



## G20 ENGAGEMENT GROUPS' STATEMENT ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS

*The engagement groups of the G20 representing business (B20), civil society (C20), workers and their unions (L20), academia (T20), women (W20) and youth (Y20) are highly concerned about the refugee crisis, and believe that greater collective action on the issue is needed.*

They jointly call on heads of states and governments meeting at the 2015 G20 Summit in Antalya, Turkey to urgently support development programs in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, where the majority of Syrian refugees are hosted.

It is crucial that G20 action goes beyond the provision of humanitarian assistance to include medium- to long-term economic support for refugees and the nations which host them. The G20 is best placed to provide such support given its composition, geopolitical and economic clout, and focus on economic coordination.

The G20 should, in addition to ongoing direct and indirect humanitarian and refugee assistance:

- Work towards the recognition of refugee's right to work and enact measures to make this right a reality.
- In the spirit of international solidarity, take responsibility to resettle a fair proportion of those refugees forced to flee to neighbouring countries.
- Support refugees' integration by directing international institutions such as the World Bank, United Nations and others to work with regional and national institutions on labour programs in support of job creation for refugees.
- Work with national institutions in host countries to initiate and finance skills development programmes geared towards increasing the capabilities of refugees.
- Take concrete measures to encourage new and innovative economic activities that would benefit refugees and host communities alike. This could include programs to seed small and medium enterprises (SMEs) started by refugees, which could be coordinated by the World SME Forum.
- Increase funding for refugee needs and for social protection programmes in host countries.
- Invest in basic social services including education and health, in order to support further integration of refugees as well as reducing the burden on host countries' social services.

Turkey, this year's G20 president, is currently hosting the largest number of refugees in the world, many of whom have been staying in the country for a number of years. G20 leaders gathering in Antalya this November will be holding their meeting in the middle of the greatest refugee crisis since World War II. As leaders of some of the world's largest economies, they have a responsibility to take action to help to resolve this situation.

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