



EXPERT'S REPORT

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRD COMMITTEE

**CHURKIN MOSCOW
INTERNATIONAL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS**





THE PROBLEM OF MODERN MIGRATION AND MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION INTO THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE HOST COUNTRIES



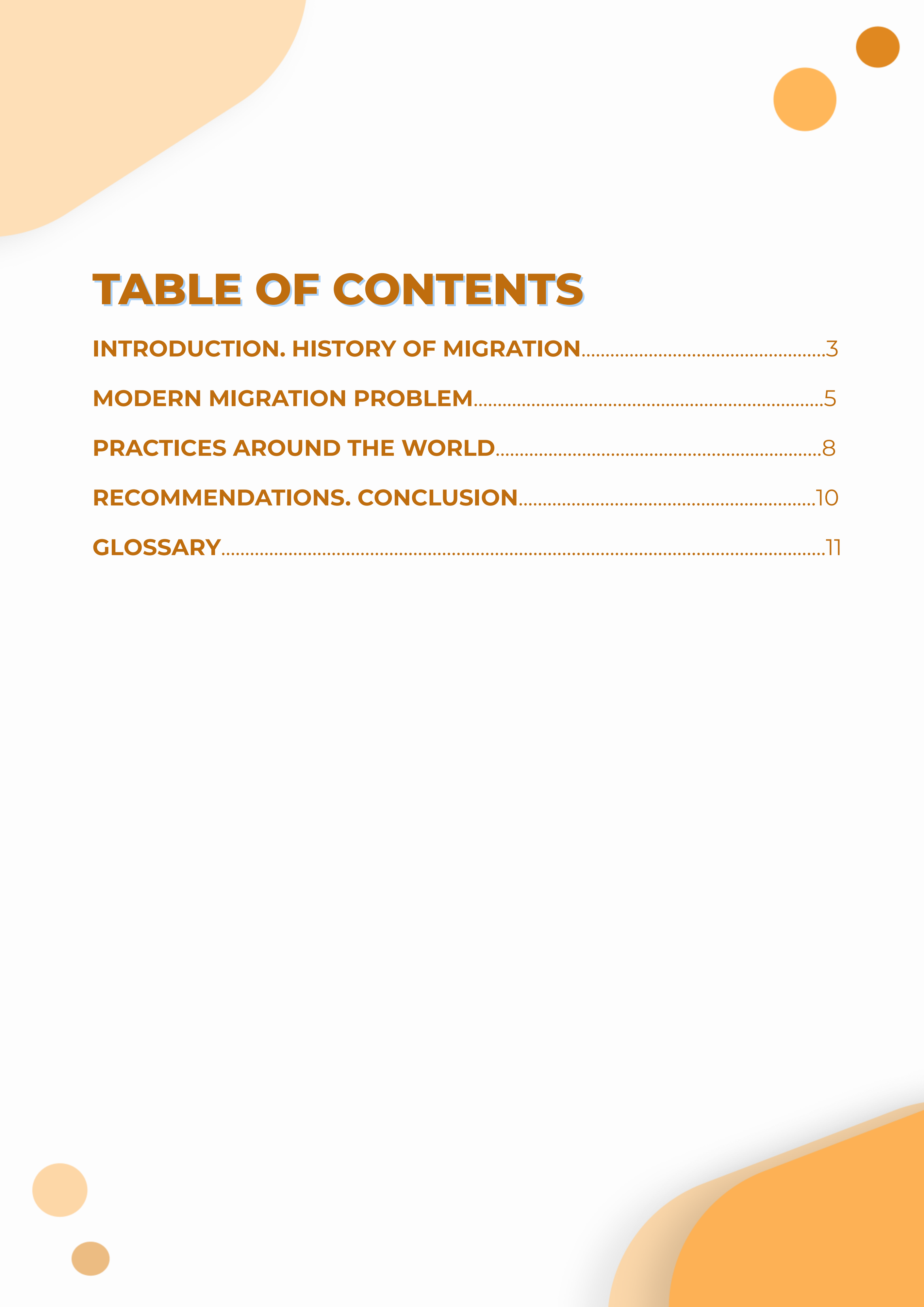


TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION. HISTORY OF MIGRATION.....3

MODERN MIGRATION PROBLEM.....5

PRACTICES AROUND THE WORLD.....8

RECOMMENDATIONS. CONCLUSION.....10

GLOSSARY.....11

INTRODUCTION. HISTORY OF MIGRATION

The problem of migration has been around since the first steps of mankind. Humans migrated in Africa for millennia, then started to migrate across the world, settled across all continents and created countless civilizations. And with the development of transportation means the scales of migration have been accordingly growing.

Nowadays, we live in a world where thousands of people a day and millions a year migrate between countries for different purposes.¹ In some cases, the adaptation goes quickly: it is not so hard for an Englishman to accommodate, for instance, in the U.S. or Australia, or vice versa.

However, most of the cases of migration are not so positive, as the variety of ongoing conflicts obliges the masses of people to flee their homes and look for a calm place in neighbouring or developed countries. Also, poverty and economic weaknesses in many Third World countries force their citizens to leave for enhancement of their life conditions.² So, the main issue regarded in this report is the importance of such migrants' adaptation into the social environment of the host countries.

Historically, migration has always been a problem for the host countries. The first prominent example may be the Great Migration in the 4rd-5th centuries, when many peoples moved to the northern provinces of the Roman Empire. The empire, already facing the division into East and West and the adoption of Christianity, was not able to deal properly with the "guests" of provinces already inhabited primarily by "barbarians". The result was sorrowful: Rome quickly lost the control over the provinces, where due to the incompetence of the Roman administration the newcomers started to create their own state entities and engage into conflicts with Rome. It is well known how this situation ended for Rome, and there are similarities in modern cases of migration.

¹ Global Issues: International migration // The United Nations. URL: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/migration>

² International Migration Policies // Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. URL: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/210892/files/international_migration_policies_data_booklet.pdf

Another prominent example also goes back to those times: the enormous Roman-Hellenic civilization allowed sea trade in the Mediterranean region to prosper, and this started diasporas. Jews banished from Judea by emperor Titus, peoples from all the known world - Africans travelling down the Nile, Asians travelling along the Great Silk Road et cetera. A multitude of these diasporas continued forming after the end of Antiquity, including migration first from metropolises to colonies, like from Spain and Portugal to South America, and then vice versa, like from Africa to France and the United Kingdom. Chinatowns around the world have also become a normal part of the cities' planning, and that is as well a result of civilization's growth and transportation's development.³

Migration to the New World started with the Age of Discovery, but a notable flow also happened during the "migration boom" to the United States, when crises and conflicts in Europe, like the Great Famine in Ireland, obliged the people to seek a better life in the U.S. It continued until World War II, and to a lesser extent continues until now, as the U.S.-dominated world the U.S. were and are seen by migrants as an example of a prosperous and welcoming state.

Of course, historical examples of mass migration have to include the Aliyah (repatriation of Jewish diaspora) to Palestine during Ottoman and British rule and the modern migration crisis caused by conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. Therefore, the problem of migration has a lot of notable examples in history, and, as noted earlier, the purpose of this report is to study the practices of migrants' integration customary for different countries now and before, as well as the history of the standardization of migration processes and its current state among the regions of the world and the migration flows.

³ Means of travel and transportation // Migration Research Hub. URL: <https://migrationresearch.com/taxonomies/topics-migration-processes-migration-infrastructures-means-of-travel-and-transportation>

MODERN MIGRATION PROBLEM

Evidently, the development of transportation has led the world migration processes to creation of uncontrollable flows directed primarily from the Third World countries to the developed countries of the West. The reasons and direct causes are diverse, but they can be assembled into several groups:

1. Violence. Arguably can be named the most important reason for modern migration. People are forced to leave their homes due to armed conflicts, violation of human rights and persecution.
2. Economic attractiveness. People living even in conditions “not-so-bad” are attracted to better economic conditions and want to migrate to developed countries to work there, and the situation in these countries only encourages them to do so, as low-qualified work is not performed by local people.
3. Other reasons. People may have different reasons to leave their country for something overseas, like family and diaspora reunion, climate change forcing them to abandon a now unwelcoming region, and some unexpected reasons like simply migrating with the cattle along the pastures situated in different countries. These reasons are mostly not primary for the migration, but often have a serious impact on the decision making in migration matters.

Therefore, the modern problem of migration is derived from two major reasons along with several characterising ones: economic problems and violence. The countries of the world can be divided into “donors” and “recipients” of mass migration, the home countries and the host countries, the former being economically and politically unstable, creating migration flows, and the latter absorbing the flows due to being more economically developed and politically responsible.

Economic reasons include:

- income disparities and expectations of high income;
- escaping low employment opportunities in home country;
- economic discrimination and corruption in home country making employment less possible;
- better or more affordable standard of living in host country;
- image of a “fulfilled life” in a developed country, gleaned from propaganda or diaspora stories;
- etc.

Political reasons are the following:

- personal persecution due to political beliefs;
- wars and conflicts inside or including the home country;
- political instability: weak institutions and social uncertainty;
- discrimination and human rights violation;
- other forces displacement cases.

⁴ Exploring migration causes: why people migrate // The European Parliament. URL: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20200624STO81906/exploring-migration-causes-why-people-migrate>

So, these groups of reasons for mass migration create multiple migration flows between the countries of the world, of which the following are the most notable:

- 1.The flow to Europe. Europe, being the center of the economically developed world, has been attracting millions of migrants in the times of colonisation, and nowadays it keeps the pace. People from all around the globe are arriving in Europe to settle down, as it is seen in the developing countries, “in a peaceful EU country” and have “one of the best life standards in the world”. Of course, the reality is not often so good when migrants arrive and have to deal with the price of living, “migrantophobia” and other problems in adapting to the new life they chose instead of their home.
- 2.The flow from Latin America to the United States. The United States, attracting migrants from the whole world, is notable for being the final destination for the migrants from South America and the Caribbean. Thousands of people are trying to get to the U.S. by any means, creating a serious problem for the U.S. authorities. One of the most known and infamous things the Trump administration has been doing is the building of the Mexican border wall to prevent illegal border crossing which is occurring in notable amounts, due to strict migration laws of the USA - and therefore only making it worse, both for the migrants and the authorities of Mexico etc.
- 3.The flow from South and Southeast Asia to the kingdoms of the Persian Gulf. The rich oil monarchies attract even more migrants than the population of the country, but nevertheless the labour migrants are well-paid and send money back to their home countries and to their families.
- 4.The forced displacement flows. Originating in the regions plagued by conflicts like the Middle East, African Sahel, and others (for example, the conflict in Ukraine, happening in allegedly “peaceful” Europe), the flows join the first two ones or are dissolved in the neighbouring countries (especially in the case of Africa, where the case of intra-African migration is different from the other migration flow cases). The nature of conflicts provoking such migration lies in several problems: the post-colonial conflicts generated by ill-considered policies of former metropolises (like ethnic clashes in Africa), unauthorised “humanitarian” interventions (like invasion of Iraq in 2003, Libya in 2011 and others, including not only the Middle East, but also almost all other regions from Europe to Asia and Central America)⁵, and the proxy

⁵ World Migration Report 2024 // IOM: UN Migration. URL: https://digitallibrary.in.one.un.org/TempPdfFiles/28519_1.pdf

conflicts originating from the inability of the powerful states to come to an agreement in the sphere of security (like it happened in Ukraine in 2014-2022, where positioning the country, both by Ukraine itself and other countries of the West, as an adversary to Russia has led to the impossibility of solving the conflict through diplomatic means and Russia referring to the UN Charter Article 51 to justify its right to self-defence, which in turn caused Ukrainians to start fleeing the country to evade being involved in hostilities).

The flows in general are, of course, not limited to these ones, and can be even completely in contradiction with the most popular directions, but these four are describing the most important tendencies of the modern migration and present a logical view on the problem's most notable cases.

The countries involved in the global migration flows are facing numerous common problems in dealing with the issues of mass migration. The most common ones are the following:

- labour market overload (migrants arrive in amounts bigger than the number of jobs);
- public services overload (healthcare, education etc.);
- social tensions and political aspect;
- integration difficulties, which are the main topic of this report's agenda;
- informal economy and diaspora problems, cultural assimilation issues;
- global migration policies issues etc.

These overlapping political, economic and social issues make the management of mass migration complex and require coordinated and multilateral policy responses.⁶

⁶ Global Risks Report 2022: Chapter 4. Barriers to Migration // World Economic Forum. URL: <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2022/in-full/chapter-4-barriers-to-migration>

PRACTICES AROUND THE WORLD

The practices of migrants' acceptance and integration are very different around the globe. Depending on the country's economic and political development, social environment etc., it makes the process of global migration more complex. As previously in the report, it is possible to provide several of the most notable examples of the global practices, regarding the cases of already mentioned migration-affected regions and global flows.

Of course, it is necessary to turn to the most discussed and problematic among the cases of the last few years: the European migration crisis. Caused by the conflicts in the Middle East and Northern Africa (including the Arab Spring), it has led to Europe being almost completely open to millions of refugees. The situation was aggravated by the conditions that made it easier for the migrants to adapt and to reach a high standard of life. First, as the European Union comprises the Schengen Zone, it is possible to cross borders between the countries almost unhindered, and second, the migrants and refugees were allowed an access to European-standard social services, including unemployment benefits, which were abused by many migrants. The crisis has led to a right-wing shift in European politics and to such events as Brexit. The countries of Europe have since increased the strictness of their migration policies and are aiming at more straight integration of migrants instead of light-minded acceptance.⁷

Another case is dating a few decades back, but has as well become of current interest. The mass migration flow from Latin America is being concentrated in Mexico, where migrants wait for a possibility to enter the United States legally or try to find loopholes for illegal entrance. The U.S. government migration policies have always been strict since the era of mass migration from Europe, and nevertheless every year, even through the notorious "Trump Wall", thousands and hundreds of thousands of migrants are getting to the U.S. Therefore the Latin diaspora in the United States is enormous, and it is not even necessary to integrate the migrants, as the society has already integrated the diaspora itself. However, the second Trump administration has made allegations to stop illegal migration and to lower the amounts of immigration in general, so the flow is facing difficulties right now.⁸

⁷ Migration management // The European Commission. URL: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management_en

⁸ International Migration // U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. URL: <https://2021-2025.state.gov/other-policy-issues/international-migration>

The last prominent example has also been already mentioned: the migration of South and Southeast Asians to the Arab countries of the Gulf. It is seen as the logical solution for the problem chain “oil - money - lack of workforce”, as the migrant labour is essential for the development of the countries. Thousands of workers from Pakistan, India, Vietnam etc. live and work in Qatar, Bahrain and UAE for years, though they won’t be able to get the citizenship of the host country, as it is only given to natives and for investment. This approach to integration provides an example of pragmatic dealing with migration, providing economic, but not social integration. It is also convenient for the workers who send their money back home, as they still have a connection and are not completely leaving their country.⁹

These practices are not exhaustive, as almost every country in the world has a unique migration law and customs. However, the tendencies are often shown in common between the countries in one region, and therefore can be studied as the examples for global practice.

⁹ Labor migration from South Asia to the Gulf: Pakistan as an example // Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung. URL: <https://www.bpb.de/themen/migration-integration/regionalprofile/english-version-country-profiles/510112/labor-migration-from-south-asia-to-the-gulf-pakistan-as-an-example>

RECOMMENDATIONS.

CONCLUSION

The key of many issues lies in the lack of international cooperation in the sphere of migration. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the cooperation between the home and the host countries, particularly in the following aspects:

- economic inclusion (qualification, fighting exploitation and creating acceptable conditions for working);
- social inclusion (access to services, prevention of segregation and discrimination);
- legal protection and migration law codification;
- cultural and social life facilitation inside the host country and between the home and the host ones
- etc.¹⁰

It is important that migrants are integrated into the environment of host countries, not just accepted as such.¹¹ And the host countries ought to be obliged to control the process of integration at least at minimal acceptable (both for the migrants themselves and the local people) levels.¹² Only with the perfection of global integration cooperation can the problem of migration be solved or at least start being solved. And it is the duty of the international organisations - the UN, the IOM etc. Migration itself is not a problem. Migration without care and control becomes a problem.

¹⁰ Main policy recommendations // World Development Report 2023. URL: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/f8c46c73f26bb711c7b7f9f6fc884e6d-0050062023/original/Main-Policy-Recommendations.pdf>

¹¹ Local Strategies for Effective Migrant and Refugee Integration // Whole-Comm Toolbox. URL: https://whole-comm.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Toolbox_whole_comm.pdf

¹² International standards governing migration policy: OHCHR and migration // United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. URL: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/migration/international-standards-governing-migration-policy>

GLOSSARY

1. **Migration** - the process of displacement of a person or a group, internal (inside one country) or international (between countries). International migration is regarded in the report.
2. **Third World** - initially the countries “between” the capitalist West and socialist East, now used as an antonym for “developed countries”.
3. **The Great Migration** - process of migration of “barbarian” peoples in the provinces of the Roman Empire in the 4th-5th centuries AD. Has led to the destruction of the Roman Empire.
4. **Aliyah (repatriation)** - process of diaspora members returning to the country of origin, in the case of Aliyah - the “ascension” of Jewish people to Israel.
5. **Integration** - the process and level of a migrant’s participation in the economic, cultural and social life of the host country.
6. **Migration policies** - policies conducted by states and state bodies concerning the control of migration and integration into the country and society.
7. **Migration flows** - stable directions between the countries and the regions involving a notable amount of migrants.
8. **Oil monarchies** - monarchies of the Persian Gulf, with a highly successful economy, but very dependent on oil.
9. **Forced displacement** - involuntary migration from a natural/technological disaster or an armed conflict.
10. **The Arab Spring** - a series of mass protests in Arab countries. Has led to high political instability in Egypt, Libya, Syria etc.
11. **The Schengen Zone** - a zone of international agreement declaring the freedom of borders inside the zone (the European Union).
12. **Brexit** - the process of the UK leaving the EU due to the migration crisis from 2016 to 2021.
13. **“Trump Wall”** - the border wall built during the first Trump administration to prevent illegal immigration from Mexico to the USA.
14. **IOM** - the International Organization for Migration.

