

5+5 Dialogue
Second Ministerial Conference
On Migration in the Western Mediterranean
Rabat, 22-23 October, 2003

Conclusions of the Chairmanship

In accordance with the Tunis Declaration issued by the Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean, held in Tunis on 16-17 October, 2002, the Ministers and the representatives of the governments of the 5+5 Dialogue Member States (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia) convened in Rabat on 22-23 October, 2003 within the framework of a second regional conference on migration upon invitation of the Moroccan government, represented by Mrs. Nouzha Chekrouni, Delegated Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in charge of the Moroccan Community Living Abroad.

A preparatory experts' meeting was held in Rabat on 15-16 September, 2003.

At the closure of this ministerial meeting, Morocco, in its capacity of host country, underscores the following conclusions:

This Second Conference of the 5+5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean allowed to recall the objectives set forth in the Tunis Declaration and adopted by the Ministers' Conference on Migration held in Tunis on 16-17 October, 2002, mainly those emphasizing the need to promote an effective cooperation on migration issues of common interest.

The Ministers praised the efforts made by the Tunisian Chairmanship to ensure the follow-up of the Tunis Conference.

They express also their satisfaction at the progress made in this respect, most particularly the adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue (10 April, 2003 in Sainte-Maxime) of a document on migration and human exchanges with a view to promoting a comprehensive and balanced approach of this issue in the Western Mediterranean Region.

The Ministers underline also the need to develop an approach of the migration issue based on friendship, solidarity, partnership and aiming at addressing it considering both its essential dimension of bringing peoples closer and its negative manifestations requiring a joint action.

Bearing in mind the foregoing, the Ministers of the ten countries adopt the following recommendations:

- 1- **Address** the migration issue within a comprehensive and balanced approach that sets human beings at the very heart of concerns, based on a balanced and mutually beneficial partnership;

- 2- **Promote** an efficient management of regular migration flows in close consultation between the countries of both shores of the Western Mediterranean;
- 3- **Enhance and increase** the efficiency of the prevention and fight against irregular migration in countries of origin, transit and destination, namely in the frame of a multidimensional cooperation;
- 4- **Promote** the improvement of living, residence, work and professional mobility conditions of legal migrants from the Maghreb settled in Europe;
- 5- **Acknowledge** the interest in the elaboration of an appropriate informative document or any other documentary tool on the rights and obligations of legal migrants living in the 5+5 Dialogue member states;
- 6- **Promote** readmission agreements among the dialogue partner countries on the basis of conditions to be defined jointly;
- 7- **Encourage** social and economic development in regions with high emigration potential;
- 8- **Adopt** a progressive approach for the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Tunis Declaration, with the aim of achieving, step by step, the defined objectives, by harnessing the capacities of national experts and benefiting of the expertise of international and regional organizations, such as IOM and ILO;
- 9- **Call for** the identification and mobilization of all appropriate means to ensure the effective implementation of recommendations;

And adopt also the proposals for the implementation of the “Tunis Declaration” herewith attached

Upon proposal by the Algerian delegation, the next Ministers’ Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean will be held in Algeria in 2004.