

HDIM 2012

Working Session 3: Humanitarian issues and other commitments including:

- Migrant workers, the integration of legal migrants;
- Refugees and displaced persons;
- Treatment of citizens of other participating States

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Working Session 3 was devoted to issues of migrants, refugees, displaced persons (DPs) and the treatment of citizens of other p.S. The introducer, Dr. B.Kaiser, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of International Relations at Istanbul Kemerburgaz University underlined that migrants are engaged in transnational activity which is increasingly interlinked with the issue of integration. Transnationalization poses challenges for migrants and both sending and receiving states should be involved in the process of integration. The 9.11 events changed the security discourse with regard to migrants who became increasingly stigmatized and led to their exclusion from political participation. Granting liberal citizenship regimes to integrate migrants and, in this context, the importance of double and multiple citizenship were proposed as solutions for their integration.

Furthermore she made a brief overview of the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the OSCE region, with an emphasis on the current refugee flows from Syria.

36 interventions were made after the introducer, of which 20 by non-governmental organizations. In addition, five participating States made use of their right of reply in response to prior interventions.

It was indicated that in 2011, worldwide an estimated 42.5 million persons had unwillingly left their homes or remained in exile due to the threat of persecution, serious human rights violations or conflict. In addition, out of an estimated 12 million people around the world who did not possess a nationality and were denied the enjoyment of rights as citizens, 4.8 million people were from the OSCE region. Moreover, dramatic events across the Middle East and North Africa in recent years have caused hundreds of thousands of persons to seek asylum in other countries. Some participants mentioned that protracted conflicts in the OSCE region and forced migration because of natural disasters are also among the reasons for displacement of a large number of people in the world.

Many delegations informed about the work undertaken by their governments to protect migrants, refugees, internally displaced and asylum-seekers. A large number of participants supported the need of close collaboration between countries of origin and transit of migrants, promoting the link between migration and development, and the promotion of international protection, adopting integration policies, finding durable solutions for refugees, providing access to public services etc. as a means to deal with challenges in this sphere. A group of participants highlighted that a comprehensive approach would allow the development of partnerships covering balanced management of legal migration, the fight against illegal migration, the

promotion of the link between migration and development, and the promotion of international protection.

Some countries shared their successful experiences and best practices, including those implemented at the regional level, on dealing with the problem of refugees and displaced persons.

NGO representatives noted that the most acute issues faced by these vulnerable groups of people are the rise of xenophobic and racial discrimination, a lack of access to housing, jobs, documentation and social protection.

Some participants criticized several participating states for insufficient and ineffective protection of human rights of migrants and refugees, as well as for an over-reliance on detention and deportation measures. A few speakers underlined that participating States should not extradite refugees and asylum-seekers to countries where they may potentially face torture. Finally, it was noted that developing more humane policies of regulation of integration, including naturalization as well as a more co-ordinated co-operation of the OSCE with relevant international and regional organizations, including UNHCR would bring more effective results in coping with these challenges.

Recommendations to the participating States:

- Update existing instruments concerning internal displacement and development of new measures, including on displacement due to natural disasters;
- Put more emphasis on policies of inclusion and increased opportunities for political participation of migrants, refugees and displaced;
- Transnationalize migration policies and shift political discussions from multi-culturalism to inter-culturalism;
- Ease access to double and multiple citizenship;
- Provide special protection for women and children who are an especially vulnerable group among IDPs and refugees;
- Conduct more academic research on migrants, refugees and displaced;
- Refrain from deporting refugees or asylum-seekers to countries where they may face mistreatment;
- Utilize ODIHR's program Training Against Hate Crimes for Law Enforcement.

Recommendations to the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:

- Devote a separate human dimension event or side-event at the HDIM to the issues of women or children migrants as a most vulnerable group;
- Establish closer collaboration with UNHCR and other relevant organizations;
- ODIHR should continue to monitor hate speech with regard to these groups.