



OPENING REMARKS

FOR THE 63. ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE & INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

“THE FUTURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE IN THE 21. CENTURY”

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His Excellency Mr. President, Esteemed Guests,

On behalf of the current President of the AACC, I am honored to be the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony of the sixty third anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye and International Symposium.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Constitutional Court of Türkiye on this special occasion. Over the past sixty three years, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye has made a lot of contributions to the establishment of the rule of law by (1) reviewing the constitutionality of laws and (2) protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye has played an important role in training and developing Human Resources for the members of the AACC. For example, as one of the three permanent secretariats of the Association, it organizes the Summer School Program, which has been held consecutively for twelve years by the Center for Training and Human Resource Development (CTHRD).

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Since we understand that the world is changing rapidly, as it has been marked by technological advancements, environmental challenges, and socio-political transformations, constitutional justice obtains more roles such as fostering justice, maintaining peace, and creating social stability. At the same time, it must safeguard human rights. The increasing complexity of legal issues requires courts to balance national constitutional principles with international norms.

All the worldly changes and evolutions—including pandemic, natural disasters, and wars in various forms—have transformed how courts operate and engage with the public. The digitalization of court proceedings has been adapted in many countries. This phenomenon of digital world has made courts accessible for almost everyone, but it could also deepen inequalities. For instance, since two thousand twenty three, the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand has allowed the examination of witnesses outside the courthouse via video conference.

From this example of Thailand adapting to the modernity, we will see more expansion of constitutional interpretations concerning gender equality and human rights—including the topic of same-sex marriage. Another controversial subject is the rising tendency of Stateless persons sending constitutional complaints through ombudsman about their individual rights. These broadening of constitution interpretations, in which we will get to discuss, are what to be expected.

Nowadays, courts worldwide are assigned with new and challenging constitutional reviews while, at the same time, it has to accommodate the contemporary issues, both domestically and internationally. For the majority of each country, internal affairs, the rights of foreign workers and immigrants have gained public attention. The fundamental demand from these foreign labors is the rights to be contracted and to receive social welfare, which it links to the constitutional review.

The increasing level of social movement has an impact on

political equilibrium. So to speak, the imbalance of politics has a lot of pressure on all the courts. There is also a high tendency on polarization of political parties, causing a democracy fragility. Also, the political polarization can be the reason of judiciary trembling and courts' process uneasiness. All the earlier mentioned directly influences 'constitutional justice.'

As it has been said that there are a lot of international norms/born in this time, its dynamics surely affect courts' values and its interpretation. So, the future of constitutional justice, which is the main topic for today's symposium, is facing a hardship. A hardship of making 'constitutional justice' function in harmonious sense. This absolutely points towards us. All the AACC members must work even harder and altogether than ever.

In addition, our role in promoting constitutional justice was put to use in the sixth AACC Congress two thousand twenty four, Bangkok, Thailand. In that event, Bangkok Declaration was announced during the Congress' Closing Ceremony. This announcement highlights the evolution of Constitutional Justice in fostering a Sustainable Society. The AACC has always recognized the importance of ensuring access to justice as an effort to maintain sustainability in many areas such as climate changes and building a strong community. Ever since, we are moving forward in the twenty first century, we are trying to make sure that in the legal contexts, the Constitutional Courts, must also adapt and address environmental issues, which have a direct repercussion for the global community.

Now it is the right moment to wish a full success for the sixty third anniversary of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye and International Symposium. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Excellency's Kadir ÖZKAYA, the President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye, for the warm welcome and all the generosity that have been extended to us.

Thank you and have a good day.