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**MANAGING MIGRATORY FLOWS AND CO-DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION IN A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL MANNER**

***Report submitted by the co-Rapporteurs  
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The Mediterranean region has always been at the crossroads of migratory movements. Today, the illegal migratory flows through the Mediterranean from East (near East) to West (Europe) and from South (Africa) to North (Europe) have reached unprecedented levels.

Meanwhile, because of conflict in the Middle East, the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, and the organization of the European Economic Space, the Mediterranean region seems to have been left behind compared to other world economic channels. Economic disparities between neighbouring countries, insufficient air and sea lines and visa problems have made the Mediterranean Sea more a border than a place of exchange.

Economic hardship, different levels of economic development between bordering countries and high rates of population growth in source countries are the main factors propelling illegal migration in the wider Mediterranean region.

Whether the result of poverty, conquest or conflict, migrations have always played a fundamental role in the sometimes happy but often dramatic history of the Mediterranean region. After World War II, a devastated Europe restored its economy largely thanks to immigrants from southern countries. Lately, Europe has become less welcoming to immigrants, as unemployment rates rise and companies relocate. Nevertheless, new migratory streams have emerged, from sub-Saharan Africa to European countries, provoking anxiety and hostility that nourish extremist parties. Nowadays, in order to cope with illegal migration, European countries are enacting new legislation that tends to select incoming migrants; they also deport migrants, and sometimes, more adequately, legalize them.

Combating illegal migration does not mean simply taking security measures but also opening dialogue between the parties concerned and trying to understand the root causes of the phenomenon with a view to finding win-win solutions.

The best way to tackle illegal migration is to open channels for legal, regulated migration. More accessible and better regulated migration channels and bilateral mechanisms for legal migration should be created. Such measures should be coupled with efforts to ensure respect for migrant rights.

Managed/regulated migration, closer ties between countries of origin, transit and destination and mutual understanding of their concerns and interests can contribute to development in all countries of the Mediterranean. In this vein, the “cluster approach”, whereby countries along the same migratory route cooperate more closely, may be instrumental.

“Responsibility and burden sharing” is the quintessential principle which should prevail in migration cooperation among Mediterranean partners.

The approach to migration flows should be comprehensive, bringing together a broad spectrum of policies having a direct and indirect effect on employment, development, health, social matters and integration, education, human rights, peace and stability, justice, security and others.

It is important to understand the root causes of migration flows. In the same vein, migration policies should be formulated on the basis of reliable data and comprehensive research.

Strengthening migration governance through capacity-building programmes, knowledge transfers and the exchange of information and experience will help migration authorities regulate and manage migration flows, and contribute to good governance and development.

Priority-setting in the Mediterranean should take into account the Millennium Development Goals, the outcomes of the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development and the European Union’s Global Approach to Migration: Priority actions focusing on Africa and the Mediterranean.

Existing regional formal and informal initiatives and inter-State dialogues relevant to different migration routes in the Mediterranean are crucial channels which need to be maintained and enhanced within European Union-African Union cooperation frameworks, the European Neighbourhood Policy framework, EUROMED, the 5+5 Dialogue and the Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue (MTM).

Nevertheless, the many existing partnership programmes between Mediterranean countries (such as the Barcelona Process, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the United Nations Action Plan for the Mediterranean) that require deep structural reform along the lines of the MEDA programme (privatizations, institutional reform, liberalization, etc.) should be questioned and their efficiency tested.

Developing sustainable return and readmission policies that uphold the “responsibility and burden-sharing” approach contributes to successful migration cooperation.

Stuck at the gate to their intended destination, stranded illegal migrants put enormous strain on the administrative and financial capacity of transit countries. Those countries should not be left alone to cope with the burden of migratory flows.