

**Forum:** 4<sup>th</sup> Committee (Political)

**Issue:** The Response to the Mass Migration caused by the Instability in the Middle East

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## **Introduction**

The problem of migration has become one of the most serious issues that the modern world has ever faced. Hundreds of thousands of people in the Middle East are leaving their homes because of political instability, danger from extremist organizations (ISIS, for example), and destruction of their hometowns, and cross the borders of European countries in an illegal way. A lot of EU countries are not able to handle this issue due to the absence of policies towards dealing with mass migration and lack of refugee camps and knowledge about integration of them into society.

Modern society needs to respond to the mass migration caused by the instability in the Middle East. Although all UN countries need to cooperate in order to help EU solve this significant issue of integrating migrants into society, the most important problem is to combat its causes, namely, civil war in Syria, extremist organizations and mass riots.

## **Definition of key terms**

### Mass Migration

Mass Migration can be defined as the movement of large groups of people from one geographical area to another, which is often caused by severe reasons like political instability, civil war, or economic depression.

### Social Integration

Social Integration can be seen as a dynamic and principled process where all members participate in dialogue to achieve and maintain peaceful social relations, and is focused on the need to move toward a safe, stable society and peaceful social relations of coexistence, collaboration, and cohesion.

### The current situation in the Middle East

The current situation in the Middle East is a process of political instability substantially caused by a revolutionary wave called 'Arab Spring' which was the main reason of regimes' overflows in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, civil uprisings in Bahrain and civil wars in Lybia and Syria.

## Extremism

Extremism can be defined as the commitment to extreme views and actions, a form of expression of hatred and hostility. There are three types of extremism: political, national, and religious. *Religious* extremism is usually defined as intolerance towards dissident representatives of the same or different religion. In recent years, the problem of Islamic extremism has been dramatically exacerbated. The Wahhabi ideology has become widespread. Extremism, hiding behind religious slogans, leads to the emergence and aggravation of inter-ethnic and religious conflicts. *Political* extremism is the movement against the existing constitutional order and usually appears on the basis of national or religious extremism. *National* extremism acts under the slogans of protecting 'indigenous inhabitants', usually to the detriment of other nationalities living in the same territory.

## ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant)

A Salafi jihadist extremist militant group led by and mainly composed of Sunni Arabs from Iraq and Syria. The self-proclaimed Islamic state is usually called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or Islamic State (IS). As of March 2015, it has control over territory occupied by ten million people in Iraq and Syria. The group has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, the European Union, and member states, the United States, India, Indonesia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and other governments. Over 60 countries are directly or indirectly waging war against ISIL.

## **Background Information**

During the first 9 months of 2015, the European Union Member States received 812,705 new asylum applications. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the top three nationalities of the Mediterranean Sea arrivals in 2015 were Syrian (49%), Afghani (21%) and Iraqi (8%). Most of the refugees were adult men (58%). Basing on the statistics the most popular countries among the refugees are: Germany (31%), Hungary (13%), and Turkey (9%).

Since April 2015, the EU has struggled to cope with the crisis, increasing funding for border patrol operations in the Mediterranean, devising plans to fight migrant smuggling, launching Operation Sophia, and proposing a new quota system to relocate and resettle

asylum seekers among EU states and alleviate the burden on countries on the external borders of the Union. Individual countries have at times reintroduced border controls within the Schengen Area, and rifts have emerged between countries willing to accept asylum seekers and others trying to discourage their arrival. Many people say that one of the reasons for strengthening of the crisis is the Dublin regulation. By default (when no family reasons or humanitarian grounds are present), the first member state that an asylum seeker entered and in which they have been fingerprinted is responsible for him. If the asylum seeker then moves to another member state, they can be transferred back to the member state they first entered. This has led many to criticize the Dublin rules for placing too much responsibility for asylum seekers on Member States closer the EU's external borders (like Italy, Greece, and Hungary), instead of devising a burden-sharing system among EU states.

The key reasons of the increase in the number of refugees in 2015 are the armed conflicts in the Middle East, religious clashes in Nigeria, and the extension of the territories controlled by terrorist organizations.

The immediate causes of the Refugee Crisis in Europe are:

- Lack of funding (the budgets of the European countries were drawn up without taking in account costs of maintaining the large number of migrants)
- Lack of a unified concept of the distribution of refugees in EU countries
- Lack of free accommodation (refugees in EU countries can't live in campgrounds, because of the low temperatures)
- Lack of staff (not enough personnel for the registration of refugees, border control officers, medical staff and translators)

### **Major countries and organizations involved**

A lot of UN members are involved into this issue: the Middle East countries like Syria and Iraq that are being partly controlled by extremist organization ISIS, therefore, there are thousands refugees from these countries, and EU countries like Germany, France, Hungary, Italy are facing the problem of mass migration.

### **Possible solutions**

Combating the issue of mass migration is a very complicated task, as solving the problem will affect interests of different countries. Nevertheless, there are some achievable approaches to deal with this problem. The prevention of political instability in the Middle East particularly needs to be addressed urgently. The international

cooperation should be strengthened in response to the challenges and threats to the international peace and security, and the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in those discussions and actions.

The Amnesty International has developed several steps in order to eradicate the crisis – these measures should also be discussed.