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Gibril Faal urges the United Nations to prioritise implementation and operations

On 19 September 2016, Gibril Faal, the Interim Director of ADEPT and Director of GK Partners, was one of the leaders from non-state institutions, organisations and agencies who spoke at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, held at the UN General Assembly in New York. He was on the **'Roundtable on International Cooperation and Action: The Way Ahead'**, which was co-chaired by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada and Queen Rania of Jordan.

Gibril spoke after the remarks of the presidents of Costa Rica and Mozambique. He made a short, but very strong argument for the United Nations and member states to focus on practical implementation of best practices, not reaffirmations of principles. After his fervent call for greater priority on implementation and operations, other world leaders made statements. These included, the Prime Ministers of Norway, Denmark, Fiji and Lebanon; the Deputy President of Kenya, the President of the European Investment Bank and the Director General of World Health Organisation. Gibril stated:

***"Do we indulge in negotiations and gamesmanship whilst existing conventions, agreements and best practices remain inert for want of implementation?.....As a community of nations, we witness failure – in too many places and for too many incidents – regarding large movements of refugees and migrants. Are we reckless, incompetent or indifferent? I ask, because in the Twenty-First century, humanity is at the zenith of her innovative capacity, her technological capability, and her operational prowess."***

***"So, let this summit be the kick-off point for implementation, operationalisation and action.....As we make a shift of emphasis towards implementation and operations, we shall embrace and normalise the techniques and processes of effectiveness and efficiency, and liberate states and non-state actors to innovate and activate options and opportunities that create best results for refugees, migrants and the communities and countries that host them."***

***"Ours is a world of acreage of land and heads of people. It appears that we sanctify the acreage of land, and the privileges thereof, to the pernicious expense of heads of people and the humanity therein. We should remember that the plight of the refugee may be one of desperation and destitution, but the person of the refugee is neither hopeless nor helpless."***

London, 19 September 2016.