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MEYDAN MEETING REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

As the YADA Foundation, we held our online Meydan meeting within the scope of the “Enhancing Civil Dialogue” project, which is supported by the European Union. In our Meydan meeting series, which we organize to implement a new dialogue and a negotiation model among CSOs. We came together online on January 28, 2021 under the title of “When Climate Crisis Knocked on the Door” Meydan meeting; to talk about the effects of the climate crisis on different areas such as women, children, disasters, disability rights, refugee studies in 2021 and what can be done in these overlapping areas. Since 2018, in order to talk, listen and discuss the issues of Turkey we come together in Meydan Meetings, which has been set up for seeing different issues from different perspectives and to allow stakeholders from different backgrounds to explore issues together. We thank everyone for coming together in the Meydan titled as “When the Climate Crisis Knocked on the Door” to share the experience and skills of civil society in owning, discovering, defining, bringing to the agenda, generating knowledge and solutions for social and environmental problems.

As YADA, since 2005, we have been producing information on different areas of social life and turning them into practice. We do research on how effective CSOs are on citizens and decision-makers; and try to increase their influence on the decisions and opinions of the public. With the research and studies, we do, we focus on improving the ability of CSOs to influence decisions and strengthen the dialogue between them. We aim to create common grounds where CSOs can discuss, exchange information, and establish new collaborations. We aimed to create a space where these common grounds can be formed by organizing physical and online meetings with Meydan activities. We also aimed to bring together non-governmental actors who are in different fields, views, and approaches to make these actors visible to each other. We wanted differences to be able to meet, encounter, talk and get to know each other. Thank you again for coming to Meydan Meeting with the aim of talking, listening, and discussing on Turkey’s issues.

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AGENDA

13.30 - 14.00 **Opening and Introduction**

14.00 - 14.50 **Panel**

Climate Crisis and Its Effects

Buket Atlı, Clean Future Association

What is Green New Order and Just Transition?

Özlem Katisöz, European Climate Action Network (CAN)

Regenerative Agriculture: The Solution That Come With The Soil

Durukan Dudu, Anatolian Pastures

15.00 - 15.00 **Break**

15.00 - 16.00 **Group Works**

16.00 - 16.30 **Conclusion and Evaluation**



OPENING



On January 28, 2021; in the series of Meydan Meetings, which come together to talk, listen and negotiate on Turkey's issues, this time online, under the title of "When Climate Crisis Knocked on the Door", we came together to explore the future of the climate crisis, its effects on different vulnerable groups, solution proposals, and what can be

done for adaptation and measures. We met with civil society representatives working in environment, ecology, nature, consumption, social work, local government, gender, sustainability, refugee, youth, industry, health, education, and culture fields from many provinces of Turkey on the zoom platform and talked about the "climate crisis" theme.

Meydan started with a brief introduction after the participants stated their names and institutions. After the introduction session, the meeting was reinforced with the answers from the participants to the "What comes to your mind when you think of climate?" question and the issue of the climate crisis was introduced.



PANEL

Following the main session, the panel session was started with the moderation by Buket Atlı. Buket Atlı from Clean Future Association on the climate crisis and its effects, Özlem Katisöz from European Climate Action Network (CAN) on the question of “What is Green New Order and Just Transition?” and lastly Durukan Dudu from Anatolian Pastures Restorative Agriculture: The Solution That Come with The Soil. The panel started with the following questions:

- How ready are we for the climate crisis?
- How will vulnerable groups be affected by the Climate Crisis?
- How can we collaborate to adapt to the climate crisis?

Two lines that must not be crossed before the world cannot recover itself have been crossed.

It was stated that the loss of biological diversity and chemical processes crossed the border, creating troubles and threats for the world and climate change.

“Global warming of 2 ° C against 1.5 ° C”

It was mentioned that global warming and the temperature increase from 1.5 ° C to 2 ° C will cause great troubles to the world. It was reported that problems such as extreme weather events, loss of species, and increase in sea level will increase.

Carbonless layout studies continue.

It was mentioned that the climate issue is an element that started to form the basis of even diplomacy. The decisions and cooperation of the countries for a carbon-free order were mentioned. It was stated that this would be possible with tools such as coal phase-out, renewable investments, energy efficiency,

carbon leakage prevention, renewable R&D, green mass housing and protection areas.

Environmental policies are becoming the main topic of conversation.

It was mentioned that the environmental issue, which comes after issues such as economy and education, has become the main topic of discussion in recent years. Examples were given over coal exit and fair conversion strategies.

Climate is still not spoken in Turkey.

It was reported that the climate crisis and all global trends brought people to a decision point and transformation point with the epidemic. In Turkey, it was emphasized that despite all the countries that have developed strategies on the climate crisis, there is no plan to participate in any discussion, no strategies are made, and there is no climate policy. It was stated that mitigation or adaptation issues have not been seriously discussed yet.

“Human and human activities can only be harmful to nature, ecosystems and biodiversity.”

It was emphasized that everything that is human and touched by human hands will be harmful to nature and climate in every way. It was mentioned that the only thing people can do is to reduce this damage or to do the least damage that can be done.

The only situation in which people can be good for nature is “regenerative agriculture”.

Regenerative agriculture, a technique that can go beyond sustainability, was mentioned. Restorative agriculture has been defined as a method that has a restorative effect on agriculture while doing agriculture, without the use of chemical fertilizers and that ensures the recovery of the ecosystem.

Photosynthesis and herbivorous animals are important and necessary for restorative agriculture.

It was mentioned that herbivorous animals should increase in number and graze. Otherwise, it was emphasized that the loss of organic matter, fertility and water holding capacity in the soil means desertification and release of carbon dioxide into the air. It was mentioned that restorative agriculture aims to increase the organic matter in the soil and plants should take the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with photosynthesis and bury them into the soil as carbon-organic matter.

SECOND SESSION: GROUP WORKS

The second session started with the participants being divided into groups for group work. Participants divided into groups sought answers to the following questions.

- “Has the climate crisis knocked on your door?”

Do you work on the climate crisis?

How do you think the climate crisis will affect your field of work?

(For those whose field of study is not climate-environment) When you think of your own field or target groups, what would the effects of the climate crisis be on your field?

- “Are you ready for the climate crisis?”

In your opinion, what work can be done on the following topics to stop the climate crisis or to adapt?

- “What can be done together?”
What mechanisms / networks / collaborations are needed to stop or

prepare for the climate crisis?

How can you contribute?

What can be done together?

Even though we are in a crisis, there are things that we do not know.

It was discussed that every segment of society, such as children, youth, and adults, is aware of the climate crisis and that there are parts of it that they are not aware of. It was emphasized that the problems that need to be solved within a big theme such as climate are the problems of all of us and that everyone should struggle to solve them collectively.

CSOs are effective in reaching vulnerable groups.

Ideas were presented that it would be more effective to reach awareness activities through CSOs. It was mentioned that there is no priority among the fragile groups and that every segment of society has responsibilities. It has been determined that the projects of CSOs are more compatible in some subjects and they differ as combative in some subjects. It was discussed that CSOs working with different themes and different groups should be aware of each other.

We are not suitable and ready for the climate crisis.

On the knowledge that we know what will happen if the air warms up to 2 degrees, but even scientists do not know what will happen when it warms up to 3 degrees, suggestions were made that universal studies should be carried out all over the world and that children’s actions should be supported.

A holistic perspective is needed.

It was mentioned that overall evaluations of the climate crisis focus on the survival of the people. "We do not consider the right of water to flow, the bird's right to fly." it was said; opinions were made that the issue should be approached by giving everyone and everything the right.

"Conflict of interest."

It was emphasized that there is no action on disaster and climate change at the local, only a local climate action report, and therefore conflicts of interest are experienced in the field. As an example, the reaction of "you are hindering our work" when the waste incineration plant was opposed was mentioned. It was determined that the aims and interests are not consistent with each other.

There is no ideal order in the legal process.

It was mentioned that there was an environmental movement established by the citizens locally, but that politics decided the course. The issue that everyone's struggle in their own locals is not enough was pointed out and a proposal was made that there should be more permanent and sustainable structures in which young people will be involved and political formations should be included.

Local governments should support local productions.

It was mentioned that the support they will give is important since the local governments will be more aware of the regional problems. It was emphasized that supporting the local producer is a win-win situation and it was mentioned that the importance of supporting local production on the basis of food would be the most obvious support can be provided by the consumer. A proposal was made to establish a climate council with sanction

power, such as the City Council, where local governments and CSOs can come together.

There are many victimizations due to the climate crisis.

Many examples of grievances were given, such as deaths in extreme weather events when cotton workers were working in Adana in 2000, the tents were dispersed due to the flood in 2011, and hundreds of tents were destroyed in the dust storm in Ankara. In the example that took place in Adana, it was criticized that the state, local government and CSOs focus on cities, not villages. It was mentioned that behind the events in the cities, the seasonal workers whose livelihoods were lost in the villages and the villagers in distress were not seen.

It is a problem that has entered our daily life since 1970, but we can only talk now.

Although the climate crisis has existed for a long time, it was mentioned that it has just entered the agenda of people, some people are still do not believe in the crisis. It was agreed that education and awareness activities should be done to everyone of all ages. It was mentioned that it is necessary to emphasize that there is a crisis that affects not only humans but all living things.

We are living the climate crisis to its fullest extent.

It was stated that even if consciously lived in the countryside, it was stated that nature should not be considered to be protected in the rural area, and even in the last few years, there is no social awareness about the climate crisis, as it has been seen to have an individual effect such as soil inefficiency and decrease in natural water resources.

It is important to explain at a level that can be understood by the citizen, without departing from theoretical or scientific knowledge.

In order to reflect scientific knowledge to vulnerable groups, it was suggested that both scientific and publicly understandable projects should be carried out, and to follow both a theoretical and practical awareness-raising method as the public contributed to the project while carrying out these projects.

“The climate crisis must be viewed at both different levels and themes.”

There are things to be done both on a large and global scale due to the fact that the struggle for the climate crisis has levels from the micro-global scale, and on a national scale due to the division of the world into borders. It was stated that it is necessary to work at all levels of the climate crisis, to bring it to the agenda, to produce information and to take actions towards this. It was also suggested that even if the study gets done at a neighborhood level, melting glaciers and rainforests should be a concern for everyone.

CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

As the YADA team, which organizes the Meydan meetings, we gathered under the title of “Climate Crisis Knocks on the Door” to explore the future of the climate crisis, its effects on different vulnerable groups, solutions, and what can be done for adaptation and measures. Once again, we would like to thank all our participants who came together with us at the Online Meydan meeting.

We agreed that civil society has great responsibilities for the climate crisis. We decided that the focus should be on strengthening the civil society dialogue in developing different policies and strategies for different themes, segments, geographies and raising public awareness.

Along with these outputs, we continue to design different activities that will support the coexistence of civil society and the environment of dialogue and negotiation. In the upcoming days, we will continue to communicate with the institutions we met at the Meydan meetings whom we would like to see in our upcoming events we will talk around different topics and try different methods to encourage active participation. Let's meet at Meydan!

*APPENDIX: PARTICIPANT LIST

INSTITUTION	NAME
Nature Association	Alen Mevlat
Van Çevre Environmental Protection Association, Türçev-Turkey Environmental Education Foundation	Ali Kalçık
ÇİTTA - Çukurova Human Seed Soil Workshops	Alper Tolga Akkuş
VAN ÇEVDER	Arzu Dinçer
Women's Human Rights - New Solutions	Aslı Elif Sakallı
Environmental Education Foundation of Turkey	Aslınur
METU	Asuman Korkusuz

INSTITUTION	NAME
Supplement Cut Eat Drink	Aycan Tüylüoğlu
WWF-Turkey	Ayşe Kiriş
Defense	Aytül Yüksel
Natural Life Association	Bahadır Yasa
Clean Future Association	Buket Atlı
Society for the Development, Monitoring and Research of Social and Ecological Dialogues TUGSA	Bahar Gök
Good4Trust.org & Production Economy Association	Berk Butan
Denizli Metropolitan Municipality	Berna Yılmaz
Medipol University	Betül Kaymaz
Green Future Association /EKO IQ	Burcu Genç
TEMA	Ceren Pınar Gayretli
Kocaeli University	Çiğdem Çağlayan
TÜSODER- Consumer Problems Association	Deniz Öner
Civil Society and Media Studies Association / Civil Pages	Derya Kap
Anatolian Pastures	Durukan Dudu
Amasya University	Duygu Bütün Bayındır
Havle	Edibenur Üner
QNB Finansbank	Elçin Önder
CAN Europe	Elif Cansu İlhan
Sustainability Steps Association	Emrah Kurum
Development Workshop	Ertan Karabıyık
Ege University	Ezgi Gürsoy
Zero Waste and Sustainability	Fatih Küçükuysal
Erdemli District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry	Fatma Anar Mendil
Izmir Metropolitan Municipality	Fırat Durmuş
Greenpeace Mediterranean	Gökhan Ersoy
One Seed Foundation	Güneşin Aydemir
Tarsus Municipality	Hatice Karataş
Women's Labor Collective	Hilal Karul
Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University	Hülya Çeşmeci
TEMA	İdil Dağdemir
Mediterranean Exporters Unions	İdil Dilan öğüt
Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry	İsmet Derebaşı
Sabancı University	Kristen Biehl
Mediterranean Exporters Unions	Mediha Erdovan
Individual	Mehmet Yıldız
Rural Environment	Murat Bayramoğlu
Gaziantep Education and Culture Association	Mustafa Gören
Public Policy Strategic Research Center	Nihal Eriş

INSTITUTION	NAME
Greenpeace	Onur Akgül
Sustainable Living Association	Onur Özkan
Yuva Association	Özge Sönmez
Senex: Aging Studies Association	Özgür Arun
CAN Europe	Özlem Katısöz
Teachers Academy Foundation	Özlem Paker
Sultanbeyli Municipality	Perizat Çakıcı
Ministry of Commerce	Pınar Gündüz Tosun
Young Ideas Association	Resul Hüseyinzade
Anda Kardeşe Vefa and Education Culture Association	Rümeysa Yağmur Saçan
EGISAD	S. Selahattin Erbey
Mugla University	Saniye Dedeoğlu
Senex: Aging Studies Association	Seda Kocabıyık
Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University	Selen Oğuz
Barem Research	Sinan Egemen
Directorate for EU	Sinem Bölükbaşı
Unimar	Uygar Sül
Green Thought Association	Yağız Eren Abanus
Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation	Z. Asuman Dener
Anatolian Women's Association	Zübeyde Ozanözü
YADA Foundation	Aylin Ezgi Yılmaz
YADA Foundation	Ceylan Özünel
YADA Foundation	Elif Öztürk
YADA Foundation	Oğuzhan
YADA Foundation	Rümeysa Çamdereli
YADA Foundation	Umut Erol