

Advance unedited version

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Eighty-sixth session

27 April-15 May 2015

**Statement on Current Migrant Crises**

*The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, meeting in Geneva at its eighty-sixth session from 27 April to 15 May 2015,

*Acting* under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure,

*Alarmed* by the seriousness and magnitude of the recent humanitarian tragedies, particularly in the Mediterranean and in the Andaman seas, involving massive suffering and loss of life of migrants mostly attempting to flee political and ethno-religious persecution and economic crises by maritime routes;

*Fully aware* of the multifaceted and multidimensional nature of these crises, extending from human trafficking to migration and refugee policies at both state and regional levels;

*Deeply concerned* by developments associated with these complicated phenomena such as an increase in hate speech as well as racist or xenophobic violence,

*Considering* that the victims of these tragedies constitute a group vulnerable to racial discrimination according to ICERD,

*Mindful* of the need to encourage the ongoing humanitarian responses required from the international community to preserve the lives and the dignity of the persons affected,

1. Urgently calls upon the States parties,

- (a) to assume responsibility and to take concrete action to address effectively the root causes of the recent surge in migration waves in the aforementioned regions of the world;
- (b) to correctly identify and address the human rights and humanitarian dimensions of the issue;

- (c) to develop effective methods and provide resources to combat human trafficking;
- (d) to review their migration, asylum and refugee policies so as to prevent the emergence of discriminatory practices while trying to solve the problem; and,

2. Appeals to the international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to redouble their efforts to actively develop means to contribute to the solution of the crises in line with relevant human rights instruments.

2350<sup>th</sup> meeting  
15 May 2015