

Doc 22 (22)

Strasbourg, 5th of May 2016

The Migration Initiative Recommendations *To the General Assembly of ALDA - 2016*

Based on the 2016 inquiry, realized with the broad support of the ALDA's members and the LADDER community and its work of the Special initiative of the Work Path on Migration and following the recommendations already expressed by the Governing Board of ALDA in 2015 on Multiculturalism, it is proposed to the General Assembly of ALDA In 2016, to adopt the following recommendations :

A. Civil Society and Local Authority involvement in policy making and implementation

We have seen unprecedented offers for help in the current crisis from civil society movements and individuals. The EU & Member States must recognise the value of partnerships with civil society and local authorities to develop appropriate responses and mechanism to support such initiatives.

B. Effective diplomacy to tackle long terms issues

In their discussions, EU and developing countries must not turn a blind eye to the underlying causes of migration. The deep and long-term causes of migration must be addressed with courage and determination. As such, discussions on tackling development issues must include a focus on investing in the resolution of conflicts and development in conflict and unstable regions. Solutions to the crisis will only come if the international community, the EU included, invest and increase efforts in peace building, conflict resolution, tackling terror and terrorism, promotion of stable, accountable and just governments and sustainable and inclusive development in origin and transit countries. Actions must be developed together with international actors, civil society organisations and citizens from Europe and from the concerned countries, ensuring cooperation, diplomacy and ownership.

C. Effective and Genuine Aid

The above will only be possible if EU Member States uphold and increase their support to development assistance and they ensure that their spending, in combination with political & economic tools, are targeted genuinely and strategically and tied to action on human rights, conflict and peace

resolution and governance in the conflict areas. The EU should forge a new humanitarian and development policy for preventing crisis and conflicts, as well as trade and common security policies that are coherent with development objectives.

D. Integration of migrants in local communities

Those who are fleeing persecution and conflict are looking for a safe and secure home. Therefore, it is important not to get lost in the international political wrangling over borders, but ensure that once migrants arrive in a host country they are treated with dignity. As such all host countries must:

- Ensure migrants are not penalized for their irregular entry or stay. No form of discrimination or violence is acceptable or justifiable, whether taken by public authorities or private actors. The rights of unaccompanied minors and women should be specifically addressed in this regard
- Ensure the development of strategies to uphold the common basic principles of integration, translating them at the local level to ensure that migrants are able to fully access their human rights and play a role as citizens. This will in turn contribute to ensuring these migrants play a force for development in their origin country
- Support and implement programmes and initiatives to raise awareness about the migration issue, to encourage tolerance and solidarity toward asylum seekers and beneficiaries of protection and to fight racism, xenophobia and all kinds of discrimination against migrants across Europe. This includes working with local authorities, civil society, media and formal and non-/informal education actors.

E. Understanding Migration as a Driver for Development

States should ensure the facilitation of the role of migrants as development agents by taking action on migration-related elements of the Sustainable Development Agenda including reducing the transaction costs of remittances and enhancing diaspora engagement, as social investors and entrepreneurs and as agents of change and actors for social justice. This would reflect the acknowledgement of migrants and diasporas' contribution to sustainable development in both their countries of origin and destination, as agreed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.