FACILITATING SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN HOST COUNTRIES

Forum: ECOSOC

Agenda Item: Facilitating Socio-Cultural Integration of Immigrants in Host Countries

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Introduction

International immigration is a fast-growing phenomenon in which people decide to move to and settle in a foreign country. According to last year's data, 258 million people migrated from their home country to a foreign country because of economical and social reasons (poverty, low income, high unemployment rates, internal conflicts, war and human rights violations, etc.). Immigrants have lots of hopes such as finding a better job and lifestyle, bigger income rates, and the most important one is being socially and culturally integrated. People from other countries are generally approached with prejudice. They are abstracted and exposed to discrimination by society and the government. The problems faced by immigrants are simple: they're excluded from society, they cannot be active citizens due to the discriminatory behaviour against them, and are unemployed or employed in low-valued jobs.
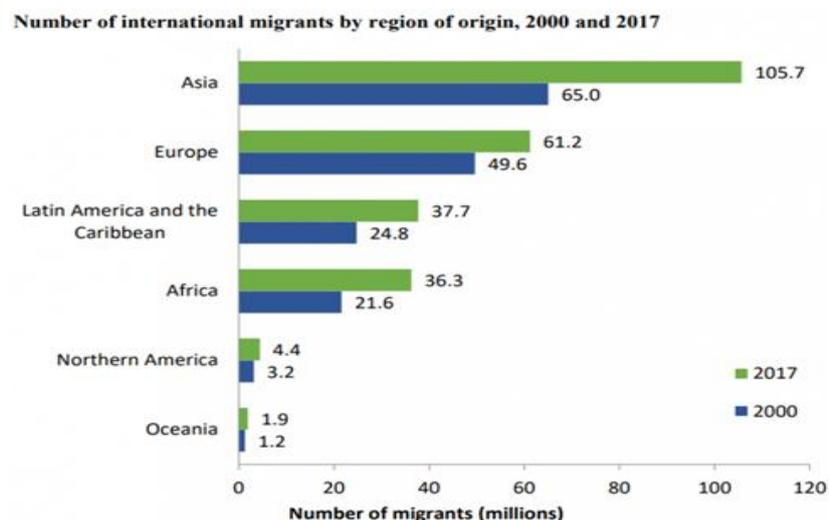

Figure: Number of international migrants (millions) by region of destination, 2000 and 2017

Definition of Key Terms

Migration: The process in which people - refugees, displaced people, economic migrants, and people moving for other purposes - or group of people, move either across an international border or to another area within the same country.

Immigration: A process by which non-nationals move into a country for the purpose of settlement.

Xenophobia: According to UNESCO, xenophobia can be defined as "attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity."

Social integration: The process in which people's unity, equality, inclusion, and participation is achieved at all levels of a society, despite the diversity of personal characteristics.

Receiving country / destination country: Destination country is the country which migrants move to. Receiving country is also the country that is yearly receiving a specific number of migrants.

General Overview

Historical Background:

Immigration is one of the most important and influential issues that has been on the agenda for years. It has resulted in the search for new places for living due to people's economic, political and social problems and has deeply influenced many nations throughout history. Countries that have raw materials have been exploited by imperialist powers throughout the modern era and the inhabitants have gotten accustomed to the language and culture of the imperialist powers and some have migrated.

Some states that have implemented colonization policies in history include Britain, France, and Italy, among others. After the Industrial Revolution, the number of immigrants in Europe increased significantly. Throughout history there were some concerns in Europe about immigrant integration. There were some decisions such as "immigrants were becoming a danger to national identity." Some people rejected this view, others agreed with it. Many immigrants integrated into their new living space, but some of them couldn't. The UK and the USA have generally celebrated ethnic and cultural diversity, while France and Germany ignored it. Furthermore, an important aspect to consider is the background of the immigrants: in the UK and France, they typically arrive from former colonies, while Germany has seen immigration form south-eastern Europe and Turkey, with large increases from the Middle East in recent years. Below, there is a map of migration through Europe.

<u>Major Parties Involved and Their Views</u>

<u>FRANCE</u>

France has always been a destination country. In the middle of the 19th century, as France joined the Industrial Revolution, France's population began to change. The pace of industrial growth attracted millions of European immigrants. After the First World War, the great losses in France reduced the resultant work force, and significant numbers of workers from French colonies came to the France. By 1930, there were 70,000 **North African** Muslims in the Paris region. After the Second World War, with the decrease of the number of workers in the country, the government began to take in workers from Europe, Asia and the Americas. It increased the number of immigrants in France by a considerable number. Since the late 19th century there was also a presence of **Vietnamese** in France. As the Algerian War started in 1954, there were already 200,000 Algerian immigrants in France. However, because of the tension between the Algerians and the French, these immigrants were no longer welcome. This conflict between the two sides led to the Paris Massacre of 17 October 1961, when the police used force against an **Algerian demonstration** on the streets of Paris. Since 1974, France has been taking immigrants mostly from the Muslim World. **Alongside this, France renounced its policy of assimilation, instead pursuing a policy of integration.**

Migration into Western Europe in the 1990s

GERMANY

Germany is a popular migration destination in the world. Despite its large acceptance number, Germany struggles to take in and integrate migrants. Around the 1960s, Germany opened its borders and took thousands of Turkish people as workers. The government at that time did not do much to ensure the integration of immigrants into the country. Turkish people came in order to fill labour shortages. The German government, though, didn't try to help learn the language nor upgrade their skills, and as a result this migrating population today accounts for 16% of the unemployment rate. The following graph shows the percentage of the population of immigrants in Germany.

Rank	Nationality	Population	% of foreign nationals
	Total	10,039,080	100
1	Turkey	1,492,580	14.9

2	Poland	783,085	7.8
3	Syria	637,845	6.4
4	Italy	611,450	6.1
5	Romania	533,660	5.3

Today, Germany improved its immigrant and integration policy, which includes 600 hours of mandatory language lessons and fast-tracked work permits. This aims at getting the newcomers into the work environment and off welfare.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

The United States is the country with the highest number of immigrants. In just 2017, for example, more than 49 million immigrants were recorded as living in the US. Integration occurred without "policy intervention and relatively little federal funding, relying instead primarily on a strong labour market and high-quality public education." According to language proficiency, socioeconomic attainment, political participation, resident locale and social interaction it has been noticed that immigrants are easily incorporated into the American life, though the full integration into the society and economy sometimes can take more than one generation of immigrants.

In the United States there is still a large number of undocumented immigrants, so the achievement of social cohesion and in general the social and economic integration faces some challenges.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

The IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to:

- Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management;

- Advance understanding of migration issues;

- Encourage social and economic development through migration;

- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants;

IOM supports policies and strategies that promote the social, economic and cultural inclusion of migrants within existing legal frameworks in countries of destination. Its focus is on the development of strategies that help migrants better integrate into new communities as well as assisting receiving communities to recognize the positive contributions that migrants can make. This two-way integration process is essential for the existence of thriving, multicultural communities.

Timeline of Events

13 December 1990	The ratification of the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*.

5-13 September 1994	The adoption of the Programme of Action at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which contains one of the most comprehensive negotiated texts on international migration to date.
2006	The Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency group. It is responsible for promoting a wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments relating to migration and for encouraging the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issues of international migration.
September 2006	The General Assembly decided to hold the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development dedicated only to the topic of migration.

19 September 2016	Adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

Conventions and Treaties

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

The treaty was adopted by Resolution A/RES/45/158 on the 18th of December 1990 at the 48th Session of the General Assembly and entered in on the 1st of July 2003, signed by 30 member states. The 93 articles of the treaty underline the rights of migrant workers, such as:

1. Migrant workers and members of their families who are deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and for their cultural identity.

2. Accused migrant workers and members of their families shall, save in exceptional circumstances, be separated from convicted persons and shall be subject to separate treatment appropriate to their status as unconvicted persons. Accused juvenile persons shall be separated from adults and brought as speedily as possible for adjudication.

3. Any migrant worker or member of his or her family who is detained in a State of transit or in a State of employment for violation of provisions relating to migration shall be held, in so far as practicable, separately from convicted persons or persons detained pending trial.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014 [on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/488/Add.2 and Corr.1)] 69/167. Protection of Migrants.

The UN established a document called "Protection of Migrants." This resolution has not been completely successful because all around the world migrants are suffering from social, cultural and economical reasons. There are two other resolutions below which can be referred to and considered as partial or total failures.

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/UN_Documents/69th_Session/N1471371.pdf

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/UN_Documents/69th_Session/A_69_302.pdf

Possible Solutions

It is a bit difficult to find clear solutions on this subject since every country has different policy on immigrants and their integration. Since the culture and social structure of each country is different, the problems that immigrants face in each country vary. First you should identify the universal problems that immigrants are suffering and look for solutions. Then, you can establish an agreement or convention that each country would agree on. Alternatively, as some countries do, frameworks or workshops may be done in order to integrate migrants. While finding solutions, the mission should be non-discriminatory. Everyone should benefit from same and equal rights, It shouldn't matter what their skin color, gender, or religion is.

Seminars or information systems can be established in order to change the minds of people who discriminate against immigrants and try to remove them from the society.

Lastly, there is the development of the educational system. Many migrants cannot be integrated into a society, neither socially nor economically, because they aren't provided with the necessary skills or language ability. This leads us to another solution which is that countries should protect and help migrants when arriving to a country, integrating them by providing asylum. Meanwhile, migrants should be able to attend seminars in which they will be able to learn, practice and grow their language abilities, as well as learn the cultural and civic characteristics of the society.

Further Reading

Below there are useful materials. Delegates are recommended to read them.

http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php

http://www.unfpa.org/migration

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population _statistics

http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/ittmig2002/2002ITTMIGTEXT22-11.pdf

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001435/143557e.pdf

Bibliography

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CMW.aspx

https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrants-united-states-how-well-are-they-integrating-society

https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/laenderprofile/262811/germany-s-migration-policies

https://www.brookings.edu/articles/immigration-policy-in-france/

https://www.iom.int/mission

https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms

https://migrationdataportal.org/sites/default/files/styles/embedded_845/public/2017-12/Inforgraphic_UNDESA_2.PNG?itok=Z5JQb2nd

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/2015/ECE_CES_42.pdf

https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-01081685/document

http://www.wiki-zero.net/index.php?q=aHR0cHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnL3dpa2kvSW1taWdyYXRpb25fdG9fRnJhbmNl

https://blogs.sas.com/content/sastraining/2016/03/02/a-different-view-of-us-immigration/