

Delegation from The Republic of Equatorial Guinea
Position Paper for the Security Council

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) are: Environmental Migration as a Concern for Peace and Security; Preventing Violence Towards Refugees and IDPs; and Partnerships Between the United Nations and Relevant Regional Organizations in Peacekeeping Operations. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (Equatorial Guinea) is deeply committed to the goals of the UN, particularly the maintenance of peace and security and consequently welcomes strengthening the international dialogue in order to effectively address the issues on the agenda.

I. Environmental Migration as a Concern or Peace and Security

As stressed in the report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of 2014, climate related migration has severe impacts on human security through economic, housing and health related outcomes. Due to its geographical conditions, the African Continent is an especially vulnerable region which is highly affected by the consequences of climate change including water shortage, drought and other extreme weather events. Especially in armed conflicts, the effects of climate change reinforce migration. Seeing the urgent need to find adequate answers to the issue of environmental migration, Equatorial Guinea is deeply dedicated to strengthening the international dialogue on this issue.

Being deeply concerned about the severe impact of climate change on human rights, Equatorial Guinea is fully committed to further international cooperation in order to effectively address the issue on hand. Recognizing the urgent need to diminish the risk of extreme weather events, Equatorial Guinea adopted the National Climate Change Plan (2014) to promote the reduction of carbon emissions thus contributing to the mitigation of climate change and further established the National Fund for Climate Change which undertakes several initiatives to protect the environment. Reflecting both, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) as well as the African Agenda 2063, several regional and international initiatives including the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and African Adaptations Initiative aim at reducing the risk of natural disasters. Considering the linkage between Climate Change and human rights, Equatorial Guinea welcomes the adoption of A/HRC/RES/26/27 (2014) and A/RES/71/1 (2016) and consequently supported the adoption of A/RES/73/195 (2018). Furthermore, Equatorial Guinea chaired the UN High Level Event “Addressing the Climate Change- Migration Nexus and its Implications for Peace and Security in Africa” in October 2017 in order to find holistic approaches to the nexus of climate change, migration and conflict which is indispensable in order ensure a sustainable development.

Addressing the issue of environmental migration in an efficient manner requires an integrated approach considering the international climate change framework, the human rights framework and innovation adaptations particularly in the field of agriculture. Consequently, strengthening cooperation between the relevant UN organisations and agencies including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is of utmost importance. This could be promoted through the establishment of an Interdisciplinary International Panel on the Climate Change-Migration Nexus consisting of members of named UN organs which reports annually to the SC. This panel would furthermore be in charge of promoting the exchange of experience and best practices between all relevant stakeholders including regional organisations, non governmental organizations and the civil society. Additionally, Equatorial Guinea urges the international community to focus on combatting the roots of environmental migration by accomplishing the climate goals defined in the Paris Agreement (2015). Furthermore, providing technical and financial support to the regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change may also contribute to the mitigation of environmental migration.

II. Preventing Violence Towards Refugees and IDPs

Worldwide, 68.5 Million people are forcibly displaced as a result of conflict or persecution. Particularly irregular migration causes discrimination, exploitation and violations towards refugees and IDPs. Within this context, migrant smuggling is an issue which poses a particular threat to the fundamental human rights of migrants, children and women being especially endangered. In order to ensure the rights enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), Equatorial Guinea is deeply dedicated to further international cooperation.

Equatorial Guinea sees the protection of human rights as priority and therefore cooperates closely with local, regional and international organizations in order to address humanitarian issues. Various projects including training for police officers on human rights issues such as the prohibition of illegal immigrant smuggling and human trafficking as well as diverse campaigns for vulnerable groups contribute to

continuous improvement of the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea. Considering the linkage between migration and development, the African Union (AU) established a Specialized Technical Committee in order to formulate recommendations concerning migration, Refugees and IDPs which adopted the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2018). Equatorial Guinea is fully committed to A/RES/71/1 (2016) and consequently supported the adoption of A/RES/73/195 (2018). In order to find regional specific approaches to migration, the AU agreed on a Common African Position on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration focussing amongst others on addressing human rights of all migrants. As a consequence, the AU established the Continental Operational Centre to combat irregular migration focussing particularly on human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Equatorial Guinea is convinced that violence towards refugees and IDPs can only be prevented through intense international cooperation. In order to address this issue, the establishment of monitoring mechanisms on a national and regional level can contribute to an assessment of the current situation and the formulation of adequate policies responding to regional specific challenges regarding the protection of refugees and IDPs. Considering the important role of police officers and armed forces regarding the insurance of safe and orderly migration, Equatorial Guinea encourages all member states to develop training programmes on this topic. Within this context, special attention should be paid to identifying migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Furthermore, Equatorial Guinea stresses the importance of promoting the inclusion of Refugees and IDPs in the respective host countries, thus combatting discrimination and xenophobia, and therefore invites all member states to develop policies targeting these issues. Additionally, the improvement of internal identification and documentation systems in the respective destination countries can contribute to the recognition of Refugees and IDPs, thus ensuring their access to basic services.

III. Partnerships Between the United Nations and Relevant Regional Organizations in Peacekeeping Operations

Currently, there are seven peacekeeping operations situated on the African Continent. The report of the Secretary-General on the Enhancement of African Peacekeeping capacity stresses the outstanding importance of regional organizations within these missions, however strong partnerships between the UN and regional organizations remain indispensable in order to promote peace and security and thus to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Hence, Equatorial Guinea is devoted to increasing international cooperation and welcomes further discussions on this topic.

Equatorial Guinea considers the promotion of peace and security as precondition for a sustainable development and consequently endorses the initiative Action for Peacekeeping launched by the Secretary-General. Equatorial Guinea supports the multifaceted agenda of the AU regarding the maintenance of peace and security within the region. The case of joint African Union/ United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) has shown that close cooperation between the UN and regional organizations can increase the efficiency of Peacekeeping Operations which is why Equatorial Guinea welcomes the adoption of S/RES/2033 (2012) and S/RES/2167 (2014). On these grounds the AU continues strengthening its cooperation with the UN agencies in the field of peace and security, including through the AU-UN framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. This framework aims at cultivating collaboration between AU and UN through regular consultation focussing on the prevention of conflicts as well as the planning and managing of peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the Memorandum of Understanding of UN- AU partnership in Peacebuilding signed in 2017 further strengthens this coordination.

The positive outcomes of the engagement of the African Union in the area of peace and conflict underlines the outstanding importance of regional and sub regional organizations in peacekeeping operations. Due to their regional specific experience they are able to respond adequately to security relevant developments within the region. However, often the relevant organizations lack the necessary financial means to maximize the success of peacebuilding measures. Considering this, financial, technical and logistic support for regional and sub regional organisations provided by the international community is from outstanding relevance in order to increase the efficiency of peacekeeping operations. Consequently, Equatorial Guinea suggests establishing a mechanism which makes UN funding for peacekeeping operations led by regional organizations on a case-to-case basis possible. This mechanism would shift the concentration of competences towards regional organisations, thus enabling an effective implementation of peacebuilding measures on a regional level. Equatorial Guinea is fully committed to strengthening the international dialogue on this topic and looks forward to the proposals of all member states.