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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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**Thematic discussion on effective measures to
prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants,
while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants,
particularly women and children, and those of
unaccompanied migrant children**

Statement submitted by the Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWP), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following paper, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/CN.15/2021/1](#).

** Issued without formal editing.



Recommendations for Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 30, May 17. -21. 2021, UN Vienna (Drawn from a Side Event at UNTOC, October 2020)

“Prevention of involuntary Migration through Quality Education and Empowerment of Women and Young people”

The question of emigration/immigration being voluntary or non-voluntary is linked to political, social and economic considerations. To address this heated problematic there are needs for deeper analysis of the situation at different level; national (institutions and the question of governance) and international (the relations between industrialised nations and developing countries. Besides, it is obvious that many educational systems are not centred on the need of the target population in terms of professional and vocational training. This is a current problematic that increases the numbers of jobless people among the women and young people and accordingly urging them for immigration.

This presentation analyses some aspects of immigration along with focus on fundamental causes and finally provides some tentative solutions that might help to address the issue.

Dr. Maria Riehl, Director of WFP, UN Vienna Office, emphasised that WFP supports the goals of CCPCJ 30 through preventative measures by raising awareness of basic core values and promoting character education for children and Youth. Dr. Riehl further emphasised the acknowledgment of dignity of women as representatives of the feminine aspect of the Universe, as wives, co-partners, co-workers, and mothers. WFP international developed the ‘Bridges of Peace and Reconciliation’ ceremonies between former enemy countries, but just as important between the ethnical, religious communities, that live side by side within a nation, and are often in conflict with each other, As peace in the society is a precondition for a healthy social development, as much as lack of social development and equal chances for everyone are often the cause of conflict and unrest.

H.E. Ms. Oumou Sall Seck, Ambassador of the Republic of Mali to Germany, Austria and other countries, emphasises the importance of social and personal development of people in her country. H.E. Ms. Oumou Sall Seck views the conference topic as a priority issue due to the increasing numbers fleeing insecurity caused by armed conflicts, extreme poverty and climatic conditions in search of better living conditions. She stated that young people are regularly risking their lives crossing the desert to reach coastal countries to find work. She highlighted some major areas of Malian policy aimed at preventing illegal immigration by creating conditions to support young people who will contribute to the future development of the country. She then elaborated on several steps that have been taken both institutionally and legislatively. Institutionally, a ministry was created to collaborate with federal associations of Malians abroad, and the Higher Council of diaspora in the context of Malian migration. Legislatively, major sectoral policies and agreements were created, which led to the adoption of the National Migration Policy (PONAM) in 2014 with a substantial budget, part of which is dedicated to the link between migration and development. Mali is the second country in Africa (after Nigeria) to have such a legal arsenal. The PONAM raises awareness among potential candidates for migration in the starting areas and the risks and dangers of irregular migration. A further Act (in 2012) fights against human trafficking and related practices. According to Her Excellency, Mali is both institutionally and legislatively supporting youth initiatives and women's empowerment. However, she acknowledged that this political will is now faced with difficult security and socio-political challenges and insufficient resources and thus appealed to technical and financial partners in the field of migration to support countries with high rates of emigration.

Mamadou Kone, M.E.S., Hon. Consul of Mali to Austria, Consultant, international relation (Education, health and human rights). Mr. Mamadou Kone, stated that while migration has multiple aspects, he would focus on two areas:

- Nationally, the educational needs of young people
- Internationally, win-win-cooperation between the North and South.

He highlighted the need for educational systems in Africa to offer the necessary vocational training to the target population to reduce the rate of youth unemployment, and resultingly, the number of economic migrants to Europe. Furthermore, he urged that quality targeted professional and vocational education be at the centre of development policies. He focused on the educational needs in Mali as a case in point. Training in mining, agriculture, livestock or fishing management, IT skills, handicraft skills would generate more jobs, increase labour productivity and provide expertise in a specific trade. The promotion of entrepreneurial skills resulting in start-ups and small businesses would tackle unemployment directly and migration indirectly. The international aspect he referred to was the establishment of win-win cooperation between the countries of the North and South, which he believes requires the urgent transformation of Fair Trade with African countries that have not benefited from the sale of raw materials or other natural resources. Fair Cooperation and Transfer of Knowledge, e.g. in technology, for sustainable development can address the questions of migration in a credible manner. In conclusion, he suggested that the conference recommendations should serve as guidelines for the United Nations and other partners such as the European Union and African Union.

Mariam Amy Sylla, Trainer, Founding Member of the association that supports leadership at the Université Populaire de Bamako, is committed to education and women's empowerment. She promotes the preservation of the ecosystem and quality education for youth and is also a gender, development and women's leadership trainer in rural areas. Ms. Sylla explained that although Mali has many development programs to fight poverty and youth unemployment, young people are discouraged by mismanagement due to bad governance and corruption and still want to emigrate. She thus expressed the need to establish relations between industrialized and developing countries. Her suggestions were presented under four headings.

A. Adaptability of education: The system needs to adapt to the employment needs of the target population in terms of vocational training and modern technical education to prepare for future-oriented professions.

B. Community level activities: Mayors should create economic activities to integrate employable youth into their campaigns.

C. Tourism: This sector should be expanded and revitalized in areas outside the north of the country (Mopti).

D. Ecosystem: The environment needs protection as increased rural poverty is appearing due to environmental degradation. This particularly affects women who had supported their family through harvesting such products as shea butter, soumbala, cashews, dried fish. The women need re-training but the high illiteracy rate presents obstacles.

Bourama Doumbia, Secretary for External Relations of the RJPPM (Youth Network of Young Political Parties of Mali). and Founding Member of the UPB (Bamako People's University). Mr. Bourama Doumbia's intervention program focuses on the needs of the youth. He is committed to quality education for young people. He lists climate change with its impact on agriculture, low incomes, local conflicts, and a search for a better life as the main reasons for emigration among African youth. He offers practical solutions, such as training and financial support for youth in entrepreneurship and agribusiness; in BTP (Economic Sector of Building and Public Works); education in craft-culture activities and managing start-ups and technological innovations. He stated many Africans are active in agriculture and crafts, but

investment is needed to absorb youth unemployment to create sustained economic growth and a better future.

Catherine Diarra, President of WFWP Mali, Maths & Science Teacher in Middle School and Mother of seven children. Ms Diarra described the work of WFWP (FFPM) Mali, whose focus lies in educational programs for youth and women to promote peace and social cohesion. Ms Diarra elaborated further on projects carried out over the last 25 years. These include character education in schools to promote the practice of moral and ethical values, healthy lifestyle, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, STDs, and the spread of viruses. Women's leadership training programs provide education on a culture of peace in the family, marital harmony and true family values. Women are encouraged to be peacemakers in the family and community. Over 2,000 students from more than 20 schools have completed the educational programs. More than 3000 women have signed up as participants in the “Mothers for Peace network”.

The YouTube link for the recording: <https://youtu.be/sfqjtVaUYa0>.
