



Presidency of the European Parliament

Declaration of the Speakers' Summit of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean

on Migration and the Status of Refugees in the Mediterranean

Strasbourg, 13 February 2019

The Presidents of the Parliaments of the members of the Union for the Mediterranean, meeting in Strasbourg on 13 February 2019 in order to discuss migration and the status of refugees in the Mediterranean,

have agreed as follows:

1. We recall the recent unprecedented increase of migration flows. Highlighting that the Mediterranean is one of the principal channels for migratory flows, whether they are of an economic nature, linked to political or social events, or climate change. Migration is especially high from *and within* Africa, where the population is projected to increase significantly over the next few years;
2. Call on the member countries of the UfM, the European Union and the international community to formulate a joint global response to be optimally prepared to address the challenges *and opportunities* that migration poses for the Mediterranean in light of, inter alia, the action plan and political declaration adopted at the EU-Africa summit on migration, held in Valletta (Malta) on 11-12 November 2015;

3. Strongly support the objectives of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants of 19 September 2016. Call on all stakeholders to strengthen coordination on international migration, human mobility, large refugee flows and the protection of refugees and to implement lasting solutions and approaches that focus on protecting *the rights of all those concerned*;
4. Urge the governments of the UfM members to tackle the root causes of migration, such as poverty, inequality, injustice, climate change, corruption, poor governance and armed conflict. In this regard, point to the need for a comprehensive Mediterranean-wide approach to make internal and external migration and asylum policies more consistent and effective;
5. Emphasise the link between development, security and migration policies. Call for increased cooperation in conflict prevention and management as well as in addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration;
6. Emphasise that sub-Saharan migration requires the establishment of a stronger sharing-based partnership with Africa. This should create a radical socio-economic transformation of the African continent based on the principles and goals charted by African countries in the African Union's Agenda 2063. Call also for closer cooperation with the African Union, a strengthening of the role of the private sector and the formulation of appropriate policies to increase foreign investment;
7. Reiterate our belief that only a consistent policy at Mediterranean level vis-à-vis sub-Saharan Africa can contribute to the stability and future sustainable development of the entire African continent;
8. In this regard, express our full support for the ambitious project put forward by the European Parliament to launch a series of structured and coordinated economic and social initiatives in Africa. This project, also known as the 'Marshall Plan for Africa,' aims to improve living conditions and to create better development prospects for sub-Saharan African countries.
9. Call in this regard on the European Union to promptly consider and adopt this project in its Multi-annual Financial Framework (2012-2027), allocating sufficient funds to ensure an effective and structured investment system in Africa with particular emphasis on infrastructure, agriculture, the fight against climate change and health.
- 10. Also urge the European Union to enhance its assistance towards refugees and vulnerable migrants, notably through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and to reinforce its support to the protection of refugees and stranded migrants particularly in Libya and Sahel countries.**
11. Call on the UfM and the governments of its member countries to set themselves clear priorities and measurable goals regarding migration in the Mediterranean region; consider that the parliaments making up the PA-UfM should participate in formulating these objectives and believe that only a common approach to action will create strong and effective policy regarding migration in the Mediterranean **also in line with the Agenda 2030 development goals**;

12. Recall that migration has a significant political and social impact in the entire Mediterranean as well as in the European Union as a whole and that it is therefore necessary to provide clear and unambiguous answers to the citizens of UfM member countries;
- 13. (new) Express their full support and deep appreciation to those countries that are most directly affected by migration flows and have shown the highest reception capacity and the ability to promote initiatives reconciling integration with the development of the communities concerned; urge all UfM member countries to work towards more inclusive societies;**
14. Condemn all forms of racism and xenophobia in the Mediterranean. Ask the governments of the UfM member countries to take action to prosecute any hate crime committed against refugees and migrants;
15. Call on the PA-UfM member countries to make a standalone commitment to ensure the protection of minors; underline in this regard that such protection should be afforded to all minors, regardless of their status as migrants or refugees. Demand greater attention to and respect for the protection of women and other vulnerable persons;
16. Strongly condemn the trafficking of migrants in the Mediterranean and human trafficking in general as well as the unacceptable physical and psychological violence associated with these practices. Insist on the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to prevent these criminal practices by providing, inter alia, full assistance and protection for the victims of trafficking;
17. Express appreciation for the role that UfM has played concerning issues related to migration and refugees. Call on the UfM to reinforce these efforts focusing on launching a series of coordinated and ambitious initiatives aimed at better framing migration and promoting exchanges of good practices and coordination among UfM member countries.

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