

KU Leuven Model United Nations 2019

5 - 9 MARCH 2019

*A WORLD WITHOUT FRONTIERS: SOLUTIONS BEYOND BORDERS FOR
REGIONAL PROBLEMS GOING GLOBAL*

International Organization for Migration Study Guide

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Words of Welcome

Honourable Delegates,

We are delighted to welcome you to 9th annual conference organized by KU Leuven Model United Nations in March 2019. Our committee will simulate the International Organization for Migration (IOM), debating the topics of Human Trafficking in the Sahel, and Migrant Workers. Both topics are related to challenges each and every country of the world is concerned with. We strongly believe that the debate will be fruitful, full of passion and will give birth to several brilliant ideas.

We would like to reassure any delegate that would feel uncomfortable with taking the stage and speak in public. This committee will be your home for a few days; every staff member, chair or delegate will only be here to support you. Both of us will be here to encourage, support and help any delegate that would feel that need. We will take all the time you need to explain rules, details and make everything as clear as it can be, so you are not feeling lost.

Do not be afraid to speak and state your country's position, it will only improve your experience of the conference. Taking the stage will make you feel good, be assured of that. There is no shame in hesitating, missing a few words or taking a glance at your notes. Our committee will be home for some beginners and we want you to acknowledge that we all started there at some point.

We are excited to meet you in Leuven for an amazing conference this March.

Your chairs,

Stijn & Corentin

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Committee Overview

Created in the middle of the 20th Century after the Second World War and with the aim of regulating and organizing inter-state migration with the support of not only government but also non-governmental groups, the International Organization for Migration (hereafter IOM) is devoted to the protection of human life and secured and organized migration for anyone in need.

With 172 member states, and 8 more members with the status of observer, IOM works globally to ensure a safe and secured management of migration, through the promotion of international cooperation on migration issues. IOM also works in order to diminish migration problems, for instance by providing humanitarian help to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

IOM works under the belief that there is an obvious link between migrants and the economic, social and cultural environment but also with a fundamental right of freedom of movement.

There are four broad topics that are covered by the work of IOM, which are:

1. Migration and development,
2. Facilitating migration,
3. Regulating migration,
4. Forced migration.

In order to protect and promote the work achieved in all the countries IOM is settled in, there is a high need of promotion of international migration law, national policies, and the protection of human rights.

The International Organization for Migration has a mandate:

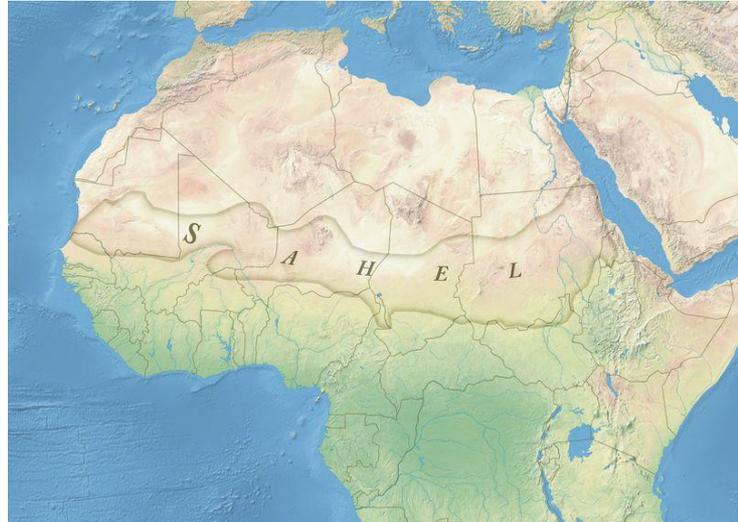
1. To collect and explain all the information needed for the general public to understand the stakes of migration. By doing so, IOM places the light over certain issues and puts them forward on the international stage.
2. To analyse and consider all actions taken on the national and international stages by actors for a greater cooperation, for solving the causes and threats of migration and a better protection of migrants.
3. To present recommendations to the UN Secretary-General and all other actors on how to reinforce national, regional and global work on the matter of migration. For instance, those recommendations will consist in a better comprehension of the importance of the protection and welcoming of migrants.¹

¹ As stated on the official website of the IOM (<https://www.iom.int/about-iom>)

Topic I: Human Trafficking in the Sahel

Introduction

The Sahel is a large arid region in the northern part of Africa. It is situated between the Sahara to its north and the subtropical regions of the continent to its south. It stretches over a large area and includes land in Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, South-Sudan, The Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Due to the lack of rainfall in this part of Africa the vegetation is mostly limited to different types of grass. This, in turn,



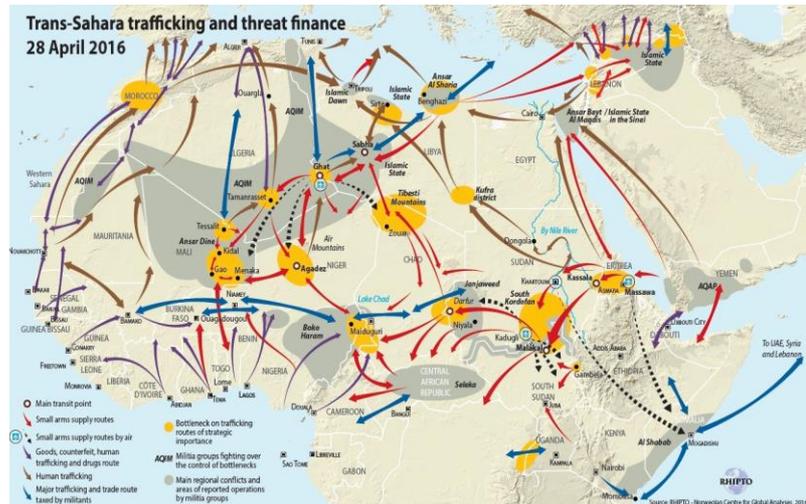
causes large wildlife to stay away from this region. When we put all these elements together, we do not get an environment that is hospitable to human beings, or at least large urban concentrations of them. Not many large towns can be found in this region of Africa, yet it is inhabited by many nomadic groups who use the grassy land for their cattle. They generally live their lives separately with respect to the rest of the country, outside urban areas. However, this constitutes one of the main problems the region faces. Because the people in this region are separated from society, they also fall outside government regulation. This makes the Sahel region a very interesting place for a wide variety of illegal activities, particularly trafficking of various goods as well as offering a safe haven for criminals and terrorists. Yet the incapability of governments in this part of the world to enforce their policies on the nomadic farmers living in the Sahel is also worth looking into.² Bad or badly enforced agricultural policy on the borders with the Sahara Desert has turned many once grassy lands into desert. This process is called desertification and is now happening more rapidly than before due to global warming. When the land these nomadic farmers can use decreases, they seek a better life in the cities. This leads to increasingly fast-growing populations within urban areas, which in turn puts pressure on the food and water supply in an already poor and dry region. All of this has led to endless conflicts,

² As stated in the article The lawless Sahel offers a vast sanctuary to Islamist extremists (<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/the-lawless-sahel-offers-a-vast-sanctuary-to-islamist-extremists-a-880056.html>)

famines and millions of displaced people. For the sake of simplicity, we will only address the conflicts in certain countries of interest.

Background

Instability reigns in central Africa and in the Sahel region; the situation is dire. Some of the worst human catastrophes, both in terms of violent crimes and harsh living conditions, are unfolding in this part of the world.³ What unites all of these conflicts is the use of food and water supplies as weapons against civilians, whose only



options are to endure the hardships or flee from them. The conflicts we are talking about are the Somali Civil War, the Yemeni Civil War, the South Sudanese Civil War and the insurgency of Boko Haram in Nigeria, Niger and Chad. However, Mali and the Central African Republic are in no way to be overlooked. All of these conflicts have displaced millions of people, both internally and in neighbouring countries. The bulk of refugees ends up in hubs situated in Niger, Mali and Chad, and from these hubs, refugees hope to cross the Sahara Desert into Libya in an attempt to get to Europe. Migrants find themselves in an extremely vulnerable position in these camps, and often fall victim of human traffickers, using the same routes that are used by criminals and terrorists to smuggle weapons, drugs and other goods like gold, ivory or cigarettes.⁴

Libya

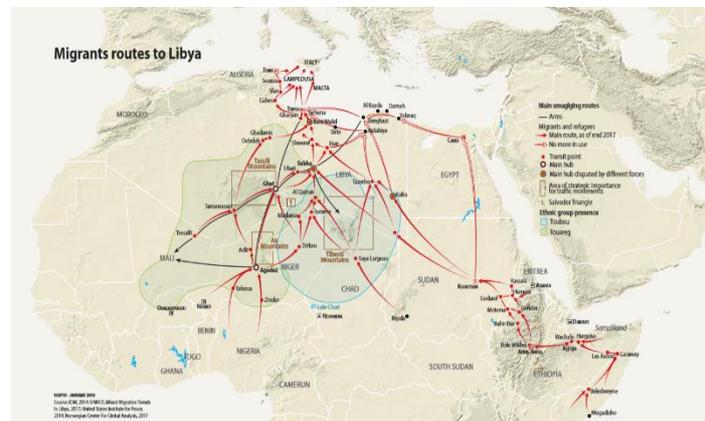
The route through Libya has always been a popular route to get goods from sub-Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean. It is also a passage for migrants to reach the Mediterranean, and afterwards to access Europe. All this illegal activity has rapidly increased in Libya since the collapse of the regime of Mu‘amar al-Qadhāfi in 2011.⁵ The Arab Spring did not spare the oil-rich nation from civil revolt. Al-Qadhāfi’s strict regime kept the northern borders closed to human

³ As stated in the article *The Sahel: one region, many crises* (<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/sahel-one-region-many-crises>)

⁴ As stated in the *Atlas of illicit flows* (<https://globalinitiative.net/world-atlas-of-illicit-flows/>)

⁵ Lambrecht, Jef. *De Arabische Revolutie*. Leuven: Van Halewyck, 2011

trafficking and other smuggling activities. After his demise the country fell into chaos without a strong central government to implement the law. In 2014, elections were held, which showed the greatly divided country. Subsequently, two rival governments with their own parliament were created, one in the Eastern city of Tobruk and another one comprised of multiple Islamist factions, including the Muslim Brotherhood supported by Qatar and Turkey, in Tripoli. Benghazi fell into the hands of the Islamic State in Libya near the end of 2014. With the country in such a divided state, traffickers could freely move arms, drugs and migrants inside Libya. This emboldened many migrants in Mali, Niger and Chad to risk the dangerous route through the Libyan desert. The ones who profit from the trafficking business are mostly the Islamic terrorist insurgency groups, among which there is a remnant of the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb (AQIM). The group has been driven from the coastal towns by US airstrikes but was able to maintain a strong presence in the desert. As the country remains unstable, the Islamic State and AQIM remain capable to operate, carrying out attacks as well as trafficking migrants, arms and drugs. Trafficking of migrants has become an incredibly lucrative endeavour: in 2015 EUROPOL estimated migrant trafficking to Europe to be worth more than 5 billion USD annually.⁶ A migrant pays between 500USD and 750USD⁷ to cross Libya and take a boat to Italy. However, what is most alarming about the Libyan situation is the phenomenon of open slave markets where people are sold for as little as 400USD.⁸ Many of the people who are sold as slaves entered the country as illegal/irregular migrants, but once they arrive, they are robbed of their valuables, tortured and put up for auction. Since there are many factions involved in the Libyan civil war, all of this can happen out in the open.⁹



⁶ As stated in the Atlas of illicit flows, chapter 8 (<https://globalinitiative.net/world-atlas-of-illicit-flows/>)

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ As stated in the article Migrants from west Africa being ‘sold in Libyan slave markets’ (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/10/libya-public-slave-auctions-un-migration>)

⁹ Map showing the routes most often used by migrants to get to Libya and routes formerly used by migrants for the same purposes. Retrieved from RHIPTO (https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/655326_9aeed5b4e3394a92aa70c5a2d815a207.pdf) and the Atlas of illicit flows (<https://globalinitiative.net/world-atlas-of-illicit-flows/>)

Mali

The Republic of Mali has always been a poor country, yet it used to be an example of democracy and stability¹⁰ for its region, but this is no longer the case today. The problems started in 2012 after Tuareg militias returned from their pro-Qadhāfi campaign in Libya. They started a new campaign, this time for the independence of Azawad in Northern Mali, even though they were represented in the government of Malian President Touré. A coup was staged against Touré, because of his apparent incapability to deal with the dissenters. In April 2012 the dissenters, under the name of Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad (MNLA),¹¹ succeeded in proclaiming independence. It did not last long, since their Islamist allies turned against them and defeated the MNLA in the summer. The Islamist Front was composed of many groups, most notably AQIM. The Islamists enforced strict sharia law and conquered more territory in Mali, while the army was unable to stop them. The Malian government ask for help and the French President François Hollande responded. The French military quickly drove out the Islamist forces from large cities, such as Timbuktu, and made relative peace return. The French sent home part of their forces, but the remainder was aided by a UN peacekeeping mission to defeat the last extremist groups still in Mali. In 2017 a new group entered the stage: Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wa al-Muslimin (hereafter referred to as JNIM).¹² It is a militant jihadist group, responsible for many attacks in Mali that sustains itself through human trafficking. In March 2017 the group pledged allegiance to al-Qā'ida (al-Qaeda). This group gained power after the last French troops left Mali and officially handed over the peacekeeping responsibility to Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Mali (MINUSMA).¹³ This peacekeeping mission has been the victim of several attacks by JNIM. The al-Qaeda affiliate controls the route from Mali through Southern Algeria to Sabha in Libya. The town of Sabha is an important trafficking hub in the Libyan Desert because it is where the route from East and Central Africa through Chad meets the route from West Africa. The town is controlled by multiple armed groups involved in trafficking.

Chad, Niger and Nigeria

Niger shares many aspects with Mali, in that its northern regions have fallen in the hands of Islamist militias. Until 2016, AQIM was the main controller of trafficking routes through Niger and Southern Algeria. Starting in 2017, AJIM took to the front in the trafficking route from West

¹⁰ Andrews, John. *The World in Conflict*. The Economist, 2017, pp119-121

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

Africa to Libya. However, it also has similarities with the situation in Chad, since there is a spill over from conflicts in neighbouring countries, as in the case of Nigeria and Mali. Chad is another story, as the country has been struggling to keep its internal peace but also stabilize its neighbours. It sent troops to Mali, Nigeria and supported proxy groups in Sudan. Chad is once again facing internal dissent from l'Union des Forces de la Résistance (UFR),¹⁴ an armed rebel coalition. After the disintegration of Libya there has been no shortage of weapons flowing into the country, which only adds fuel on the fire of the insurgency. Besides the internal challenges the country faces, it houses refugees from different African states, especially Nigeria. The most populous country of the African continent has been struggling for years, because of ethnic and religious tensions. Boko Haram, a jihadist group from Nigeria, has been plaguing the Niger Delta and sending thousands on the run. Many refugees flee to neighbouring Chad and Niger, but food provisions in both countries may turn out to be insufficient to sustain so many extra people.¹⁵

Other conflicts

Besides the conflicts mentioned previously, there are many other countries suffering from war in the Sahel region. They do not all face human trafficking on the same scale as Mali, Chad and Libya, yet the insurgency in those countries fuels the human trafficking market in the north. One of the bloodiest civil wars is going on in the Central African Republic where the mainly Muslim Séléka, an alliance of rebel groups (Séléka means coalition in the local Sango language¹⁶) and the Christian anti-Balaka groups (Balaka means machete in Sango¹⁷). Both efforts by the African Union, France and the United Nations have failed to bring stability.¹⁸ But even younger nations struggle to find internal peace. The country of South Sudan, that gained its independence in 2011, has fallen into disarray in an ethnic conflict that has put the president and the vice-president on opposite sides. The war has displaced an estimated 4 million people, of which around 2 million have fled to neighbouring countries.¹⁹ The situation in South Sudan is made worse by a practice that uses food as a tool of war. Many fields have been destroyed and certain parts of the country face a man-made famine, just as in Yemen, Somalia and parts of Nigeria. After the collapse of the Libyan dictatorship and the rise of human trafficking, there has also been a rise in the number of Eritrean migrants trying to flee from the despotic rule of President Isaias Afewerki.

¹⁴ Andrews, John. *The World in Conflict*. The Economist, 2017, pp102-104

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Andrews, John. *The World in Conflict*. The Economist, 2017, pp99-102

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

Migrant exploitation

Migration in this part of the world adds another layer of difficulties on top of the instability and violence. The people fleeing one country might transmit a communicable disease to the other and with weak healthcare systems in place, migrants can't count on much aid. This only puts more pressure on transit countries like Chad, Niger and Mali. Many of the migrants are also exploited on their journey, either by forced labour or sexual exploitation. In recent years the latter form of exploitation has been on the rise. In Africa the number of exploited female and male migrants is almost equal. More than half of the exploited migrants are children, most of them travelling alone. But it is hard to find trustworthy data on the situation in countries in North and West Africa.²⁰ Many of the migrants that get involved in sex trafficking end up in prostitution networks in Europe or the Middle East. A notable link in the chain are the infamous Nigerian sex trafficking gangs who exploit girls and women both in Nigeria but also in Europe. These women are controlled by traffickers through various means, such as threats, physical abuse, psychoactive substances, psychological abuse and debt bondage.²¹ Victims of forced labour fall victim to different means of control by traffickers: their earnings are taken, their documents are withheld, they are misled with false promises or people end up in slave markets such as the ones in Libya. This data does remain doubtful, as the instability of the region controlled by rebel groups does not allow for a good environment to establish research centres in order to collect information. Therefore, the IOM struggles to find correct information on migrant exploitation in this region. There are also a number of missing migrants and migrants without proper identification. Without this, it is hard to gather correct data, especially when migrants actively pretend to have different countries of origin in order to change their status from economic migrants to refugees.

Recent Developments

The Marrakesh Pact

From the 10th until the 11th of December, a conference was held in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh. In this city, a document was adopted and later that same month, in New York, that document was ratified with 152 votes in favour, 12 abstentions and 5 votes against. The main

²⁰ Graphs can be found on the site of the counter trafficking data collaborative (<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>)

²¹ Graphs can be found on the site of the counter trafficking data collaborative (<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>)

aim of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is to regulate migration to make it safer for the migrants and more humane in general. It wants to achieve this through 23 objectives, as presented in the GCM.²² However, some serious questions have been raised mostly by right wing parties in Europe, who fear it will only increase the influx of African and Arab migrants into the continent. It remains to be seen whether their fears become a reality. What is real are the notable votes against the GCM from the USA, Israel and three of the Visegrád Four: Hungary, Czechia and Poland. Jair Messias Bolsonaro of Brazil has also announced to withdraw from the Compact once his government is in power^{23,24}. More governments may follow as many possible host countries no longer want to take in more migrants. Even though the resolution is not legally binding, it does create soft law allowing judges to interpret law in line with the signed compact. While the international community could not reach a consensus that day, hopefully the honourable delegates of the International Organization for Migration at KULMUN 2019 will be more successful when creating their resolution. Perhaps we can reverse the trend of turning away from international initiatives to find solutions beyond borders for regional problems going global.

Questions an Outcome Document Should Answer

1. How can the IOM increase the safety of migrants and decrease their vulnerability?
2. What can be done to ensure a correct and steady flow of data on the safety, numbers and situation of migrants?
3. How can the health risks of commutable diseases be mitigated for host countries and migrants?
4. Which actions should be taken to keep migrants out of the hands of Islamic extremist groups funded by human trafficking?
5. In which ways can the smuggling of migrants be addressed, prevented and/or punished?
6. With which other international organizations can the IOM cooperate to tackle the problem?
7. How can the IOM engage local governments to collaborate in order to prevent human trafficking?

²² Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (<https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.231/3>)

²³ The announcement of withdrawal (<https://www.npr.org/2019/01/09/683634412/brazilian-president-bolsonaro-withdraws-from-u-n-compact-on-migration?t=1548937368012>)

²⁴ Tweet by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro (<https://twitter.com/jairbolsonaro/status/1082924268361519104?s=20>)

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"Forced displacement: refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people (IDPs)". European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what-we-do/humanitarian-aid/refugees-and-internally-displaced-persons_en

"Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", <https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.231/3>

"Migrants for sale: slave trade in Libya". Al Jazeera, <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/countingthecost/2017/11/migrants-sale-slave-trade-libya-171126063748575.html>

"The lawless Sahel offers a vast sanctuary to Islamist extremists". Der Spiegel, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/the-lawless-sahel-offers-a-vast-sanctuary-to-islamist-extremists-a-880056.html>

Williams, Wendy. *"African Migration Funds Criminal and Terrorist Networks"*, Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 13/10/2018, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/african-migration-funds-criminal-and-terrorist-networks/>

Several maps of the RHIPTO:

Libya: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/655326_72752949500f4542a6a4aac210b76277.pdf

Trans-Sahara Trafficking:

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/655326_b89cad5c8d4a4716ae0212f276029c26.pdf

Further Readings & Useful Links

Cockayne, Walker, James & Summer. *“10 Ideas for action by the United Nations Security Council.”* United Nations University, 2016,
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/655326_24dd1b137b524bccb5edee56ef98238f.pdf

Site of the Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative: <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>

Site of the International Organization for Migration: <https://www.iom.int/>

Topic II: Migrant Workers

Introduction

IOM is working towards a better comprehension of all state and non-state actors of migration. As there is a drastic increase of migration flows all over the world that is also coinciding with an economic crisis, there is the need for IOM to consider the way migrants are finding jobs and a protection of all migrants that are leaving their home country for any reason. This committee shall focus on ways to integrate migrant workers into the society. Indeed, the impact that they have on the society is not easily evaluated as long as they are not recognised by the local government. The integration of these migrant workers can have an impact on the native population that has to be monitored.

Migrating comes with a high cost and many migrants find themselves in a situation where they are in a dire need of income in order to live, and survive, wherever they are. With this need comes a huge insecurity. Indeed, there is a resurgence of modern-slavery, crimes and unsecured jobs for migrants.²⁵ As the body considering the policies that are needed to protect migrants, the reflection process regarding the protection of migrant workers falls under the jurisdiction of IOM.

For many decades, the perception of migration has been controversial. Even though the benefits that come from the flow of migrants are numerous, there has always been political and social considerations linking migrants to threats.²⁶ With the recent attacks all around the globe, public opinion ties migrants to terrorism. The number of international migrants increased by 40 per cent between 2000 and 2015.²⁷ There is therefore the need of recognising the benefits migrants are bringing to the host country. As a matter of fact, many Western countries need to increase the workforce and renew their youth because of a decrease in fertility rate.²⁸

In 2016, there were 25.9 million refugees and asylum seekers reported all over the world.²⁹ In 2017, there were 258 million international migrants.³⁰ Asylum seekers and refugees are

²⁵ <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

²⁶ <https://www.politico.eu/article/viktor-orban-interview-terrorists-migrants-eu-russia-putin-borders-schengen/>

²⁷ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-refugees-and-migrants>

²⁸ <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2017/07/12/why-europe-needs-more-migrants>

²⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/sep/10/migration-how-many-people-are-on-the-move-around-the-world>

³⁰ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20175.pdf>

recognized by national and international organisations³¹ as people suffering and fleeing persecutions in their home countries. Migrants include all kinds of individuals outside their country of nationality for any reason.

The migration data portal defines irregular workers as “non-citizens employed in regular jobs without authorization to work, such as foreigners who cross borders without detection and go to work without work authorization or with false documents. Some foreigners reside legally in a country and become irregular workers because their visas allow residence but not employment, as with foreigners who violate tourist visas by going to work.”³²

Background

In 1999 during its 54th Session, the UN General Assembly produced a resolution in order to protect migrant workers – and specifically women that often are prime targets of violence (A/RES/54/138)³³ – against discrimination, crimes and other rights violations. This first resolution regarding migrant workers is based on the recognition by the UN of the importance of migrants in the development of host countries. It emphasizes the benefits that a country can have from the flow of migrants, but also recalls that crimes against them are punishable by law. As such, the UN urges all countries to take into account the flow of migrants and to specify the rights they have once they are in the country in order for them to be fairly protected.

The UN often considered the question of migrant workers and the protection of their families³⁴ especially by emphasizing the importance of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families³⁵ that entered into force in 2003. The resolutions and conventions adopted show the increasing work produced by the United Nations along with national and supranational organisations in order to give a better protection to migrant workers.

Qatar

The situation in Qatar is highlighted by the spotlight put on the Football World Cup of 2022. The world is under pressure to verify the respect of human rights. However, in 2014, a death toll of

³¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/asylum-seekers.html>

³² <https://migrationdataportal.org/blog/irregular-migrant-workers-eu-and-us>

³³ https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/un/54/A_RES_54_1_38_en.pdf

³⁴ <https://www.unfpa.org/icpd>

³⁵ https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/un/54/A_RES_54_1_58_en.pdf

one Nepalese worker every two days was reported by the Guardian.³⁶ At that point numerous human rights observers were worried that the construction of the World Cup sites was causing the death of more than a worker every day in Qatar. The poor legislation on labour and especially on migrant workers was emphasized, particularly considering the conditions such as long hours, high temperatures, physical work... Even though legislation was passed after many human rights observers raised a red flag, there were still reports on the terrible working conditions mainly due to the fact that the legislation would allow the employee to have flexible working hours if he “agreed”, and this emphasises a problem since migrant workers are often under a lot of pressure. For instance, the law on labour stipulates that if one worker leaves duty without the permission of his employer, one can face criminal charges. Low incomes, long work days and the fact that the workers can hardly make any demand without facing sanctions are particularly worrying.

The United States

There were 10.7 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. in 2016, representing less than 5% of the total U.S. population that year. This flow of migrants includes 7.8 million unauthorized immigrants. Six states host almost 60% of the unauthorized migrants: California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey and Illinois. In a state like Texas, in 2014, the estimated unauthorized migrant share of the labour force was up to 8.5%, and over 10% in Nevada. In 2016, more than 70% of the unauthorized migrants were in the labour force according to several demographers.³⁷ The share of migrants working in sectors like construction or farming is estimated as significantly higher than the actual share in the global workforce. Those jobs are less secured and considered by authorities as less in need of regulation with respect to other low qualified jobs. Because of that, migrants are often victims of abuse by employers and as they are not recognized by the State they cannot complain. As in every other country, irregular workforce and migrants are not considered by the legislation and as such are doomed to suffer from their irregularity no matter how devoted they are to fit in the society.

Saudi Arabia

Almost 10 million migrant workers are filling jobs in the manual, clerical, and service sectors, up to more than 50% of the whole workforce in those specific sectors. With this percentage of workers, comes a considerable amount of abuses and exploitation, sometimes amounting to

³⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/23/qatar-nepal-workers-world-cup-2022-death-toll-doha>

³⁷ <https://migrationdataportal.org/blog/irregular-migrant-workers-eu-and-us>

conditions of forced labour. In March 2018, the Kingdom declared that it was planning the deportation of “foreign workers found in violation of existing labour laws, including those without valid residency or work permits, or those found working for an employer other than their legal sponsor”.³⁸ The government made clear that unauthorized migrants had to come to the authorities to stipulate their decision of leaving the country and if they would not, they had to face charges, from fines to deportation. About half a million undocumented workers in Saudi Arabia are Ethiopians who fled government abuses in their home country. Deportation would therefore have dangerous consequences for them.

Due to insufficient legislation, many migrant workers have been working in poor conditions, and many have been condemned to face sentences up to death penalty. In November 2018, Jakarta stepped in, fearing for the life of a dozen of Indonesian workers, following the execution of a domestic worker without any notification to the diplomatic delegation of Indonesia in Saudi Arabia.³⁹

European Union

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development reports that for the last decade the flow of migrants accounted for over 70% of the increase in Europe's workforce.⁴⁰ That flow is said to be vital for the economy of the European Union. There is a historic side to the story of immigration in Europe, as it has occurred several times that a member country called upon other countries outside of the current Union to reinforce its workforce. For instance, Germany invited labourers after the Second World War due to a lack of workers, whilst France asked for the help of many workers from Maghreb for the reconstruction of the country in the middle of the 20th Century.

With the current migration crisis dividing the EU,⁴¹ migrant workers are less and less considered as having a positive impact on society, causing a deterioration of their working conditions and recognition. The whole question of integration and recognition of migrant workers in the European Union depends on the common acceptance of their right to security and stability.

³⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/saudi-arabia>

³⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/10/indonesia-protests-saudi-execution-domestic-worker-181031094812124.html>

⁴⁰ <https://www.oecd.org/migration/OECD%20Migration%20Policy%20Debates%20Numero%202.pdf>

⁴¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/27/eu-migration-crisis-what-are-the-issues>

Recent Developments

“Migrant workers and their families must enjoy basic human rights during their journeys, in schools and in workplaces across the globe. Not only are migrants often denied the most basic labour protections, personal security, due process guarantees, health care and, in the case of their children, birth registration and education; they may also face abuses at international borders, and in some cases the risk of being trafficked, enslaved, sexually assaulted or even killed” asserted Mr. Tall, Chair of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in Geneva for the International Migrants Day on December 18th, 2018.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (also known as GCM), adopted in December 2018, points out in its Objective 6⁴² the importance of the protection and ethical treatment for all migrant workers. The Compact offers solutions and ways to promote a safer world for migrant workers around the globe, inviting all countries to comply to international law. The language used in the Compact and especially in Objective 6 shows a clear comparison between some situations of migrant workers and slavery.

The IOM is trying to work alongside other organisations in order to identify targets of modern human slavery especially through the prism of migrant workers as vulnerable targets. Modern slavery, also known as forced labour, is defined as "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily".⁴³ The IOM denounces a high number of people suffering from modern slavery, with a figure of 40 million in 2017.⁴⁴ Migrant workers are more susceptible to slavery in the sense that they are often looking for any source of income and job. Many of them are working in domestic work, manufacturing and construction, which are among the most vulnerable fields of work.⁴⁵

The IOM is fighting to end modern slavery⁴⁶ and avoid the abuse of workers around the globe, especially in a time of mass migration.

⁴²https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

⁴³ <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang--en/index.htm>

⁴⁴ <https://www.iom.int/news/more-40-million-modern-slavery-152-million-child-labour-around-world>

⁴⁵ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://www.iom.int/news/ending-modern-slavery>

Questions an Outcome Document Should Answer

1. What can be done to ensure a better protection of migrant workers?
2. How should unauthorized workforce be integrated into society?
3. Should migrant worker flows be regulated on the basis of qualifications?
4. Should migrant workers have more rights because of their impact on the economy?
5. Could IOM and the UN encourage countries to integrate more migrant workforce into the authorized workforce?
6. Should the employment of irregular migrants be considered as modern slavery?
7. What kind of initiatives should be prioritized to improve the integration of migrant workers?

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Further Readings

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/iom_snapshot_a4_en.pdf

Sample Outcome Document

The resolutions produced by the International Organization for Migration are similar to UN resolutions. Based on the idea of preambulatory clauses and operative clauses, they are meant to recall the work during the session.

The preamble is often more developed in order to recall all the work already produced on the topic and to reinforce the impact of it over what needs to be done and achieved collectively by the IOM, other UN bodies and national and regional authorities.

In the event the committee produces a general framework on the topics, we strongly advise you to take a look at this document as it is the format we would need to adopt, although not as complex and fully detailed:

<https://governingbodies.iom.int/system/files/en/council/106/C-106-40-Migration-Governance-Framework.pdf>

Resolutions produced by the IOM are meant to recall the work and reflection produced by the organization and make them official on the public stage. The production of frameworks aims at giving objectives to the authorities in charge.