

## RECENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*International Migration Policy Programme  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research*

### A. THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY PROGRAMME

Strengthening the capacity of Governments to address region-specific migration and forced displacement challenges is the underlying concept and purpose of the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP). Its comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach is based on the recognised inter-linkage between international migration and other national and global priorities, such as economy, security, development and human rights. On this basis, IMP continues to provide Governments of developing countries and countries in transition with the necessary information on all relevant aspects of the movement of people, by sharing best practices and developing sustainable and durable solutions to international migration and forced displacement challenges.

IMP continues to develop and conduct its activities based on the following principles, which have proven to be essential to its work:

1. The activity is aimed at confidence building and is open, transparent and mainly targeted to senior government participants;
2. Comprehensiveness is fostered when government delegations represent several ministries dealing with migration and forced displacement;
3. Delegations are gender-balanced;
4. Sustainability is emphasised by planning follow-up activities and basing these on IMP conclusions and recommendations adopted by governments and other participants;
5. Accountability is encouraged by inviting the same government participants to attend follow-up meetings and to report on progress made;
6. Government commitment is progressively encouraged by partial government financing of delegations from developing countries at follow-up events; and
7. Concrete progress is measured through the IMP Secretariat efforts to track and compile country reports and developments based on IMP recommendations, and to have governments produce and present national reports (*Country Report System*).

### B. ACTIVITIES APRIL 2002- DECEMBER 2003

During the period spanning April 2002 to December 2003, IMP will have undertaken four major regional conferences and seminars on international migration policy dialogue and co-operation (two in Africa; one for the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue Region*—Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States—, and one in the Caribbean); co-organised a major international conference on migrant remittances with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank; continued to collaborate on anti-trafficking projects under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; provided input to the Berne Initiative; and finalised a first draft manuscript for the UNFPA/IMP publication *Migration at a Glance* due in 2004.

#### *1. Africa*

In May 2002 in Nairobi, Kenya, IMP organised a regional migration policy dialogue conference with 13 Governments from East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region, followed by a second such conference in June 2003, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the same Governments.<sup>1</sup> The Nairobi Conference

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<sup>1</sup> Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Yemen, in addition to other African (observer) States and Western government observers.

represented a first gathering of Governments from the three sub-regions to discuss priorities and establish common understandings on key migration and forced displacement issues. The follow-up conference in Addis Ababa, which was organised in collaboration with the African Union (AU), sought to go into further depth on issues identified in Nairobi and, in particular, to begin to respond to its recommendations. It did so in part via IMP's newly established *Country Reporting System (CRS)*, aimed at measuring and evaluating the concrete impact of action recommendations adopted by Governments and other participants at IMP meetings. Governments, based on questionnaires that they had completed under the CRS, were invited to report on concrete action and progress made since the Nairobi Conference. Operational IMP partner agencies also presented reports on their activities.

Furthermore, at the IMP Conference in Addis Ababa, an informal IMP/AU document entitled "*Towards the Establishment of a Strategic Framework for a Policy of Migration in Africa*" (identified as "Strategic Framework" from now on) was presented to African Governments. Based on the OAU Lusaka Declaration (2001), the AU had requested IMP in early 2003 to develop such a draft framework, which was developed in consultation with IOM, ILO and UNHCR. The Strategic Framework was welcomed by government representatives, who asserted that a pan-African document such as this Strategic Framework developed by IMP constitutes a most useful tool for developing and presenting a co-ordinated international migration policy position based on common priorities, both in discussions within and beyond Africa. Participants agreed to provide additional input and comments to IMP and to follow the evolution and eventual presentation of the Strategic Framework in future meetings of African government experts and to the Summit of AU Heads of State with the objective of creating an instrument that could be implemented as a practice-related and concrete tool for action by Governments and other concerned stakeholders.

## 2. *The Issyk-Kul Dialogue (Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States)*

In July 2002 in Istanbul, Turkey, IMP organised the Third Meeting of the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue*, covering Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States and bringing together, to the extent possible, the same government officials who had attended other *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* meetings.<sup>2</sup>

On the basis of the priorities identified at the 2001 meeting, this five-day meeting focused on migration, human security, state security and regional stability. Topics discussed under this rubric included, *inter alia*, border control, irregular migration and asylum; the security needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants; human trafficking and migrant smuggling including health-care concerns, particularly the problem of HIV/AIDS in the region; safeguards for refugees and migrants in the context of combating terrorism; the impact of migration, refugee and internally displaced person flows on state security, local host communities, and regional security and stability; conflict prevention; and protracted displacement situations, post-conflict rehabilitation, return and repatriation.

Recommendations emanating from the meeting dealt specifically with the situation in Afghanistan (a new participant in the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue*); measures to ensure prevention, protection and prosecution strategies relating to trafficking in persons; irregular migration, asylum and border management; and national and regional security and stability. The 2002 *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* meeting in Istanbul also provided an occasion to gather results from the (2001-2002) IMP/UNFPA Migration Data and Definitions Pilot Project, launched in August 2001 with the generous financial support of UNFPA, one of IMP's co-sponsoring agencies.

In line with the Istanbul Conclusions and Recommendations (2002), IMP is currently planning the fourth meeting of the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue*, scheduled for December 2003 or early January 2004 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The fourth meeting will focus on one or two of the following priority areas identified in July 2002:

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<sup>2</sup> The *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* is comprised of countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan), the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Neighbouring States (Afghanistan, China, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey).

labour migration; migration and human rights and human security; co-operation through sub-regional groupings; and migration, development and migrant remittances. Further, a CRS Questionnaire was dispatched to Governments with an invitation to report in some detail on progress made in implementing the conclusions and recommendations adopted at previous *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* meetings. This activity is also in line with the request of government participants in Istanbul in 2002 for IMP to serve as a focal point on information on progress made on the implementation of the Istanbul Recommendations.

### 3. Caribbean

In October 2002, IMP, in collaboration with IOM, organised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, a Follow-up Seminar to the International Migration Policy Seminar for the Caribbean Region<sup>3</sup> which had been held in Kingston, Jamaica, in May 2001. Over 50 high-level and senior government officials from the region participated in the Santo Domingo meeting. Belize, the Netherlands Antilles and Turks and Caicos were welcomed as new participants. The four-day seminar in Santo Domingo focused on three priority areas identified and drawn out of the conclusions from the earlier Kingston Seminar. These topics included: managing irregular migration while ensuring the protection to refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons in need of protection; labour migration; and the strengthening inter-state co-operation. The seminar was followed by a one-day IOM Programme Planning Session, which sought ways to develop practical responses and projects in relation to the issues addressed by Governments during the preceding IMP Seminar.

#### C. SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE STABILITY PACT TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Since the establishment of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (SPTF) in 2000, IMP has played an important role in its mandated area to assist with the implementation of counter-trafficking national action plans (NAPs) in countries of South Eastern Europe (SEE). Within the SPTF and through its multi-tiered *Comprehensive Programme on Training and Capacity Building to Address Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe (CTP)*, IMP and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)<sup>4</sup> have implemented projects geared towards training and information exchange and targeted at all relevant sectors in the counter-trafficking chain.<sup>5</sup>

A principal objective of the CTP is the incorporation of human-rights-based anti-trafficking training into existing training curricula of national training institutes. Working with international and regional experts, regional training modules geared towards the needs of relevant sectors (notably the police and the judiciary) have been developed and tested through a series of training seminars at national and regional levels. In addition to the training modules, parallel objectives of the CTP include strengthening co-operation among all relevant actors, and enhancing the identification and implementation of best practices and standards for the SEE region and beyond.

For instance, in the case of training for judges and prosecutors, representatives of concerned countries or territories and organisations met in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April 2003, to begin the process of developing an anti-trafficking training module for judges and prosecutors and to encourage the inclusion of this regional curriculum in the regular training in relevant institutions. As a result of the Sofia meeting, national teams have been requested to review and agree upon the draft regional training manual as well as to develop and present strategies for subsequent implementation of this manual at the national level. The same participants will gather back in Sofia on 17-19 November 2003 to share their experiences, validate the manual and agree on follow-up actions.

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<sup>3</sup> Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Netherlands Antilles, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, and Suriname, Belize, the Netherlands Antilles and Turks and Caicos; and government observers from Canada, the Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>4</sup> With collaborating partners SECI Centre and IOM.

<sup>5</sup> Including governmental coordinators, law enforcement, judiciary and prosecutors, NGOs, relevant government ministries.

Other target groups that have received or are expected to receive training in 2003-2004 within the context of the CTP include law enforcement personnel; SPTF governmental co-ordinators; and actors working on countering labour exploitation (including ministries of labour, recruitment agencies, trade unions, employment associations).<sup>6</sup>

#### D. THE BERNE INITIATIVE

As a member of the Steering Group, IMP has continued to assist with the evolution of the Berne Initiative, a process launched in 2001 by the Swiss Government in collaboration with other partners (including, more recently, the Swedish Government), to encourage dialogue between Governments on international migration issues. The goal of the Berne Initiative is to establish a State-owned consultative process focused on obtaining better management of international migration at the regional and global levels through enhanced co-operation between States. The outcome is projected to be a framework for inter-State co-operation for the management of international migration.

During IMP meetings, including those in Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Istanbul, IMP organised panels for further discussion on the Berne Initiative, and to receive feedback from government representatives as to the objectives sought. IMP also organised workshops on the Berne Initiative during the International Metropolis Conferences in Oslo in September 2002 and again in Vienna in September 2003 to engage in discussions with academics and other participants. IMP also attended the Berne Initiative Consultations held in Berne on 2-3 July 2003, where it assisted the Secretariat and provided expert input.

#### E. MIGRATION AT A GLANCE: AN UNFPA/IMP PUBLICATION

Part of IMP's activities over the last five years have been carried out in the context of assisting with the implementation of Chapter X of the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the key actions for its further implementation adopted by ICPD+5, with a view to satisfying such objectives in preparation for ICPD+10. Recognised for its inter-agency work in United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on International Migration and Development (1999 and 2002), IMP's region-specific activities have gathered a wealth of information on international migration trends and on the principal migration interests and concerns of developing countries in most parts of the world and countries in transition.

With the backdrop of the on-going international debate on new approaches in migration policy development and co-operation among origin, transit and destination countries, and the recognition that the views and concerns of developing countries and regions must be fully reflected in this debate, all impressions and information gathered by IMP over the last five years will be analysed and compiled in a publication entitled "*Migration at a Glance: Global, Regional, and Sub-Regional Migration*". A first draft manuscript will be prepared by December 2003. The publication will also serve as contribution to the upcoming tenth anniversary of ICPD in 2004.

#### F. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRANT REMITTANCES

In another joint project, IMP has collaborated with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank to organise the *International Conference on Migrant Remittances: Development Impact, Opportunities for the Financial Sector and Future Prospects*, held from 9 to 10 October 2003 in London. The Conference gathered over 100 participants including senior government officials from around the world, relevant global and regional institutions, financial experts, private sector actors, academics and independent experts.

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<sup>6</sup> This last training to be co-implemented with ILO.

A key aim of the Conference was to bring together donors, interested Governments, leading banks and other agencies to discuss key development issues and challenges relating to migrant labour remittances; to identify and learn from notable regional and country initiatives that have reduced the cost of remittances and eased the access to other financial services for migrant workers; and to define a more collaborative global strategy for enhancing the developmental impact of remittances using low-cost, convenient and accessible national and international remittance facilities.

In preparation for the Conference, IMP was commissioned by DFID to prepare a research document entitled “Labour Remittances: Country of Origin Experiences, Strategies, Policies, Challenges, Needs and Concerns”, highlighting the perspectives of Governments in developing countries and countries in transition on this issue, and reflecting positions expressed at IMP meetings. The paper was presented and distributed at the London Conference.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Available upon request at [unimp@gve.ch](mailto:unimp@gve.ch).