

**Forum:** General Assembly 3 (GA3): Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural  
**Agenda:** Topic 1: On measures to address transnational migration issues between Africa/Middle East and Europe  
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## Introduction

Transnational migration brings greater connectivity in contemporary society, diversifying the region's social, economic, and political landscape. Historical and recent trends of transnational migration show its persistent and steady growth. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has revealed that there are 281 million international immigrants across the globe. Of this number, IOM World Immigration Report 2024 shows 117 million are displaced population, and 169 million are labor migrants. The number of displaced population has soared from a series of armed conflicts and natural disasters, and labor migration upsurged from increasing economic benefits of remittances and economic instability in migrants' home countries. All in all, both the displaced population and labor immigrants have been the main subjects that fueled the contention over accepting immigrants among the international community.

The recent global migration pattern from Africa and the Middle East to Europe has drawn major international attention. At the end of 2022, UNHCR recorded 15.6 million displaced population in Africa and the Middle East, and a sharp 60% increase in refugee registration in multiple countries bounded by the home countries of immigrants. Europe has expressed its concern over these record-high numbers of displaced population. Europe has been the wide choice of destination for immigrants because of its geographical proximity and stable socioeconomic status (in general, compared to Africa and the Middle East). Europe has already accommodated a 13.2 million displaced population. Nevertheless, the continuous growth of immigrants in European nations has led to debate about their immigration policy. Subsequently, nations were partitioned by the differences in opinion and solutions to border security. Severe division radicalized opinions against immigrants, attributing to neglect, discrimination, and exploitation of migrants.

## Key Terms

**Transnational migration-** A movement of individuals that involves crossing national borders for new settlement

**Displaced population-** Individuals who have been forced to flee their home country often due to armed conflicts, persecution, and natural disasters

**Labor migration-** Individuals who have moved for economic opportunity, often sending remittance

**Destination country-** The country where the migrants aim to settle for refugee or work

**Irregular migration-** An illegal type of migration where an individual undergoes illegal routes to enter into countries without legal procedures

**Migration policy-** The principle of action dedicated to governing the movement of people in and out of countries

**Border security-** Measures taken by countries in them to national boundaries to protect from external threats or conflicts that might influence the nation

## **General Overview**

### ***Underlying Factors Driving Transnational Migration from Africa and the Middle East***

The transnational migration trend in Africa and the Middle East to Europe shows a close tie with the political, social, and economic reasons, which directly influence the continuous push factors of migration; these background reasons can be identified as root problems in overflowing transnational migration.

#### ***Political***

There have been overwhelming numbers of military activities in Africa and the Middle East region, both caused by and exacerbated by political instability. The area of this region floods with violence from uprearing civil unrest and terrorist activities. With more than 80 armed conflicts still ongoing in the Africa and Middle East region, countless injuries and death tolls are rising every day. The residents of conflict zones face humanitarian crises due to a lack of necessities such as shelter, food, and medical services. It is inevitable for the people to flee the country not only for their safety from the war but to survive extreme poverty. Between 2005 and 2015, the Middle East's migrant population increased by 120%, surpassing the displaced population in any other continent at the time. Notably in 2015, the number of migrants in the Middle East reached 54 million, with most of the migration surging from armed conflicts. The substantial account for this number was from the Syrian Civil War when the armed conflict intensified nationwide. Since the start of the Syrian Civil War, there have been a total 6.3 millions of displaced population from Syria. 4.3 million of the displaced Syrian immigrants chose to go to Europe and since then Europe alone granted 1.3 million asylum seekers (international protection), but the number of immigrants from the Syrian Civil War is estimated to outnumber the documented record – thousands of undocumented immigrants entered the countries via illegal routes.

#### ***Economic***

While political instability and armed conflict remain the domain of forced migration, the economic crisis is also a pivotal factor in the mobility of the migrant population. The significant difference in income gaps between Africa and Middle East and Europe shows Europe's stable growth prospects and labor market opportunities. In comparison, countries in Africa and the Middle East often face economic crises due to currency depreciation and high inflation. The economic crisis around this

region has aggravated during Covid-19 along with a global market that went into recession, experiencing severe repercussions until the present day. This economic hardship correlates to migration patterns; the more severe it is, the more people flee for a better economic situation. In 2023, Lebanon experienced hyperinflation at the peak of the Lebanon liquidity crisis which caused the market to fluctuate with a 221.34% inflation rate. It was projected that Lebanon would bring mass migration to Europe; in response, Europe immediately took measures of financial aid to deter the migration.

### ***Environmental***

Natural disasters in Africa and the Middle East contributed to the rising number of displaced populations. Countries in Africa and the Middle East are more vulnerable to natural disasters since poor infrastructure systems give little help in mitigating and recovering from natural disasters. In 2022, droughts and wildfires caused 11,500 displacements in Algeria and Morocco. The droughts and wildfires not only ravaged houses but also destroyed significant swaths of land. The dry geographic area of the region, which already hinders agriculture production to a local extent, has dwindled food production nationwide. In other words, natural disasters can readily put countries in Africa and the Middle East into extreme food insecurity. The worsened food insecurity often surges food market prices and overall countries' inflation rate, leaving countries in a series of crises.

### ***Migration Challenges in Europe***

Immigrants face different challenges along their migration and arrival in Europe; this also challenges European nations in their response to addressing immigration concerns.

#### ***Irregular Migration***

Despite the legal procedure for immigration entry, slow processing and an overwhelming number of immigrants have grown the number of irregular migrations. Irregular migrations are mostly undergone through human smuggling which illegal organizations get paid to guide immigrants on illegal routes. Human smuggling often exploits the vulnerable population, charging high prices (which then is used for crime funding) and employing inhumane transportation. This transportation usually involves crossing the Mediterranean Sea with fragile and small boats that are overloaded with immigrants. Harsh sea condition often capsizes the boat, and even with efforts of rescue, thousands of migrants went missing or presumed drowned, during this route. In addition, human smuggling exploits the weakens border security, importing drugs and illegal weapons more frequently to Europe, growing border-related crimes.

#### ***Socioeconomic Challenges***

The number of immigrations to Europe has surpassed the country's capacity to provide basic needs to immigrants. Legal immigrants have already put a great strain on refugee infrastructure, and undocumented immigrants overload the country's infrastructure in strain. Undocumented immigrants

are ineligible from receiving government assistance and thus suffer from inadequate medical and housing services. Moreover, many immigrants from Africa and the Middle East include children and women, but irregular migration hinders education and medical services, and they often end up in hard labor that exploits their illegal status.

### ***Social Issues***

Legal migration under asylum and labor visas has already fueled Europe into a conflict. People perceive the government funding of the immigrant population as “unequal treatment,” supposing that the government has marginalized their citizens. The outrage has grown stronger after the recent overflow of illegal immigrants. Xenophobia grew as people feared losing their jobs and perceived increase in crime associated with immigrants. Their misconception of immigrants has been portrayed through their hostile behavior toward the immigrants. Discrimination against immigrants in Europe has been more publicized with radical anti-immigrant protests, that recklessly use and encourage racist hate speeches.

### ***Political Change***

Border security is now one of the central issues discussed in numerous European nations, and it has become an influential factor in politics. Public opinion speaks for strengthening the current border policy, and the majority are disappointed by government control on immigration that has resulted in the refugee crisis in Europe. Far-right parties have benefited from the situation by promising radical anti-immigration policies and strict border regulation, which allowed significant support from people. There are major concerns raised as far-right parties have encouraged extreme-right movements, provoking political division and chaos. The governments have reformed immigration policy in response to public rage, as well as to deter the rise of the extremist movement. Thus, these immigration policies have become stricter each year, limiting legal immigration processes; however, contradictorily, it has increased irregular migration.

## ***Regional Union***

### ***European Union***

European Union has been the destination for immigrants from Africa and the Middle East. The EU advocates for the legal migration process for refugees and asylum seekers. The EU stresses human rights violations and humanitarian crises in migration, calling for a reduction on irregular migration. The European Union has taken collaborative measures with home countries to deter irregular migration. The European Union has shown a clear shift in its policy stance in past decades, imposing stricter border policy and immigration law.

### ***African Union***

The majority of member states in the African Union are home to displaced populations. African Union recognizes the severity of the overflowing displaced population and strongly urges it to

resolve. Particularly, the African Union prioritizes resolving the root problems - poverty and conflict. Nevertheless, the African Union faces difficulties in implementing measures due to financial shortages, and this restraint puts great dependence on external funding, where it may have a significant influence on measures. The member states in fact benefit from transnational migration, where remittance brings economic benefits.

### ***Arab League***

Arab League, particularly Middle Eastern states, have been home to a mass displaced population from political crisis. Regional political tensions have continuously grown over religious and ideological differences, and now there are growing threats among the migrant population from prolonged armed conflicts. Member states have extreme resource differences (such as oil) that reflect differences in countries' stances. Furthermore, the member states have severe problems with human trafficking and illegal immigration, but most of the countries lack laws that can tackle it.

### ***Major parties involved***

#### ***United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)***

UNHCR is the subordinate international organization under the United Nations authority, dedicated to protecting the rights of the displaced population and to establish safeguarding for those. It works in 136 countries with both government and regional organizations in an effort to enhance laws that recognize the rights of the displaced population and facilitate safe settlement for the displaced population.

#### ***International Organization for Migration (IOM)***

IOM assists migration in a broader scope, focusing on different types of voluntary and involuntary migration. IOM aims to promote safe and protected migration, confronting hindering factors such as humanitarian crises. IOM employs offices around critical migration points to respond to irregular and perilous migrations with preparedness. IOM recognizes the high rate of forced migration within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, implementing the organization's multi-dimensional program tackles the migration challenges from various aspects.

## **Timeline of Events**

Numerous events have been pushing factors and have caused mass migration to Europe, and different types of responses to the migration have led to mitigation challenges and changes in the migration trend:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
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2015

Europe experienced one of the highest and unprecedented immigration flows. 1.3 million asylums were applied, and immigrants entered into countries via uncontrollable routes. Syrian War, as well as increasing armed conflict and political tension in the Middle East have accounted for the immigration surge to Europe.

2016

In March 2016, European Nations and Turkey made a refugee deal. Turkey was responsible for deterring illegal migrants from Greece and providing temporary settlements for those, holding them until the legal process for entry is made. In return, Turkey received 6 billion Euros, the financial resources of which were aimed at mitigating the humanitarian crisis of refugees in Turkey. The deal was made to reduce the burden on European nations such as Greece, where countless immigrants went.

2023

Tunisia and the EU have made a “Memorandum of Understanding,” a deal on immigration that was viewed to “expand EU’s border on immigration”. Unlike securing the member state border or detouring the immigration flow, European nations have made the deal that stops the migration movement from its original point. Regional migration in Africa has concentrated the migrant population in North Africa along the coast, such as Tunisia, the central migrant point. Tunisia promised to deter the migration flow from the nation, and in exchange received 27 million Euros.

2024

First introduced in 2015, the European Nation parliament passed the EU Asylum and Migration Pact after years of negotiations. The legislation requires major reforms in immigration policy, and experts project that it will tighten the borders. The law aims to improve the immigration process, which includes speeding up a process that rejects for those who are illegible to enter. That said, it has strengthened the entry procedure for migrants. Immigration process now requires secured identification on immigrants, where countries will be collecting biometric data in circumstances of sudden arrivals.

## **UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events**

- The Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted Resolution 17/22 in response to a recent surge in asylum seekers from North Africa following the humanitarian crisis. The resolution noted allegations about

the destination countries in Europe, where the European ship was negligent in rescuing several sinking vessels that carried migrants and asylum seekers, leaving increased tolls in missing people. The resolution then called for destination countries to adopt a holistic approach to migration, stating that “the obligations of States under international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law, in particular with regard to the principle of non-refoulement.”

- United Nations, referring the Resolution 32/14 from the Human Rights Council, recalls “the work of the various special mechanisms of the Council ... on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants.” The resolution states that “States are responsible for promoting and protecting the human rights of all persons, including irregular migrants, who are in their territory and subject to their jurisdiction,” urging nations to support the human rights of migrants regardless of their bases.
- In 2018, UN General Assembly hosted in New York, the United Nations endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), the first intergovernmental agreement that aims to mitigate the multi-dimensional problem of international migration.

## **Possible Solutions**

There has been a multidimensional approach to solving the issue. Possible solutions can be categorized into 1. aiming to resolve the root problem of migration 2. aiming to resolve the migration challenges in Europe. Both approaches require both Africa and Middle East and Europe to take collaborative measures and should be well-integrated to resolve the ongoing complex migration issues.

### ***Resolving the root problem***

#### ***Employing a peacekeeping force***

Countries can collaborate to employ the peacekeeping Force via intergovernmental organizations in armed conflict. Peacekeeping forces can reduce the extent of conflict. Employed units are prepared to counter-act violence on civilians and take the role of intercessor between parties. The United Peacekeeping Force is an example of an intergovernmental organization that aims to resolve growing tensions in armed conflict.

#### ***Supplying humanitarian aid***

Humanitarian aid can mitigate the effects of the humanitarian crisis in the local region. It can provide food, shelter, and clothing to relieve temporary situations that could otherwise become poverty or destitution in the near future. It is a rapid response that reduces the strain on basic needs and can deter mass migration that flees immigrants from their homes due to the meager necessities.

### ***Resolving the challenges in Europe***

### ***Combating criminal organizations***

A significant portion of irregular migration and humanitarian crises can be reduced by dismantling criminal organizations that operate human smuggling. Countries can utilize modern technologies and hold partnerships with international agencies in the investigation of human smuggling. Surveillance technologies can enhance monitoring systems on key areas of illegal activities and track criminal organizations.

### ***Establishing rescue operation***

Rescue operations allow countries to prevent the loss of lives involved in dangerous migration attempts. In the Mediterranean Sea, marine rescue guards patrol around the sea to rescue capsized boats. The operation can be further taken to deter perilous attempts on illegal routes by safeguarding the area, and in case of an accident, rescue operations can rapidly search for and treat missing or injured migrants.

### ***Raising awareness***

Raising awareness can alleviate social issues and promote unity. Countries can work on raising public awareness about immigration to combat discrimination. Public education can allow people to cultivate an insightful and considerate perspective on global crises. Campaigns about migration can rectify common misconceptions about immigrants and allow the public to reduce xenophobia, relieving public fear and hatred toward immigrants.



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