

Seventh Ministerial Conference on Migration
For dialogue of the Western Mediterranean Countries (5+5)

Tripoli 13/12/2010

((Ministerial Conclusions))

According to the ministerial conclusions by the 6th ministerial conference on immigration in the western Mediterranean region held in Portugal 26 – 27/05/2008.

Upon an invitation extended by staff brigadier Abdulfatah Younis Alabeidi, Secretary of the General People's Committee for General Security in Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Ministers responsible for migration and delegates of the partner countries in the western Mediterranean dialogue (5+5); Algeria, Spain, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Portugal, Tunisia gathered in Tripoli 13/12/2010 in a meeting prepared by high ranking officials and experts held in Tripoli 10 – 11/12/2010.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the General Secretariat for Grouping States (Cen-Sad), the UN Office On Drugs & Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief (IOPCR), attended the meeting as observers.

Ministers responsible for migration in the western Mediterranean countries, appreciating the outcomes of the previous six ministerial conferences which were held in the following venues and dates:

- 1- Tunis : 16 -17/10 /2002
- 2- Rabat : 22 - 23 /10/2003

- 3- Algiers : 15 – 16 / 09 / 2004
- 4- Paris : 09 – 10 / 11 / 2005
- 5- Algeciras : 12 – 13 / 12 / 2006
- 6- Evora : 26 – 27 / 05 / 2008

Convinced that migration is an historical human movement that has its motivations, the organization of which can be beneficial to all parties, realize that the essential reasons for migration, especially from Africa, lies in poverty, environmental degradation, and the lack of development, and that illegal migration flows are directed towards the developed countries, so that every country has become either a country of origin, transit or destination, or or a combination of all three .

Recalling the global approach to migration and the need to address, in the framework of this meeting, specifically the phenomenon of illegal immigration, the Ministers affirm that the emergence and the deterioration of the illegal immigration phenomenon has caused several problems both in the countries of transit and destination.

Illegal migration flows and the risk of exploitation of migrants by terrorist groups and organized crime could have serious consequences on regional and international security and stability.

Recognising that illegal immigration can never be handled by security measures alone. Such measures should be complemented by development strategies for the creation of development projects, labour, production and service opportunities in the countries of origin in order to encourage migrants to remain in their home countries. All this can only be achieved through synergies between national, regional and international efforts. In this vein, the present dialogue and Partnerships between the EU and Africa constitute an example.

Acknowledging that an increase in illegal migration operations causes difficulties and negative repercussions on the States of the Dialogue. .

The meeting emphasizes the importance of identifying concrete and tangible projects especially with the EU in order to effectively contribute to the

development of Africa in general and to enhance the capacity of African countries to better manage migratory flows, in order to achieve development, as well as to strengthen actions by the countries of origin and transit in order to fight illegal immigration and organized crime involved in human trafficking.

Recognising the need to work together in a spirit of mutual partnership for the better management of migration in a comprehensive and global manner that takes into account the priorities of the countries in question. Ministers responsible for migration in the western Mediterranean dialogue countries agreed on the following:

- Reaffirm the need for a global and shared approach to migration as a effective development tool and agree that legal migration can have positive effects on both countries of origin and transit through migrants' contributions.
- Exploring mechanisms, channels and partnerships, both at a bilateral and at regional levels, promoting legal migration through the implementation of policies considering the specific needs of countries of origin and destination; facilitating legal movement of people between the States Party to the Dialogue; simplifying visa procedures and reinforcing support to the reintegration of illegal migrants in the countries of origin.
- Respecting the fundamental human rights of migrants according to International Conventions and Charters.
- Ensuring the functioning of the website of the western Mediterranean dialogue countries on migration pursuant to the recommendations by the 6th ministerial meeting held in the city of Evora 26 – 27 / 05 / 2008 in an effort to exchange views, proposals and projects in order to better manage migration
- Reactivating the role of the Follow-Up Committee for the western Mediterranean Dialogue countries (5+5) on migration in order to implement the recommendations of the ministerial meeting, including the present recommendations with a view to hold consultations between the dialogue countries before drawing up plans and

programs aiming at combating illegal immigration to avoid any difficulties arising from the implementation of those plans and programs.

- Cooperating in the implementation of media campaigns targeted at potential migrants informing them about the actual job opportunities in the destination countries. Use of the available media to raise awareness on the risks of illegal immigration. These initiatives will target local people and youth in particular in those areas where there is a significant level of migration. , These media campaigns will be conducted in cooperation with EU institutions and the relevant international organizations.

Exploring practical and effective means that would reinforce the institutional, human and technical capacities, as well as the equipment needed for border control and surveillance.

- Exploring appropriate mechanisms to identify the required resources to meet the needs for a more effective fight against illegal migration.
- Developing and strengthening the western Mediterranean dialogue by means of practical operational agreements with the aim of strengthening the fight against criminal phenomena, including illegal migration networks.
- Expressing appreciation of the efforts made by the partner countries within the framework adopted by ministers of the interior in the western Mediterranean dialogue, underscoring the decisions they have reached in the areas of organized crime, human trafficking and counter-terrorism,

The Ministers also affirm the importance of adopting practical measures to this effect.

Finally, the Ministers propose closer cooperation among the 5+5s with competence in relation to migratory questions for mutual benefit.

Concluding the works of their 7th conference for the western Mediterranean dialogue countries (5+5), the ministers stressed the importance of the (5+5) dialogue and its role in exchanging visions and experiences and working for setting the mutual objectives.

The ministers have highlighted the action that should be taken in this context and the reactivation of the present 5+5 formation in order to ensure a permanent cooperation aimed at making the Mediterranean area a region of security and stability.

The ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts being made by the Great Jamahiriya in organizing the preparatory meeting and the conference and in making such conference a success.

Continuing dialogue on all aspects of migration issues, the participants agreed to hold the 8th forthcoming ministerial conference for immigration of the western Mediterranean countries in 2011.