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The Legal and Political Aspects for Integration

Produced by

Wael Farrag

For more information:

[Wfarrag@mome.gov.eg](mailto:Wfarrag@mome.gov.eg)

Egypt is considered as a sending and receiving country. It is keen to provide protection to Egyptians abroad through concluding many bilateral and multilateral International agreements such as EU/Egypt Association Agreement, and other bilateral agreements in the field of migration such as Labor agreement between Italy and Egypt which is considered a good model to be followed by EU.

Regarding integration and its importance in the International Society, we must differentiate between the meanings of "integration" and "cultural assimilation", which is considered the main struggle between migrants and the hosting countries.

It is worth mentioning, that migrants formulate an important portion of Manpower in the industrial countries which suffer from a decrease in manpower due to the demographic factors and decreasing in the fertility rates in these countries.

Non-integration of migrants in European societies remains one of the main problems facing them. The most outstanding reason for this phenomenon is related to social accumulations which can not be overcome by migrants, resulting in alienation from the new society

## **The Legal and Political Aspects for Integration**

### **Exploring international agreements**

By going through several bilateral and multilateral international agreements that occurred in the international society; it is clear that there has never been an agreement specified for integration but it was always mentioned as a part of all the agreements about migration, migrants and the rights of workers as we can see in the following:

The international agreement for "Discrimination (Employment and Occupation)" in 1958 made to establish the principle that there should be no discrimination in any employment or occupation on certain grounds.

The migrant workers agreement no. 143 in 1975 demanded from all its member states that all legal migrants living within its borders should be treated similar to their own citizens in all terms of work like for example; the working hours, overtime and other benefits.

Amsterdam Treaty in 1997 which was ratified by the member states of the European Union considered migration and the right of asylum as a common policy. This common policy is based on three principles that are: helping the countries of origin of the migrants, integrating migrants in the European societies and to set up strict measure to control emigration.

The international agreement for protecting the rights of workers, migrants and their families in 1990.

It is noticed that in spite of the existence of all these international agreements, most of them were applied on a limited level or not applied at all.

The mechanism for protecting the rights of migrant worker is very weak. The international community needs to establish an effective mechanism to protect the rights of migrant workers in general from discrimination, racism and social exclusion.

By going through several international discussions about migration that tried to find solutions for migration problems, the Swiss government launched "Bern Initiation" in 2001 to create a dialogue for creating more effective way for managing migration on both the regional and international levels which can be achieved through more tightened cooperation between all countries. In 2004, the International Labor Organization discussed the labor migration challenges in the era of globalization in order to develop a comprehensive approach for the policies and entities required to achieve regular and organized migration in order to improve the protection of migrants. The International Labor Organization also adopted a decision asking for setting up a comprehensive plan for migrating workers including a multilateral non obligating frame to protect workers and migrants' rights and linking this frame with other initiations including "Bern Initiation" and the "Global Commission on International Migration". The report of the high committee for international migration that was issued in October 2005 was disappointing because it showed that the international community is unable to recognize the full potentials of the international migration. In addition, the international migration policy has several contradictions according to the high committee report. For example although many of the developed countries depend on migrating workers, migrants in these countries still face negative attitudes in spite of the fact that all these countries ratified the human rights agreement. This kind of treatment towards the migrants leads to the spread of violence and discrimination towards migrants in these countries. The report also criticized the developed countries for not being able to benefit from the integration policy in the best way possible. The report also emphasis the fact that migrants do not respect o follow the laws and regulations of the host countries which creates gab between the migrants and the host community.

The high committee for international report emphasized the importance that migration and its policies should be based on common objectives and visions. The report suggested six basic principles for work which included in three of them migrants integration policies which are:

- Legal migrants who spent long period of time should be effectively integrated in their new societies and to strengthen the social diversity and social cohesion in these societies.
- Migrants should know their rights and respect their legal obligations. The human rights framework which covers international migrants and improve the level of protection for them should be implemented.
- Migration policies and capabilities should be strengthened on the national level through regional cooperation and organizing more effective discussions and dialogue between governments and international organizations.

### **In Destination Countries:**

The imbalance in the population structure is considered one of the reasons that increase the importance of the international migration, what urge the European Union to encourage the legal migration and to develop policies that facilitate migrants integration in the society, prevent them from discrimination and combating illegal migration as it is considered one of the risks on security and public order.

Migrants Integration is a mutual process; each party plays an important role in order to achieve its success. Hosting countries should accept other cultures and civilizations. Migrants must respect the culture of the country they reside in.

Regarding "election rights", as it is one of the political rights. It is a paradox to speak about migrant's integration in a society while depriving them of political contribution and neglecting that election is one actor of the integration.

We can not request migrants to feel secure and comfortable in a society, to be responsible, and to integrate in social life while we don't grant him the chance of participation in decision making process relevant to society's present and future. "Election right" is one of the principle rights laid down in the universal declaration of the human right 1948.

The progression towards achieving "comprehensive citizenship" concept should put an end to the conception which views migrant as just a tool in the labor market and will contribute to overcoming of the false view of migrant as a temporary case.

Regarding the social side, the Egyptian migrant is characterized with high capacity of adaptation, integration in the hosting countries while keeping his traditions and customs. In this regard, the best example that could be highlighted is the Egyptian community in Germany which is always trying to gather Egyptian migrants and strengthen their ties with their homeland, in addition to providing good image about Egyptian society.

### **The role of the Egyptian government**

In the framework of encouraging legal migrants' integration in their new societies and protecting rights and dignity of the Egyptian communities that has been formed in a legal way and according to laws and regulations of the destination countries.

The Ministry of Manpower and Emigration as the governmental entity entrusted to migration affairs, plays an important role in this regard. The ministry communicates with all countries to consider different issues related to migration such as "integration" or "combating illegal migration" etc...

Ministry of Manpower and Emigration conducted different projects that had been implemented according to bilateral international protocol between Egypt, Italy and International Organization for Migration in order to provide services to Egyptian migrants abroad through Integrated Migration Information System(IMIS), which is based on providing services to Egyptian migrants abroad, conducting studies of migration markets, and providing care for Egyptians abroad.

In addition to the project of Information Dissemination on migration (IDOM) for the prevention of illegal migration from the Arab republic of Egypt and the bilateral labour agreement signed between Egypt and Italy for the regulation of the entry, residence, and recruitment of Egyptian workers according to the Italian legislations and labour market needs. This agreement is considered the first to be concluded in the field of labour migration between Egypt and an EU member state, which contributes to facilitating the insertion of migrants, limiting the rates of illegal migration, and integrating migrants in the host countries.

**Recommendations:**

- Introducing a legislative amendment by virtue of which the IOM, in its capacity as the organization responsible for migrants and the protection their rights in the international community, can adopt a number of fundamental principles to be an integral part of its constitution. The IOM should also form some committees to be charged with monitoring the respect for these principles and their application by the members.
- Activating the international agreements concluded and paying interest to the recommendations thereof, as well as the recommendations of the Global Commission on Migration.
- Encouraging the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of labour migration following the model of the bilateral labour agreement between Egypt and Italy.
- Observing human rights and the related agreements to secure fair treatment for migrants.
- Disseminating cultural and educational awareness among migrants in both host and sending societies through the implementation of international media programs.
- Expanding the scope of bilateral cooperation between hosting and sending countries through implementing international projects aiming at providing training and rehabilitation for workers for the purposes of migration and work.
- Utilizing the neighborhood policy as an important tool for promoting the adoption of a comprehensive approach that involves developing cross-border cooperation among partners and between them and their neighboring countries.
- Providing the IOM with more powers related to monitoring and evaluating the compliance with international agreements through its regional offices. The organization has also to submit a regular report to the United Nations to be added to the UN agenda.
- Investigating the possibility of establishing a Euro-Med center for Migration studies. In this regard, all aspects should be taken into consideration, including the consideration of efforts exerted in the field of combating racism and xenophobia, in addition to conducting a study of the labour markets in the EU and host countries in general.
- Enlarging the scope of rights enjoyed by resident migrants to include, in addition to, civil and social rights, other political rights that entitle them to participate in the local elections in the city, village or country of residence.