

After the third speech of the head of delegation

DIŞİŞLERİ BAKANLIĞI'NIN SUNUMU (3 DAKİKA)

speech by DG of MFA

Turkey is a safe harbor for more than 1.6 million Syrians. With others, this figure reaches 2 million. In conformity with its international obligations, Turkey has pursued an open door policy for all Syrians and Iraqis who had to flee the conflicts in their countries during the past 4 years. We have mobilized all our resources and capabilities to provide for the needs of these people, on behalf of the international community. To give an example and put it into perspective, during the DEASH advance on Kobane/Ayn al Arab this summer, Turkey has accepted around 197,000 Syrians in one week, which is more than the total number of Syrians that all of Europe combined has received since the start of the Syrian crisis.

The amount the Government has disbursed for its humanitarian response has reached 5 billion US Dollars, whereas total bilateral and multilateral support has remained at 300 million US Dollars. Turkey's share in UN regional response appeals has been the least funded among all of Syria's neighboring countries. Even the most basic UN programs, such as the WFP electronic food card cash support, had to be scaled down due to the lack of funding from international donors.

In compliance with EU standards, Turkey has recently established the Directorate General for Migration Management and enacted the Temporary Protection Regulation to address the legal status of Syrians in the country. This new legal framework is complementing and reinforcing our humanitarian response by allowing Syrians to enjoy additional rights such as employment and universal education.

In reply to certain allegations, we feel obliged to say that accusing Turkey of mistreating Syrians or not doing its share in addressing their needs, is, to say the least, equal to failing to acknowledge the huge burden carried and the great sacrifices made by Turkey and the Turkish people.

Instead, we should focus more on the plight of the people who have been displaced due to a growing number of natural disasters, armed conflicts and other reasons. The number of refugees and forcibly displaced persons has reached the highest level since World War II, exceeding 50 million globally. These people are deprived of their most fundamental human rights. It is clear that the international system is no longer capable of meeting their needs and expectations. With these considerations in mind, we believe that the World Humanitarian Summit which will be organized in Istanbul in May 2016 will be of great importance, as well as a historic opportunity to shape the humanitarian agenda of the future.