**The Court of Cassation Continues to Lead National and International Reform Movement.**

**The İstanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process was adopted in United Nations.**

Session 28 of the CCPCJ (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) between the dates of 20-24 May 2019 and Preliminary Meeting between the dates of 13-17 May 2019 was held in Vienna, the capital city of Austria. The İstanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process (the İstanbul Declaration) and Measures for the Effective Implementation of the İstanbul Declaration (Implementation Measures) were adopted in the Plenary Meeting on Friday, May 24th as a result of two weeks of intense negotiations in the Vienna International Centre of the United Nations. The Deputy Secretary General of the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Turkey Dr. Mustafa Saldırım, Senior Project Expert Gözde Hülagü and Project Assistant Nihal Eriş participated in the meetings carried on with the hard work and devotion of the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Vienna Mr. Ahmet Muhtar Gün, Deputy Ambassador Mr. Cenk Ünal, Counsellor Mr. Hüseyin Hançer and Second Secretary Ms. Ayşe Sezen.

**The İstanbul Declaration was adopted by chief justices from 30 countries in 5 continents.**

Unanimity is sought for the adoption of the Draft Resolutions in the works exercised by 192 countries. Istanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures were adopted by chief justices from 30 countries in 5 continents in the Summit held in Istanbul which was hosted by the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Turkey with the cooperation of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) between the dates of 10-11 October 2018. The Draft Resolution regarding the İstanbul Declaration and Implementation Measures was submitted to the CCPCJ in consequence of the successfully finalised Summit and by the initiative of the Court of Cassation.

**The İstanbul Declaration is the first Human Rights Document adopted before it was consulted in the Intergovernmental Meetings.**

The İstanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures have the characteristic of being a text which was prepared by judges for the use of judges. In accordance with the principle of judicial independence, judges are required to carry out such productive works, as they are individually and collectively responsible for the resolution of judicial issues. Based on this understanding, the İstanbul Declaration and Implementation Measures developed under the guidance of the Court of Cassation were addressed in the non-intergovernmental meetings, developed and adopted by the chief justices who represent major legal systems and different geographical regions of the world. The adoption of the İstanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures as a draft resolution have a great importance, because it is a very concrete and vivid example of the implementation of the “judicial independence” principle at the international level.

**The Draft Resolution regarding the İstanbul Declaration was unanimously adopted in United Nations.**

Under the scope of Ethics, Transparency and Trust Project of the Court of Cassation, the İstanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures were submitted in the annex of the draft resolution to United Nations on April 23rd by the initiative of the Presidency of the Court of Cassation. The draft resolution text, which was reached consensus with 3 informal meetings between the dates of 13-17 May and as a result of 1 informal and 2 formal meeting held in Session 28 of the CCPCJ, was adopted in the Plenary Meeting on Friday, May 24th. Adoption of the İstanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures in the CCPCJ, in which 192 countries are represented, will play a key role in the creation and development of justice policies of all Member States of the UN.

**What is foreseen in the UN Resolution?**

1- In the Resolution, it is approved that these texts are aimed at enhancing and strengthening the public confidence in the right to a fair trial, as importance of the effort of the judges in the preparation of the İstanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures is emphasized.

2- Under the scope of the İstanbul Declaration and the Implementation Measures, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is requested to support the efforts of Member States of the UN in reinforcing their judicial systems.

3- Member States are invited to take consideration the İstanbul Declaration when formulating programs and legislative reforms in the administration of justice.

4- Member States and other donors are invited to provide extra budgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

**The UN Resolution regarding the İstanbul Declaration is a unique success.**

The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct prepared by the judges was adopted in 2006 as a result of the ongoing works of the UN Judicial Integrity Group on behalf of the judges under the auspices of United Nations and with the support of UNODC. The draft resolution regarding the adoption the Bangalore Principles in United Nations was also drafted by UNODC. The concept of transparency in the judicial process has been comprehensively defined in the İstanbul Declaration for the first time. In this way, “ethics” and “transparency” have been two complementary concepts at the universal level as the policies embracing equality. The İstanbul Declaration, which was adopted by Member States in the Resolution annex before it was consulted in an intergovernmental meeting and conducted under the auspices of the UN, is a unique international success in terms of its method of preparation and adoption.