



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Contribution of the OSCE to the High Level Side Event on

“Strengthening Co-operation on Migration and Refugee Movements
in the Perspective of the New Development Agenda”

70th session of the UNGA, New York, 30 September 2015

- The OSCE provides a valuable and important platform for a regional dialogue on migration management issues spanning the Euro-Atlantic, Eurasian, and Euro-Mediterranean spaces.
- Since the signing of Helsinki Final Act in 1975, the OSCE has developed a number of commitments on migration. In recent years, Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on *Migration* and Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/09 on *Migration Management* have stressed the need for all 57 OSCE participating States to adopt effective national frameworks to manage migration.
- The OSCE’s security concept considers migration as a powerful lever for development, stability, and peace and provides for common principles to guide the response of States to this phenomenon.
- The Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) deals with comprehensive labor migration management in co-operation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Migration data collection and harmonization are among key tasks.
- As a security organization, the OSCE is also addressing the links between migration and security. The Organization promotes a comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach to security which takes into account the needs and the rights of both persons on the move and States.
- The OSCE’s Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) promotes the development and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks that protect the rights of migrants, especially vulnerable migrants, acting in close co-operation with specialized agencies such as UNHCR.
- The OSCE executive structures offer specific expertise to tackle challenges that are often intertwined with migration such as: fighting cross-border crime; combating human trafficking; promoting effective and human rights conscious border management.
- The OSCE Secretariat (the Transnational Threats Department, which comprises four units - Action against Terrorism, Border Security and Management, Strategic Police Matters, and Co-ordination Cell) has been partnering with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC) and the IOM in planning and organizing activities addressing organized crime related to smuggling of migrants, especially in the Western Balkans.

- The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) implements activities in cooperation with external partners (among others ILO, IOM, UNHCR and FRONTEX) in order to address root causes of THB and to build the capacity of immigration authorities and consular personnel, as well as awareness of THB among vulnerable groups, including migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and OSCE field offices liaise with relevant Ministries in host countries (Security; Interior; Human Rights/Refugees) as well as coordinate with UN agencies, notably the UNHCR. OSCE field operations do not have a specific mandate in the area of migration management. However, they have been increasingly involved in migration-related activities. In recent months, they have been closely following the situation on the ground in the Western Balkans.
- The OSCE is currently reviewing its activities with the aim to strengthen internal coordination and further expand cooperation with international, regional, and sub-regional actors. The Organization is well-positioned to tackle most recent challenges posed by intensifying flows of migrants and refugees in the Euro-Mediterranean area.
- The OSCE Mediterranean Conference that will take place in Jordan on 20-21 October 2015 and the Security Days event devoted to migration that will be held in February 2016 will stimulate an inclusive high-level discussion involving participating States, OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, and executive structures in assessing current needs and prospects for further engagement.