

## **Migration task force of the Conference of INGOs**

### **Terms of reference**

**Adopted by the Standing Committee on 22 January 2018**

#### **Background:**

Since many years, the Conference of INGOs has taken up the issue of the wealth and the challenges that forced migration poses to countries of departure and to countries of arrival. We are aware that, beyond the humanitarian emergencies, a change of paradigm is needed to build fully cohesive societies, with respect for human rights and laws in the countries.

Following the work done by the Conference of INGOs and the adoption of the [migration roadmap for 2017-2018](#), it is proposed to the Standing Committee to create a migration task force which will provide food for thought for the work of all the components of the Conference of INGOs (for an integrated approach to migration). This migration task force will facilitate the development of well-argued common positions, including a prospective analysis of post-migration phenomena in European society and as well as in societies in neighbouring countries. This expertise will allow the Conference of INGOs to react in an appropriate manner whenever it proves necessary, and to mutualise the knowledge and expertise of its members.

#### **Functions:**

The migration task force will have the following functions:

- Receive information (alerts) from the INGO networks acting at the grassroots level on the protection and reception of migrants in the Council of Europe member States. This information will constitute first-hand material that will be analysed by the migration task force;
- Collect and publicise good practices in this area;
- Propose an analysis of the information received in the light of the work carried out within the Council of Europe and other international organisations, in particular on the basis of international legal instruments applying to migration law;
- Sparking the work of the thematic committees, the Vice-President in charge of equality, and the working groups (in this respect, a link must be established with the newly created transversal Social and Territorial Cohesion Group);
- Develop reasoned statements to propose to the Standing Committee;
- Propose collective statements regarding the identified phenomena to the Conference of INGOs (through its components)

#### **Composition:**

Given its operational nature, its size should allow for effective exchanges and rapid consultation. The body will build its wider network of collaborators who will contribute with information and their analysis.

## **Working methods:**

The information provided to the migration task force should refer to the fields of activity of the Council of Europe (Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law). It should be noted that the Council of Europe does not provide humanitarian aid and is not strictly speaking specialised in the field of ecology / environmental protection.

## **Organisation:**

1. Consultation on receipt of information;
2. Definition of the deadline to reply to the sender of information;
3. Transmission of the analysis to the Bureau of the Conference of INGOs which will decide the follow-up action:
  - Refer it to a thematic committee for study or debate at the session of the Conference of INGOs;
  - Produce a press release by the Bureau;
  - Include it on the agenda of the Standing Committee and the Plenary of the Conference of INGOs, in accordance with Article 1.4.7<sup>1</sup> of its Rules of Procedure
4. If appropriate, the forwarding of the analysis to the President of the Conference of INGOs to take the issue up with other Council of Europe bodies (Permanent Representations, Parliamentary Committees, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, Commissioner for Human Rights, etc.).

## **Impact criteria:**

In general, the purpose of the Conference of INGOs is to remain vigilant to the conditions in which NGOs operate for their humanitarian mission of welcoming and integrating migrants and also to remain vigilant with regard to the defence of their rights. In this context, the importance of the regularity of the information received and the production of the reasoned analyses will be taken into account.

The analysis produced by the migration task force should facilitate the transformation of identified problems into issues that will allow the development of legal and sociological expertise, as well as advocacy action with Council of Europe bodies.

## **Next steps:**

- Identify experts to contribute to the analysis of information;
- Identify, through an open call to the INGOs of the Conference, INGOs working in the field of reception, protection and promotion of migrants;
- Make a non-exhaustive inventory of practices used by INGOs.

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<sup>1</sup> Any proposal submitted by an INGO delegate which is likely to interest the Conference of INGOs, and which is lodged with the Conference Secretariat 30 days before the Conference meets, may be put before the Conference of INGOs with the agreement of the Bureau. Urgent matters may be referred to the Standing Committee, which may place them on the Conference agenda without a prior waiting period.