



Southern China International MUN

Official Background Guide

Human Rights Council: Measures to mitigate immigration hurdles within the African Region associated with economic emigration.

Agenda overseen by Sean Holt

1. Description of Issue

1.1 History of Issue

Migration is a term used to describe the movement of people around the world. There is a difference between ‘immigration’ and ‘emigration’. For example, if a person immigrates, they ‘enter’ a country and, if a person emigrates, it means that they ‘leave’ a country. People leave their country of origin for many reasons, but a significant, traditional catalyst for migration is conflict. Further, people may migrate for social and cultural reasons, including religious, racial and ethnic persecution. Others may migrate because they are seeking better economic opportunities or are dissatisfied with the social structures in place in their country of origin. Some migrants choose to leave their country of origin, whilst others are forced.¹ The United Nations, hereafter referred to as the UN, classifies a migrant as ‘a person who has moved across a national border or moved away from their place of origin’.² The UN recognises that migration is often an empowering and positive experience for people, however, it also acknowledged that migration can be dangerous and challenging for those that choose to emigrate.³

Since the dawn of civilisation, individuals and communities have migrated. It is an innate human practice to migrate. Consequently, migration is now recognised as a fundamental human right. For example, whilst unenforceable, the UN Declaration of Human Rights identifies at Article 13(1), that ‘[e]veryone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.’⁴ Further, at Article 13(2), it is stated that ‘[e]veryone has the right to leave any country including his own, and to return to his country.’⁵

Migration is not necessarily a negative issue. In fact, migration can have positive consequences such as population growth in a low growth population area, cultural and social development, diversity, the introduction of important skills into an area, and further,

¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Migration and Human Rights*, <<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/MigrationAndHumanRightsIndex.aspx>>.

² United Nations, *Migration*, <<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/migration/index.html>>

³ *Migration and Human Rights*, above n 1.

⁴ United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, <<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>>.

⁵ Ibid.

migration can stimulate or revive an economy. However, migration can also pose a threat to an established community. Specifically, it can drain the resources of a community, flood the community with more people than it can support, and result in an oversupply of skills to an area. Such migration is to be understood as ‘unsafe migration’.

The incorporation of migration as a right in the UN Declaration of Human Rights conveys its importance in the current global milieu and reflects rising migration trends. In 2019, the global migration rate was 272 million.⁶ Given that now migration is widespread and that migrants are a vulnerable group, the Human Rights Council is presented with the challenge of discussing and creating measures to mitigate immigration hurdles, specifically those that arise in the African region in relation to economic migration.

Before turning to those hurdles, it is necessary to consider some of the factors identified by the UN, which motivate individuals to migrate. Such factors are reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is important to note that 11 of the 17 goals related, directly or indirectly, to migration. We consider some of those goals below:

The UN first development goal is relevant to the migration discussion and delegates should be familiar with this goal, namely ‘*[e]and poverty in all of its forms everywhere.*’⁷ It is not surprising that poverty has been articulated as the first goal; poverty, or the risk of poverty, is arguably at the heart of economic migration. Specifically, as stated above, one of the main reasons why people emigrate is due to economic failure or the threat or fear of economic failure in their home country. The economic opportunity that other countries provide engenders an attractive pull factor for emigrants facing economic uncertainty in their own home country. Whilst it is acknowledged that the causes of emigration are varied, there is a perception that the main reason why individuals emigrate is because of the existence of conflict and a failure of government and institutions in a person’s country of origin. However, an important often overlooked reason for emigration is economic opportunity and the existence, prevalence and threat of poverty.

It is important to consider that poverty is often a consequence of a corrupt and failed government, a corrupt and failed executive, and a corrupt and failed judiciary. These factors should be considered by delegates when exploring poverty as a reason for migration, specifically, economic migration.

People also migrate because they are seeking ‘*[p]eace, justice and strong institutions.*’⁸ This is the UN’s sixteenth goal and is relevant to the issue of migration. The focus of this goal is on promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions, increasing access to justice, promoting peace and unity, and providing appropriate mechanisms for individuals to access security, rights and opportunities.⁹ When institutions and structures do not function and are not subject to oversight, they are susceptible to corruption. People are therefore more likely to consider migration, because the very fabric of their country of origin is at risk, and they would seek a host nation which has strong, independent and impartial institutions in place. Therefore, delegates should discuss how to strengthen institutions in their respective country.

⁶ United Nations, *Migration*, above n 2

⁷ United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*, <<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/migration/index.html>>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>

Other UN goals, which are engaged and which should be considered by delegates during moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus, include UN goal numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15.

Statistically, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Africa (UNCTAD), '[i]n 2017, there were about 41 million international migrants from, to or within Africa. Of these, 19 million reside in Africa, 17 million were resident outside of the continent, and 5.5 million were immigrants from the rest of the world.'¹⁰

Africa is comprised of 54 countries.¹¹ It is the 'second-largest continent in the world, both by land area and population.'¹² Whilst extra-continental migration occurs, that is, African migrations immigrating to countries on other continents, importantly, migration in Africa is 'characterised by outflows primarily to other countries on the [same] continent.'¹³ For example, in 2017, 79 out of 100 immigrants were from Africa.¹⁴ In view of this, it will be incumbent on delegates to consider a unified approach in addressing the movement of people around the continent. The flow of people across Africa has direct ramifications for all countries. Therefore, a collaborative approach is necessary.

Further, some countries in Africa are 'sending' countries whilst others are 'receiving' countries.¹⁵ There are more 'sending' countries than there are 'receiving' countries.¹⁶ There are 37 sending countries and 17 receiving countries.¹⁷ The sending countries include, for example, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho and Somalia.¹⁸ Some of the receiving countries, include Mauritania, Cote d'Ivoire, Libya, Chad, Cameroon, Congo, Cabon, Angola, Botswana, South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.¹⁹ Delegates who are representing African countries will need to be particularly mindful of whether they are a sending country or a receiving country.

Relevantly, low unemployment rates and economic failure in Africa are the main causes of migration.²⁰ Migrants are prompted to move for employment opportunities. This is a key push factor. Further, as stated above, poverty is a significant contributing factor of migration in Africa. 73% of the total population earns \$2 a day and the remainder receives \$1.25 per day. Whilst healthcare, sanitation, food and water present significant issues in Africa, access to these are compounded in rural areas.

¹⁰ UNCTAD, *Economic Development in Africa: Migration for Structural Transformation*, <Economic Development in Africa: Migration for Structural Transformation>

¹¹ Note, there are two countries whose independence is disputed, namely, Western Sahara and Somaliland. See World Atlas, *How many countries are in Africa?* <<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-many-countries-are-in-africa.html>>.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ UNCTAD, *Economic Development in Africa: Migration for Structural Transformation*, above n 10.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

With these statistics in mind, Secretary-General of the UNCTAD, Mukhisha Kituyi, said, '[p]opulation movements across the borders often offer individuals a chance for a better life, with the social and economic benefits extending both source and destination countries, as well as future generations.'²¹ The Secretary General's comments highlight the importance of migration in that it can extend and develop a country and encourage growth which is beneficial. The alternative view is that migration can burden a society if it does not have structures and mechanisms in place to receive migrants. Delegates are tasked with implementing and creating structures and mechanisms so that the positives impacts of migration can be experienced by a receiving country to their fullest extent.

Migrants face innumerable challenges and hurdles upon entering a country such as:

1. Access to education
2. Access to social security
3. Access to legal representation
4. Unemployment, or poorly paid jobs
5. Poverty
6. Language barriers
7. Religious and cultural issues
8. Access to health care services
9. Access to social services, such as counselling services.

This is not an exhaustive list of hurdles. Other challenges, which ties in with numbers 3 and 6 above, is navigating the complex application process for permanent residency status or citizenship status in the new receiving country.

For instance, it is usual for migrants to take a literacy, numeracy and health tests before entering a country or even during a pending application for permanent residency. It is difficult for migrants to navigate these requirements without support. Additionally, another challenge is accessing social security from the host country.

1.2 Recent Developments

In 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the **New York Declaration (Declaration) for Refugees and Migrants**.²² The Declaration contained several commitments including the following:

- 'Protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status.
- Ensure that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival.
- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Support those countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants.
- Work towards ending the practice of detaining children for the purposes of determining their migration status.

²¹ UNCTAD, *Migration in Africa plays a growing development role, report reveals*, <<https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1761>>

²² Refugees and Migrants, *Global compact for migration*, <<https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>>, https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/1

- Strongly condemn xenophobia against refugees and migrants and support a global campaign to counter it.
- Strengthen the positive contributions made by migrants to economic and social development in their host countries.
- Improve the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to those countries most affected, including through innovative multilateral financial solutions, with the goal of closing all funding gaps.
- Implement a comprehensive refugee response, based on a new framework that sets out the responsibility of the Member States, civil society partners and the UN system, whenever there is a large movement of refugees or a protracted refugee situation.
- Find new homes for all refugees identified by UNHCR as needing resettlement; and expand the opportunities for refugees to relocate to other countries through, for example, labour mobility or education schemes.
- Strengthen the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration into the UN system.²³

The Declaration contained plans on how these commitments should be developed and integrated, specifically, ‘negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018.’²⁴ In 2018, UN Member States finalised the text for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (**Global Compact**).²⁵ The Global Compact contains 23 goals, all of which relate to migration, in particular, safe migration. One of the aims of the Global Compact is to address the push factors present in a person’s country of origin, which motivate people to leave and resettle in another country. Another aim of the Global Compact is to ensure that migrants are safe when overcoming migration hurdles, such as applying for permanent residency status, transporting themselves and their families to another country and settling in that new country. Such discourse should occur within the framework of human rights protection.

The 23 goals listed in the Global Compact are as follows:

1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin.
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation.
5. Enhance the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.
6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work.
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.
8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants.
9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants.
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.
11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner.

²³ Refugees and Migrants, *Global compact for migration*, above n 22.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral.
13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives.
14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle.
15. Provide access to basic services for migrants.
16. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion.
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries.
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.
22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits.
23. Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.²⁶

Delegates should be familiar with these goals and should be aware of what, if anything, their respective countries are doing to adhere to these goals.

1.3 Key terms

Whilst not necessarily discussed throughout this report, delegates should be familiar with the following terms. Delegates should also be familiar with the nuance between ‘refugee’, ‘asylum seeker’ and ‘migration’.

Organisations & key abbreviations

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (also referred to as the UN Refugee Agency)

IOM - International Organization for Migration

UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

Refugees and asylum seekers

Article 1 of the 1951 UN Convention relating to the status of refugees (**Geneva Convention**), as modified by the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugee, a **refugee** is a person who ‘owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.’²⁷

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ See the Geneva Convention and the 1967 Protocol. Also see, European Parliamentary Research Service Blog, *Refugee Status under international law*, <<https://epthinktank.eu/2015/10/27/refugee-status-under-international-law/>>.

There are a number of qualifying conditions in order for a person to be considered a refugee:

- 'presence outside the home country;
- a well-founded fear of persecution (being at risk of harm is insufficient reason in the absence of discriminatory persecution); and
- incapacity to enjoy the protection of one's own state from the persecution feared.'²⁸

Note, this definition of refugee purposely excludes internally displaced persons, economic migrants, victims of natural disasters, and persons fleeing violent conflict but not subject to discrimination amounting to persecution.

Conversely, an **asylum seeker** 'is someone who says he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitively evaluated.'²⁹

Internally displaced person/people

An **internally displaced person or people**, or **IDP**, is a person who is forced to flee their home but, as distinct from a refugee, they stay within their nation's borders. That is, they are displaced internally and seek protection from their own government. They face similar challenges to that of a refugee, including property and economic loss, subjection to persecution etc.³⁰

Migration, immigrants and emigrants

Migration is the movement of people around the world.

Immigration describes the activity of entering a foreign country.

Emigration describes the activity of leaving one's country of origin to live in another.

Push and pull factors

Push factors are the factors which motivate an individual to migrate. They might include things such as economic instability, corruption and poverty.

Pull factors are the factors which motivate an individual to choose a new country to reside in. For example, economic stability and opportunity, the existence of the rule of law and low rates of poverty.

The Global Compact

This is discussed above.

Net migration rate

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ UNCHR, *Internally Displaced People*, < <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/internally-displaced-people.html> >.

Each country possesses a **net migration rate**. A net migration rate is a difference between the number of immigrants (i.e. the number of people entering a country) and the number of emigrants (people leaving a country) throughout the year.

When there are more people entering a country than leaving it, this is also called a 'positive net migration rate'. When there are more people leaving a country than entering it, this is called a 'negative net migration rate'. If the number of people entering a country is the same as the number of people exiting a country, this is called a 'balanced net migration rate'.

Consider, for example, 10 people immigrate to Australia in 2018 (that is, they enter Australia) and 20 emigrate from the same country (that is, they leave Australia) in 2018. Australia would have a negative net migration rate for the year 2018.

Intraregional migration

Intraregional immigration describes the movement of migrants in one country. For example, from one city to another city.

Remittance

Broadly, **remittance** describes the activity of sending or transferring money to another party. In this regard, the provision of financial aid from one country or organisation to another country or organisation can be considered a 'remittance'.

Foreign aid is one of the most significant ways lower economically developed countries are supported and sponsored. Delegates should consider the importance of remittance and foreign aid more generally as a means to mitigate migration hurdles.

Immigration point system

An **immigration point system** is a system that many countries today use. A receiving country will attribute a certain number of points to an applicant based on their qualifications, skills, health, ability to speak the host nation's language, whether or not they share the values of the host nation and will also consider the applicant's country of origin. An applicant will be required to meet a certain point threshold to be eligible for resettlement in the new host country.

2. The emphasis of the Discourse

2.1 Right Wing Approach

The right-winged approach regarding migration is explained in an article published by 'Diffen', this article has drawn up a comparison chart on many different controversial subjects dealing with both the right & left approach. For migration, it states "[n]o 'amnesty' for undocumented immigrants; stronger border patrol and fence to check illegal immigrants."³¹ A belief that illegal immigration is lowering wages for citizens and documented immigrants'. The conservatives believe that the power lies within the government, additionally, the government has 'all the power'³². As a result, they are very strict with their regulations and border management policies.

³¹ Diffen, *Left Wing vs. Right Wing* <diffen.com/difference/Left_Wing_vs_Right_Wing>

³² Ibid.

An example of this would be: If a migrant is not able to provide the host country with their entry application, such as legal identity, work experience and health status, they are either denied entry and put into a detention centre or are sent back to the receiving country.

Diffen's explanation also gives another perspective supporting the left's. Illegal immigration is a very complicated process³³, procedures include leaving immigrants in a detention centre. Migrants are hosted in this place until they are able to complete their application, this is used in many countries today like **Australia** and **New Zealand**.³⁴ However, the quote also outlines another reason why conservatives dislike the idea of migrants. This is the negative impacts they can have on a country's economy. As stated before, migrants can be a burden of countries if the country cannot provide appropriate resources and employment to stimulate the economy. To control this, the left's use very strict tests similar to a 'point immigration system' to ensure that only migrants that benefit the country's economy are allowed entry.

For further explanation, an article was written by 'The Guardian,' '[w]hy the left is wrong about immigration' can provide delegates with a clear understanding of exactly why the right's belief in what they believe. The article uses a quote stated by David Good that sums up everything said in the article, '[m]ass immigration is damaging to social democracy, it erodes our national solidarity. What's more, welcoming people from poor countries into rich ones do nothing for global equality.'³⁵ Meaning that the conservatives feel that migrants are a burden on the country for multiple reasons, 'they are disliked upon the ideology of the right.'³⁶

2.2 Left Wing Approach

For the left-wing approach, 'Diffen' says; 'Pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants; moratorium on deportations or prosecutions of undocumented immigrants who are young adults and have no criminal record.'³⁷ The liberal's approach in one word is more 'lenient' meaning that they are happy to take down their restrictions and policies and make it easier for migrants to settle. The left approach is more based on equality and having equally paid employment.³⁸ In opposition to the right, the pew research centre says that 'countries who receive the most migrants say that they are more of a strength than a burden'.³⁹

In the same article published by The Guardian, it states that '[m]any readers on the left are sympathetic to these migrants.'⁴⁰ This empathy has also been stated by the United States President Donald Trump. The stance of the US is determined to depend if the migrant is able to provide their full application upon entry and if they are able to benefit the economy with past work experience. However, Donald Trump has stated in his speech on immigration that;

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ The Guardian, *Why the left is wrong about immigration*, <
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/mar/27/why-left-wrong-mass-immigration>>

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Diffen, *Left Wing vs. Right wing*, above n 31.

³⁸ Above n 31.

³⁹ Pew Research Center, *Around the world, more say Immigrants are a strength than a burden*, <
<https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2019/03/14/around-the-world-more-say-immigrants-are-a-strength-than-a-burden/>>

⁴⁰ Ibid

‘[w]e are out of space to hold them, and nothing to do instead of sending them back to their home country.’⁴¹ Some Americans are upset because of the uncontrolled immigration systems and that every day, America brings lots of skilled migrants with work lots of experience and specific talents and knowledge that they value.

When delegates are addressing possible solutions, they should be aware of their assigned country is either a liberal or conservative, or both liberal and conservative.

2.3 Stance of intergovernmental organisations

There are many intergovernmental organisations working to help migrants moving around the globe, but for the purposes of this report, we will look at the **IOM** and **UNCTAD**. However, delegates should have knowledge of any intergovernmental organisations that have a direct impact on their respective migration context. Both **IOM** and **UNCTAD** were established by the UN, and many countries participating in the **IOM** and **UNCTAD** scheme are African countries.

From the perspective of IOM there are four aspects of migration:

1. Migration and development
2. Facilitating migration
3. Regulating migration
4. Forced migration⁴²

IOM works in each of these areas. Through their work, they look to guarantee support to migrants, including, safeguarding their human rights and ensuring their safety and security. Established in 1951, IOM has 173 representative states and aims to promote the 23 goals articulated in the Global Compact and referred to above.

The **UNCTAD** is a part of the UN General Assembly and was established on 30 December 1964. According to the UNCTAD “About” page, ‘UNCTAD is aware of how migration has consequences in Africa, and look to promote migration entrepreneurship’⁴³. They have written several reports on both and the negative impacts of migration in Africa. Namely, “Trade, Migration and Development,” and “Economic Development in Africa: Migration for Structural Transformation.” UNCTAD is active in the migration space. In 2018, UNCTAD promoted and helped organise 30 programmes of which there were 253 projects. These were rolled out over 142 countries. UNCTAD looks to empower developing countries experiencing waves of migration so that migration can have a more positive impact on each economy, which in turn will impact the global economy.⁴⁴

In Geneva, Switzerland, on 10 July 2019, leaders from IOM and UNCTAD signed a Memorandum, a reminder or a letter to oneself or someone usually written by authorities. In this instance, both leaders of IOM and UNCTAD signed this memorandum for the purpose of

⁴¹ The New York Times, *Trumps speech on immigration and the democratic response*, < <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/08/us/politics/trump-speech-transcript.html>>

⁴² IOM UN Migration, *About IOM*, < <https://www.iom.int/about-iom>>.

⁴³ UNCTAD, *Promoting Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurship in East Africa*, < <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/Entrepreneurship/UNDA-Project-1819AV.aspx>>

⁴⁴ UNCTAD, *ABOUT UNCTAD*, < <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/aboutus.aspx>>.

sharing information.⁴⁵ The purpose was to improve partnerships and to collaborate in relation to migration efforts and to knowledge-share to mitigate migration hurdles and encourage trade and development. Such collaboration will enhance and promote ‘safe, orderly and regular migration’ as well as promoting and ensuring border management and a platform for new ideas and perspectives.

2.4 Stance of developed countries

Most developed countries have systems in place that control the flow of migrants into their respective countries. These systems usually involve a written application and may involve tests, including education and health care and may also include an interview. The purpose is to ensure which migrants are most suited to life in the receiving country.

As of 2017, 272 million people were considered to be migrants. 64% of this figure is now resident in a developed country. Notably, Asia, Europe and Africa receive the most international migrants. The migration does have benefits for a destination developed country. A key gain is boosting cultural diversity. Further, migration can boost the economy and fill a skill shortage.

On the other hand, immigrants who have moved to another country are not always familiar with the host countries traditions and cultures and cultural and language barriers may abound. This may lead to xenophobia. As said before, there are also hurdles and difficulties that migrants face when applying for entry, such as having to undergo numeracy and literacy tests and accessing social security.

The availability of countries for migrants to travel to vary depending on their country of origin’s geographical location. Countries for instance in the Pacific Ocean, like **Australia** and **New Zealand**, would be more difficult for migrants to travel to because these countries are remote and present a physical barrier – i.e the ocean – and a financial barrier – i.e. travel – which make it difficult for migrants to access these places. Economic migrants, travelling across continents like Europe and Asia would likely find it easier to travel due because the only barrier is an artificial border and it is also cheaper to cross these countries.

Briefcase study: South Africa

According to the World Bank, South Africa is classified as an upper-middle-income country and it is the second-largest developed country in Africa. From 2015-2020, South Africa’s net migration rate was calculated as 2,5 per 1000 habitants. South Africa is a member state of both UNCTAD and IOM. Like any other developed nation, South Africa has its own migration point system that grades a migrant on four different categories, namely:

1. The migrant should not have a criminal record
2. The migrant should not be destructive towards the countries policies or regulations
3. The migrant should be able to be employed and work sufficiently
4. The migrant should be a desirable inhabitant.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ UNCTAD, *UNCTAD, IOM strengthen efforts to maximize migration benefits*, < <https://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=2143>>

⁴⁶ South African High Commission, *Immigration*, < <https://www.sahc.org.au/immigration.htm>>

All migrants who apply to enter South Africa are awarded points in accordance with the above four requirements. The current population of South Africa is 57 million. In 2017, 3.1 million migrants from the continent of Africa migrated to South Africa.⁴⁷ This is an oversupply of migrants and South Africa does not have the capacity in terms of resources and infrastructure to play host to such a significant number of migrants. Migrants entering South Africa face unemployment, lack of access to education, lack of access to legal representation, lack of access to health care, lack of access to food and basic sanitation, lack of access to housing and extreme poverty.

2.5 Stance of developing countries

For developing nations in Africa, the emigration to another country poses a potential threat. For example, if all educated people migrate from an African country to another, whether they migrate outside or inside the continent, the country is effectively robbed of its educated class. This means that there is a skill shortage and this has broad ramifications for the country's stability, this is called a 'Brain Drain'. It becomes even harder in this context for citizens to access education, legal representation and health care if those trained in these areas, namely, teachers, lawyers and doctors have sought economic opportunities in other countries. From the perspective of a developing country, emigration can pose a significant risk to its nation's ability to function. In terms of immigration, if the developing nation does not have the resources, policies, procedures and infrastructure in place to support immigrants arriving in their country, then it is foreseeable that that country's economy is at risk of collapse. This is due to the oversupply of migrants to a country which is not equipped to resettle a group of individuals. Such an outcome is not desirable.

Delegates should be familiar with the risks that emigration and immigration pose to their country if they are representing a developing nation and should also consider what strategies they can implement to mitigate such risks.

Briefcase study: Eritrea

After Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993 and as of 2019, the president of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, receives most of its support from Arabian countries. In Eritrea, it is mandatory for all citizens to attend the military. The poor economic opportunities in Eritrea result in more than thousands of young people leaving the country, with the net migration rate lying at -11,6 per 1000 habitants. Most of these Eritrean emigrates attempt to settle in a country which is a participant of the European Union and, more particularly, Germany and Italy⁴⁸. The push factors, for these migrants, include poverty, social and cultural instability, political pressure, lack of political. Eritrea is one of the poorest countries in Africa and it is not surprising in this context that it experiences a high rate of emigration.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ United Nations University, *Families' migration nightmares: Eritreans en route to Europe*, <<https://www.merit.unu.edu/families-migration-nightmares-eritreans-en-route-to-europe/>>

3. Possible Solutions

3.1 In Favour of Developed Countries

To start off, the Global Compact's 23 goals for safe and orderly migration are the beginning steps to mitigate hurdles that migrants face when moving. Each objective is aimed to make sure that the movement of people around the world is done so safely. For these goals to be efficient and effective, developed nations should pay more attention to:

1. Goal 1: Developed Countries have the appropriate resources to help the UN further develop research centres and databases to improve the process of collecting data and separating it regarding its categories.
2. Goal 2: Once again, most developed countries are on the receiving end of economic migrants because they have better economic systems and opportunities. These countries whose economy runs smoothly can provide sending countries advice for their economies. As well as support to help the UN establish monitoring systems to analyse push factors that result in emigration.
3. Goal 6: This is a very big challenge that migrants encounter when arrived in a host country, and it is a goal that developing nations can ensure that migrants have equal rights for employment than others.
4. Goal 12: This is very important; another hurdle is the poor communication between the migrant and the communities that they are applying to. All developed nations can implement sufficient border management and further develop how their immigration systems work. By improving these systems, it will make applying for visas and entries from migrants less difficult and movement would be more orderly.
5. Goal 13: This objective is in some way related to Goal 12, in further developing and improving a countries system of migration entry.

A short-term solution for developing countries who receive migrants might be to distinguish clearly the difference between an asylum seeker, refugee and economic migrant because the push and pull factors for movement for each of these categories of persons are completely different.

In conclusion, for developed nations, a way to take down hurdles that migrants have to face is to make sure that the systems implemented to process applications are managed appropriately so that the host country effectively controls the flow of migrants.

3.2 In Favour of Developing Countries

Developing nations can also drive assistance by considering the 23 goals in the Global Compact. Developing countries in Africa should have an in-depth understanding of goal 2, namely 'understanding and analysing the reasons for the movement of persons out of a country and to prevent and alleviate these motives and push factors. The actions that developing nations can take are broad and varied; however, there are some things that developing nations can do to prevent economic migration including:

1. Accepting the UN's advice on possible policies and regulations for economic development
2. Allowing monitoring systems to be implemented into a country to be fully aware of what are the motives for leaving.

3. Understanding the environmental challenges, and how they can have effects on the country's economy.

5. Keep in mind the following

The relevance of your country towards the topic will vary depending on whether you are an African nation or not. However, all perspectives, issues and views are respected. Delegates are reminded to be courteous and respectful at all times and to practice the values of the UN.

When researching your individual country, consider the following points:

1. Is your country located in Africa? Is it a developing nation? Is it a developed nation? Is it a receiver or sender of migrants?
2. Broadly, what is the social, political, cultural and economic status quo of your country? Is your country a low economically developed country or a more economically developed country? How do these factors impact your country's approach to the topic? In order to enhance your understanding of this topic and to inform yourself of your country's specific position, focus on the policies and programmes that your country has implemented and considered whether these are effective.

Please consider the following questions when conducting your research:

1. What is the net migration rate of your country? Is the net migration rate negative, positive or balanced? Is this bad or good for your country?
2. What are the specific hurdles facing migrants entering or exiting your country? What are the specific hurdles more broadly facing migrants entering or exiting countries in Africa?
3. What is the particular push which motivates individuals to leave their country of origin? What are the pull factors?
4. Are there geographical considerations which make it difficult for individuals to physically move from one country to another? What are those geographical considerations?
5. Consider the prevalence of smuggling and trafficking. Are migrants – either entering or exiting – at risk of being smuggled or trafficked? If so, what can your country do to meet this risk?
3. What specific measures should be made by both developed and developing nations to improve policies, infrastructure and systems to meet the migration wave?
4. Is your country open to monitoring systems to collect data in respect of migration?
5. Is your country open to providing aid? If so, what type of aid? What is your commitment?
6. How can you use the Global Compact's 23 goals?

Note, migration is a Human Right, because we in the HRC, delegates should consider migration from the Human Rights perspective.

5. Evaluation

Migration is the movement of people around the globe. This movement is due to cultural, social, political or environmental factors. The focus of this report is on economic migration. Economic migrants leave because they do not see economic stability and opportunity in their country of origin. This is a significant motivation. Economic vulnerability is due in part to corruption and

ineffective governments. In view of this, delegates should consider how they can strengthen internal and external structures. Currently, Africa has the highest rate of economic migration. Delegates should be conscious of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically, the tenth goal, when debating throughout the Conference. This goal states that the UN is concerned with “the promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration”. Remember, ‘*[m]igration is a process, not a problem*’.

Delegates should represent their assigned countries and come prepared with creative and clever solutions to debunk and resolve this topic.

Good luck!

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