

**“Migrants Rights in an Unstable World”
9th Asia – Europe Labour Forum (AELF9)
and 4th ASEM Social Partners’ Forum
Sofia, Bulgaria**




**Cabinet-rank Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas
Commission on Filipinos Overseas
December 2, 2015**

"Migrants contribute greatly to host societies. As entrepreneurs, they create jobs. As scientists, they are engines of innovation. They are doctors, nurses and domestic workers and often the unheralded heart of many service industries."



"We need to address the plight of stranded migrants. Migrants are often caught in situations of conflict or natural disaster."

Ki Moon Ban



Migrants from an Array of Countries and Regions: Mirrors of Failed States, Unending and Intractable Wars

Globally, nearly 60 million people in 2014 have been displaced by conflict and persecution.

The largest number of people movement in a quarter of a century according to United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is due to the Syrian crisis.

A number of crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

Unprecedented Humanitarian Emergency Across Europe and Mediterranean

- ✓ More than 862, 900 migrants and refugees have landed on Europe's shores
- ✓ Most landed in Greece, Italy, Turkey and Malta
- ✓ Some 51% are from Syria, 20% from Afghanistan, 6 % from Iraq and 4% are from Eritrea.

As of to date, more than 3,400 people have drowned in the Mediterranean

Reasons Why Migrants are at Heightened Risk of Exploitation and Abuse

Deceptive recruitment practices

Lack of social support systems

Dependence on the job and employer due to migration-related debt, etc.

Unfamiliarity with the local culture, language, rights at work and national labor and migration laws in the country of employment

Limited or denied access to legal and administrative systems

Reliance by family members on remittances

United Nations Resolution 68/179
(Protection of Migrants)
Adopted on January 28, 2014

All States are requested “to enforce labor law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers’ labor relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association”

Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling

Human smuggling and trafficking are rapidly growing transnational criminal activities that involve the recruitment, movement, and delivery of migrants from a sending region to a destination

Trafficked or smuggled migrants come from all regions of the world, and the primary transit routes are across the Mediterranean, and through the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Turkey.

Despite the steps taken by the Member States of the EU, human smuggling and trafficking continue unabated.

MIGRANTS IN COUNTRIES IN CRISIS (MICIC) WORKING GROUP

Co-Chairs :

- ✓ **Philippines**
- ✓ **United States**

Members :

- ✓ **Australia**
- ✓ **Bangladesh**
- ✓ **Costa Rica**
- ✓ **Ethiopia**
- ✓ **European Commission**

In cooperation with :

- ✓ **IOM**
- ✓ **UNHCR**
- ✓ **Office of Special Representative
to the UN Secretary General
(SRSG) for International Migration
Peter Sutherland**
- ✓ **Georgetown University**
- ✓ **International Center for
Migration Policy Development
(ICMPD)**

MIGRANTS IN COUNTRIES IN CRISIS Initiative's Regional Consultations

The first and second regional consultations were held in:

1. Manila; (March 2015) and
2. Brussels, Belgium (June 2015)



OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE MICIC INITIATIVE

**SAVE LIVES. DECREASE VULNERABILITY
INCREASE PROTECTION. IMPROVE RESPONSES**

Aims to improve the ability of governments and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for, respond to and protect the dignity and rights of migrants caught in countries in acute crisis

RIGHTS-RELATED PROPOSED GUIDELINES

(BY MICIC INITIATIVE)

A. CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

**Respect
and
protect
the rights
and
dignity of
migrants
at all
times**

**Comply
with intl
obligations
&
standards
that have
potential
impact on
migrants**

**Undertake
rights-based
actions
through all
phases of
crisis.**

**Understand
vulnerability
of different
categories of
migrants**

**Empower
migrants
during all
phases of
crisis**

RIGHTS-RELATED PROPOSED GUIDELINES

(BY MICIC INITIATIVE)

B. EMERGENCY PHASE RESPONSE

Ensure all responses prioritize the saving of lives, regardless of migratory status.

Provide non-discriminatory access to emergency humanitarian assistance.

Stay informed on the location of migrants

Ensure freedom of movement, ability to flee to safety & facilitate evacuation, exit, and repatriation

Ensure interventions are tailored to the diverse needs of, different categories of migrants

**“The future
does not
belong to
those who
seek to
build walls
or exploit
fears”**

**“We need to eliminate all forms of
discrimination against migrants, including
those related to working conditions and
wages”**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon

CONCERTED CALL FOR ACTION

**We must
do more
to protect
the
human
rights of
migrants**

**We must
end
exploitation
to which
migrants
are
vulnerable**

**We need to
address the
needs of
migrants in
countries in
crisis**

**We need to
strengthen
migration's
evidence
base**

“For an age of unprecedented mass displacement, we need an unprecedented humanitarian response and a renewed global commitment to tolerance and protection to people fleeing conflict and persecution.”

**UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Antonio Guterres**

THANK YOU!

**Secretary Imelda Nicolas
Chairperson**

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