



Human Rights Council – 30th session

Agenda Item 4, Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

Tuesday 22 September 2015

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance is deeply concerned about the refugee crisis. One out of every 122 persons alive today is either internally displaced or a refugee. UNHCR has identified 33 refugee producing crises, most of which have lasted more than 20 years with no end in sight.

Chances of a humane return to their home countries are decreasing.

Hosting the refugees in the region is burdening mostly the developing nations. Almost 90 % of the refugees are there.

The third option is resettlement in high income nations. Only 105,200 have taken up in 2014.

This global crisis is a human rights crisis. It knocks on the door of neighboring Europe and the Arab world.

How come that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries since 2011 processed only 63 Syrian asylum applications? Half of them was successful. Why have the Gulf nations never signed the international conventions on refugee rights and statelessness?

Equally worrying is Europe's stand. The refugees are largely depending on criminal service providers to pursue the risky journey. In addition the Special Rapporteur on Migrants rightfully rebuked Europe for the prejudices that float in the public discussion. When does Europe live up to its cherished principles of human rights?

The time is now to respond to justice and live up to the commitments of international law.

Thank you Mr. President.