**Forum: Human Right Council**

**Issue: The Topic of Strengthening the Capacity of EU Refugee Countries**

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**Introduction**

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, intriguing a crisis as countries struggled to deal with the influx and creating splits in the EU over how to deal with resettling people.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 1,011,700 migrants arrived by sea in 2015, and almost 34,900 by land. This compares with 280,000 arrivals by land and sea for the whole of 2014. Yet, the figures do not include those who got in undetected.

According to the IOM, more than 3,770 migrants were reported to have died whilst trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2015. Most died on the crossing from north Africa to Italy, and more than 800 died in the Aegean crossing from Turkey to Greece.

The summer months are usually when the major percentage of death happens as it is the busiest time for migrants attempting to reach Europe. But in 2015, the deadliest month for migrants was April, which saw a boat carrying about 800 people capsized in the sea off Libya. Overcrowding is thought to have been one of the reasons for such a disaster.

The situation seems to be getting worse as tensions in the EU have been rising because of the disproportionate burden faced by some countries, particularly the countries where the majority of migrants have been arriving: Greece, Italy, and Hungary. For this reason, in September, EU ministers voted by a majority to relocate 160,000 refugees EU-wide, but for now, the plan will only apply to those who are in Italy and Greece. Another 54,000 were to be moved from Hungary, but the Hungarian government rejected this plan and will instead receive more migrants from Italy and Greece as part of the relocation scheme.

The UK has opted out of any plans for a quota system but, according to Home Office figures, 1,000 Syrian refugees were resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme in 2015. Prime Minister David Cameron has said the UK will accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next five years.

**Definition of key terms**

**European rescue at-sea-mission**

The European Union (E.U) will launch a new migrant rescue operation in the Mediterranean Sea to succeed Italy’s Mare Nostrum mission. Due to continuous death of the migrants during the migration, Italy has asked E.U Migration Commissioner for support, resulting in a new supplement, new mission dubbed “Frontex Plus”.

**Frontex Plus**

Frontex helps border authorities from different EU countries work together. Frontex full title is the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union. The agency was set up in 2004 to reinforce and streamline cooperation between national border authorities. In pursuit of this goal, Frontex has several operational areas which are defined in the founding Frontex Regulation and a subsequent amendment. These areas of activity are Joint Operations, Training, Risk Analysis, Research, Providing a rapid response capability, the Assisting Member States in joint return operations, Information systems and information sharing the environment and so on.

**Delivery of humanitarian visas**

Also known as the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program, it provides early practical support to humanitarian entrants on arrival, and throughout their initial settlement period, generally for the first six to 12 months. The objectives of the HSS program are to provide humanitarian entrants with tailored support to begin a new life in Australia, an opportunity to strengthen their ability to fully participate in the economic and social life of Australia, skills and knowledge to independently access services beyond the HSS program, services in accordance with the program's principles.

**The European Union’s asylum policy**

The EU has spent years building the CEAS, which is intended to ensure that the rights of refugees under international law are protected in its member states. The system sets out minimum standards and procedures for processing and assessing asylum applications, and for the treatment of both asylum seekers and those who are granted refugee status. Where an asylum seeker travels through several EU countries, the CEAS allows one EU country to send that person to the first EU country reached by the asylum seeker, so long as that country upholds the rights of asylum seekers.

**Abbreviations and acronyms**

**GAMM: Global Approach to Migration and Mobility**

**SOLAS: International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea**

**UNCLOS: Convention on the Law of the Sea**

**IOM: International Organization for Migration**

**UNHCR: United Nations High Commission for Refugees**

**CEAS: Common European Asylum System**

**HSS: Humanitarian Settlement Services**

**Nation’s stances/positions**

**Canada:** Canada has stated their stance that they will accept about 25,000 refugees at the end of the February. However, they currently stopped accepting more refugees since they lack facilities and fund. Moreover, it is a great matter if the refugees get enough language education which will be the foundation for their new life in the new country and if they adapt to the freezing climate in Canada.

**France:** Officially has been welcoming refugees and even encouraged otherEU countries to join their opinion. However, recent terror attack in Paris created fearful and critical voices over the matter of accepting more refugees. Now, it is stated that France is overall having two opposite side about the problem and still causing active debate.

**Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia has admitted for about million refugees who are carefully selected with strict visa courses in the country itself. Saudi Arabia is actually affordable to support the refugees but they are worrying about the safety so that they are now officially opposing to accept the refugees.

**Turkey:** Officially agreed to the matter of strengthening the capacity of EU refugee in the country itself, but a certain group of citizens is strongly against it. Since 2011, it is clear fact that Turkey has been accommodating about 2 million 200 thousand asylums from Syria. Being a barrier that keeps other Europeans countries being rushed by the asylums, Turkey has been provided (3.9 trillion Won) from EU countries. But Turkey seems to be accommodating refugees to solve economic problems in the country and to get a positive effect on signing up in EU reunion that they are not caring about the refugees and are just leaving them alone without any additional services.

**Syria:** Syrian Government is under suspension of fire but is constantly fighting against ISIS and some rebel groups so they have no time to spare for the refugees for their own sake. What’s worse, Syrian Government is torturing or even killing their own citizens by misunderstanding them as spies from other rebel groups or from ISIS.

**Possible Solutions**

Financial aid: Seek for any possible ways that can afford refugees with financial support such as but not limited to calling for international help from NGOs and make sure that all the aids are directly provided to the refugees and facilities themselves.

Education system: Considering the fact that almost all refugees are left away by the wayside without any care for them, we should focus on systematic support for the refugees by helping them to learn other languages first, and then helping them to learn skills for additional jobs for their future.

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