

FORUM: Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Measures to create job opportunities for refugees

SUBMITTED BY: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

CO-SUBMITTERS: Amnesty International, UNHCR, Malta, Germany, African Union, UNEP, Turkmenistan, Iran, UN Women, Japan, UNICEF, Chad, UNESCO, Sudan, Canada

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

Defining refugees as an individual who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence,

With regards to the application of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, (217), which guarantees the 30 basic human rights to all human beings,

Noting with deep concern the appalling crisis at hand of 70.8 million refugees forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or grotesque human rights violations,

Recognizing with appreciation the efforts made by countries such as Turkey, Pakistan, Uganda, Sudan, Germany, Iran, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Jordan to host refugees in their nations,

Admiring the efforts made by Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Center for Global Development, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and Women in Migration Network to aid the integration of refugees into host countries,

Approving the actions taken by the UNHCR in hosting the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs,

Bearing in mind the Refugee Status Determination, which is the legal or administrative process by which governments or United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) determine whether a person seeking international protection is considered a refugee under international, regional or national law,

Noting with appreciation the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, 19 September 2016, (A/71/L.1), who set out a framework of responsibilities for member states of the UN to protect refugees who are forced to flee, and to grant support internationally to such people in desperate need of security.

Fully believing that investment in education for refugees is a huge long term opportunity to give them skills, improve their livelihoods and improve financial state in the future, whether that's a future in their host country, or country of origin should they return,

1. Suggests the expansion and implementation of the UNHCR Biometric Identity Management System by member states, to increase accessibility to employment for refugees, to be accessible by potential employers and relevant caseworkers and include information on each individual refugee of working age in their host country including but not limited to:
 - a) the refugee's employment history in the host country,
 - b) all of the refugee's accepted qualifications and certified diplomas,
 - c) the refugee's current employment status proven by evidence of the refugee's attendance at interviews, if the employment status so requires and testimonies from former or current places of work;
2. Recommends that member states create a system similar to a universal basic income for refugees in order to make refugees self sufficient and active members of the economy of their host country, which will:
 - a) be given to the refugees monthly, and calculated by member states, based on their current situation,

- b) become available to refugees that are, according to the expanded Biometric Identity Management System mentioned above, actively seeking employment or currently employed;
3. Encourages member states to expand social welfare programs, to be funded by member states and relevant UN bodies such as the UNHRC, to enable refugees to pursue job opportunities and employment, such as:
- a) childcare, pre-school and after-school care programs that enable adult refugees to work and earn money,
 - b) Access to healthcare, which can be funded by the UN and supported through UNHCR programs to allow healthy adults to pursue employment
4. Urges member states to provide education for incoming refugee minors and children, in order to integrate them into society and provide them with the necessary skills to enter into the workforce of the host country, by means such as but not limited to;
- a) the construction of education centers in areas of high refugee concentration, specifically for refugee minors,
 - b) offering courses to refugees, funded by NGOs such as the World Bank, IMF, and UNICEF, in cooperation with host governments, which include classes such as but not limited to:
 - i. mandatory non-native language classes of the host country's language,
 - ii. culture classes, which will include information such as etiquette and traditions, ultimately assisting in the integration and transition of the refugees into society;
5. Further urges that member states take measures to educate adult refugees by conducting workshops, seminars and programs in refugee camps and resettlement areas sponsored by the host nation, to provide:
- a) vocational training to enable refugees to find employment in the infrastructure, construction and farming sectors,
 - b) programs to teach refugees necessary skills requisite for employment in sectors in accordance with economic trends,
 - c) operation of computers and other forms of technology,
 - d) management and other skills relevant to entrepreneurship;
6. Calls upon member states to assist refugees in adapting their previous employment and educational credentials in the host nation, allowing them to use their transferable skills through ways such as but not limited to:
- a) examinations and tests by national educational institutes to confirm claimed educational levels and award work permits,
 - b) retraining courses to familiarise refugees with common local practises and methods related to their occupation;
7. Strongly encourages member states to introduce legislation, with the aim to reduce discrimination against refugees in the workplace and within the employment process in ways such as, but not limited to:
- a) the training of Human Resources staff within all companies on the requirements and rights related to employing refugees,
 - b) providing educational resources to companies in order to ensure workers and employers are aware and educated on the effects of discrimination including:
 - i. Seminars
 - ii. Pamphlets and posters
 - iii. Social media-based campaigns
 - c) introduction of legal recourse mechanisms for refugees facing discrimination in the workplace or during the hiring process;

8. Recommends member states implement a program called “Incentivizing Local Businesses” (ILB) which will provide incentives to private companies in order to increase their number of refugee employees by taking measures such as but not limited to:
- a) fixing minimum optional thresholds for refugee employment, and providing companies who are adherent, with stimulus packages for the same, such as reductions and concessions in income tax, tax rebates, exemption from appropriation charges, loan guarantees and protection against tariff reduction,
 - b) incentivizing the focus on refugee employee education and skill enhancement.