Expectations from the G20 Leaders’ Summit 2017, Hamburg

Prof. Syed Munir Khasru (The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG))
Kazi Mitul Mahmud (The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG))
Avia Nahreen (The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG))

The G20 Summit from July 07 - 08, 2017 needs to indicate a clear path and the move away from isolationist migration policies and inequitable refugee burdens. It provides a forum for open dialogue for promoting humanitarian aid and for the long-term resilience towards conflicts and providing support to the distressed and displaced millions.

Keeping the humanitarian needs of refugees at the center of policymaking has never been more crucial than in times of economic, social, and political turmoil. The global economic decline threatens the essential international relief to forcibly-displaced persons. Similarly, refugees struggle even more to find food, shelter, and security. Tragically, displacement of impoverished populations is constantly escalating, as hardships result from increased marginalization of the oppressed and persecuted minorities.

Forced migrants are pertinent examples of what happens when societies are pushed beyond the limit: conflict, human rights violations, displacement. The G20 summit is an opportunity to take preemptive measures, to reduce economic instability by promoting holistic refugee protection and resettlement, enhancing employment opportunities for the displaced communities, and strengthening inclusive social protection systems.

In the midst of economic crisis, the fragile value of hospitality must be fostered. Dwindling economic opportunities are placing greater burden on overstrained national economies and social support networks, inciting intolerance. The G20 Summit can be the platform to change the narrative around refugees; they are stranded survivors trying to rebuild their lives in safety, rather than the simplistic and misleading labels, which demonize refugees. This constant dehumanization and hostility marginalizes refugees even further. Germany, being at the forefront of the European migration crisis and one of the biggest asylum provider nations, has an important role to play. As the G20 President and host of the G20 Summit 2017, Germany has a unique opportunity to lead other nations in effectively responding to one of the most compelling humanitarian crises of recent times.

References