

Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the organizers and in particular the Turkish Government for hosting this important Summit. I am honored and privileged to speak in this very important event.

Afghanistan is suffering from war and conflict for almost 40 years, which has been the first and prime reason for humanitarian crisis. Unfortunately the war is still on going and it inflicts heavy losses on Afghans and causes further crises that push people out of their homes turning them to internally displaced or refugees.

According to the new data, more than a million IDPs are living in the country, and this year alone 250, 000 left the country. Afghanistan with over 6 million refugees in over 70 countries comes second after Syria.

While the flow of refugees seems unstoppable, success in providing a solution to this situation is of high importance. Policies and programs to protect, support, and enable refugees to enjoy their human rights; freedom and dignity are the requirement. I would like to emphasize on joint and effective cooperation to end conflict in Afghanistan. Without joint cooperation and support, the conflict will be continued with implications directly affecting neighboring and international communities.

We all know that every individual has the right to flee from a dangerous and threatening environment and to take refuge in safer places, even to apply for refuge outside one's national boundary.

Article 13 of **UDHR** and Covenant on the rights of Refugee are legal and customary law provision that recognizes and guarantees their right, and it is a good example to cite.

Having lived a refugee life and being a humanitarian provider, I would like to remind myself and the distinguished fellow participants of the right to live free from fear and from want, and the fight to live with dignity is an essential and fundamental human rights. Every human being, in humanitarian crisis, either man-made or natural disasters, has the right to protection, dignity and safety that are stipulated in the international human rights law and instruments.

Effective humanitarian action needs to have protection of all people, who are affected and are at risk, as it is a core responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Based on my personal experience living as an IDP, as a refugee and as a humanitarian aid provider, I would like to propose the following:

1. All the humanitarian interventions should be based on human rights approach without any discrimination based on the origin,

citizenship, ethnicity, gender, religion or language, particularly during the life saving interventions.

2. Ensure the full participation of all effected people including the most vulnerable and excluded groups, such as people with disabilities, elderlies, LGBTs, women and girls meaningfully-- in decision making, planning, implementing and monitoring of the programs. Empower them to claim their human rights as active right holders, not as passive beneficiaries of charity.

3. All the humanitarian assistants should be designed according to the needs of the people and the environment, and should be gender sensitive. For example, the need of the women in reproductive age and adolescent girls should be taken in to the priority list.

Although we have a lot of improvement in this regards, when I was working in the refugee camps in late 80's and early 90's, these issues such as separate toilets and bathrooms for women and girls in the camps were not part of the humanitarian assistance programs.

Women and girls are more exposed and vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence and exploitations, their access to reproductive health facilities and contraception including emergency contraception should be a center piece of humanitarian assistance. Special attention should be paid to the people with HIV/AIDS, TB and etc.

4. Pay special attention to humanitarian crisis as it has different impacts on women, girls, men and boys. Gender-based marginalization, exclusion, violence and discrimination can lead to humanitarian crises and imbalance in the affected communities.

Humanitarian responses must fully support the women and girls fundamental role in building resilient and peaceful societies, as part of organized civil society, human rights defenders as active agent in both formal and informal peace building and recovery processes.

5. Accountability and access to justice for victims of human rights violation, particularly for women who face sexual violence, should be the core of the program to protect their dignity and basic rights—and after all, women are half of the humanity. Respect for religion, culture and traditions should not be used as an excuse to violate their human rights. This was very common practice at least on the provision of humanitarian response for Afghan refugees and IDPs inside of Afghanistan.

6. Access to education, as a basic human right, should be part of the emergency response. Ignoring access to formal and good quality education for Afghan refugees is a very **alive** example for fueling the extremism and violent groups to benefit from humanitarian crisis. It is vital to empower girls by providing education and skill training to enable them to decide about their future and to control their bodies.

7. Empower and protect civil society and human rights defenders, including humanitarian and health workers, to enable them to provide good quality humanitarian assistance to the victims of conflict and natural disasters. The international community should support and provide access to facilitate the work of human rights and humanitarian organization and health provider wither local, national and internationals.

8. The current conflicts in our troubled world give possibility to the spoilers to use the vulnerability and poverty of the effected people and families to misuse the youth, boys and girls for sexual exploitation, political or military gains of terrorist groups. Naturally girls are more vulnerable to sexual abuse, trafficking and financial gains, while boys are usually used for military purposes.

9. Promote access to justice for the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The stakeholders and UN agencies should work towards ending the culture of impunity for the violation of International human rights and humanitarian law.

10. Properly Monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistant in transparent and inclusive ways. Zero tolerance should be applied against the corrupt official and community leaders, who misuse their positions in refugee or IDP situations.

11. As I would like to thank the UN agencies and international communities for supporting the Afghan people during different phases of conflicts in Afghanistan, I would also like to mention that we all need to learn lessons from Afghanistan's case and not support the uneducated, conservative militant groups for short term political gains and fixes --as it was done in our case. We ended up with the most brutal criminals in power positions and the people of Afghanistan are living in humanitarian crises and emergency situations for almost 40 years.

12. Finally, we need to address the root causes of conflicts and humanitarian crises such as poverty, lack of education, inequality, social injustices and exclusion and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination. Empower the people and promote principle of human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law to have sustainable peace and stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

People who are living in crises already suffered a lot and they should not be victimized again and again, because they are born in a conflict zone.

In a community, where there is no rule of law and justice, is the role of jungle, where there is no freedom is prison.

We need to stand together to safeguard the humanity and change the role in this world.

Thank you