INTERNATIONAL AGRICITIES CONFERENCE
FINAL DECLARATION

International AgriCities Conference was held in Konya, Turkey on March 21-23, 2017 with the participation of international and national members.

At the Opening Meeting that took place on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, the protocol talks drew attention to; the meaning and importance of agriculture for humanity, emphasized the problems and future it withholds, and the significance of this meeting organized with the initiative of local governments.

Following the meeting, the International Konya Agriculture Fair, held at TUYAP International Fair, was proceed to and the fair opening was attended where the latest developments in agriculture in Turkey were observed by visiting the stands.

On March 22, 2017, the countries that attended the meeting with representatives from Ukraine, Bosnia Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Sudan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Kenya and Palestine, and participants from Turkey including; Istanbul, Ankara, Trabzon, Kahramanmaraş, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Bursa, Sakarya, Kocaeli, Balikesir, Ordu, Kayseri and Konya Metropolitan Municipalities' Representatives, presented their case studies on agriculture and livestock farming in their own countries and cities, and they made general evaluations.

Today, the world population has reached 7 billion 500 million people with an annual increase of about 1%. Every year approximately 80 million people are added to the world population, equal to the population of Turkey. On the other hand, our land continues to lose soil day by day, due to a number of wrong agricultural techniques and soil or wind erosion. Countries that have advanced in energy and industry are currently able to satisfy their own people with their means.

However, when we look at the world as a whole, 10% of the population, or 750 million people, are still struggling with hunger and poverty. People close to 30 per day, unfortunately, starve to death. In the face of this grave picture, of course, it is unthinkable for the mankind to stay silent and insensitive.

Certainly, the sector of AGRICULTURE is one of the most important sectors that will be effective in reducing hunger and poverty in the world. Because nourishment of human beings on a sufficient level, depends on the right environment, the right time, the right tools and techniques.

This fact makes the sharing of experience and techniques of agriculture between countries and cities, indispensable.

Therefore, we need to see the agricultural sector as one of the most important sectors and be active in reinforcing this issue.

As a result of the above going issues, the following decisions have been taken

1. ‘AGRICITIES’; The International Agricultural Cities Union should be established for the time being with the participation of countries and cities
participating in the meeting and other volunteer countries and cities, in such a way as to allow future growth and expansion,

2. It was deemed appropriate for Konya Metropolitan Municipality to arrange and finalize official establishment works and transactions,

3. It was noted down that agriculture and food are the sectors with a very strategic focus in the future of the world and that it is therefore appropriate to interact with all countries and cities, to make a positive contribution to the sector,

4. It will be appropriate for all countries and cities to inform other member countries and cities of positive developments, related to agriculture; and to publish manifestos for collective actions against famine,

5. The meetings and conferences will be organized in the participating countries and cities, until the union is established and it will be appropriate to draw the attention of people to agriculture,

6. It will be appropriate to announce the establishment of the International Agricultural Cities Union as soon as possible and to announce it to the world public with a press conference in Konya, within 1 year following its establishment by Konya Metropolitan Municipality,

The Final Declaration of International Agricities Meeting has been concluded in duplicate in Turkish and English signed hereby.