**GA-3 Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)**

**Topic: Promoting coordination and shared responsibility with regards to rescue, humanitarian aid and asylum for boat refugees in the Mediterranean**

The number of people that leave their countries is rising day by day. In the recent years, attention and critism have grown significantly towards the issue as the total number of refugees in 2014 exceeded 50 million. This being the highest number of refugees since the 2nd World War. (UNHCR.org/1). In 2014 alone, more than 207 000 people tried to cross the Mediterranean Sea, which is almost six times of the last record in 2011, where about 70 000 people undertook the dangerous journey following the Libyan uprising (Unhcr.org/2). The refugee numbers of 2014 show that almost 50 % of these people came from refugee-producing countries such as Syria and Eritrea (Unhcr.org/2). In 2014 a total of 3 419 reported deaths has been documented by the United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR), which makes the Mediterranean Sea route the deadliest route of organized smuggling crime in the World. What is more, these shocking statistical facts cannot be dismissed as a temporary event since deaths in the Mediterranean is nothing new. In the last 14 years a total of 23 000 reported deaths has been documented by journalists, yet nobody knows the exact number as many deaths go unreported. (spigel.de)

As you can see in the statistics the problem is increasingly growing and many people are leaving their countries in order to find better opportunities. There are several routes that asylum seekers use and most of the routes include passing Mediterranean on the way to Europe. But one of the most significant issue is European Countries are still questioning and debating about accepting refugees and a result of this there is not a common progress about accepting refugees. Also people that are escaping from their countries in order to seek asylum are not safe while they are on the road to Europe and they do not have sufficient supplies to travel all the way to Europe. As the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee we should work together to find a solution and make a powerful resolution that will help asylum seekers to receive sufficient humanitarian aid, to find an asylum country that they feel safe and that will ensure a safe travel to asylum countries.

**Questions to answer**

* How can UN ensure a safe travel to boat refugees in Mediterranean?
* How can UN provide humanitarian aid to boat refugees in Mediterranean?
* How should UN help refugees to find asylum in countries?
* How can non-governmental organizations take part in this issue?

**Further Reading**

1. **Basic information about the problem**

* <http://www.cfr.org/migration/europes-migration-crisis/p32874>
* <http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21649488-those-peri>
* <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21649465-eus-policy-maritime-refugees-has-gone-disastrously-wrong-europes-boat-people>

1. **Detailed information about the problem**

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis>
* <http://www.unhcr.org/5461e5f80.html>

1. **Statistics**

* <http://graphics.thomsonreuters.com/15/migrants/index.html#section-network>

**Bibliography**

* <http://rudar.ruc.dk/handle/1800/23896>