

Meanwhile a parliamentary roundtable discussion was conducted on 'Gender-sensitive humanitarian action', moderated by İftar Gözaydın, Professor of Law and Politics, from Turkey. There were 21 representatives, mostly parliamentarians, from 15 different countries. The list of the countries which were represented at the Roundtable as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| • Argentina | Government |
| • Benin | • Liberia |
| • Ecuador | • Peru |
| • Ghana | • Republic of |
| • Guinea | Iraq |
| • India | • Russia |
| • Kazakhstan | • Somalia |
| • Kurdistan | • Tanzania |
| Regional | • Ukraine |

This roundtable discussed gender sensitive humanitarian action and potential for collaborative action by lawmakers in international and national fora to support gender sensitivity. The attendees answered the questions asked by the moderator Gözaydın and they concluded their discussion by preparing a Call for Action. At the end of the Summit, Call for Action of the Parliamentarians was declared

as an outcome document of the Summit. The questions asked to parliamentarians as follows:

1. Are current policies addressing the most pressing gender based issues and needs regarding refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs?
2. What are some of the current policies regarding gender based issues and needs regarding refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs, and are these policies being implemented effectively? If not, what needs to be done to make them more effective?
3. How can we involve women (particularly refugees, asylum seeker women and internally displaced women) to address their needs and concerns in designing effective policies that will impact them?
4. How can we strengthen public-private partnerships to address gender based issues and needs in humanitarian action?



PARLIAMENTARY SESSION: GENDER-SENSITIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In the last session, which was a parliamentary session, four women parliamentarians shared their views on 'Gender-sensitive humanitarian action', the topic discussed during the parliamentary roundtable, with the broader audience. The session was moderated by Dr. Cengiz Aktar, from Süleyman Şah University, Turkey and former UNHCR director.

The session included the speech from Victoria Morales Gorleri, Deputy, Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, President of the Committee on Education, Science and Technology. She elaborated on the different legal, social, economic and cultural steps, which had been taken, and had yet to be taken, in order to ensure the dignity and the wellbeing of women refugees and migrants in Buenos Aires.

Della Sowah, Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection from Ghana, stressed that she believed that "peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development". She identified one overarching challenge in achieving such equality as being the underrepresentation of women

in decision making bodies in Ghana, that being the parliament and state institutions.

Cristina Reyes Hidalgo, Member of Parliament, Ecuador was among one of the speakers of the session.

Evar Ibrahim, President of Women Commission, Parliament of Kurdistan Regional Government talked about the attacks of ISIS on Shengal in 2014 and its results in the region. She said: "Thousands of people, whose majority are Ezidi, left their houses and fled to Kurdistan region and Shengal mountain in order to survive. The majority of them were women, girls and kids who had to leave their houses; otherwise, the ISIS terrorists would kill the males and enslave the females. Thus, all those who could not leave became slaves in the hands of ISIS. According to the data we received from Kurdistan Regional Government they are about 3000 women, that given to their leaders as gifts to satisfy their wild desires." She concluded by explaining what should be done and she made a call for action to international community to counter the terrorism in the region.



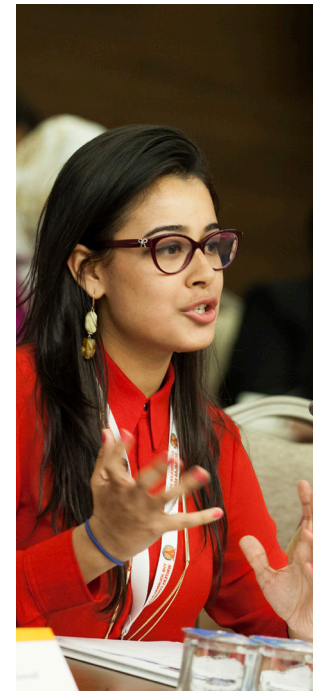


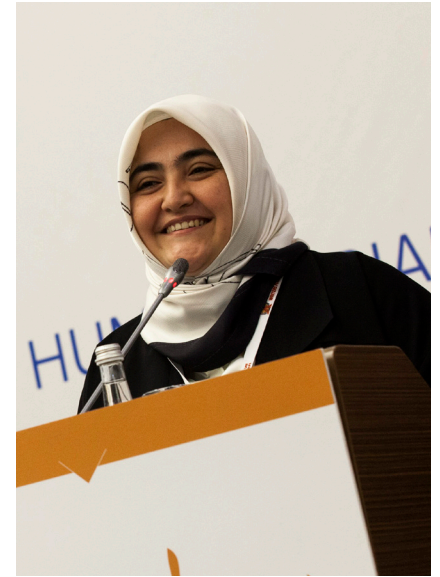
ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUTCOME DOCUMENTS AND CLOSING CEREMONY

The summit was concluded with the presentation of the 3 outcome documents of the Summit: A Final Declaration prepared by the Final Declaration Preparatory Committee consisting of academics and experts, the Working Groups Outcomes which summarize the discussion of the working groups and a Call for Action of the parliamentary roundtable. At the announcement session, all the documents were declared by the moderators of the groups. Our special thanks to *Meryl Frank* - Executive Director at FilmAid International and Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Millicent Otieno* - Founder and CEO, Local Capacities for Peace International, *Siobhán Foran* - Senior Officer, Gender & Diversity, Policy and Programme Support Unit, - International Federation of

Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), *Dr. Ranjana Kumari* - Director, Centre for Social Research in India, *Dr. Cengiz Aktar* from Süleyman Şah University and *Dr. Semiha Topal* from Fatih University for their contributions to the Final Declaration of the Summit.

Afterwards the participants were treated to a cruise into the sunset on the Bosphorus waters accompanied by a wonderful dinner.





FINAL DECLARATION

The second Istanbul Summit was held in Istanbul on 9-10 May, 2015, bringing together over 100 civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations with 300 participants, including 20 MPs, from 50 countries. The Summit was organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), a CSO with General Consultative Status at the UN ECOSOC. Main partners of the Summit are the African Union, Kimse Yok Mu International Humanitarian Aid and Development Association with Special Consultative Status at the UN ECOSOC. In addition, 34 local supporter organizations from 25 different countries joined the Summit. The Summit supported UN Women's HeForShe campaign.

The Summit highlighted gender as a central component in the definition, planning and execution of humanitarian action. This declaration reflects the key points that emerged from the rich deliberations during the Summit. It outlines the general principles of gender-sensitive humanitarian action with a specific focus on women as beneficiaries and actors.

In this respect, The Summit;

Recalls that, in order to be effective, humanitarian action needs to be inclusive and engage women as active participants at all levels;

Underlines that humanitarian action

that embraces the principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality should explicitly emphasize gender sensitivity;

Expresses that humanitarian action must be cognizant of the humanity and dignity of the recipients of humanitarian assistance and protection. Accordingly, it should embrace the letter and the spirit of "do no harm";

Emphasizes the need for women, both as actors and beneficiaries, to be part of all levels of decision-making, including the design, planning, execution and monitoring of humanitarian action so as to ensure cost-effectiveness;

Urges humanitarian donors to ensure that gender is a key criteria for making funding decisions;

Prioritizes context-sensitive humanitarian action by taking into account local, political, cultural realities and indigenous factors;

Recognizes that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) increases in humanitarian crises. National and local crisis-management systems must be gender-sensitive as a primary SGBV prevention measure;

Emphasizes that humanitarian intervention should be cognizant of the elevated risk to women's reproductive

health during crises situations, leading to increased levels of maternal mortality and deteriorated mental wellness, and respond accordingly;

Calls for gender-sensitive and -balanced reporting by journalists, capturing the diversity of women's perspectives and experiences, not only as victims but as survivors, defenders, witnesses and actors;

Urges nation-states and non-state actors to recognize their responsibilities in active prevention of refugee-like situations, including internal displacement, bearing in mind that women and children make up the vast majority of the world's refugee/IDP population;

Calls upon the international community to recognize the key role of an empowered local civil society, including women's organizations, in effectively addressing humanitarian crises;

Welcomes the upcoming conference of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in December 2015 in Geneva, and World Humanitarian Summit in June 2016 in Istanbul, and calls upon them to incorporate the outcomes of the "Istanbul Summit 2015: Women as the Beneficiaries and Actors of Humanitarian Action."



WORKING GROUPS OUTCOMES

WORKING GROUP 1: GENDER SENSITIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Moderator: Khanzad Ali Sadi, Kurdistan Regional Government

1. There should be binding international protocols for emergency responses, which national governments should adopt in their emergency response policies. National governments and NGOs should collaborate on emergency responses.
2. Emergency organization and assessment teams should consist of men and women in equal numbers.
3. Emergency organization and assessment teams should include experts from different academic disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, anthropology and medicine.
4. Raising awareness through education and social media campaigns is needed at all levels of society to take initiatives in different emergency situations. Women should be encouraged more to take part in emergency organizations. School curricula should be revised to include lessons on emergency responses.
5. The demographic data in emergency situations, especially on vulnerable groups such as children, women,

disabled people, and elderly people, should be accurate, up-to-date and globally accessible.

WORKING GROUP 2: EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN REFUGEES AND LONG TERM RESILIENCE

Moderator: Marian Cicoello

1. It is critical to create confidence in the refugees. We believe that instilling self confidence in the women refugees will propel them forward and empower them to gain control over their lives once again. Confidence breeds empowerment.
2. Providing access to resources is a key component; this includes understanding housing, job, medical and education opportunities within their new communities.
3. Crucial for creating a better life is including the refugees' input, insight and involvement from the start of their re-settlement and all through the process. They need to have a voice in their future.
4. From the start, create a two-way dynamic relationship; assisting organizations/countries must set expectations and goals that the refugees strive to achieve; and the

refugees must hold the assisting organizations/countries accountable for their transition and assimilation for the partnership to be mutually beneficial.

5. Given the many barriers and issues facing refugees, mentoring and counseling should be provided and encouraged. There should be role models for them to emulate and to see a path forward.

WORKING GROUP 3: ROLE OF CSOS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE AUTHORITIES

Moderator: Suwbha Chopra, India

1. Governance should be affirmed as a multicultural concept and practice affecting countries and regions differently. Civil societies and state must therefore share power in governance to the service, protection and empowerment of people,
2. The universal and specific values of governance should be emphasized, and national civil societies must set their own development priorities before building bridges and collaboration with international CSOs,
3. Civil societies should recall their role as a watchdog for governments' responsibilities and accountability

for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, CSOs must leverage their social policies for the achievement of the SDGs,

4. Common strategies between States and CSOs should be developed for progressive and political societies which will generate dialogue and capacity building egalitarian systems towards the empowerment of women,
5. International CSOs is a tool to support and complement national and regional priorities in the achievement of the SDGs.

WORKING GROUP 4: PREVENTING ABUSE OF WOMEN REFUGEES AND IDPS

Moderator: Emma Volodarskaya, Russia

1. Women who have lost their husband in war are left with the burden of the whole family. These women should be empowered, through the development of soft skills, so that they can make a living for their family.
2. Kidnapping, abduction and rape cause psychological damage and social neglect for women. In order to reintegrate these women back into

the society, NGOs should organize seminars and establish necessary social structures.

3. Another abuse is the lack of access to sufficient health care, which is the responsibility of governments. In case where governments does not fulfil this obligation sufficiently, we encourage the civil society organizations and international community to step in and put pressure on their governments.
4. Some abuse of women is related to the abuse of religion. One solution could be to promote interfaith dialogue and to keep religious and government affairs separately. It is also important not to link any religion with terrorism.
5. One way to prevent abuse would be to establish local women councils in order to create a better ways of communications and dialogue between governments and local communities.

WORKING GROUP 5: DO NO HARM

Moderator: Millicent Otieno, Kenya

1. The contextual realities should be systematically mapped and addressed where the humanitarian action is undertaken and the findings

should be utilized to design, plan, execute and monitor the actions.

2. The use of Do No Harm principle should be emphasized and adopted as an approach in the delivery of humanitarian action
3. Humanitarian actions should embrace collaboration and cooperation instead of competition and duplication for cost effectiveness.
4. Translation (Operationalization) of policies into conflict sensitive humanitarian processes and actions are essential to create cumulative positive impact for the communities (beneficiaries).
5. Empowerment of local actors, especially women organizations is needed to intervene in the local contexts for effectiveness and cultural sensitivity.
6. State and non state actors' coordination of humanitarian actions should be urged for embracing Respect, Accountability and Transparency principles.

CALL FOR ACTION

Parliamentary Roundtable Session Outcome:

1. We acknowledge the significant lack of specific regulations regarding women and children, the gaps between international law and domestic legal regulations, and the problems of implementation in the existing regulations.

2. Refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons, especially women and children, are particularly vulnerable to various forms of violence, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, trafficking, discriminations, and the loss of spouses, children and homeland. Thus women need psychological support as well as the fulfillment of basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and health services.

3. Women organizations should play a more active role especially in providing assistance to women with difficulties in disclosing their needs to men.

4. Refugee camps may only serve a temporary purpose, as isolation is not a sustainable solution. The aim should be the social integration of the refugees in the host society or a safe return to their home society.

5. Trainings should be provided to refugees, asylum seekers and inter-

nally displaced persons, by state and non-state actors, in order to enable their social integration and sustainable self-sufficiency.

6. Refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons should be informed about their legal rights through awareness raising programs.

7. Media should avoid hate speech and thus facilitate understanding between the host community and the refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and create a sense of belonging amongst the latter groups.

8. Regional collaborations at state and civil society level, should be made in order to provide sustainable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons.

In the light of the above observations we, as parliamentarians, put forward the following call for action:

1. Small action committees/groups involving women parliamentary members, journalists, activists and others in influential positions, especially in corporate sector, should be organized in order to address humanitarian, social and economic integration of refugees, asylum seekers and

internally displaced women for a sustainable solution.

2. Parliamentary members in the host countries should be the voice and representative of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, as well as their citizens.

3. For the Public-Private-Partnership to be strong and effective, the private sector should adopt a clear orientation for action, key performance indications, and a monitoring mechanism.

4. To ensure a long term vision for humanitarian assistance, a closer link between humanitarian responses and national development plans should be developed.

5. Knowledge about women's rights, and especially the rights of mothers, should be integrated into the educational system from primary school to university in every country.

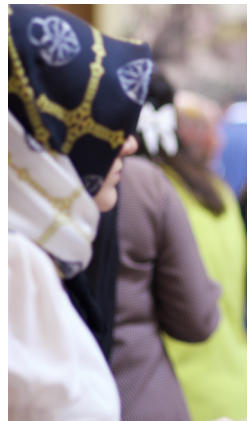
6. The needs for protection among refugee women, as well as older and disabled women, should be evaluated, and they should be consulted regarding improvements of their daily life.

7. Women are the positive actors of change, therefore their participation in the decision-making process and their self-sufficiency should be ensured by providing them with the adequate resources.

List of Participants:

1. **Victoria Morales Gorleri** - Deputy, Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, President of the Committee on Education, Science and Technology- Argentina
2. **Mariam Aladji Boni** - Special Adviser to the President of the Republic of Benin - Benin
3. **Cristina Reyes Hidalgo** - Member of Parliament - Ecuador
4. **Della Asjoa Sowah** - Deputy Minister of Gender, Children And Social Protection - Ghana
5. **Diaka Diakite** - The Former Ministry of Social Affairs - Guinea
6. **Shamina Shafiq** - Former Member National Commission for Women , Government of India - India
7. **Lazzat Suleimen** - Member of Central Election of Kazakhstan - Kazakhstan
8. **Evar Ibrahim Hussen** - Member of Parliament - Board of the Defense of Women's Rights -Kurdistan Regional Government
9. **Kazhal Hadi Faqe** - Member of Parliament -Kurdistan Regional Government
10. **Maryam Samad Abdi** - Member of Parliament- Kurdistan Regional Government
11. **Hayat Majed Qader** - Member of Parliament - Kurdistan Regional Government
12. **Vyan Abbas Omar** - Member of Parliament - Kurdistan Regional Government
13. **Jewel Howard Taylor** - Senior Senator Montserrado County - Liberia
14. **Geraldine D. Sherif** - Member of Parliament - Liberia
15. **Cecilia Chacòn** - Member of Parliament - Peru
16. **Rezan Dler Mustafa** - Member of Parliament -Republic of Iraq
17. **Tatiana Mitfofavna Barsukova** - Vice President of Social Security Department – Moscow - Russia
18. **Abdullahi Bile Nur** -Minister of Education -Somalia
19. **Zarina Shamte Madabida** - Member of Parliament - Tanzania
20. **Olena Masorina** - Member of the Parliament of Ukraine Committee on European Integration - Ukraine
21. **Svitlana Voitsekhovska** - Chair of Committee of Regulations and Organization of Work- Parliament of Ukraine - Ukraine







ORGANIZATION



Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) was established by a group of distinguished writers, scholars, and journalists in 1994 to contribute to peaceful coexistence and dialogue by bringing together intellectuals from all political spectrums with different cultural, religious, ethnic and ideological backgrounds that belong to the many diverse disciplines in science, religion, philosophy, politics, and art. Its mission is to look for ways of building a common living space based on reconciliation and mutual respect. Currently, there are six different platforms relied upon to organize the work of the Foundation; each platform specializes in different aspects of building dialogue. These include the Abant Platform, Dialogue Eurasia, the Medialog Platform, the Intercultural Dialogue Platform, and the Women's Platform. There is also a Research Centre. To carry its national mission in the international arena, the JWF holds General Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, being the first and only institution to achieve this status in Turkey.



JWF Women's Platform was founded in 2009 and aims to promote dialogue and peacebuilding at the local and global scale, by providing democratic arenas for the free and fair discussion of prevailing problems, including the disintegration of the family, gender-based discrimination in various areas, the humanitarian crisis in conflict zones, and highlighting the role of women in peace building, as well as in maintaining and improving peace.

PARTNERS



Kimse Yok Mu (KYM) is an international non profit humanitarian aid and development organization based in Turkey with 40 branches throughout the country which also provides humanitarian relief in over 113 countries, as well as having 180,000+ volunteers assisting its operations around the globe. KYM was established in 2002 as a Turkish humanitarian aid organization and was granted Public Interest Association status in 2006 and the Turkish Grand National Assembly Outstanding Service Award in 2008. Besides, in 2010 KYM was granted United Nations ECOSOC Special Consultative Status.



The advent of the **African Union (AU)** can be described as an event of great magnitude in the institutional evolution of the continent. On 9.9.1999, the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity issued a Declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an African Union, with a view, inter alia, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalisation.

IN SUPPORT OF



HeForShe is a solidarity movement for gender equality initiated by UN Women to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights. The campaign's premise is that gender inequality is not a women's issue but an issue that affects everyone, and that achieving equality will benefit both women and men - socially, politically and economically. Over the next 12 months till September 2015, the HeForShe solidarity movement intends to mobilize one billion men and boys, bringing together one half of humanity in support of the other half for the benefit of all.



SUPPORTER ORGANIZATIONS



Tesamuh knowledge and cultural center
Afghanistan → Kabul
www.tesamuh.org.af



Argentina → Buenos Aires
www.anu-ar.org



Hong Kong → Hong Kong
www.acdc.org.hk



EMIC Culture Union
懿博文化發展協會
Hong Kong → Hong Kong
www.emic-culture.org



Argentina → Buenos Aires
www.dialogar.org.ar



Austria → Vienna
www.derfriede.org



INDIALOGUE FOUNDATION
Dialogue for Peace
India → New Delhi
www.indialogue.in



DIALOG
MIDDLEEAST
Iraq → Erbil
www.dialogmiddleeast.org



Belgium → Brussels
www.dialogueplatform.eu



Brazil → Sao Paulo
www.brasilturquia.com.br



Japan → Tokyo
www.nittokai.org



Korea South → Seoul
www.turkey.or.kr



Canada → Toronto
www.interculturaldialog.com



Germany → Frankfurt
www.fidev.org



Liberia → Monrovia
www.rainbowliberia.org



Nigeria → Abuja
www.ufukfoundation.org



Germany → Berlin
www.sdub.de



Germany → Stuttgart
www.gfd-bw.de



Peru → LIMA
www.incadiologo.org



Russia → Moscow
www.lidermir.com



Ghana → Accra



Guinea → Conakry
www.gslacitadelle.com



Somalia → Mogadishu
www.moi.somaligov.net



Switzerland → Zurich
www.dialog-institut.ch



Tanzania → Dar Es Salaam



Turkey → Istanbul
www.markafed.org



Turkey → Izmir
www.enkafed.org



Turkey → Ankara
www.akafed.org



USA → Chicago
www.niagarafoundation.org



USA → Atlanta
www.theatlanticinstitute.org



Thailand → Bangkok
www.tai.in.th



Ukraine → Kiev
www.syaivo.org



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www.pacificainstitute.org

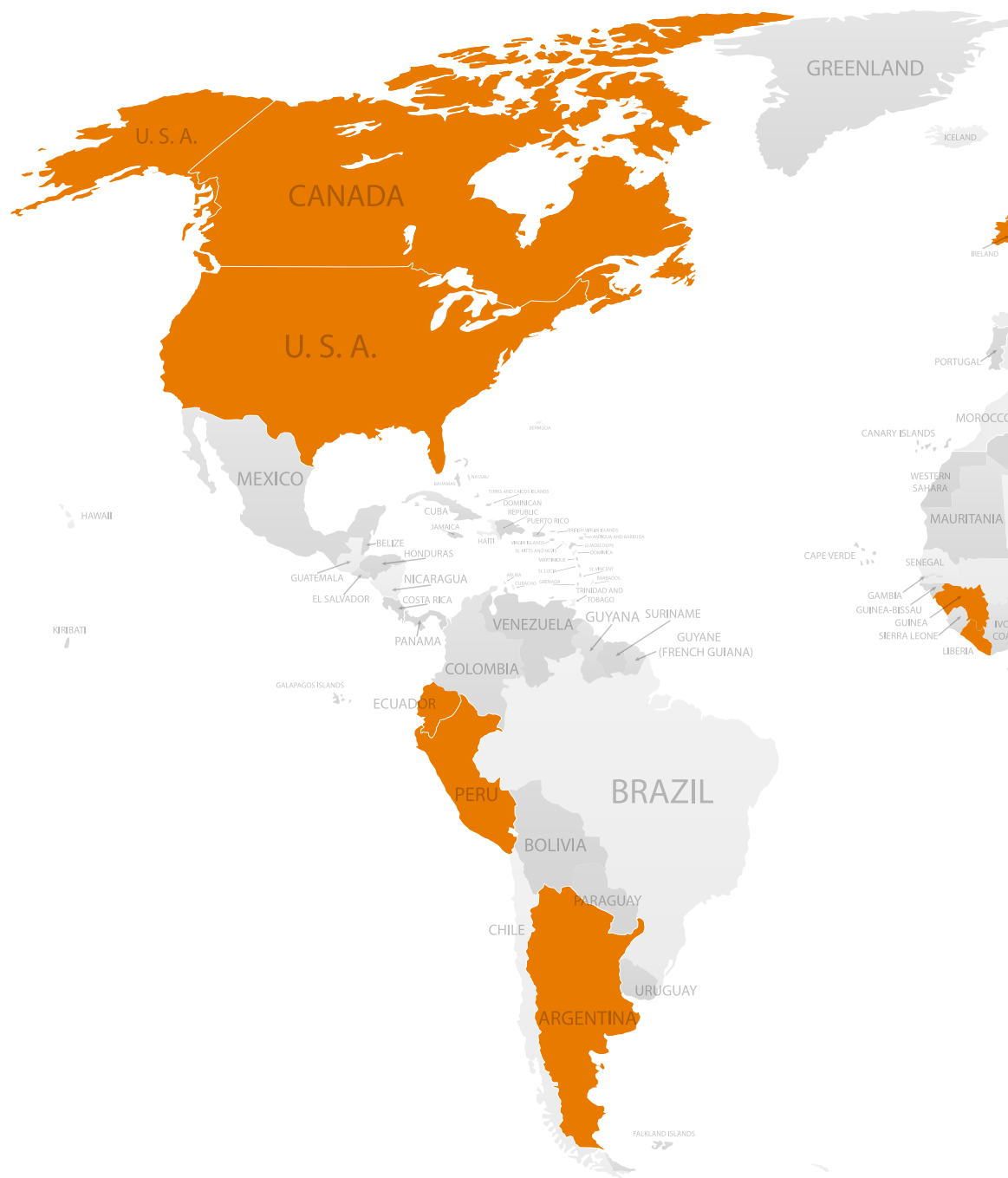


USA → New York
www.peaceislands.org

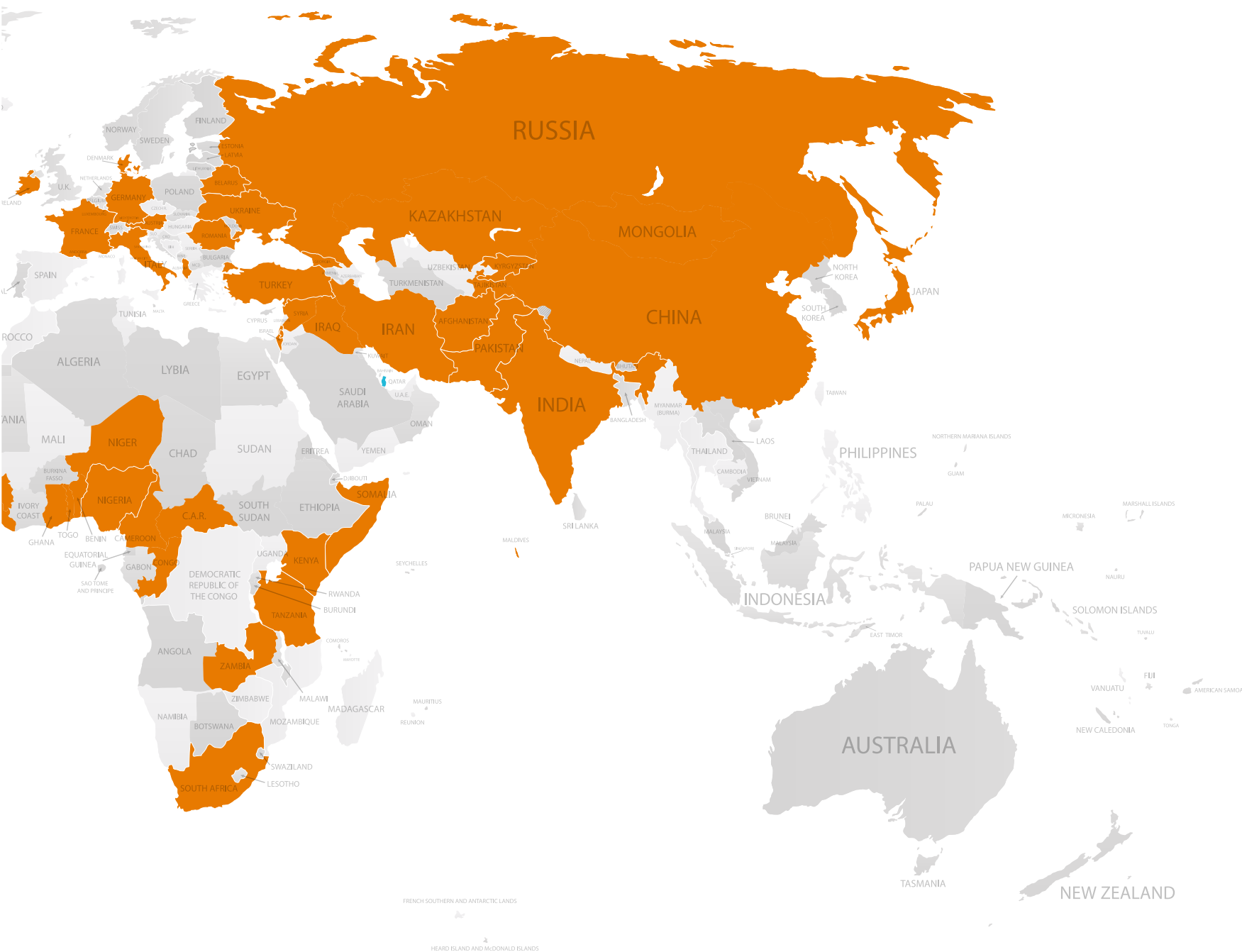


PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Argentina
4. Austria
5. Belarus
6. Benin
7. Cameroon
8. Canada
9. Central African Republic
10. Chinese
11. Congo
12. Denmark
13. Ecuador
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27. Kyrgyzstan
28. Kurdistan Regional Government
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