



ICRC

Communique issued on occasion of the:

Meeting of States and Other Stakeholders along the North/West African Migration Routes to Discuss a Joint Approach on Missing Migrants

Tunis, Tunisia, 24-26 May 2022

1. A joint effort convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) brought together in Tunis representatives of the governments of Algeria, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia, as well as the African Union, the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights, the League of Arab States, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss a joint approach to the issue of missing migrants and refugees.
2. The participants deplored the disappearance of thousands of persons along migratory routes (more than 11,000 migrants recorded missing in Africa by IOM since 2014 – with real numbers likely to be much higher), including in the West and North African Region, and the tragic humanitarian impact this has on their families.
3. They acknowledged the need to increase awareness on the issue of missing migrants, including the multifaceted needs of their families. They agreed that it was necessary to strengthen joint efforts to prevent and resolve cases of missing migrants and refugees, namely by:
 - Working towards the integration of the missing migrant issue into migration and asylum policies at continental, regional and national level and other relevant cooperation frameworks;
 - Strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation efforts to exchange information and coordinate search efforts in order to bring answers to families of missing persons;
 - Enhance efforts to save lives including through search and rescue activities, and preventing migrants from going missing, including information campaigns engaging with the affected communities;
 - Encouraging participating States to create a network of focal points;
 - Strengthening relevant institutional and technical capacities at national and local level, including resource mobilization;
 - Sharing best practices, including through peer to peer support.
4. The ICRC, the IFRC, the IOM and the UNCHR reiterated their readiness to provide technical advice and support and to facilitate cooperation including with the families of missing migrants and civil society actors.

Done in Tunis, 26 May 2022