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3 UPDATES

Developments at the United Nations

The report of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Migration Mr. Peter Sutherland, 2017

In February 2017, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland presented his report to the United Nations General Assembly. The report was developed over the course of nearly two years and is enriched by the ideas of numerous experts.

By making recommendations for the better management of migration through international cooperation, the report aims to show that migration need not be a source of fear and conflict, within nations or between them. The report makes practical suggestions on how willing coalitions of States, working with other stakeholders, can begin to tackle these priorities and gradually broaden the consensus on what a functioning international architecture for migration should look like in 2018 and beyond.

The report is divided into three major sections. The introduction section begins with an acknowledgement that societies worldwide would never have achieved their current level of development without migrants. The report acknowledges that migrants make an important contribution to their new homeland by doing jobs that are needed, paying taxes and often bring new ideas, which make for a more diverse and dynamic society. Through remittances, migrants also contribute to their countries of origin. Remittances have a critical role to play in ending poverty in all its forms everywhere (first Goal of the 2030 Agenda).

In conclusion, the report proposes ways of strengthening the engagement of the United

Nations on migration offers 16 recommendations for improving the management of migration through international cooperation. The report lays out 16 recommendations and He recommends among others, the Develop global guiding principles on migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrant children; Expand legal pathways for people fleeing countries in crisis; Building opportunities for labour and skills mobility by reduce recruitment costs and abuses of migrant workers; Strengthen the architecture to govern labour mobility For more see: <https://undocs.org/A/71/728>

Developments in the African Region

Statement by the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission), Commissioner Maya Sahli Fadel on the occasion of International Migrants Day 18 December 2017.

Taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world, International migration day is observed annually on 18 December since the year 2000. On this day, the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission), Commissioner Maya Sahli Fadel acknowledged that migration is an inherent feature of the human condition and despite efforts aimed at dissuading or putting an end to this phenomenon, it will persist so long as factors such as violence, poverty, discrimination, inequality, climate change, natural and other disasters continue to prevail.

Thousands of refugees and migrants die or are killed every year in the migration and flight routes that stretch from West Africa through Niger to Libya; from the Horn of Africa through the Sudan into Libya. In a report "Behind the Numbers, (2013)" the International Organization for Migration admits that determining how many die or are killed is "a great challenge", and that, at a minimum, 46,000 migrants have lost their lives or have gone missing worldwide since 2006. Smugglers and traffickers are an integral component of this movement; without them, refugees and migrants are generally unable to navigate the barriers many States erect to deter entry. Efforts should especially be deployed to address the root causes of migration and prevent the occurrence of tragedies such as the loss of human lives in the Mediterranean and the Sahara Desert.

As a way forward, she reiterated that African States which have adopted and ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) must provide effective protection to their migrant populations in accordance with Article 5 which guarantees the right of every individual to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and protects the individual from all forms of exploitation and degradation of man particularly slavery, slave trade, physical or mental torture. The Special Rapporteur calls on all stakeholders to treat migrants with the dignity that all human beings deserve, as enshrined in the African Charter and rooted in African values.

Statement by Commissioner Maya Sahli Fadel, Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa. See: <http://www.achpr.org/press/2017/12/d382/<>