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Foreword

Professor Stephen C. Calleya, Director, MEDAC, University of Malta

Since 1990 the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) has been a strong supporter of the promotion of human rights and good governance in the Mediterranean area.

MEDAC's Human Dimension Programme has, for a decade, provided a constructive framework within which the sensitive study of human rights can be discussed. Improving human relations across the Mediterranean is a prerequisite to enhancing Euro-Mediterranean relations at a political and economic level.

The setting-up of the German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention at MEDAC, funded by the German government, allowed MEDAC to focus more intently on security and conflict issues in our region. In particular, the relevance of human security as conceptual framework for the study of various phenomena of direct relevance to the Mediterranean is being championed by the German Chair. Managing migration is clearly one of the most urgent issues that the Mediterranean region is currently facing. The multifaceted challenge of addressing migration in the Mediterranean is a topic of immediate and direct interest to everyone in our region.

This includes international organisations that should deal with the phenomenon of migration as a matter of urgency. In the Mediterranean, numerous international groupings, such as the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the 5 + 5 and the Council of Europe all have a role to play in this field. It is essential that they coordinate their efforts and give due priority to this matter.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also have a very important complementary role to play in this regard. NGOs are by definition entrenched in the fabric of civil society and thus are well-positioned to address the human dimension of migration on the ground.

This publication provides fascinating insights into the phenomenon of migration in the Mediterranean. Its major value is that of examining migration from diverse perspectives thus providing an all-round view of the matter. Under the leadership of Dr. Omar Grech, during the past decade, the Human Dimension Programme at MEDAC has continuously highlighted the human rights situation in the Mediterranean. The addition of the German Chair under the stewardship of Dr. Monika Wohlfeld has introduced a complementary perspective on this issue as evident in this publication.

As a confidence-building promoter and academic centre of excellence on Mediterranean relations, MEDAC looks forward to continue championing respect for human rights. This publication also confirms MEDAC's commitment to focusing on human security in the Mediterranean.

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Introduction

Omar Grech and Monika Wohlfeld

This publication brings together a series of papers initially presented and debated by academics and practitioners at a seminar entitled ‘Migration in the Mediterranean: Human Rights, Security and Development Perspectives’, which was held by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) in March 2014. The seminar was organised jointly by the German Chair for Conflict Prevention and Peace Studies and the Human Dimension Programme at MEDAC. The seminar and the publication were made possible by funding provided by the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The Human Dimension Programme has been established at MEDAC for over a decade and seeks to contribute to the promotion of human rights and good governance throughout the Mediterranean region. As part of its remit, the Human Dimension Programme organises academic seminars on human rights issues that are of special salience in the Mediterranean. One of the key elements of the Human Dimension Programme is linking academic thinking with diplomatic practice and civil society activism. The German Chair for Conflict Prevention and Peace Studies, which was created at MEDAC in 2009, focuses on security concerns both in terms of traditional security paradigms as well as human security concepts and other contemporary theories of conflict and security, and on peace and conflict studies with a focus on conflict prevention. In this context, the German Chair organises academic seminars that focus on specific security issues that are of relevance to the Mediterranean region.

The phenomenon of migration in the Mediterranean presented a clear opportunity for the Human Dimension Programme and the German Chair to collaborate on an issue which is essentially multi-dimensional touching on legal, socio-economic, human

rights, security and other perspectives - and which has become a matter of daily life (and death) in the Mediterranean. Migration is also an area that involves policy-shaping by academics and activists as well as policy-making by national and international institutions. The seminar and this publication therefore brought together contributions by experts with diverse academic and professional backgrounds including eminent academics from the Euro-Mediterranean region, distinguished policymakers at international and national levels as well as long-standing non-governmental activists.

The idea behind this publication was to examine migration from different perspectives both in terms of themes as well as context. Thus, the volume commences with three contributions which present the thinking of eminent experts from Malta, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and Egypt. These three essays provide a synergetic approach to migration as a complex phenomenon that requires a multifaceted approach. The volume then moves to reflect on human rights, security and development perspectives on migration in essays that clearly highlight the intricate nature of migration that impacts national security and human security, economic well-being but above all else human welfare.

The choice of migration as a theme for exploration and reflection is not a coincidence. Migration has been a major topic of discussion in the Mediterranean region for the past decade. The human toll of migration across the Mediterranean has reached massive proportions. The key messages of this publication are that migration is complex, that it requires an integrated and comprehensive approach, and that it is an extremely urgent matter because human lives are being lost.