

Action Internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région de grandes lacs

The sources, the causes and new forms of contemporary racism

Intervention by Maurice Katala

Mr. Chair

The scope and persistence of the refugee and migrant drama who cross the seas and oceans risking their own lives that we see nowadays and the expulsion of illegal persons to their land of origin shows that certain states have not yet given the necessary attention to the relevant observations and recommendations of the ICERD.

The DRC should invite states to distance themselves from the dominant populist ideology to refuse to deliberately maintain the confusion between migrants and asylum seekers.

The moment has now come to ask states to revise their legislation, their politics, their practices in migration policies to eliminate all racial discrimination and make them compatible with the obligations they contracted by subscribing to the instruments related to the human rights and in particular to the rights of migrants.

In the paragraphs related to the sources and causes of racism nothing indicates which measures have to be taken to make the implementation of the prevention aimed at enhancing harmony and tolerance between migrants and the society they live in more strict, to eliminate the manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the acts of violence perpetrated in many societies by individuals, groups and some states, in particular since September the 11th 2001.

In conformity with the recommendations from the Abuja Conference, we propose a new paragraph that takes into account the urgency of this situation, so that **policies in migration and asylum matters can be harmonized** in consultation with international institutions concerned by these rights, **it should be mentioned in this subsection that there is a difference between refugees and migrants, the principle of non-refoulement should** also be taken into account. That means not sending back a person to a country where his or her life could be threatened and that these principles should become an integrated part of international law and the foundation of the protection of human rights.

Thank you.