



2015/2316(INI)

25.4.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on human rights and migration in third countries
(2015/2316(INI))

Rapporteur: Marina Albiol Guzmán

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that migration is a human right enshrined in Article 13 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights; urges the Commission, the Member States and the international community to respect this article and the relevant international obligations concerning refugees and migrants, and to recognise the positive contribution that refugees and migrants make to our societies, benefiting destination countries, transit countries and countries of origin, including developing countries; underlines in this respect the positive effects that migration can have on development;
2. Calls for the EU and the international community to identify specific actions that governments can take to amplify the potential of legal migration as a development enabler; stresses that political leadership and strong advocacy are required, especially in destination countries, to combat xenophobia and to facilitate the social integration of migrants;
3. Underlines the need for urgent action to address all human rights violations faced by migrants, which are most acute in situations of pressure due to security challenges and natural disasters; stresses that the EU and its Member States must lead by example in promoting and protecting the human rights of migrants, notably within their own borders, in order to be credible when discussing migration and human rights in third countries;
4. Requests that special attention be given to securing the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, LGBT people, people with disabilities and the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable to all kinds of danger, namely violence, trafficking and abuse; calls on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to promote the importance of education for children, including for those who are displaced or who are living in refugee camps, as education provides normality to a child's life, which in consequence provides dignity and restores the human right for a child to have a caring childhood;
5. Recalls that the majority of the world's refugees and migrants are being hosted by developing countries; recognises the efforts carried out by third countries in the reception of migrants and refugees; stresses that the support systems of these countries face critical challenges which may cause severe threats to the protection of a growing displaced population;
6. Calls for the EU to pursue policy coherence and to use various policy instruments in its relations with developing countries in order to promote human rights and the rights of migrants; calls for the EU and its Member States to systematically incorporate migration issues as a component of the political dialogue with third countries, and to provide technical assistance to improve national and local migrant integration policies, while ensuring the proper involvement of NGOs and civil society; calls furthermore on the Commission and the EEAS to enhance the exchange of good practices with third countries, specifically in providing training to aid workers in identifying more efficiently the different characteristics, backgrounds and experiences of migrants, particularly the most vulnerable, in order to better protect and help those migrants in accordance with their

needs;

7. Stresses that development assistance programmes should not be used for purely migration and border management purposes; urges EU development projects aimed at migrants and asylum seekers to implement the 'leave no one behind' principle, by focusing on access to basic social services, in particular health care and education, and by paying special attention to vulnerable persons and groups, such as women, children, minorities and indigenous people, LGBT people and people with disabilities;
8. Considers that migration has root causes (in particular economic, political, social and environmental reasons); considers that development aid should address those root causes effectively, by increasing development cooperation, improving capacity-building, supporting conflict resolution and promoting respect for human rights; emphasises that those causes are linked to an increase in conflicts and wars, human rights violations and a lack of good governance;
9. Recalls that poverty, inequality and a lack of prospects constitute root causes of migration and that development cooperation is an effective tool for addressing these issues; regrets in this context that EU aid levels are currently not on track to achieve the 0.7 % ODA/GNI goal and that several Member States have even cut their aid programmes;
10. Welcomes the integration of migration into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely in SDG 10, which sets the framework for global development policy until 2030; recalls that the states committed to cooperating internationally to 'ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons'; notes that forced displacement is not only a humanitarian issue but also a development challenge, and that there should therefore be better coordination between humanitarian and developmental actors; considers that the implementation of the SDGs is an opportunity to reinforce a rights-based approach in the asylum and migration policies and to mainstream migration into development strategies; calls on the international community to adopt measurable indicators of the SDGs on migration, and to collect and publish disaggregated data on migrants' access to decent work, health care and education, especially in developing destination countries, in order to improve migration governance;
11. States that human traffickers sell a distorted picture to many refugees; reiterates the importance of combating human trafficking, cutting the money flow and dismantling the networks, as this will have a positive effect on the human rights situation of refugees in third countries intending to flee war and terror;
12. Stresses the need for the EU to step up its foreign policies in bringing peace and stability to those areas where war and conflict trigger enormous migration flows to the European Union;
13. Reiterates the recent statement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees that a large number of migrants are victims of terrorism and of serious violations of human rights, and that these refugees should therefore be treated accordingly;
14. Calls for the EU and its Member States to ensure efficient and effective Policy Coherence for Development, and to prioritise respect for human rights in their migration policy in

respect of third countries;

15. Notes that the growing number of refugees around the world is overshadowed by the even greater number of internally displaced persons; underlines that internally displaced persons should not be discriminated against for the sole fact they had to find safety without crossing international borders, and therefore stresses that internally displaced persons should have their rights upheld, including access to health care and education;
16. Calls for regular channels for labour migration, including for low-wage sectors, to be established;
17. Urges the EU to integrate the migration dimension into the post-Cotonou framework which will define the future relations between the EU and ACP countries; notes that a greater involvement of third countries in the design and negotiation of GAMM instruments would enhance the 'partnership' nature of these instruments, improving their local ownership and their efficiency;
18. Asks the Commission to enhance the transparency and flexibility of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and calls on the Member States to contribute, at least at the same level as the Commission, to this Fund; underlines that it is essential to make sure, through proper monitoring and evaluation of the programmes, that the Trust Fund serves its purpose, namely helping those in need, fighting bad governance, corruption and promoting the rule of law in African countries;
19. Calls for the debt relief of impoverished countries, in order to help them develop public policies that guarantee respect for human rights; insists that sustainable debt solutions, including standards for responsible lending and borrowing, must be facilitated through a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes, with a view to alleviating the debt burden and avoiding unsustainable debt in order to create the conditions for the protection of human rights in the long term.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	20.4.2016
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 2 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Ignazio Corrao, Nirj Deva, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Charles Goerens, Heidi Hautala, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Linda McAvan, Maurice Ponga, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Pedro Silva Pereira, Davor Ivo Stier, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Brian Hayes, Paul Rübig, Patrizia Toia
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Amjad Bashir, Tiziana Beghin, Miroslav Poche