

Side event of the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee

Expanding labour mobility opportunities for refugees in Africa

Moderated by Her Excellency Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Djibouti

Speakers:

**Mr. Martin Anderson, Director of International Programs and
Geneva Representative, RefugePoint**

**Mr. Jérôme Elie, Senior Policy Officer (Forced Displacement),
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)**

Mr. Patrice Ahouansou, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer in Kakuma, Kenya

**Ms. Héloïse Ruaudel, Senior Specialist on Crisis Migration,
International Labour Organization**

as well as a video message from

**Dr. Alexander Betts, Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs,
University of Oxford**



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Promoting access to labour mobility opportunities for refugees can lead to significant gains. Remittances can be an important source of revenue for their families, and help improve their self-reliance and build community networks in both countries of origin and asylum. By maintaining their independence and retaining and developing their skills, refugees become more resilient and are better able to overcome future challenges than when relying on humanitarian assistance over a prolonged period. Refugees contribute to local economies and are better prepared for solutions when they can seize such opportunities. Lastly, companies can improve their competitiveness by sourcing required skills from a larger pool, and economies can benefit from skills transfer and innovation. This side event will focus on recent progress made in improving labour mobility and other new emerging opportunities in Africa.

Wednesday, 6 March 2019

13:15-15:00

Palais des Nations – Room XXVI

Interpretation will be provided in French and English.
A light lunch and refreshments will be served outside the room.

