STATUS REPORT
ON THE RISING CHALLENGES
IN THE AREA OF ASYLUM AND INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION
IN THE RABAT PROCESS REGION

Nelly Robin

Thematic Meeting on Asylum and International Protection in the Rabat Process Region
15-16 June 2015, Rabat, Morocco
International protection

• Fourth pillar of the Rabat Process
    “respect for access to international protection and the principle of non-refoulement of asylum seekers and refugees (...) also constitute a priority objective”
    + other vulnerable populations: unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking, smuggled migrants

dir What are the challenges and what are the solutions?
Refugees and displaced persons in the countries of the Rabat Process

- Developing countries: 86 % of global refugees (2013)
- In 2013, all countries of the Rabat Process received approximately 2,500,000 refugees
- A 43 % increase in asylum seekers in the EU (2013-2014)
- Five Rabat Process countries are among the top ten African receiving countries
  - Chad, at the crossroads of the Processes’s conflict zones
  - Egypt, between the Middle East and East Africa
Evolution of refugees in the Rabat Process Region between 2011 and 2013

Evolution des réfugiés dans la région du Processus de Rabat entre 2011 et 2013 selon le pays d'asile ou d'origine

Source MCR : Refugee population by country of asylum or by origin, 1960-2013

Conception et réalisation : Nelly ROBIN, IRD (CEPED-MIGRINTER), mai 2015
International, regional and national legal context

  - Common European Asylum System (CEAS, since 1999)
    - Dublin Regulation (2003): principle of examining asylum applications
    - Directives (2001-2005), including the “qualification directive”
  - OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969)

- National legislations
  - EU Member States: adoption of a national legislation
  - African states: a more heterogeneous situation but reforms are underway
The contemporary causes of asylum are complex and multiple

- Continuing conflicts in several Western and Central African states
  - Central African crisis: unprecedented population flows
  - Malian crisis: voluntary returns slowed down by anew fighting in May 2014
  - Nigerian crisis: displacements due to Boko Haram violence

- The humanitarian consequences of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq on the countries of North Africa, in particular on Libya
General Issues

• The diversity and complexity of current displacements

• Increase in mixed flows

• Evolution of the international refugee protection regime in the light of the current geopolitical context
  • The territoriality of asylum
  • The duration of asylum and the level of guaranteed protection

➢ Finding new forms of international cooperation to deal with the protection crisis
Current solutions and solutions to be explored

- Three traditional sustainable solutions
  - Voluntary return
  - Resettlement
  - Local integration

- Other favourable solutions
  - Protection of cross-border refugees
  - Mobility Partnerships for EU-African Countries
  - Relocation
Progress to be achieved by strengthening

- *Asylum systems* and *national asylum legislation*, in compliance with international norms,
- Protection *issues within national poverty reduction strategies*,
- The *connections between international protection and development*, particularly within the framework of regional protection programmes,
- Measures designed to *rescue persons in distress at sea* (Search and Rescue - SAR),

And

- Organising *information campaigns* to raise awareness and inform the persons in question of the risks they face when taking irregular channels,
- Developing *legal alternatives to irregular migration*. 
Thank you for your attention