

FINAL DECLARATION

Istanbul Summit 2014 was held in Istanbul on 31 May-1 June 2014, gathering over 100 NGOs and 306 participants (including 4 Ministers and 14 MPs) from 42 countries. The Summit was organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation, a Turkish NGO with general consultative status at UN ECOSOC.

The venue of the Summit is of symbolic importance, with Istanbul being at the crossroads of many civilizations, cultures, and religions. This provided a fitting backdrop for the objective of Istanbul Summit to act as a bridge, including between governmental processes and grassroots involvement. Istanbul Summit brought together representatives of civil society, high level government officials, parliamentarians, experts and scholars with a strong participation of women to discuss Post 2015 UN Development Agenda.

This declaration reflects the discussions and the viewpoints of its participants. It outlines the general principle of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and emphasizes the role of civil society from women's perspectives, as highlighted in the discussions.

General principles on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1. Women's empowerment is the cornerstone of sustainable and inclusive development. This encompasses:
 - The rights of women in terms of access to health (especially to reduce unacceptable levels of maternal mortality), education and productive resources and opportunities including safe and secure employment conditions.
 - Elimination of discrimination in all forms and violence against women and girls.
 - Recognition that peace and development are inextricably linked and that peace cannot be achieved without women's empowerment.
2. In light of the above points, the group proposes gender equality before the law, in the work place and in the home as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated into all other goals.
3. The Summit emphasizes the need for smart and inclusive sustainable development that respects peoples and the planet.
4. The Summit prioritized and emphasized interlinkages among the following issues: women's empowerment, eradication of poverty, health, education, food security, water supply, sanitation, environment, climate change, energy, sustainable economic development, peace and good governance.
5. The summit calls for the universality of SDGs for all people in all countries.

The Role of Civil Society

1. The Summit helped to increase the awareness of civil society that the process of formulation of the SDGs provides many opportunities and indeed encourages their input.
2. The Summit also recognized the importance of the role of civil society in the implementation of goals, including monitoring progress and ensuring accountability.
3. The Summit encourages governments to work in collaboration with civil society and the private sector.
4. The Summit urges the participants to reach out and mobilize their networks and communities to actively engage in post-2015 sustainable development agenda at local, national and global levels.