

ECOSOCC CIVIL SOCIETY PRE-SUMMIT 2018

CAIRO COMMUNIQUE- POPULAR VERSION

Preamble:

"Members of Civil Society

Guided by the framework of the African Union Convention for the Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which provides a framework for interaction between State and Non-state actors in executing roles and responsibilities in service of Internally Displaced Persons

Conscious of the need for ECOSOCC to actively engage all members of society to ensure the nurturing of a culture that does not marginalize persons based on political affiliation, social grouping or economic status, from being positive members of society

Committed to promoting the Global Core Humanitarian Standards; especially Standard 3 that states 'Communities and people affected by crisis are not negatively affected and are more prepared, resilient and less at-risk as a result of humanitarian action.' **and**

Building on the successes of its engagement in popularizing the AU Theme of the Year 2018, 'Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation', through its National Chapters and other thematic programmes, ECOSOCC organized its annual Pre-Summit on the 2019 theme "Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement" in Cairo from 29th to 30th October 2018.

KEY DELIBERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

On Women & Youth

- Young people and women are the most vulnerable and mostly affected socially, economically, physically and emotionally in conflict situations. Human rights violations such as gender-based violence, sexual abuse; denial of access to basic human needs such as food, protection, shelter and health are more pronounced on women and young people who are transient and in conflict situations.

- The consequences of war, conflicts and unemployment; have led to the phenomenon of exponential migration by African youth both within and out of the continent.
- Migration of young people and women creates large vacuum of much needed skills and labour in the countries of origin, prevail grounds for crime, and present insecurity challenges in the host countries.

On Diaspora & Remittances

- Many African governments do not recognize the contribution of their diaspora in their national development plans, some do not accept dual citizenships and cost of sending remittance are very high and these needs to be addressed as diaspora are contributors to national budgets and that of grants from multilateral and bilateral sources
- African Union and the AUC are not enforcing regulatory frameworks for migration to happen between African countries and no sufficient measures for regularization are in place to increase safe, orderly, and regular migration and reduce vulnerabilities

On the Migration Saga in Africa

- Considering that migration is inevitable and only need to be supported by a well-structured policy that guarantees rights and benefits by the migrant and the receiving country in order to avoid all the discomforts brought by certain migrations. So far, the nexus of efforts in Africa has put primary emphasis on Member States, intergovernmental fora and relevant international agencies and have given rise to a disconnect with the phenomenon at the grassroots. Therefore, there is a need for a bottom up approach to evolving solutions thus addressing the fundamental roots of migration and its push and pull factors through appropriate governance policy and by strengthening the educational systems and mounting awareness and sensitization campaigns that paint realistic images of migration.

On Climate & Disaster Related Displacements

Climate Change is driving forced migration in Africa. According to a 2018 World Bank report, climate change could displace about 86 million people in Africa by 2050. Unpredictable weather patterns, incessant flooding, prolonged drought & sea rise are increasing crop failures, internal displacement and economic collapse. It will cause more displacements in the continent especially among SIDS such as Seychelles and Mauritius. Adequate adaptation and mitigation measures are crucial to forestall monumental loss among Member States.

ECOSOCC Recommendations

1. To call all its National Chapters to commemorate the various Africa commemorative days; namely, Africa Refugee Day (20 June), African Women's Day (31 July), and Africa Youth Day (01 Nov) around the theme of the year 2019. Further for 2019, ECOSOCC to advocate for the domestication of the Migration Policy Framework through its various outreach channels.
2. To host annual Exhibitions/PR events on the occasion of the Africa Day (25 May) and showcase the African Union and the Agenda 2063, and communicate the status of ratification of AU Treaties to the local media
3. ECOSOCC to spearhead the Refugees Goodwill Initiative (RGI); a humble endeavour to donate an agreed percentage of mission DSAs (on Statutory Meetings) to African IDPs via the AU Commission
4. National Chapters to convene public-private dialogues on the Sendai Framework and disaster risk reduction to encourage greater partnership/ collaboration between the private sector and public sector, prior, during and post disasters and eventually help in mitigating the negative impacts of environment related displacements.
5. Request all African Member States to adopt and implement actions to reform regulation, facilitate regular migration using effective measures for same to take place among African countries and establish a penalization mechanism for countries that violates the regulatory framework and to expand regular avenues for migration to happen between African countries as well as putting in place measures for regularization that will increase safe, orderly, and regular migration while reducing vulnerabilities.
6. Urge remittance stakeholders including: diaspora, Money Transfer Organisations (MTOs), commercial banks, central banks, governments and regional and international regulatory authorities to work together in a transparent and purposeful manner, to facilitate and ensure that effective cost reduction tools and techniques are made available for immediate adoption and implementation in all African countries to achieve the 3% by 2020, but also to collect a 0.5% levy for refugee and displaced peoples programme.
7. National Chapters commit to lobby with respective governments to develop national specific Risk Reduction and psycho-social measures and packages for returnees, migrants and refugees.

8. Calls upon the AU to identify Global Experts (including the Diaspora), Youth Ambassadors, and Opinion Leaders to raise awareness and build consensus on issues on migration, youth and women transiency in conflict situations.
9. ECOSOCC to advocate for the development of a comprehensive database at continental level that will be escalated to national level for policy formulation and development of responsive measures to issues of migration and conflict situations.
10. Call for more collaboration and coordination on human rights issues between ECOSOCC and the African Commission on Human & People's Rights and the African Group in defending Africa in the Human Rights Council
11. To commission a study on climate-induced displaced in Africa and the possibility of Climate Refugees in continent so as to provide statistical data as to the issue that will aid strategy and future planning for Member States and mitigate problems arising due to environmental causes of displacements
12. ECOSOCC to foster relationship with civil society platforms that deal with Disaster Risk Reduction, e.g. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Civil Society Platform, to ensure that all elements of society are engaged in reducing the risk of displacement as a result of Natural Disasters and effects of Climate Change.
13. Whilst recognizing efforts made by the African Union in addressing migration through a Policy Framework, the AU ECOSOCC strongly recommends the establishment of a multi-stakeholder dialogue process to develop solutions and implementation programs that would enable success and sustainability
14. ECOSOCC further recommends that, in the interim, AU efforts and programs must recognize the need to feed effectively into the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration that is scheduled for December 2018. In this context, there is a need to place migrants' rights at the heart of the enterprise and to take appropriate measures to ensure global respect for human rights within the framework of migration in the interest of common humanity.