



Parliamentarians for Global Action

27th Annual Forum

Migration, Immigration & Integration

Dublin, Ireland
17-18 November, 2005

Dublin Declaration of Action

Whereas:

- The growth of migration is, among other reasons, the result of economic policies which have elevated poverty levels, increased marginalization, contributed to social exclusion and heightened unemployment;
- Migration, Immigration & Integration, separately and collectively, are issues of urgent and critical global importance, in migrant-sending countries, migrant-receiving countries and countries of transit;
- The many, complex and difficult challenges posed by each of these areas of concern must be reviewed, regulated and continually reassessed on a systematic and coordinated basis;
- The right of individuals to freedom of movement is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- The rights of children, as enshrined in the Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, must be ensured:
- Inadequate treatment of the aforementioned challenges and/or absence of requisite political will can and has led to personal and economic hardship for millions of people and the needless loss of life;
- Effective and balanced treatment of migration issues is of fundamental importance, not only in addressing the numerous problems that arise in connection with migratory flows, immigration and integration into new societies, but, in addition, in meeting other related challenges confronting the global community today, including the containment of HIV/AIDS, promoting socially just, environmentally sound, economically equitable and people-centered sustainable development, gender equality and combating organized criminal activity and terrorism;
- Advocating for, and advancing national policies and legislation which promote this sustainable development, greater national economic prosperity and employment is also of particular importance, as

these policies and legislation are integral components of any comprehensive approach to the challenges posed by trans-national migration and internal migration;

- Parliamentarians can ensure that legislation respects and protects the rights of migrants and facilitates their integration, draft and devise new policies and amend existing ones in order to ensure that existing national legislation is in conformity with internationally accepted standards and also ensure that migration issues are mainstreamed in other related areas of legislation, including international economic agreements;

- Parliamentarians should ensure that minority rights are respected within their countries as well as working with governments to draft and devise new policies to deal with internal migration issues;

- Parliamentarians can exercise oversight over their governments to account both for national obligations and also to ensure that commitments under international agreements to which a State is party are met, by engaging in parliamentary debates, tabling parliamentary questions, holding public hearings and bilateral meetings with key Ministers;

- Parliamentarians can form partnerships with NGOs and community-based organizations to advocate for progressive and enlightened migration policies. As advocates, they can mobilize the involvement of government, the private sector and civil society to discharge their societal responsibilities in responding appropriately to the particular needs of migrants;

- Parliamentarians can harness global parliamentary networks for dialogue and exchanges on migration issues. Parliamentarians can work together to advance this parliamentary coordination and increasing consensus on migration issues generally;

- Parliamentarians can and should seek to ensure that migrants are aware or made aware of both their rights and their obligations under national law and international law;

- Parliamentarians have a role in supporting policies and/or laws which monitor donations and credit facilities extended by donor countries to recipient countries so as to avoid the subsequent discretionary management of these funds for unintended purposes which only results in greater inequality and poverty;

- A High Level Dialogue on Migration will take place at UN Headquarters in New York in 2006 in which Parliamentarians can make a useful contribution to this Dialogue and follow up with concrete Parliamentary initiatives and activities

Now, therefore we, the Participants in the 27th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action, in recognition of the important responsibilities that Parliamentarians have on these issues, shall seek in our respective Parliaments and other regional and international fora and meetings in which we participate to:

- Work for more effective national and regional policies and legislation aimed at the harmonious integration of new migrant communities within our respective States and Regions;

- Formulate and implement policies aimed at poverty reduction and employment generation and conflict prevention generally in recognition of the fact that poverty and conflict are often catalysts leading directly and indirectly to large-scale displacement of peoples and forced migration;
- Endeavour to persuade our respective national Governments to sign and become party to international treaties requiring just treatment of migrants and which facilitate their social integration, including international agreements which seek to protect the cultural rights and cultural identities of migrants;
- Introduce and/or support more effective national and regional legislation and international conventions aimed at eradicating the trafficking of human beings across national borders, for example by, but not limited to:

Urging all countries to sign and ratify and implement all international treaties protecting the human rights of migrants and their families, and in particular the United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

Advocating for the ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol Against the Trafficking in Human Beings and also the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, both Protocols supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and other similar regional agreements;

Advocating for the effective implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;

Advocating for the bringing to justice of those who engage in the trafficking of human beings and cause the sexual exploitation of minors;

Advocating for the establishment of effective programs of reparation for victims of trafficking, including extensive programs of rehabilitation for trafficked persons, especially children;

Highlighting in our respective legislative bodies the linkages that exist between the spread of HIV/AIDS and migration and the urgent need to approach this issue in a more effective and coordinated way;

Advocating that government actions taken against international terrorism do not stigmatize or in any other way penalize immigrants;

Taking appropriate measures to manage the flow of migrants in a way that is more responsive to the significant demand for migrant workers from societies in which aging populations and other factors create this demand, while striving to respect the fundamental human rights of migrant workers, their families and, in particular, their children;

Assessing more closely and systematically the impact of remittances on national economies of countries from which workers have migrated in significant numbers and, where appropriate, draft or support legislation aimed at financial and other institutions which seek to profit unreasonably from financial transactions of this nature;

Formulating and stimulating the implementation of policies aimed at promoting the voluntary return

of nationals studying and/or working abroad, in recognition of the fact that the 'brain drain' phenomenon has a particularly adverse effect in small and medium developing countries and regions;

Advocating for, introducing and/or supporting new legislation promoting greater investment in national institutions of higher learning and emerging domestic industrial sectors thereby reducing the incentive for large scale emigration;

Advocating for the rights of children, recognizing that children are without voice, but often suffer inordinate adverse consequences;

- Encouraging education and dialogue on this crucial issue in our countries and internationally

Done in Dublin on 18 November 2005

Acknowledgement

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