



FOR A SAFER WORLD

POUR UN MONDE
PLUS SÛR

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

COMBATING THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

The smuggling of migrants, as defined by the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (the Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime means “the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident”.

Migrant smuggling relies on small or large smuggling networks, which are criminal organisations that foster illegal immigration rings through the provision of fraudulent documents, the movement of migrants, or access to unreported employment. Criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings may also take advantage of the challenging situations faced by migrants, targeting especially women and children. These human smuggling criminal networks can be transnational and as such, facilitate irregular migration flows between countries of departure, transit and destination, violating national immigration laws, and often resorting to false promises, spoliation of documents, inhumane and dangerous transportation or accommodation conditions, use of weapons, intimidation, and forcible confinement. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), these smuggling organisations generated close to 7 billion dollars in 2016. During that same year, more than 8.000 migrants died or disappeared according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

In the context of globalisation, migrant smuggling networks thrive on the economic, political and social imbalances between conflict-affected countries or developing countries, on the one hand, and more developed and stable countries including the G7 members, on the other hand. They feed on the migrants’ aspirations to find better living conditions and economic opportunities. Refugees and economic



migrants can travel together in mixed migration flows, using the same smuggling networks.

Europe went through a very significant influx of refugees and irregular migrants in the past years, with men, women and children leaving their countries of origin in the Middle-East or Africa and almost always resorting to unscrupulous smuggling networks. Even though figures have decreased since then, irregular migration remains a severe challenge.

In this context, the Sahel region, already weakened by various forms of illegal trafficking (in weapons, drugs, contraband, etc...) has experienced a significant growth in the numbers of migrant smuggling networks illegally facilitating migratory flows towards North Africa, through the Mediterranean and towards Europe, and networks involved in trafficking in human beings. The routes keep changing, adapting quickly in particular to control measures implemented at crossing points.

Migrant smuggling networks violate state-sovereignty and control over borders, threaten the security of nationals when countries are unable to screen those entering their territory, and generate fear, violence and sometimes death for those who choose to rely on them, which is why the G7 needs to bolster efforts to dismantle them.

Thus, the G7 Ministers of Interior commit to coordinate action to implement, in addition to the Toronto commitments on trafficking in persons agreed upon at the 2018 G7 Interior ministers' meeting in Toronto, the following decisions, inspired by the Niamey Declaration of 16 March 2018 on the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings:

- Support the reinforcement of national legal frameworks in countries of origin and transit, promoting the ratification and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Promote the implementation of its review mechanism adopted during the 9th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in October 2018;
- Support the reinforcement of national operational tools, including through law enforcement and legal cooperation, to fight against migrant smuggling and



trafficking in persons in origin and transit countries, also in order to improve regional and global coordination;

- Support operational cooperation between countries of origin and transit and countries of destination, including through law enforcement and legal cooperation. Support the creation of sustainable and specialized investigation teams dedicated to the identification and the prosecution of cross-border smuggling groups' members as well as trafficking networks;
- Strengthen law enforcement and legal information sharing processes with origin and transit countries with regards to the fight against smuggling groups, trafficking networks and border control, using information sharing platforms, including the Interpol platform;
- Support the reinforcement of the defence and domestic security forces in charge of combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons in origin and transit countries through the provision of training and technical and material capacities to their members;
- Support the strengthening of national border control mechanisms, bringing together, to the extent possible, defence forces and domestic security forces in the identification of irregular migration flows' routes and allow for the interception and confiscation of the means of transport used by smugglers and traffickers;
- Support the strengthening of sea rescue capacities for Coast Guards located in origin or transit countries, such as Libya, when irregular migration flows use sea routes, through the provision of equipment and training in order to intercept vessels involved in smuggling and trafficking activities, prevent migrants from drowning at sea and save lives;
- Enhance international judicial cooperation with departure and transit countries in order to establish consistent legal assistance mechanisms; including through the use of UNTOC as a legal basis for cooperation, where appropriate, and through the strengthening of regional judicial networks specialised in migrant smuggling and cases of trafficking in human beings;
- End the profits generated by smuggling and trafficking networks, that may contribute to the funding of terrorist groups' activities particularly in armed conflict zones, by using, for example the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) research on human-trafficking financial flows; Develop specific expertise on



the connection between migrant smuggling profits and terrorism funding within their financial intelligence units;

- Monitor, as permitted under national legislation, the online communication and technologies by smugglers and traffickers, to better analyse trends, exchange information and facilitate identification of perpetrators;
- Increase the awareness of potential migrants in countries of origin and transit about the risks of irregular migration and possible alternatives, including through information and awareness campaigns;
- Ensure the respect of human rights of all refugees and migrants by supporting activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in transit countries; facilitate access to asylum for refugees in need of international protection, including through resettlement activities and upgrading of asylum systems of transit countries; and facilitate, as appropriate, assisted voluntary return programmes and sustainable reintegration into local communities of origin for migrants who are not in need of international protection;
- In accordance with applicable legislation, establish and implement an efficient return policy, including through forced returns of migrants who are not entitled to stay in a manner to consistent with international human rights standards consistent with the Protocol. To this end, enhance and intensify, as appropriate, the cooperation with countries of origin in this field, and develop shared proposals, which help to deter and prevent irregular migration. The international obligation of States to readmit their own nationals remains an essential deterrent to irregular migration;
- Promote, by mobilizing the necessary international financial resources, economic perspectives in regions of origin, and support the resilience processes of local populations through better access to basic services, and to more employment opportunities especially for young people.

The G7 Ministers of Interior call on the Roma-Lyon Group to monitor the implementation by the G7 countries of these commitments as well as Toronto commitments on trafficking in persons, and in particular to look at international rules governing returns

