CONCEPT NOTE CIDH

TITLE OF THE PANEL: REFUGEES, IDPS AND MIGRANTS IN NORTH AFRICA TOWARDS A DURABLE SOLUTION

PANELISTS:
- Chair: Hannah Forster - ACDHRS
- Naji Moulay Lahsen - CIDH
- El Filalhi Hammadi - CIDH
- Ashraf Thomas

The objective of the panel:
1. Advocate for Member states to ratify, domesticate and implement the Kampala Convention to complement the protection of IDPs, Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers rights
2. Share experiences on the situation in North Africa
3. Advocate for harmonization between member states, regional and continental institutions, humanitarian partners, human rights and developmental agencies and the international community in the protection of IDPs, Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers rights.
4. Explore possibilities of having a North African advocacy Platform for the Kampala Convention

The panel is expected to deliver the following outputs and outcomes:
1. Participants have an advanced knowledge and understanding of the provisions of the Kampala Convention;
2. Participants understand their roles with respect to the prevention of internal displacement and protection of, and assistance to, internally displaced persons, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers;
3. Experiences and Exemples are shared with participants to effectively engage with the African human rights system (African Commission, Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Conference of State Parties to the Kampala Convention.)
CIDH will hold a panel discussion during the NGOs Forum preceding the 64th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The panel will discuss the Situation and the implementation of the Kampala Convention and its states of signature, ratification and domestication in the North Africa Region.

To date, the Kampala Convention has only been ratified by 27 Member States. A few member states have domesticated the convention. Some member states have established initiatives to implement the provisions of the convention. The AU also organized the Harare Conference on Kampala Convention in which Member states were requested to undertake progressive actions towards making Kampala Convention work for their populations.

The practice in different countries across the North African region identify many gaps in the implementation of the provisions enshrined in the numerous legal and policy frameworks. Difficulty accessing justice for violations of fundamental rights are widespread among women, youth and children in Africa and become even more acute in displacement contexts.

The need to intensify education and awareness on the Kampala Convention is still relevant. It is important to work on spaces of social cohesion between IDPs, Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The establishment of a permanent dialogue framework to understand, anticipate and solve problems. Also, an intensive advocacy towards ratification of the Kampala Protocol that protect the rights of the concerned groups.

Organizations engaged in in-country advocacy for the domestication and effective implementation of the Kampala Convention, must share the opportunity on good practices in the management of IDPs on the continent.