



ODU United Nations Day 2016 Issue Brief



Addressing Undocumented Migration

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Introduction

With over 60 million people around the world forced from their homes, officially declared refugees or internally displaced, and hundreds of thousands trying to migrate at any moment in times, the world faces an enormous humanitarian challenge. The challenges also are great for Member States, where conflicting political pressures divide societies and threaten governments. Undocumented migration is an especially tricky issue for the international community. The UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) faces some of the greatest demands and weakest funding of any agency in the UN system. Enduring solutions has been elusive, especially in the facing of rising global conflict and economic pressure.

Irregular or undocumented migration is happens outside the regulatory norms of sending, transit, and receiving countries.¹ This concept occurs in four main forms: as unauthorized entry, entry with false documents, visa overstaying, and violations of the terms and conditions of a visa.² The same reasons for legal migration apply to

irregular migration: overpopulation, poor living conditions, persecution due to ethno-political conflict, and environmental disasters.³ What encourages migrants and asylum-seekers to skip the legal procedures is the extensive bureaucracy involved with the migration policy of some countries. Instead of awaiting for months the issuing or renewal of the legal documentation, migrants and asylum-seekers find other ways to cross the border and slip the government radar.

The differences between the desired outcomes of the official immigration policy and the actual outcomes are not restricted to undocumented migration. Because of its illegitimate nature, illegal immigration fosters the emergence of criminal economic activities, such as migrant smuggling, or activities with social impact, for example illegal employment. Unarguably, the most important of those by-products of official policy are humanitarian crises taking place on the borders. Losses of migrant lives in the ocean, human rights violations in detention centers, exploitation of migrants by smugglers and employers are pressing issues that a single government, whether of a sending, transit, or receiving country, cannot solve on its own.

¹ International Migration Law. "Glossary on Migration." International Organization for Migration. (Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2004), 34-35.

² Martin Baldwin-Edwards. "Towards a Theory of Illegal Migration: historical and structural

components." *Third World Quarterly* 29, no. 7 (October 2008): 1450. Business Source Complete, EBSCOhost.

³ *Ibid.*, 1453-1454.



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Aiding migrants stranded in the Mediterranean

Current discussions include the protection of the human rights of migrants, elimination of migrant exploitation, and the plight of stranded migrants in countries of transit or destination. To achieve that, partnerships at all levels –bilateral, regional and multilateral- and especially between countries involved in the movement of migrants need to be formed and the migration evidence database needs to be strengthened through improving data collection and analysis.

History

Immigration policies exist as an attempt to restrict illegal migration. In general, when destination countries face lack of labor force, domestic interest groups advocate the adoption of more lenient policies. Such interest groups consist of powerful employers, religious and

ethnic group, as well as labor unions. As a result, irregular immigration seems to drop. When public opinion towards immigrants and asylum-seekers is negative due to high unemployment and crime rates, destination countries take up stringent policies in order to reduce the flow of immigrants, which encourages undocumented migration. Depending on the prevailing interest of the time, market needs versus public opinion, immigration policies worldwide allow or restrict the free movement of people.

The 20th Century started with waves of regulations and limitations to immigration in the Americas and Europe. In 1907, Japanese immigration became restrictive in the U.S. and soon restrictive immigrant legislations followed in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, and the UK.⁴ During World War I, strict policies were

⁴ Ibid., 1450.

developed to monitor the movement of people even on a regional level by Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the U.S.S.R.⁵ At the end of World War I, the **International Labor Organization (ILO)** was established in 1919 to minimize the exploitation of workers in the industrializing nations of the time.⁶ Migration from Asia to the Western World decreased in response to the restrictive measures, but movements of people within Asia continued: Japan recruited around 40,000 workers from its then colony, Korea, between 1921 and 1941, and people from densely populated Chinese provinces migrated to Manchuria.⁷

The end of World War II marked the creation of the first international organizations to control and record migration. The European Court of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions guarantee human rights for migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers.⁸ The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** was created in 1951, known then as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), to help European countries find a resettlement for the estimated 11 million people uprooted by the war.⁹ The ILO provided the framework for good practices while hiring temporary labor from foreign countries. During decolonization, European countries received large amounts of workers from Asian countries based on the previous colonial empires: France from Vietnam, the Netherlands from Indonesia, and the UK from the Indian subcontinent and Hong Kong.¹⁰ At this time, Southern Europe was exporting labor too, mainly to Northern Europe. In the Americas, the influx of undocumented migrants from Central America, particularly

Mexico, captured the attention of the government. Undocumented migration or workers with overstaying visas were facing discontent by the locals, but their inexpensive, manual labor was much needed for the markets of the Western World.

At the turn of the millennium, the European Union (EU) adopted the **Schengen Agreement**, which guaranteed the free movement of people within the EU abolishing all internal border controls.¹¹ This agreement made Northern Europe even more attractive to immigrants, who now aimed at reaching Southern European countries, namely Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. These countries immigration policies became extremely strict leading many immigrants who entered legally to break the conditions of their visas. By 2005, the approximate number of immigrants in Greece was 1.15 million, in Italy 2.5 million, and in Spain 4.8 million.¹² Some of the source countries were: China, India, Pakistan, and Philippines.¹³ The rest of the illegal immigrants came from African countries by boat causing major humanitarian crisis. In North America, the influx of undocumented Mexican workers continued unabated, while the abolition of the quota systems captivated the interest of Asian migrants again. Immigrants from Philippines made up the second largest group after Mexico, followed by Indian and Chinese migrants in the US.

Current situation

What historical data sometimes conceal is the humanitarian aspect of immigration policies. There is a plethora of events or ongoing situations

⁵ Ibid., 1451.

⁶ ILO. "Origins and history." ILO.

⁷ Stephen Castles, Mark J. Miller. "Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region." Migrationpolicy.org.

⁸ Baldwin-Edwards, "Towards a Theory of Illegal Migration," 1451

⁹ IOM. "IOM History." IOM.

¹⁰ Castles and Miller. "Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region".

¹¹ European Union. "The Schengen area and cooperation." EUR-Lex

¹² Baldwin-Edwards, "Towards a Theory of Illegal Migration," 1451

¹³ Castles and Miller. "Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region".

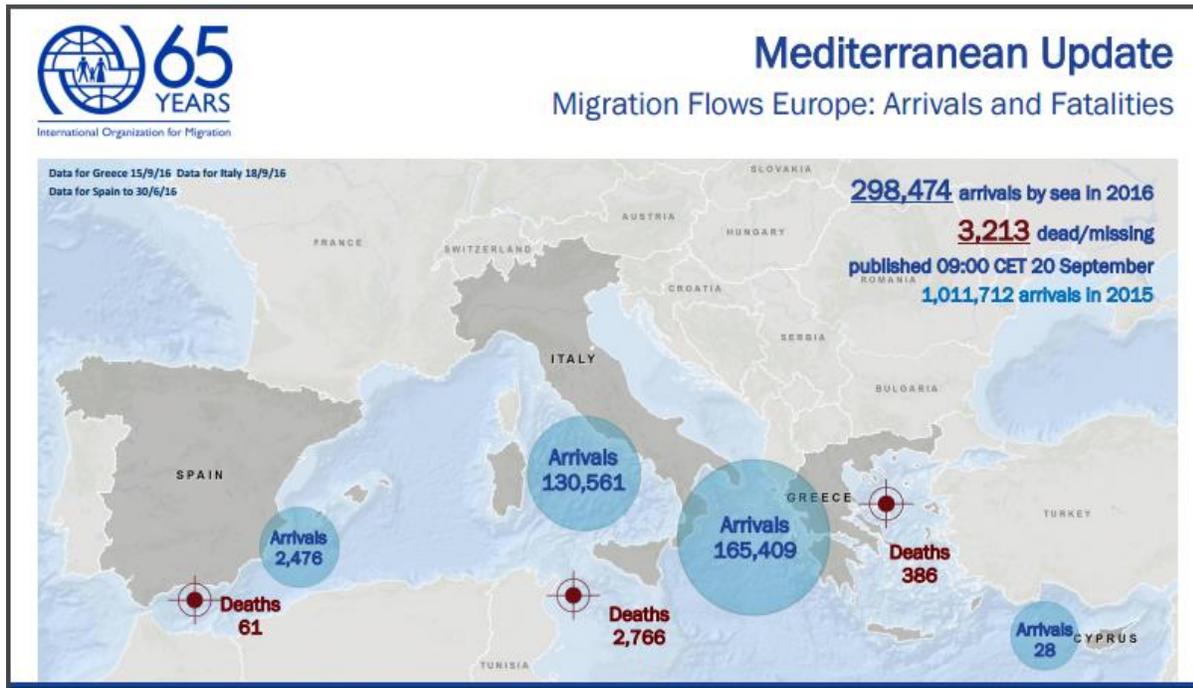
that concern undocumented migrants, for example the Roma people in Eastern Europe or the Calais migrant crisis in France. The past couple of years, the world has experienced some unprecedented humanitarian migrant crises. Two such cases, the Mediterranean and the Southeast Asia migrant crisis, have captured global attention, while the issue of undocumented migration in the Americas is not resolved yet.

Mediterranean Migrant Crisis

“Migrant boat arrivals in Europe top 150,000 in 2015” reported the IOM in July, 2015.¹⁴ The two major countries of arrival are Greece and Italy, counting 75,970 arrivals in Greece and 74,947 in Italy.¹⁵ The main countries of origin for arrivals in Greece are: Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, and Syria, with the largest numbers coming from Syria (22,582).¹⁶ For Italy, the main countries of origin are Eritrea (18,676), Gambia (3,593), Nigeria (7,897), Somalia (6,334), Sudan (3,589), and Syria (4,271).¹⁷

Federico Soda, the Director of the IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean in Rome, explained that the screening of migrant to determine their status, whether asylum-seekers or economic migrants, starts in the crowded reception centers of the countries of arrival, since very few migrants carry proper documentation.¹⁸ These boats bring among other people vulnerable individuals, such as victims of trafficking and violence, unaccompanied children, and pregnant women.

Over 1,900 migrants have lost their lives while crossing the Mediterranean, over twice the number recorder in 2014, since overweight boats sink before reaching shore.¹⁹ National coastguards in cooperation with EU border control ships (Frontex), part of the EU’s Operations ‘Triton’ and ‘Poseidon’, have managed to save thousands of migrant lives.²⁰



¹⁴ IOM. “Migrant Boat Arrivals in Europe Top 150,000 in 2015.” IOM

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.



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According to BBC, the European Commission wants to redistribute 40,000 of these migrants more equally across the EU based on a distribution key that takes account of the population, gross domestic product, unemployment, and number of refugees already taken in.²¹ This plan, though applauded by the United Nations²², triggers many reactions from the members of the EU. France and Germany, which together are expected to receive more than 30% of the redistributed migrants, request a “fairer burden-sharing.”²³

Poland opposes the idea altogether claiming that member states should be able to make their own

decisions.²⁴ Spain says the commission has taken inadequate account of internal issues, namely unemployment, currently at 23%, and already-existing undocumented migrants.²⁵ The fact that under EU law, Ireland, Denmark and the UK are exempted from the plan intensifies the general disagreement.

Another controversial proposal by the EU’s foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, involves the destruction of boats in order to curb smuggling networks.²⁶ The UN has urged the commission to refrain from risking migrant lives while pursuing anti-smuggling initiatives, and to always confirm with international law.²⁷

²¹ Paul Adams. “Migrants: What Europe Can Achieve.” BBC News.

²² UN News Center. “UN welcomes European Union proposals for ‘visionary’ migration reforms.” UN News Center.

²³ Adams, “Migrants: What Europe Can Achieve.”

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ UN News Center. “UN welcomes European Union proposals...”



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DESPERATE JOURNEYS: The Rohingya People

Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have landed in Malaysia and Indonesia

About 1,600 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants from Myanmar have landed in Malaysia and Indonesia over the past two days, apparently after human traffickers abandoned their virtual prison ships and left them to fend for themselves, officials said on May 11.

"WE HAD NOTHING TO EAT"

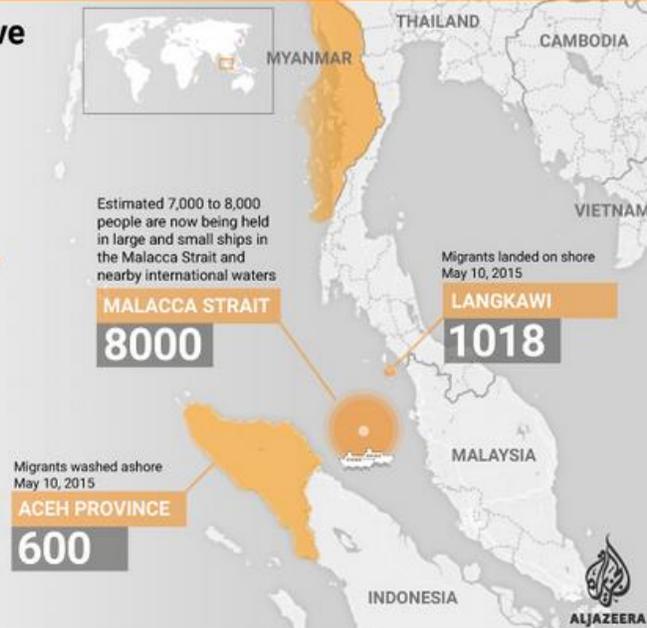
- Rashid Ahmed, 43-year-old Rohingya man who was on one of the boats

Who are the Rohingya people?

The Rohingya are an ethnic community who live in Myanmar's western Rakhine state. A Muslim people, the Rohingya have for decades suffered from state-sanctioned discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which considers them illegal settlers from Bangladesh.



Source: Al Jazeera & agencies



Southeast Asia Migrant Crisis

Migration within Asia has historically been primarily illegal due to the governments' unwillingness to manage it. Especially in the Southeast Asia, flows of undocumented immigrants cross the border between Thailand and Malaysia, while Thailand has also been the destination country for 1.7 million illegal workers mainly from Myanmar. This past May, however, the number of illegal migrants leaving Myanmar reached record numbers. The Rohingya Muslims try to flee persecution in the predominantly Buddhist Myanmar, where they are being denied

basic human rights and citizenship. Smugglers make high profits from smuggling Rohingya refugees and job-seeking Bangladeshi migrants into Thailand. So when smugglers abandoned ships with thousands of people due to a Thailand-launched crackdown, thousands of migrants were left stranded at sea.²⁸ The governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand refused to accept the migrants, discouraging local fishermen from offering help and shelter.²⁹

The Secretary-General, Ban-Ki-Moon, appalled by this behavior, spoke to the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Thailand reiterating the importance

²⁸ Agencies. "South-east Asia migrant crisis: numbers are now 'alarming', talks told." The Guardian.

²⁹ UN News Center. "In talks with Southeastern Asian leaders, top UN officials stress need to protect migrants stranded at sea." UN News Center.

of protecting lives and upholding international law.³⁰ Since then, at least 4,800 people have been disembarked in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand, while the Myanmar navy has seized boats with 700 illegal migrants at times.³¹ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead-UN agency on these issues, and the IOM have provided humanitarian aid to the injured and famished survivors in the receiving locations. Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to provide shelter for the immigrants for a year, but Bangladeshis were asked by the Indonesian government to return to their home country.³² During an emergency meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), law enforcement actions against trafficking and smuggling were established and discussions about alternatives to detention centers have taken place.³³ UNHCR has reaffirmed its willingness to share technical expertise in screening and seeking solutions for refugees and help rally support for ASEAN's efforts.³⁴

Central America Migrant Crisis

Ever since the number of undocumented immigrants was stabilized to about 11.3 million immigrants in the US after the Great Recession³⁵, officials claim that the problem has been solved. Most unauthorized migrants in the US have been long-term residents of the country, with a median time of almost 13 years, and these migrants are considered by President Obama as recipients of a temporary reprieve from deportation.³⁶ The fact that American authorities have detained far less people in the southern border in 2015 than 2014, with a difference of about 92,300 people, seems

to support the notion that the increased security measures around the borders have prevented migrants from attempting to enter the US illegally.³⁷

Taking into account the increased border control on the Mexican southern border may change that view. Between October and April of 2015, Mexican officials have detained nearly 93,000 Central American migrants, a number which was down to 49,800 the same period in 2014.³⁸ People from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala still attempt to flee gang violence, extreme poverty and persecution, but they are halted by the lengthy asylum application process in Mexico, which granted only 16% of claims filed by Central Americans in 2014.³⁹ The US has set aside less than \$300 million for foreign aid in Central America.⁴⁰ This amount may seem adequate, nevertheless, it is important to keep in mind the thousands of migrants reaching the southern border of Mexico and their resolve to reach the US or even Canada. If local gangs decide to take up migrant smuggling activities, a spike in illegal immigration and criminal activity may follow causing a new crisis that will require even larger amounts of foreign aid and intervention by the UN to be resolved.

United Nations action

One of the most fundamental documents in the UN, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), guarantees that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his/her own, and

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ UN News Center. "UN agency welcomes new proposals by Southeast Asian States on region's refugee and migrant issues." UN News Center.

³² Agencies. "South-east Asia migrant crisis: numbers are now 'alarming', talks told." The Guardian.

³³ UN News Center. "UN agency welcomes new proposals by Southeast Asian States on region's refugee and migrant issues." UN News Center.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Jeffrey S. Passel, D'Vera Cohn, Jens Manuel Krogstad, and Ana Gonzales-Barrera. "As Growth Stalls, Unauthorized Immigrant Population Becomes More Settled." Pew Research Center.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ The Editorial Board. "Central America's Unresolved Migrant Crisis." The New York Times.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

to return to his/her country.⁴¹ In urgent situations like the ones described above, different documentations take effect. The General Assembly includes the subject of migration and its effect on countries' development in its agenda frequently. Here are some of the landmark documents the GA has passed:

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families

This document represents the milestone in UN's attempts to protect the rights of migrant workers regardless of their legal status. The majority of rights guaranteed by this document consist a repetition of the rights enumerated by the UNDHR. While Parts I and II of the Convention define the document's application and ensures non-discriminatory behavior of states towards all migrants and their family members, Parts III and IV spell out the human rights of these groups.⁴² Some of the rights highlighted for migrant workers and family members are: the right to free movement and life, the prohibition of torture and slavery of migrants and their family members, the

right to freedom of thought, religion, and expression of such beliefs and opinions.⁴³ Other enumerated rights include: the right to privacy, protection of the law obliging states to perform due process, protection against the arbitrary deprivation of property and collective expulsion.⁴⁴

Special attention should be paid to the right to information, which makes states responsible for informing migrants of their rights free of charge and in the language they can understand. Furthermore, Article 68 of the Convention urges states to prevent and eliminate irregular migration and employment of undocumented workers, including measures against the spreading of misinformation concerning immigration and the imposition of effective punishments on those responsible for such actions, whether smugglers or employers.⁴⁵

Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

⁴¹ United Nations. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations.

⁴² United Nations. "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and

Members of Their Families", General Assembly Resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990

⁴³ Ibid.

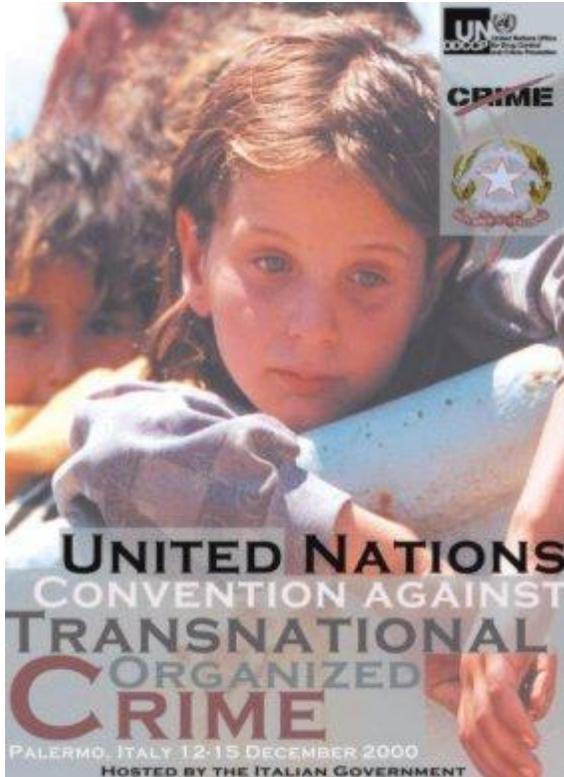
⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.



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In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two protocols: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Since migrant crises occur usually when mass migrant smuggling is involved, this document defines and attempts to combat the smuggling of migrants.

The official definition of the term “smuggling of migrants” is “the procurement in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.”⁴⁶ The sixth article of the protocol urges states to adopt legislation that establishes as criminal offense: a) the smuggling of migrants or participating in its organization and direction, b) the production and use of fraudulent travel or identity documentation to enable the smuggling of migrants, c) endangering, or likely endangering, the lives or safety of migrants, d) entailing inhuman or degrading treatment, including exploitation, of such migrants.⁴⁷ However, those migrants who have been the object of such contact are not to be criminally prosecuted.

In case of reasonable suspicion that a vessel is smuggling migrants, state officials can board and search the vessel, check its authorization and take appropriate measures in full cooperation with other states. Such cooperation includes the exchange of information among states, border controls, denial of entry or revocation of visas of persons caught, specialized training for immigration and other relevant officials and increase public awareness on the matter. When dealing with such situations, officials should always preserve and protect the rights of the migrants, mainly the right to life, and refrain from using torture or other degrading, inhuman, or cruel treatment or punishment. In addition, officials should protect the migrants against violence by other individuals or groups. In order to return migrant to the country of their origin,

⁴⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. “United Nations Convention Against Transnational

Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto”, United Nations

⁴⁷ Ibid.

proper documentation must be obtained and the return should occur in an orderly and decent manner.

United Nations Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

For the first time, Heads of State from all around the world gathered to address the migrant crises. First order of business was the integration of the IOM into the UN. Now the International Organization for Migration is considered the UN Migration Agency. Since this summit occurred in late September of 2016, no new policies or regulations have been adapted yet. However, the goal of the summit is to come up with a common migration policy, sensitive towards migrants' human rights and accepted by all states collectively.

Country and Bloc Positions

African Union: The Migration Policy Framework is a document including the AU's recommendations and stands about migration. Some of the proposed measures include: regional cooperation in a) adopting common policies to counter migrant smuggling, b) information sharing, c) joint cross-border patrols for neighboring states, and d) consultative mechanisms and dialogue on irregular migration.⁴⁸ The document also addresses the matter of re-admission of irregular migrants to the country of their origin.⁴⁹ The AU encourages states to accept their nationals who illegally migrate to other countries in a manner that respects their human rights and facilitates a smooth re-integration.

China: For decades, the 1985 Law of Administration of Entrance and Exit of Foreigners was encouraging immigrants to enter China causing a sharp increase in the number of immigrants in the country.⁵⁰ However, the fear of social instability due to the immigrants' presence led to the adoption of the 2012 Exit and Entry Administration Law. Aiming at combating illegal entry, residence and work in China, this law raises the penalties for all immigration offenses including aiding undocumented migrants.⁵¹ Illegal aliens unable to pay for their repatriation are being detained for long periods of time. It also identifies the groups of migrants mostly welcome by the government, which include: ethnic Chinese living outside of China, high-level professionals, refugees and asylum seekers.⁵²

European Union

In 2008, the approximate number of illegal aliens within the European Union (EU) ranged from 1.9-3.8 millions.⁵³ Recent unrest in the Middle East and African continent, however, has led to an influx of irregular migrants in the EU creating what has been previously analyzed as the Mediterranean migrant crisis. Responses to such emergencies include the migrant redistribution plan and regular boat inspections to curb migrant smuggling. For long term solutions to the issues undocumented migration creates the EU has put together the Agenda on Migration.⁵⁴ The most controversial item being the "remodeling of legal migration," calling for the potential creation of an "EU-wide pool" to include all qualified job-seeking migrants which will be accessible to employers and authorities.⁵⁵ Initiating talks with the African Union about addressing the roots of irregular migration has also been among the plans of the EU, unfortunately with no definite results.

⁴⁸ African Union. "Statement by Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko (AU Commissioner for Social Affairs) at the Global Forum on Migration and Development", African Union (Mauritius: African Union, 21-22 November 2012).

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Heidi Østbø Haugen. "Destination China: The Country Adjusts to its New Migration Reality." Migrationpolicy.org

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ United Nations. "International Migration Policies: Government Views and Priorities 2013." (New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs | Population Division, 2014) p. 91.

⁵⁴ Paul Adams. "Migrants: What Europe Can Achieve." BBC News.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

Non-Aligned Movement: The largest voting Bloc in the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) draws together 120 Member States, mostly former colonies of Africa, Asia and Latin America. While the AU focuses on establishing a more coherent regional cooperation, other member-states of the Non-Aligned Movement express other concerns. Countries of the Middle East consider their levels of immigration to be too high and have launched efforts to restrict migration through restrictions on immigrant employment.⁵⁶ In Southeast Asia, states focus on resolving emergencies. Countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia and the Philippines efforts concentrate on establishing humanitarian relief mechanisms, reducing the amount of time migrants spend in detention centers and creating administrative framework to recognize asylum-seekers and distinguish them from undocumented migrants.⁵⁷

Russia: Russia struggles with irregular migration due to the great length of its border and the lack of adequate border controls, encouraging migrants to resolve to illegal entry.⁵⁸ The largest numbers of irregular migrants in Russia come from Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states in the east, as well as countries of the former Soviet Union in the west.⁵⁹ Due to the lack of funds, the government is unable to prevent illegal entry of migrants and deport the violators. Some of the long discussed policies to be taken up by the government include the strengthening of sanctions against employers who hire illegal migrants as workers and the legalization of migrants that could benefit the country economically.

United States of America: As mentioned before, the number of undocumented migrants in the US has stabilized at around 11.3 million. Current immigration policies include increased border controls and cooperation with Mexico in



discouraging migrants from heading north.⁶⁰ The Obama administration even looks favorably upon granting temporary relief from deportation or even amnesty to certain illegal migrants. Nevertheless, elections are coming up. Some candidates approve Obama’s vision, but others take a very different stand. Ideas such as immediate deportation of all illegal aliens or building a physical wall on the southern border could materialize in case a change in power occurs. Regardless of the government in power, there is always the possibility of a new wave of immigration happening on the southern border.

Essential Questions

Besides answering the central issue of how to eliminate irregular migration overall, there are some pertinent questions that need to be addressed.

- How the UN can help states prepare for sudden waves of irregular migration?
- What can be done to ensure that migrant rights are not violated?

⁵⁶ Martin Baldwin-Edwards. “Migration in the Middle East and Mediterranean.” Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM).

⁵⁷ UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). “2012 UNHCR subregional operations profile – South-East Asia.” UNHCR

⁵⁸ Eugene Krassinets. “Illegal migration and employment in Russia.” Informal Network on Foreign Labour in Central and Eastern Europe.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ The Editorial Board. “Central America’s Unresolved Migrant Crisis.” *The New York Times*.

- What are some ways to curb undocumented migration long term?
- How does current UN action address the issue? What other actions should the UN adopt?

Policy options in the UN

Because they are compromises among the Member States, UN resolutions usually lack the sharp tone often associated with a particular country's own policy. Often the UN is unable to act forthrightly on difficult issues like this. The best it can often do is to establish general principles for the member States to interpret as they will. Some options that might be considered are listed below, although the list is far from complete:

- Call on Member States to better meet the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants, to insure basic humanitarian standards are met everywhere, or in specific regions, but leave implementation to the Member States.
- Provide economic assistance to aid Member States receiving large numbers

of refugees and undocumented migrants, to better share the international burdens, and help ensure adequate treatment of individuals. Thresholds for eligibility, financing and a process for distribution of aid money would have to be established.

- Strengthen the UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with greater powers and much better financing, to better aid refugees and migrants to insure basic humanitarian conditions are assured, in refugee camps, in transit and on arrival in destination countries. Financing would have to be agreed by the Member States.
- Greatly expand regional economic development and post-conflict stabilization around the world to reduce the pressures that lead people to flee their homelands. Again, financing would be a major issue to overcome.

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