



PARLIAMANTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Doc.: GA60/CC59/REC187/22

RECOMMENDATION 187/2022*

“Social Impact of Refugee Crisis in the BSEC Member States”

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) shares the concern of the international community about the large-scale movement of refugees and migrants, which entails wide-ranging consequences of a social, humanitarian, economic and political nature. Unprecedented flows of refugees pass through the borders of many states. The crisis caused by the influx of refugees, especially in the context of a pandemic, affects all states and requires the collective efforts of the international community. These people are fleeing conflict, persecution, poverty and other life-threatening situations and are striving for a better life in other countries.
2. PABSEC notes that a huge number of migrants and displaced people around the world are in need of protection and assistance. The consequences of a large numbers of refugees in neighbouring countries can be both negative and positive, and the dynamics between positive and negative factors is complex and varies depending on the specific situation. Addressing the effects of forced displacement requires an understanding of the political situation of host countries and the implications of the refugee situation in those societies.
3. The PABSEC is concerned that the Russian military aggression against Ukraine caused tremendous humanitarian challenges on a scale beyond what the Black Sea region has faced so far. Millions of people in Ukraine have been forced to leave their homes, among which are many women and children, who are most at risk of exploitation and abuse during crises.
4. The PABSEC recalls its previous Reports and Recommendations on “Rights and Social Protection of Refugees and Displaced Persons” (21/1997), on “Migration in the BSEC Member States – Social and Cultural Aspects” (32/2009) and on “Problems of Refugees,

* Assembly debate on 8 December 2022 (See Doc. GA60/CC59/REP/22, Report of the Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs Committee “Social Impact of Refugee Crisis in the BSEC Member States”, discussed on 13 October 2022 online; Rapporteur: Mr. Ramin Mammadov – Azerbaijan)

Text adopted at the Sixteenth General Assembly in the Republic of Serbia on 8 December 2022

Displaced Persons and Irregular Migrants in the BSEC Member States – Social Aspects” (151/2016), in which the Assembly emphasizes that the increase in the number of refugees has serious consequences for the socio-economic development of the countries in the Black Sea Region.

5. The PABSEC stresses that the countries that harbour refugees face many difficulties, including the pressing economic challenges associated with the accommodation of refugees and their integration into their new places of residence. Especially in times of conflicts in the Wider Black Sea Region, the social impacts of the crisis became a key issue at the national, regional and global level. The BSEC Member States have mobilized their efforts to organize a decent reception for refugees and to facilitate their rehabilitation.

6. The PABSEC stresses that the social impacts associated with the presence of refugees can be mitigated by a comprehensive framework to secure stability and development through sustainable solutions. The growing migratory pressure on the host countries poses a serious challenge to their economy and to their security, health and social systems. It is necessary to promote the formation of an effective national policy on the management of migration processes.

7. The PABSEC notes that most of the BSEC countries have developed action plans and effective integration programs that include a range of activities necessary to promote social inclusion and are implemented through cooperation between central and local government authorities and the non-governmental sector. Social services meet the social needs of an individual and family in order to overcome difficult conditions, as well as to prevent social marginalization and exclusion.

8. The PABSEC acknowledges that an understanding of the root causes of forced displacement is at the core of an effective response to migration crises. Successful implementation of this task requires, first of all, the settlement of conflicts and the coordination of the efforts of the world community in the political, social, economic, humanitarian and other fields. Peoples and nations in the Black Sea region and beyond need peace, security and confidence in the future.

9. The PABSEC confirms that saving human lives is a priority and therefore the governmental agencies and non-government organizations are called upon to provide a solution to the numerous aspects of refugee problems, and to mobilize all available resources that are required for imperative decision-making. It is equally important to create joint initiatives to resolve crisis situations based on the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility.

10. PABSEC welcomes the active cooperation of the BSEC Member States with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Council of Europe, UNICEF and others in the framework of various programs of regional cooperation based on dialogue. The response must be global, comprehensive and inclusive. Current trends in the refugee crisis indicate the need for regular meetings between governments and international organizations to collectively address these pressing issues.

11. **Therefore, the PABSEC recommends** that the parliaments and the governments of the BSEC Member States:

- i. *improve* a legal framework, ensuring the access of the refugees to social services, employment, housing, health care and education in host countries;

- ii. *ensure* observation of the human rights and safety of all refugees both in the countries of origin of refugees and in countries hosting the refugees;
- iii. *provide* support to host countries in ensuring access to protection, basic needs and the development of a comprehensive policy for integrating refugees into new places of residence;
- iv. *contribute* to the formation of an effective national policy for the management of refugee flows, the development of strategies and measures to resolve crisis situations within the framework of a coordinated and system-wide approach;
- v. *elaborate* measures to support the establishment of mechanisms aiming to achieve the long-term social integration of the refugees in the host countries;
- vi. *promote* involvement of international humanitarian organizations working with refugees to solve emerging problems;
- vii. *implement* strategic action plan to encourage the active participation of refugees in the social and economic life of the host country;
- viii. *encourage* the development of a set of rules and measures aimed at regulating civil and social relations in the framework of streamlining migration processes;
- ix. *assist* the refugees on the provision of timely information about any changes in their rights and responsibilities in the regulations;
- x. *provide* psychological support for refugees, including specialized mental health services, with particular attention to the stress of displacement and the uncertainty of the asylum procedures;
- xi. *coordinate* the efforts of the competent authorities in BSEC Member States of performing validation of refugees belonging to criminal organizations;
- xii. *organize* the exchange of data and statistics on incoming and outgoing flows of displaced persons, information on the actions of law enforcement agencies, including the detention of foreign citizens, their deportation and prosecution;
- xiii. *examine* the possibility of establishing a Joint Center of Migration among the BSEC Member States, aiming to exchange information and best practices in the refugee field;
- xiv. *organize* joint events with representatives of the migration agencies in the BSEC countries in order to exchange of views on the refugee issues;
- xv. *strengthen* cooperation between international and regional organizations and share experience of countries who have successfully managed the integration of refugees into their local communities;
- xvi. *contribute* to the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the Black Sea region as an important factor to contain refugee flows and address the root causes of forced displacement.

12. The PABSEC invites the BSEC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider this Recommendation.