

## **I. Advancing Human Rights through Comprehensive Sex Education**

The Portuguese Republic endorses the protection and advancement of human rights through means of comprehensive sex education worldwide and recognizes the extensive progress already taken towards the further advancing of the rights of humans. The Republic of Portugal believes that sex education is a compulsory part of reproductive rights and health promotion, prevention of HIV/AIDS, family planning and population growth control. The UNFPA was established to assist countries in improving family planning and reproductive health for every individual, as well as in formulating policies for further supportable development. It is an official structure that ensures gender equality and health through education, and the Portuguese Republic is proud to be a contributor of UNFPA's programs.

In Portugal, youth sex education has been defined by law since 1984. Sexuality and gender equality has come to the fore of political, educational, and theoretical debates. The Portuguese government is aware of the underlying issues in regards to higher rates of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STI), in particular HIV/AIDS, an increasingly earlier start to sexual activity among young people and the emergence of new sexualities. In November 2005, the Minister of Education defined the sex education as a core part of health promotion. Steps towards the implementation of laws referring to the youth sex education have been taken: the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health together with Portugal's Family Planning Organization (APF) has published guidelines on school sex education; the Ministry of Education of Portugal initiated the implementation of the sex education in the school curriculum. Since the year 2000, several projects were implemented by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in cooperation with nongovernmental organizations. The Portuguese Republic considers the comprehensive sex education a core value reducing STIs and the finest way to address the importance of family planning and gender equality throughout the world.

The main contributor to sex education in the Portuguese Republic is Portugal's Family Planning Organization (APF). With the support and funding from the government, the APF has developed strategies of access to sex education like: internet, counseling, helplines, training programs for teachers, school sex education, print media, radio/TV, etc. Also, NGOs like APF promote counselling and talks to parents who do play an important role in education as well and are more capable after training to educate their children about the sex education. The Bem Me Quer project was developed by APF which was addressed to teachers and other professionals for implementing sex education in school's curriculum; to supports programs and activities already created; to ensure that the educators and students understand the importance of sex and health education and to actively involve them; to bring together sex education, health education and the development of social and personal skills of the individuals who are involved in school sex education. Although in Portugal, religious and political institutions have opposed sex education since it was introduced, Portuguese NGOs were able to promote information on sexuality and family planning from a religious perspective which notably reduced the teenage pregnancy and spreading of STI in Portugal.

Once again, encouraging of comprehensive sex education is complicated and challenging task that faces many obstacles like religious and cultural beliefs, but it also showed to be the most effective way to prevent HIV/AIDS, encourage family planning, and showed itself as the way to combat human trafficking. Keeping in mind the association of sexuality with personal identity and interpersonal relationships and respecting religious beliefs and cultural values of the member states, sexual education should integrate the learning areas such as gender issues, STI prevention and combating, teenage pregnancy, female genital mutilation in developing countries, and human trafficking in every member state. The Portuguese Republic proposes the creation of a committee consisting of member nations that will ensure the promotion of comprehensive sex education in order to reduce the spread of STI, encourage family planning, and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Through this committee the number of strategies to promote sex education will be developed. It will be ensured that each strategy will be created with the respect to the religion and culture of every member state. The strategies to promote comprehensive sex education will include:

- 1) Creation of the training program that will involve the basic training on sex education (concepts, approaches, and values), implementation of comprehensive sex education in school curriculum and school projects.
- 2) Training and educating of the individuals who are involved into educational process and parents about the importance of comprehensive sex education.

- 3) Implementation of the comprehensive sex education through the media, counseling, and school curriculum.

## **II. Strengthening International Response to Crisis Migration and Human Mobility to Encourage Economic Development.**

The Portuguese Republic is strongly convinced that crisis migration is the problem that occurs all over the world that has to be solved and, as of now, it is necessary to ensure the safe and successful migration of every individual with respect to every migrating human's rights. 8.4 percent of the population of the Portuguese Republic are immigrants and for our country human mobility and crisis migration is an important task. The UNFPA is the largest internationally funded source of population assistance which always was aware of migration and human mobility. In modern world this organization together with United Nation High Commissioner on Refugees and UN-HABITAT is able to encourage economic development and ensure the safety and success of immigrants.

The net migration rate in Portugal as of year 2013 is 1.9 migrants/1,000 population. The Portuguese Republic with a population of 10.6 million has about 1 million migrants 53.3 percent of which are women. Since the mid-70s onwards, Portugal became an immigration country constantly receiving high inflows from the Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. Relevant influxes of labor migrants from Brazil and the Eastern European countries, namely Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, and Russia were registered as well. Such migration is owing to the economic growth of the Portuguese Republic from the 1990s onwards. Considering the importance of these migrant flows, International Organization for Migration (IOM) assists and works together with the Portuguese Government in migration management in the fields of assisted voluntary return and reintegration, counter-trafficking, migration and development, labor migration and integration.

The Portuguese government and IOM have been working together to strengthen relationships with Governments of the countries of origin in an effort to support them in managing migration flows and obtaining developmental gains. Discussions between diaspora and its Governmental representatives back home through the "Diaspora Dialogues" led by IOM were facilitated. Concrete steps were taken to strengthen the migration/development nexus, namely by developing and implementing projects producing measurable results. To contribute to the socio-economic development of the Cape Verde through the matching of professional needs in priority sectors in this origin country, IOM Portugal created and implemented the DIAS DE Cabo Verde (DIASpora for the DEvelopment of Cape Verde) project. Additionally, the project promoted migrant entrepreneurship in the origin country and the creation of business projects for migrants. The project was promoted by the Cape Verdean Institute of Communities. IOM Portugal is currently expanding the project. Also, Portugal collaborates with the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Program that was founded by European Commission and aims at putting an effective and sustainable policy into practice for the voluntary return of foreign citizens to their origin countries. From 1997 to 2010, over 3,300 people from more than 50 different countries were supported in their return to countries of origin. The Government of Portugal keeps in mind the current crises in Ukraine and Syria. Ukrainian diaspora in Portugal counts about 150,000 migrants. Portugal is fully aware of the crisis migration to Portugal that may be caused by the Ukrainian crisis and is willing to assist member states who have a high rate of refugees inflow from Syria.

The Portuguese Republic recognizes actions already taken as response to crisis migration and human mobility by the UN and Member States. Portugal praises the efforts of UNFPA, UNHCR, and UN-HABITAT for working towards encouraging economic development and supporting immigrants and with the support of IOM proposes to establish the program **Abrigo** – for Portuguese shelter, refuge, haven, and home. The program will have several branches that will ensure the wellbeing of immigrants in every Member State. The main and the most challenging issue of crisis migration is the resettlement of those who due to the crisis have to become refugees in foreign countries. Main things for survival have to be provided for refugees and these are: shelter, healthcare, empowerment, and education. It will be ensured that women and children who need specific care will receive it. Evaluation and additional training for those immigrants who have college degrees will be provided. By the example of DIAS DE Cabo Verde, the subcommittee of **Abrigo** will be created that will provide the strategies for intercommunication between the countries of resettlement and the countries of origin and ensure that those immigrants who are willing to return to the countries of their origin will receive the specified training, housing and empowerment in the countries of their origin. The Portuguese Republic believes that by providing these core needs for immigrants, the economy of member states will lift, and Portugal is willing to collaborate with the Member States who value peace and human rights.