



# EthicalMUN III

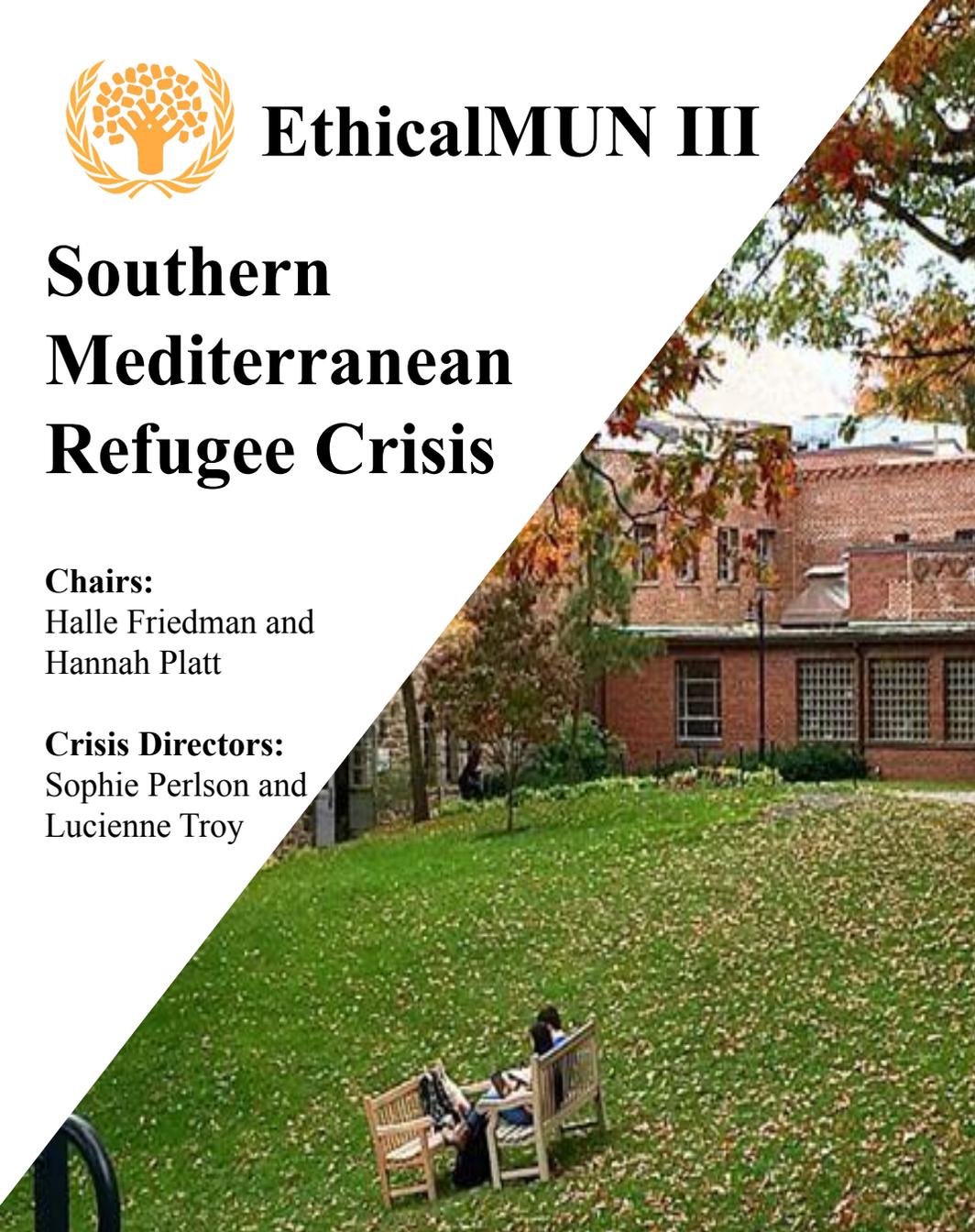
## Southern Mediterranean Refugee Crisis

### **Chairs:**

Halle Friedman and  
Hannah Platt

### **Crisis Directors:**

Sophie Perlson and  
Lucienne Troy





# EthicalMUN III

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Dear Delegates,

We're excited to welcome you to the EthicalMUN III conference! Moreover to this committee, the Southern Mediterranean Refugee crisis. We look forward to two full days of engaging debate and crisis simulation. We hope that through this topic you can channel your creativity to find fun and exciting solutions. Now, for a little bit about us. Hannah is a junior at Fieldston who has been doing MUN for five years. Her favorite part of Model United Nations is teaching it to the Beacon after school program; to her, imparting the invaluable skills and knowledge acquired from MUN to other students is a pay-it-forward obligation, and something that has further whet her appetite for the high school MUN experience.

Extracurricularly, Hannah enjoys reading about US history and co-heading a political discussion group at Fieldston! Hannah loves to debate and will bring her energy, passion, and enthusiasm to this conference!

Halle is a junior at Fieldston who's also been doing MUN for five years, she enjoys teaching at MUN at the Beacon after school program and writing quality directives and resolutions. In her free time she enjoys tennis and painting. She will bring her creative, strategic, and engaging disposition to this committee, and she is particularly excited to hear all of your ideas for combatting this crisis!

This committee will take place in the present day; We hope to see you work closely with crisis and use the full capabilities of the roles you're given to accomplish what your assignment would want if they were in the actual crisis. Although this is a formal conference, remember to have fun with your roles.

Best,

Your chairs,  
Hannah Platt (20hnplatt@ecfs.org)  
Halle Friedman (20hkfriedman@ecfs.org)a

## Committee Description

Currently, according to the United Nations, over 65 million people are officially displaced around the world, the highest figure recorded since World War Two. In 2017, over 120,000 refugees crossed the Mediterranean Sea however around 2,900 of them were reported killed or missing. In addition, millions of immigrants seek refuge in other parts of their own countries and in neighboring countries. In this committee, you will dive deep into the push and pull factors of immigration in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. You will focus on ways to stop immigration at its root or help out the host countries that are being greatly affected during this time. This is a topic that is greatly debated in politics and now, it is your chance to help solve this issue!

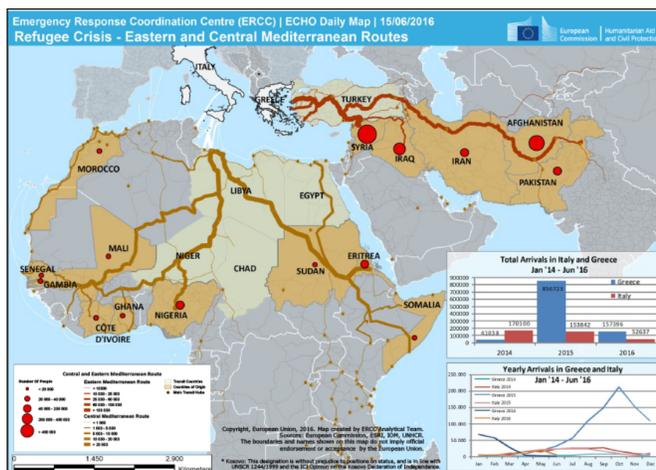
## Current Crisis<sup>1</sup>

More than 65 million people around the world are now officially displaced from their homes by conflict, violence and persecution – the highest figure recorded by the United Nations since the Second World War.

In 2017, more than 170,000 migrants, including refugees, arrived in Europe by sea. Close to 120,000 of them crossed the Central Mediterranean, the migrant route with most deaths recorded in the world, and nearly 2,900 migrants were recorded killed or missing on that route in the same year. Most of them traveled on smugglers' boats departing from Libya, Tunisia or Egypt, risking their lives in search of safety in Italy and beyond.

However, the vast majority of people are displaced within their country of origin, or remain close to it. In Nigeria, the ongoing conflict with Boko Haram has forced 1.8

million people to flee their homes and



search for safety in other parts of the country. Lebanon, with a population of 4.5 million people, is struggling to host 1.2 million Syrian refugees. A growing number of them are living in difficult conditions in camps or amongst host communities on the borders of both Turkey and Jordan.

Since 2014, European citizens have been engaged in an intensifying discussion about migration. This is the result of an unprecedented increase in the number of refugees and other migrants entering Europe, many of them fleeing protracted conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, particularly the war in Syria. The phenomenon peaked in 2015, when

more than one million people arrived in Europe, a large proportion of them having travelled along the eastern route through Turkey, Greece, and the Balkans.

The number of arrivals has fallen significantly since 2016, albeit with more than 160,000 people reaching Europe through Mediterranean routes annually. As a consequence of their geographical position and the Dublin Regulation – which sets the procedures for asylum applications in the European Union – countries of first arrival, Italy, Greece, and, to a lesser extent, Spain, have been most affected. The growth in the number of arrivals has created the perception of an unmanageable crisis and made the public increasingly aware of the issue. Thus, the issue of migration has had great influence on elections held in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and other European countries in the past year, boosting support for populist and eurosceptic parties. As shown in the map above, patterns of migration

tend to be very fluid and to change rapidly. Nevertheless, the central Mediterranean route has been one of the most consistently busy; the route to Greece has undergone significant changes; and, since 2017, the western Mediterranean route to Spain has been used much more than in previous years. This does not mean that traffic across other routes has been diverted to the western one, as primary countries of origin have also changed. For example, arrivals in Spain could be linked to the deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Algeria and to the political tensions in the Rif region of Morocco, while the opening of a new route from Tunisia to Italy appears to stem from the difficulties that other North African countries are experiencing.

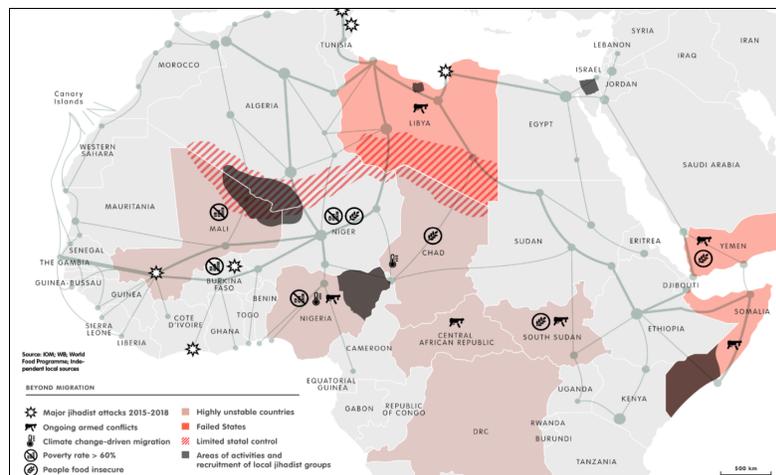
## **The European Union's (EU) Response<sup>2</sup>**

In April 2016, the European Commission announced an initial €83

million worth of humanitarian funding for emergency support projects to assist refugees in Greece. The projects address the most urgent humanitarian needs of some 50,000 refugees and migrants currently hosted in over 30 sites in Greece. The emergency support funding is made available to Member States whose own response capacities are overwhelmed by urgent and exceptional circumstances, such as the sudden influx of refugees. The assistance is complementary to Member States actions and provided in close coordination with the countries concerned, as well as the Commission humanitarian partner organizations such as UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and international organizations. This funding can be used for the provision of basic necessities such as food, shelter and medicine.

## Regional Discourse and Demographics<sup>3</sup>

Many Europeans are unaware of the challenges migrants face before reaching the coast of Libya and crossing the Mediterranean. A large proportion of migrants, most of them from sub-Saharan African countries, endure a long journey in extreme conditions during which some of them die. Niger is the main hub on the route to North Africa. The agreements with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) make people move freely within Western Africa up to Niger. However from Niger northward, migrants are branded as “illegal” and are so forced to rely on smugglers and traffickers to reach Libya and Algeria. Migrants often travel to Europe – many of them having been forcibly displaced – due to armed conflict in places such as Syria, Yemen, and northern Nigeria. But there are also other factors behind the recent rise in migration, the most



important of which is Africa’s population boom.

The continent’s population will double over the next 30 years because of very high fertility rates. Indeed, Niger has the highest fertility rate in the world: 7.3 children per woman. There is the opposite trend in Europe, which will have to address the challenges posed by an aging population if it wants to maintain its current levels of prosperity. Beyond demographics, there are several other drivers of migration. Climate change is displacing large numbers of Africans, as reflected in trends in Nigeria and the Lake Chad region. Extreme poverty, food insecurity, and the predatory behavior of

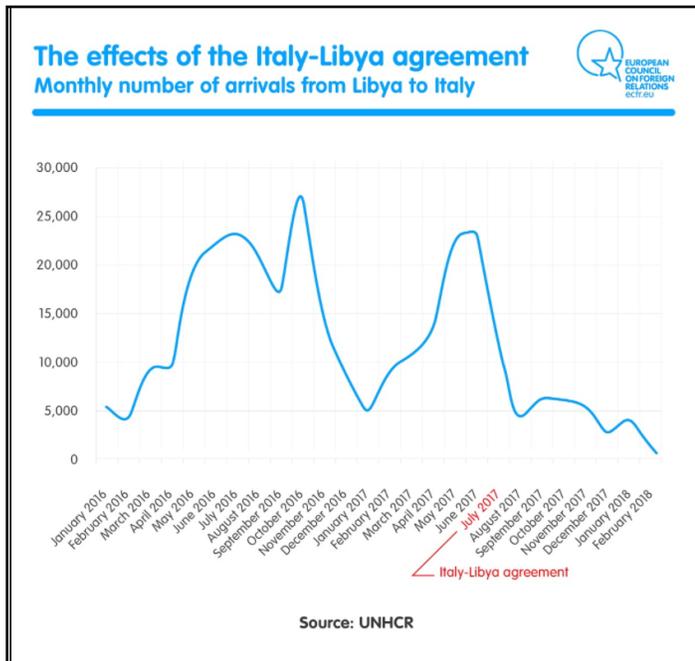
authoritarian regimes also prompt people to flee their country to find alternatives both within Africa itself (about 90% of African migrants remain on the continent) and in Europe. Many are also displaced by the jihadist groups operating in order regions, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and affiliated groups in the Sahel, and Boko Haram in northern Nigeria.

### *Libya: A Longstanding Crisis*

European, particularly Italian, policy on Libya has concentrated almost entirely on blocking the departure of migrants traveling to Italy without properly addressing the causes of migration. While this security-driven approach has proved effective in reducing the number of arrivals in Italy since summer 2017, these are short-term policies that do not represent a stable solution. Quite the reverse: through these agreements, the Italian government

unintentionally increased the political power of Libyan non-state actors, by indirectly involving armed militias, local authorities and the coast guard, whose roles often overlap. Furthermore, profiteers of detention centers have simply replaced profiteers of human trafficking. As reported by several organizations, in these facilities migrants frequently suffer physical and psychological abuse, as well as extortion. There are more than 30 official detention centers in Libya, along with an unspecified number of unofficial centers. The situation is made even more complicated by the country's persistent internal conflict and the activities of dozens of armed militias affiliated with its protagonists. In Libya, there are more than 700,000 migrants, including almost 50,000 asylum seekers and 165,000 internally displaced persons. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees had begun to relocate asylum seekers from Libya to Niger and then to Europe,

but the effort has stalled since last October: out of 1,300 people transferred to Niger, only 300 have been relocated to Europe, most of them to Italy.



### *Niger: A Migrant Outpost*

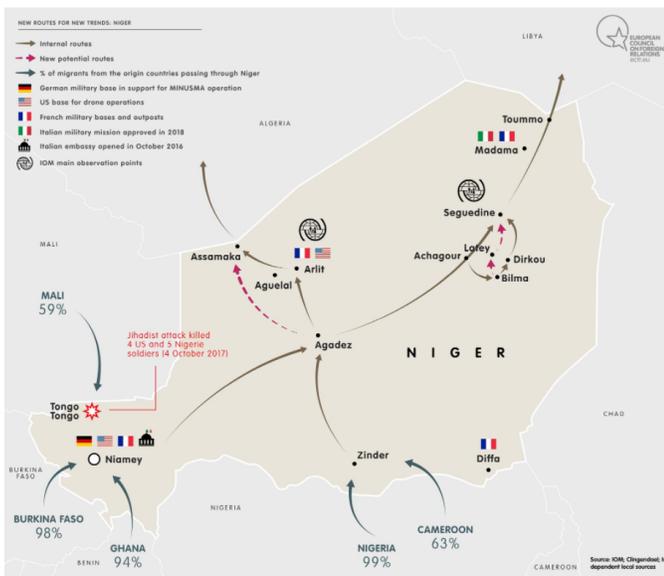
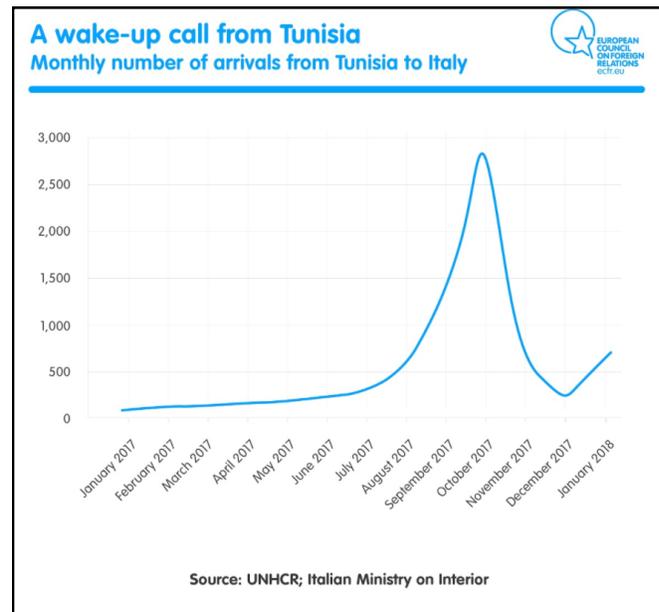
Faced with large numbers of people crossing the Mediterranean in recent years, the European Union has struggled to manage the phenomenon. As citizens become increasingly sensitive to the issue of migration, European governments have tried to provide immediate solutions to what

is a long-term, structural shift. In this context, Niger became one of the first countries the EU engaged with, due to its position at the heart of migration routes to the Mediterranean. European countries' activism in Niger involved the deployment of French and US troops there, along with activities at a German base in Niamey and the deployment of Italian soldiers in Madama (the last outpost for migrants traveling north before they reach Libya).

Aiming to stop migrants entering Libya from Niger, the EU has pushed the Nigerian government to adopt Law 2015/36, which criminalizes people smuggling. However, this has had a counterproductive effect on the ground: although dozens of people have been arrested and dozens of vehicles confiscated since 2016, the law has destroyed the livelihoods of hundreds of people who involved in this informal economy without providing them with alternatives. As

such, the law has exacerbated poverty and pushed migrants towards more dangerous routes and services. In fact, while the data collected by the International Organization for Migration shows a sharp decline in the number of people crossing the border between Niger and Libya since 2016, local sources confirm that the routes have simply adapted to the new context and that migrants continue to make the journey to Algeria and Libya.

dropped, the number of people traveling from Tunisia to Italy has increased exponentially.



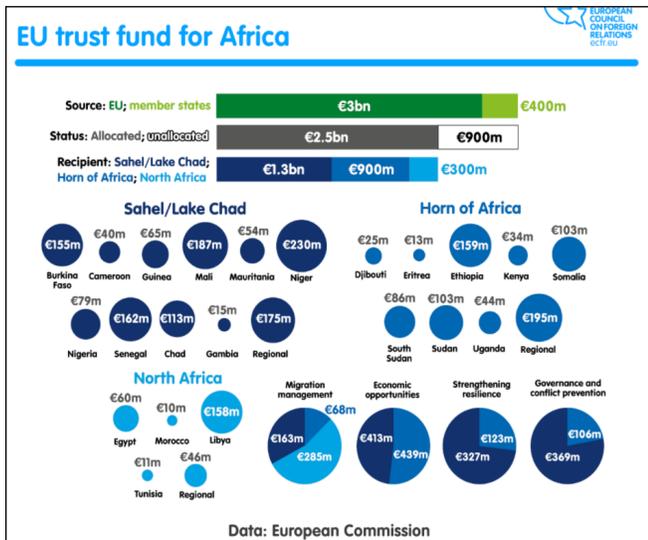
*Tunisia*

Since 2017, as the number of migrants departing Libya has

*Europe*

At the 2015 Valletta summit, the European Union created the EU Trust Fund for Africa, the initiative through which it aims to tackle the root causes of migration from Africa. Although the EU has recognized that Africa should be the heart of its efforts to address migration challenges, the policies it has implemented have done little to tackle the issue at the structural level. The

Migration Partnership Framework – which prioritizes work with Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal – is part of no official EU policy and has produced few satisfactory results.



Brussels and member states appear to have often focused on their urgent interests in border control, security, and measures to restrict migratory flows rather issues within origin and transit countries. Moreover, their security-driven approach to migration risks exacerbating the problems that drive migration in countries of origin, generating greater instability in the long term. Through the policies it has adopted so far, the

EU (which has a presence within civilian and military missions in Africa) effectively moved its borders south towards the Sahel. This externalization of borders control and European security has helped to forge the image of a “fortress Europe” that has little interest in acknowledging or addressing the real causes of migration. Furthermore, reception and integration programs within European countries are flawed. There is a lack of programs that provide safe, legal entry routes for migrants and asylum seekers.

Moreover, proposals to establish the so-called “hot-posts” in developing nations are impractical for at least two reasons: the insecurity and lack of human, civil, and political rights in many of these countries; and member states’ unwillingness to relocate asylum seekers within their territories (as demonstrated by the failure of the relocation program launched in 2015, as well as UN High Commissioner for Refugees reports

on asylum seekers who have been relocated from Libya to Niger).

### **Bloc Positions<sup>4</sup>:**

**Non-Border Nations in the EU**  
**(Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic,**  
**Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France,**  
**Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania,**  
**Netherlands, Poland, Romania,**  
**Slovakia, Sweden, UK)**

There has been a mixed response to the crisis among the EU's wealthier and more influential nations.

Germany is doing an exceptional job compared to other EU member states, having granted refuge to thousands of individuals. However, Germany is beginning to struggle with the amount of people seeking asylum, and both Germany and France have called for binding refugee quotas for EU members. On the other hand, the United Kingdom has taken in very little refugees and is being criticized for its lack of action. A recent vote however has meant that the UK is joining France and the USA in

airstrikes against Daesh in Syria, so the nation is taking external steps to deal with the crisis.

**Border Nations in the EU**  
**(Hungary, Germany, Greece, Italy,**  
**Spain, Croatia Portugal)**

The effects of the refugee crisis is not being felt equally across European countries. Those who share their borders with popular escape routes are finding themselves having to deal with the biggest consequences, and are quite simply overburdened and struggling to cope. Countries such as Hungary are also becoming extremely significant. Hungary is "suddenly find itself fielding the most asylum applications per million of population," and it is struggling. On the 13th of September 2015 a record number of 5,809 people arrived in Hungary, the following day a state of emergency was declared and those trying to enter the country were threatened with arrests. Hungary has also made to decision to put up a

metal fence to prevent people from entering the country, a decision which has been met with a great deal of criticism from EU countries.

### Questions to Consider:

1. How can the international community support the influx of refugees into Europe without infringing on national sovereignty?
2. What types of monetary resources can be used to stabilize the economies and enhance living conditions in Libya, Tunisia, and Niger?
3. Which member states are willing to grant political asylum to the refugees of the Southern Mediterranean, and is there a carrying capacity to be stipulated?
4. Is it necessary to consider militaristic intervention or to deploy UN peacekeeping troops to the affected areas along the Southern Mediterranean?

5. What types of measures will your delegation consider to hamper the spread of terrorism in the affected areas (i.e. al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and affiliated groups in the Sahel, and Boko Haram in northern Nigeria)
6. How can member states establish programs that provide safe, legal entry routes for migrants and asylum seekers?

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