

**PRESS STATEMENT N°003 ON THE DEATH OF BENINESE MIGRANTS OFF THE TUNISIAN COAST**

It is with deep sadness and indignation that we learned of the tragedy linked to a risky and illegal immigration project which cost the lives of several migrants in Tunisian waters.

Indeed, on the night of May 16 to 17, 2024, a boat carrying around fifty migrants of various nationalities including Beninese capsized off the Tunisian coast, thus plunging several grieving families in Benin and other African countries

Deeply saddened by this umpteenth tragic shipwreck, we express our most sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims, as well as to the entire community affected by this terrible tragedy. We understand that these times are extremely difficult and painful, and we would like to offer our support and solidarity during this period of mourning. This painful event is a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by migrants who risk their lives in the hope of finding a better situation. It also reminds us of the importance of working together to end these tragedies and to find lasting solutions to the migration issue.

CIIEE International urges the Tunisian authorities and the international community to take preventive measures to prevent such tragedies in the future. Increasing regional and international cooperation is essential to strengthen the security of maritime routes, combat human trafficking networks and improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations. As an organization committed to the protection of migrants, we remain committed to supporting initiatives aimed at guaranteeing their protection and promoting migration policies that are just and respectful of human rights.

CIIEE International congratulates the Beninese government for the repatriation of Beninese migrants in distress in Tunisia and invites other countries concerned to do the same and for populations to refrain from these shameful practices which destroy human lives.

Done in Lomé on May 29, 2024  
For CIIEE International,  
President,



**Dieudonné Bright FIAGA**