

Background Paper

Committee: General Assembly

Topic A: Reforming Immigrant Policy Worldwide

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Since the beginning of humanity, humans have migrated towards other nations in order to satisfy their needs. The numbers of immigrants are growing meanwhile opportunities for legal migration decrease. Economic and social factors such as war, lack of jobs or of resources are the main reasons why people migrate. In addition, global migration trends are also influenced by political instability and conflict. Accepting migrants has positive and negative consequences, and these depend on the receiving country's migration policy. The General Assembly looks for delegations to analyze world issues and consider a reinforcement or a softening of international agreements and worldwide policies. Delegates should debate considering how could this aid migrants in need. The urgency of a solution is crucial because everyday, more and more people have to leave their homelands, seeking a better life, while they are being discriminated against, living in deplorable humanitarian conditions and waiting for asylum to be granted.

Latin America is experiencing critical migration exodus. The poverty of the region, political instability and insecurity are prompting hundreds of thousands of people to try to migrate to the United States. Conflicts in the Middle East are filling Europe with millions of migrants mainly because of war and poverty in their countries. The Global Compact for Migration was signed in December 2018 where most of the member states of the United Nations agreed to protect undocumented migrants and guaranteeing their human rights with the objective of addressing migrant flow channels integrally and internationally for the first time in history. The United Nations urges member states to seek a solution because of the considerable rise of migrants in the past two decades that has gone from 173 million to 258 million worldwide. In addition it is evident that migration leads to human trafficking, racism or violations of human rights.

Approximately 500,000 undocumented migrants enter the European Union every year, and equivalent numbers have been infiltrating the United States since 1990. The European Union has a migrant policy which states that the first country that a migrant lands in has the obligation to provide humanitarian aid and process all required documentation. Italy and Greece have been significantly affected because the majority of migrants from the Middle East and Africa arrive via water through the

Mediterranean Sea to these two countries. Some delegations like Germany and France have decided to address this issue but still, most of the EU member states are not willing to negotiate the Dublin Agreement. Latin America is experiencing a huge humanitarian crisis, and all the lights are pointing to Venezuela. Poverty, inflation, insecurity and unemployment are the main reasons why five thousand people leave Venezuela daily. While there are countries like Ecuador that have accepted freely immigrants from Venezuela even without passports, Brazil has denied and reinforced their migrant policy to prevent their entrance to the territory. Migrant caravans from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador are travelling hundreds of kilometers to reach the U.S. and ask for asylum. But yet, this has created a huge conflict between the Mexican and the American governments. The U.S. is pressuring Mexico to become a *safe third country* and has applied enough pressure to make the Mexican government reinforce their migrant policies and send the army to block the migration routes despite the possible violations to human rights. After all these, immigrants in Mexico are still awaiting a response from the U.S. while suffering from discrimination and violence. In response to the historical numbers of asylum requests, in 2019 México launched the *Plan para el Desarrollo de Centroamérica* which will give 90 million dollars annually to countries with high numbers of migrants leaving to address the main inner causes of these exoduses such as insecurity, unemployment and poverty.

The UN launched the Global Compact for Migration with the collaboration of most of the member states but after signing it, some delegations have declined participation in this multilateral agreement such as the United States, Australia and Brazil. Most of the time, migration is not a choice, it is only the search for safety, better opportunities, life quality and the satisfaction of needs that could not be obtained in the home countries. Millions of lives are at a high risk everyday and all of them depend on the policies that countries adopt.

Since in the past decade, the number of migrants worldwide has increased considerably political instability has been created among the international community. People are forced to abandon their homes, families, culture and traditions because of external factors that are out of their control. Millions of people are beginning a dangerous journey everyday looking for a better life and it is the responsibility of each country to assure their rights. The United Nations urges the international community to reach an agreement to protect all these people through policies that are beneficial to all member states.

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