



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

TO: H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, Grand Chancellor

FROM: Michel Veuthey, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Order of Malta to the UN in Geneva¹

DATE: 25 JULY 2017

CC: H.E. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel, Grand Hospitaller
H.E. Ambassador Stefano Ronca
H.E. Ambassador Daniele Verga
H.E. Ambassador Alberto Leoncini Bartoli
H.E. Ambassador Oscar de Rojas
H.E. Ambassador Yves Gazzo
H.E. Ambassador Günter Granser
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Lancelot Count d'Ursell
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Mrs Cecilia Amendolea

International Dialogue on Migration 2017²

Understanding Migrant Vulnerabilities: A solution-based approach towards a global compact that reduces vulnerabilities and empowers migrants *Geneva, 18-19 July 2017*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) held the first session of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2017 on 18 and 19 April at the United Nations in New York on the theme **“Strengthening international cooperation on and governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018”**.³

On 18 and 19 July at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, IOM held its second IDM of the year on the topic **“Understanding migrant vulnerabilities: A solution-based approach towards a global compact that reduces vulnerabilities and empowers migrants”**. The workshop offered Member States and other relevant actors the opportunity to explore all aspects of migrant vulnerabilities from a policy, cooperation and practical perspective. Participants discussed and proposed concrete and implementable measures to reduce migrants’ vulnerabilities and respond to their protection and assistance needs.⁴

This second IDM was organized in panels.⁵ The following high level speakers made statements during this IDM at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on the 18th and 19th of July 2017 :

- William Lacy Swing, IOM Director General⁶
- Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana
- Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship of Canada
- Nanette Thomas, Minister of Political and Public Affairs of Sierra Leone
- Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh
- Anna Makakala, Commissioner General of Immigration Services of Tanzania
- José Luis Lacome, Vice Minister of Human Mobility of Ecuador
- Khadijetou Mbareck Fall, Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs, and Expatriate Mauritians of Mauritania
- Marina Del Corral, Secretary General of Immigration and Emigration of Spain
- Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly (via video message).

The Delegation of the Order of Malta reaffirmed the Order's commitment to reduce vulnerabilities of migrants, to contribute to protect them, and especially **victims of human trafficking**.

The outcomes of this Geneva workshop together with those of the first workshop organized in New York on 18 and 19 April 2017 will be included in a comprehensive report, which will input into the global compact stocktaking meeting to take place in **Guadalajara (Mexico) from the 4th to the 6th of December 2017**. It will then feed into the Global Compact on Migration elaboration process as mentioned in the UN General Assembly resolution on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations (A/RES/71/280).⁷

The main messages of these two days in Geneva were

- the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) will most probably **not be a binding text** but a soft law instrument like the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, or the 2007 ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, or the 2006 ILO Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration, or the 2008 UN General Comment No. 19 on the right to social security ; the aim of negotiating the GCM is not to agree on a new treaty but to reaffirm existing instruments and mechanisms (Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, International Labor Law, International Criminal Law) ;
- Governments, and others, including UNHCR, underlined the need to distinguish between refugees and migrants. Nevertheless, **all persons on the move are protected** by Human Rights and Labor Law. Ambassador Laura Thompson, Deputy Director-General of IOM, in her Closing Remarks, clearly stated : 'Existing legal frameworks protect all individuals regardless of "category" and all individuals are rights holders, but effective implementation needs to be better geared to meet the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations. An example of this is the need to implement measures to regulate labour recruiters, including the ratification of Convention 181 on Private Employment Agencies (1997)'.
- **Domestic laws and implementation mechanisms** of the host country, transit country and country of origin are an important source of protection ;
- **Countries of origin** could provide interesting forms of protection through consular and diplomatic services and by concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements ;
- Even if **Governments are the driving force in this negotiation, other stakeholders are involved** and important for the protection of migrants : civil society, including private business, humanitarian and human rights NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, FBOs, academia, media, diasporas, cities and local communities.

The following list of speakers at this International Dialogue on Migration is evidence for the need for an ongoing open dialogue that includes diverse stakeholders :

Panel 1 – Understanding migrant vulnerability: concepts, drivers, protection frameworks and gaps

Moderator: Vincent Chetail, Professor of International Law, Director, Global Migration Centre, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies Geneva

Speakers:

- Nanette Thomas, Minister of Political and Public Affairs, Sierra Leone
- Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
- Edward Hobart, Migration Envoy, Europe Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom
- Matteo Biffoni, Mayor of Prato, Italy
- Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Panel 2 – Identifying migrant vulnerabilities – structural and situational factors of vulnerability

Moderator: Lilana Keith, Advocacy Officer, Labour Rights and Children’s Rights, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

Speakers:

- Anna Makakala, Commissioner General of Immigration Services, Immigration Services Department, United Republic of Tanzania
- Aud Kolberg, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Roxana Castro de Bollig, Director of Protection and Assistance to Nationals, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru
- Elda Gladis Tobar Ortiz, Executive Director, Salvadoran Institute for Comprehensive Protection for Children and Adolescents (ISNA)
- Natapanu Nopakun, Director of Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Panel 3 – Applying policy and operational frameworks in a migration context

Moderator: Elizabeth Ferris, Research Professor, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University

Speakers:

- Maria Fernanda Rodríguez, Deputy Secretary of Access to Justice, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Argentina
- Ola Henrikson, Director General, Department of Migration and Asylum, Ministry of Justice, Sweden
- Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, Chief Humanitarian Coordinator, Emergency Coordination Center, Nigeria
- Pia Oberoi, Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Nilambar Badal, Program Director, Asian Human Rights and Culture Development Forum (Asian Forum – Migrants’ Center)

Panel 4 – Integration and social inclusion as a means of addressing and mitigating migrant vulnerabilities

Moderator: Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson, United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Vice-President International Association for Community Development, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University, Ireland

Speakers:

- Marina Del Corral, Secretary General of Immigration and Emigration, Secretariat General for Immigration and Emigration, Ministry of Employment and Social Security, Spain
- Carlos Arturo López Damm, Ambassador, Undersecretary of Migration and Consular Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Ecuador
- Timur Shaimergerenov, Deputy Director, Head of the Policy Analysis Center, The Library of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

- Hibaq Jama, Councillor, City of Bristol
- Daniel Klein, Founder of the project “The Perennial Plate” (documentary series)

Panel 5 – Promoting resilience and agency in support of vulnerable migrants

Moderator: Daniela Reale, Child Protection and Children on the Move Lead, Save the Children
Speakers:

- Khadijetou Mbareck Fall, Minister Delegate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania, responsible for Maghreb and African Affairs, and Expatriate Mauritians
- Javier Dario Higuera, Director of Migration, Consular Affairs and Citizen Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- Daniela Nuñez Pares, Director of Institutional Coordination for Migrant Health, General Direction of International Relations, Ministry of Health, Mexico
- Mechthilde Fuhrer, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe
- Sikander Khan, Director, Geneva Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF
- Chidi King, Director, Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Session 6 – Towards a global compact on migration: comprehensive and coordinated initiatives to reduce vulnerability and empower migrants

Panel 1

Moderator: Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head of the International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Speakers:

- George Jashi, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues, Public Service Development Agency, Ministry of Justice of Georgia
- Gibril Faal, Director of GK Partners, Interim Director of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)
- Marius Olivier, Director, Institute for Social Law and Policy (ISLP), Extraordinary professor, Faculty of Law, Northwest University

Panel 2

Moderator: Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, IOM Speakers:

- Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
- Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Christine Matthews, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration
- Mirela Stoia, Director, Immigration Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Wrap-up and closing remarks : Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, IOM⁸

APPENDIXES

1. **Global Processes on Migration** <https://www.iom.int/global-processes-migration>
2. **Migrants in Disaster Risk Reduction** : Practices for Inclusion (Joint publication by MICIC, IOM, EUR-OPA, Council of Europe, launched on the 19th of July 2017 in Geneva)
https://publications.iom.int/fr/system/files/pdf/migrants_in_drr.pdf?language=fr or :
https://micicinitiative.iom.int/sites/default/files/resource_pub/docs/migrants_in_drr_print_1.pdf
3. **Guidelines to Protect Migrants** in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disasters (2016)
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MICIC_Guidelines_web.pdf
Lignes directrices relatives à la protection des migrants dans les pays touchés par un conflit ou une catastrophe naturelle
https://micicinitiative.iom.int/sites/default/files/document/micic_guidelines_french_web_17_10_2016.pdf

ENDNOTES

¹ The author would like to thank Julian Theseira, former Intern at the Geneva Mission of the Order of Malta, for his assistance in finalizing this report.

² <https://www.iom.int/idm>

³ <https://www.iom.int/international-dialogue-migration-2017-strengthening-international-cooperation-and-governance>

The Concept Note can be found here:

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/IDM%202017%20concept%20note.pdf

Summary of Conclusions:

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/2017_IDM/Summary%20IDM%2018-19%20April%20New%20York.pdf

⁴ <https://www.iom.int/international-dialogue-migration-2017-understanding-migrant-vulnerabilities-solution-based-approach>

Background Paper:

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/2017_IDM/Background%20paper%20IDM%2018-19%20July.pdf

⁵ Final agenda :

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/2017_IDM/Final%20agenda%20IDM%2018-19%20July%202017.pdf

⁶ See his Opening Remarks:

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/2017_IDM/Opening%20Remarks-DG_24%20July.pdf

⁷ <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/280>

⁸ See her Closing Remarks :

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ICP/IDM/2017_IDM/IDM%20Closing%20Remarks_as%20of%2021%20July.pdf

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