



Sub-regional Workshop on the Smuggling of Migrants: Recommendations

Niamey, 16-17-18 April 2018

On the third day of the sub-regional workshop on migrant smuggling, a session was devoted to the discussion on improving cooperation between the three countries. Two questions were put to the participants, who were asked to reflect on them as a group. Each group had a representative providing the answers for the group. The questions were:

1. How can cooperation between the three countries be improved?
2. What topics of discussion should be addressed, and what types of expertise should be mobilized for a future meeting?

The answers given by the 6 groups of participants were similar and are summarized below.

On improving cooperation between countries (Question 1), the main recommendations are to:

- Prepare a tripartite judicial cooperation project between Morocco, Niger and Mali, based on the model of the tripartite convention between Niger, Mali and Chad. This instrument would formalize in a legal way the exchange of judicial information between the three countries, as well as allow the official appointment of focal points to operationalize these exchanges. Alternatively, it could also be possible to supplement the existing bilateral conventions between Morocco, Niger and Mali so as to ultimately obtain a legal framework enabling effective judicial cooperation.
- Include Morocco in the Sahel judicial platform, which as of now includes Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Senegal. This platform is an instrument for judicial cooperation that can serve as a means for rapid exchange of information between the judicial systems of these countries, in particular by allowing very flexible communication between the services concerned.
- Train participants on the legal instruments of the Palermo Convention and its protocols.

On the topics for future discussions (Question 2), the main points raised by the participants were to:

- Include INTERPOL speakers at the next meeting. The role of this organization has been repeatedly mentioned as critical to the exchange of information.
- Enlarge the spectrum of the social partners (social workers, NGOs, health professionals, labour inspectors) participating in the event and give more time for reflection on potential overlaps, in particular on the question of the assistance to victims and smuggled migrants.
- Include training or workshops on crime scene management (forensics) and handling of physical evidence, as well as analysis of preparatory acts for crimes.
- Include the participation of cybersecurity experts able to present on the extraction and exploration of computer and smartphone data.
- Further integrate issues related to the identification and protection of smuggled migrants and trafficked persons, including minors.
- Include media representatives to raise awareness of migration, smuggling and human trafficking issues.