



Promoting Legal
Migration Channels to
Reduce Dangerous
Irregular Journeys

I. Committee Background

The *International Organization for Migration* (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization for the *United Nations* (UN). The IOM is dedicated to furthering humane, safe, and orderly migration for the benefit of all. Established in 1951 as the *Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration* (ICEM), the IOM's original purpose was to provide logistical and transport assistance to millions of displaced persons and refugees displaced by World War II. In 2016, the IOM joined the UN as a related organization. The IOM currently has 174 member states as well as 8 states holding observer status. Today, the IOM focuses on three main objectives: saving lives and protecting people on the move, driving solutions to displacement, and facilitating pathways for regular migration.

II. Introduction to the Topic

Defining International Migration

The UN defines *international migration* as the mass, forced or voluntary movement of people through country borders. Coincidentally, a *migrant* is defined as any person who changes their country of usual residence; and as of the twelfth month a migrant spends outside of their country of previous residence, they become a long-term migrant. In terms of statistical agency, a migrant is counted regardless of gender, age, legal status, and underlying motives for moving. It is also important to understand that vacations, pilgrimage, and nomadism are not considered standard migration. An *internal migrant* is someone who moves within the same country from urban areas to suburbia due to voluntary or forced causes. The IOM provides substantial support to migrants under both circumstances. This support can come in the form of monetary aid, safe housing, psychological and physical health support, and various kinds of witness and victim support.

Social Impacts of Forced and Voluntary Migration

According to the IOM's statistical report for 2025, 82.7 million individuals were forced to migrate from their homes, and 30 million of them were forced to migrate a second time within the year. Approximately 7,900 migrants died over the course of the year, and another 1,500 went missing during that same year. Forced migrants often face family separation, disrupted education, discrimination, exclusion and the loss of community ties, while also placing pressure on already limited local services. However, with the right support, displacement can eventually lead to family reunification, safer environments and new professional and educational opportunities. In 2025, through the IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and

Reintegration (AVRR) programme, over 81,000 individuals were able to be reintegrated into their communities across 115 host countries.

Like forced migration, there are several social and psychological impacts that migrants may face when migrating voluntarily: international development opportunities, diaspora networks, international and internal support networks, and social mobility are all some positive aspects of voluntary migration. On the other hand, discrimination, xenophobia, difficulties fitting in, and family separation—among others— are all negative impacts of voluntary migration both internally and externally in search of better conditions.

Economic Impacts of Forced and Voluntary Migration

Forced migration often depends on international, and often external, assistance to ensure the safe movement of refugees. For countries with a low GDP, funding—which, under harsh situations of war and high demand for international refugee migration, can easily reach billions of USD makes it exceptionally hard to provide safe and regulated migration routes. Employment rates have also been known to drop in countries that receive refugees, and origin-country productivity decreases. However, on some occasions, the economy is aided due to an increase in demand for locally sourced products and livelihood opportunities. It prompts the government to channel investments into infrastructure and services.

Voluntary migration—similar to forced migration—may have a dependence on overseas earnings; thus remittances are commonplace. Employment inequalities, such as native individuals receiving preference, an additional demand for public services, and a shortage of skilled professionals, are also fairly common. However, in some countries, the legal labour supply faced a tremendous increase after mass voluntary migration. 155.6 million migrants were employed in 2022 alone. There is, however, a waving red flag. Countries all over the world have been placed on alert as illegal physical labour has had an estimated increase of 30 million workers since 2013. It is estimated by the UN that 4.7% of that global workforce is made up of international migrants being recruited under illegal or inhumane conditions.

The Effects of Unregulated Migration Routes

Dangerous journeys for internal and international migration increase the risk of death, disappearances, emergencies, and possible problems with law enforcement that may cause an individual to have to return to the country they were emigrating from. Smuggling and human trafficking are a great concern within unregulated migration routes, especially in reference to international migrants. This makes migrants prone to exploitation and abuse (which may come in the form of monetary gain, sexual abuse, or leverage within a community) from the very people who provided them with an alternative safer than staying in their own country. Migrants

seeking a better life in another country oftentimes face discrimination in the form of denial of entry within a community, denial of healthcare, and the formation of barriers to not allow them into labour, educational, and integrative spaces. Furthermore, family separation is rampant.

Essential Questions / Key Issues

Mass Displacement from Sudan

How can Legal Pathways Reduce Dangerous Crossings in the English Channel?

Migration Along the United States and Mexico Border

How Should the International Community Respond to Displacement Caused by the Russia-Ukraine War?

The Role of International Treaties and Frameworks

How Can Legal Migration Channels Be Expanded While Respecting State Sovereignty?

The Central Mediterranean Route

III. Countries List

1. United States of America
2. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
3. Republic of Panama
4. Italian Republic
5. Federal Republic of Germany
6. United Mexican States
7. Türkiye
8. Republic of Tunisia
9. Republic of the Philippines
10. The Republic of India
11. Canada
12. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
13. Republic of Colombia
14. Kingdom of Morocco
15. Commonwealth of Australia
16. Ukraine
17. Hellenic Republic of Greece
18. Federal Republic of Nigeria
19. Republic of South Africa
20. Republic of Sudan
21. Republic of Poland
22. Russian Federation
23. People's Republic of China
24. Swiss Confederation
25. Republic of Cuba

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