

Réunion : 3^{ème} Commission (questions sociales, humanitaires et culturelles)

Date : Octobre 2012

Durée : 7'23'' (130 mots/minute)

Orateur : François Crépeau, Rapporteur spécial sur les droits de l'homme des migrants

Difficulté : **

Éléments à fournir :

HLD High-Level Dialogue	Dialogue de haut niveau
-------------------------	-------------------------

FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY

Mister Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Environmental change, as a result of global warming, is now a certainty. And this will likely play a significant and increasingly determinative role in international migration. In particular, the effect of climate change will impact not only on physical ecosystems but will also have adverse consequences on livelihoods, public health, food security and water availability.

Given that climate change will likely play a significant and increasingly determinative role in international migration in the near future, I have thus dedicated my report to this issue.

The report first analyses some of the technical aspects of climate change induced migration, including questions of definitions, identifying the places and the persons most affected, and considering where climate change induced migrants are moving towards. It then considers how international law approaches the matter of climate change induced migration, including some deficiencies in the currently existing categories.

It is important to note that climate change induced migration, like all migratory movements, is a complex multicausal phenomenon which may be driven by a multiplicity of push and pull factors. It will be difficult to isolate the effects of climate change from other environmental factors. Thus, identifying those who migrated solely as a result of climate change may prove to be an impossible task.

While it is true that environmental conditions have always influenced migration patterns, in the context of climate change the rate and scale of this migration may be multiplied.

I note however that accurate statistical data is not readily available. Thus, I call for more rigorous scientific, empirical, sociological and legal research in this field, in the field of migration. Certain places will be particularly affected by this phenomenon. Developing States that already face environmental stresses are likely to be the most affected, including megadeltas, polar regions, small island States, low-lying coastal areas, and arid regions.

However, no country will be free from natural disasters and slow-set environmental changes. It is also important to note that given the ability to migrate, given that the ability to migrate often depends on mobility and resources, migration opportunities may in fact be least available to those who are most vulnerable to climate change, resulting in people becoming trapped in locations vulnerable to environmental hazards.

Moreover, where climate change induced migration is forced, people may be migrating in an irregular situation and therefore may be more vulnerable to human rights violations through the migration process.

Although there is no single international human rights treaty designed to deal with climate change induced migrants, existing human rights law provides a range of protections for all migrants. And I thus call for a more concerted and concrete application of those norms to the situation of climate change induced migrants.

I also note that in the context of climate change, policies should be developed by States that facilitate climate change induced migration and recognize the agency of migrants, as they try to find a suitable place to earn a living for themselves and their families.

Migration should be considered a key adaptation strategy to climate change. Preventing such migration may in fact lead to accelerated human rights abuses and to future migration crises.

Thus I would like to emphasize that facilitated migration should be considered not only as a challenge but as a solution to climate change induced displacement. Overall, I would like to stress that concerted political engagement will be required on the issue by a range of actors including governments, the international community, civil society, in order to devise appropriate policies and strategies to face the matter of climate change induced migration.

I would like to make, on another issue, I would like to make note of one key activity that I have undertaken in the first year of my mandate.

In light of the growing impact of border controls on the human rights of migrants, I decided to undertake a thematic study on the management of the external borders of the European Union and their impact on the human rights of migrants.

I thus visited Brussels where I held consultations with key European Union institutions responsible for border control and migration. I have undertaken country missions on both sides of the Mediterranean. In June 2012 I visited Tunisia and Turkey, last month I visited Italy, in November I will also visit Greece. The findings and recommendations emerging from these visits will be presented to the Human Rights Council next June.

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to make a few remarks regarding the upcoming High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development that will be held in 2013.

I thank the Secretary-General for his Report on International Migration and Development and in particular the section on the HLD.

I also know that there is a pending resolution that will set out the modalities for the HLD.

I take note that human rights were mentioned by a number of States in preliminary discussions regarding the resolution and I welcome this wholeheartedly. It wasn't the case not long ago.

Whilst I sincerely welcome the dialogue as an opportunity to discuss the important issue of migration at the highest level, I would like to emphasize that the underlying framework of the High-Level Dialogue must not exclusively posit the global debate on migration within the paradigms of development, security and law enforcement.

Overall, I remain concerned about the lack of effective human rights mainstreaming in the current debate on the global governance of migration to date. And thus I hope that the High-

Level Dialogue will be seized as an opportunity to ensure that human rights are brought to the forefront of international discussion on migration at this highest level.

FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY