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On October 9, 2012, the International Peace Institute, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), convened a roundtable discussion on “Migrants in Times of Crises: An Emerging Protection Challenge.” This event was part of IOM’s International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), which had “Managing Migration in Crisis Situations” as its theme in 2012.

This meeting note was drafted by Jérémie Labbé and Chris Perry, with valuable input from Lea Matheson, Karoline Popp, and Evelien Borgman of the IOM. It reflects the *rappor-teurs’* interpretation of the roundtable discussion and does not necessarily represent the views of all other participants. IPI owes a debt of thanks to its generous donors who make publications like this one possible.

# Migrants in Times of Crisis: An Emerging Protection Challenge

FEBRUARY 2013

## Introduction

Crises and crisis-fueled displacement have always occurred. Today, however, the scale and frequency of both conflict and natural disasters are leading to larger and more complex population movements. One particular dimension of contemporary crises is the presence of significant populations of non-nationals—principally migrant workers and their families—in countries that may be affected by crises. This was most recently demonstrated during the conflict that engulfed Libya in 2011, resulting in population flows that tested the response capacity of states, international humanitarian agencies, and the international community as a whole. In Libya, an estimated 1.8 million migrant workers (including an estimated 1 million to 1.2 million migrants with no legal status) were caught in the conflict and required varying degrees of protection.<sup>1</sup> While the consequences of crises faced by migrants are not new—the 1991 Gulf War, the 2006 conflict between Israel and Lebanon, and the 2011 crisis in Ivory Coast all affected several hundred thousand migrants—the scale and impact of the conflict in Libya represented a wakeup call for the international community. It illustrated the disproportionate vulnerability of migrants during political turmoil and conflict in their destination countries as well as their specific protection and assistance needs in regards to evacuation and personal safety, especially when migrants are in irregular situations. In addition, the large number of returning migrants demonstrated the need for longer-term assistance in home countries.

This observation was at the center of discussions of a roundtable seminar on “Migrants in Times of Crises: An Emerging Protection Challenge.” The meeting was convened on October 9, 2012 by the International Peace Institute (IPI) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The discussion was part of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), IOM’s principal forum for policy dialogue among migration stakeholders; countries of origin, transit, and destination; international organizations; civil society; migrants; and migration experts. In 2012, the IOM membership designated “Managing Migration in Crisis Situations” as the overarching theme for the IDM. Two previous IDM seminars took place in Geneva in April and September 2012 and served, respectively, to explore the main concept of “migration crisis”<sup>2</sup> and the

<sup>1</sup> “Migrants Caught in Crisis: The IOM Experience in Libya,” Geneva: International Organization for Migration, 2012, available at:

[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=41\\_7&products\\_id=785](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=41_7&products_id=785).

<sup>2</sup> The “migration crisis” concept was introduced at the IDM workshop of April 2012 and is at the heart of the 2012 IDM. It describes large-scale, complex migration flows due to a crisis that involves significant vulnerabilities for affected individuals and communities. For a full summary of the IDM workshop “Moving to Safety: Migration Consequences of Complex Crises,” see the workshop report available at: [www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/idm/workshops/moving-to-safety-complex-crises-2012/Workshop\\_Report.pdf](http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/idm/workshops/moving-to-safety-complex-crises-2012/Workshop_Report.pdf).

complex interactions between crises and human mobility, and to examine the particular consequences of crises for migrants as well as the resulting operational and policy challenges in protecting them.<sup>3</sup> The IPI-hosted meeting built upon previous discussions, with the aim of raising awareness among the international community in New York of the issue of migrants caught in crisis. Bringing the IDM discussions to New York for the first time was particularly opportune to help inform the second United Nations (UN) High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that will take place on the margins of the UN General Assembly's next opening session in October 2013.

The seminar, held under the Chatham House rule of non-attribution, was attended by more than fifty participants and brought together representatives of United Nations member states, officials from the UN and its agencies, civil society organizations, and other migration experts. It resulted in a rich and substantive discussion about some of the complex operational and institutional challenges at national, regional, and international levels to ensure protection and assistance of migrants affected by crises. The seminar was organized in two sessions that looked respectively at the protection needs of migrants during or in the immediate aftermath of crises, and at the longer-term consequences of crises on both migrants and their states of origin and destination. The second session had a particular focus on the migration-related impacts of the Libyan crisis on the Sahel region.

## Protecting Migrants in Crisis Situations

During the first session, several participants reiterated that issues related to the assistance and protection of migrants during crises are not new. In Iraq in 1992, approximately 250,000 migrants fleeing the conflict were repatriated to their country of origin with support from IOM. In Lebanon in 2006, 35,000 migrant workers were repatriated by IOM.<sup>4</sup> Yet, the specific challenges arising from such situations did not receive widespread attention

until the Libyan conflict of 2011. Because of this, few concerted actions had been undertaken to improve the way specific protection and assistance needs are addressed and to devise comprehensive response mechanisms. While the emergency response to the migration crisis in Libya was widely hailed as a success—notably due to extensive and systematic cooperation among states, IOM, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—further efforts going forward are required to better integrate migration management and humanitarian response frameworks. Participants built on the experience gained in previous crises to identify specific protection problems, appropriate solutions, and the actors responsible for implementing them.

### LESSONS FROM PREVIOUS CRISES: IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC PROTECTION PROBLEMS

First, all migrants are in principle protected by international human rights law and, in situations of conflict, by international humanitarian law. However, while some benefit from specific protection regimes such as those afforded to refugees, for the majority of migrants caught in crises there is no specific international legal, normative, or institutional frameworks to be applied. This has implications that go beyond the immediate situation of migrants in crisis. For instance, it was noted during the meeting that gaps in protection frameworks might explain the low levels of consideration received for assisting and evacuating migrant workers affected by the current conflict in Syria. Though Syria is primarily a “refugee crisis,” foreign migrant workers have also required assistance fleeing. And while some migrant workers might join the flow of internally displaced people (IDPs) and incidentally benefit from the protection of the existing IDP protection frameworks, other stranded migrants are unable to move and risk becoming “invisible” to humanitarian response efforts.

Second, the low levels of social protection and lack of respect for migrants’ human rights in host or transit countries prior to crises tend to correspond

<sup>3</sup> For more information on these two previous seminars, see respectively: [www.iom.int/cms/idmcomplexcrises](http://www.iom.int/cms/idmcomplexcrises) and [www.iom.int/cms/idmmigrantsincrisis](http://www.iom.int/cms/idmmigrantsincrisis).

<sup>4</sup> Brian Kelly and Anita Jawadurovna Wadud, “Asian Labour Migrants and Humanitarian Crises: Lessons from Libya,” Issue in Brief No. 3, Bangkok and Washington DC: International Organization for Migration and Migration Policy Institute, July 2012, available at: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MPIIssueNo3\\_10July2012.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MPIIssueNo3_10July2012.pdf). See also: “Migrants Caught in Crisis: The IOM Experience in Libya.”

to increased vulnerability during crises. Migrants in these situations are often deprived of viable means to cope with the impact of crisis. For example, illicit practices by recruitment agencies or employers may leave migrants deeply indebted or without any official documentation. This vulnerability might be further aggravated by the lack of access to basic social services and infrastructures, or by the reluctance of migrants to contact and interact with relevant authorities for fear of being deported in the case of undocumented migrants. Furthermore, xenophobic sentiments in the host community can also put migrants in direct danger during a crisis. For instance, the breakdown of law and order can open the path for crimes based on ethnic or other resentments. This was illustrated by the treatment of sub-Saharan migrants in Libya, many of whom were attacked by Libyans as suspected fighters of the old regime due to false stereotyping.

Third, migrants are confronted with a number of practical difficulties such as language barriers and lack of familiarity with their host states' institutions that can aggravate vulnerability in comparison to nationals of the affected country. These practical difficulties are even more problematic for the extremely vulnerable categories of migrants, such as migrant workers without documentation to prove their identity and nationality and single female migrants employed as domestic workers who may find themselves particularly isolated by their employers.

Finally, these protection needs increase when the migrants' countries of origin have no migration management mechanisms in place. The dearth of data about nationals living abroad, limited or non-existent consular services in countries of transit or destination, and a general lack of contingency plans to reach out to migrants—for the purpose of assistance and protection in situ or during evacuation—further isolate migrants and leave them to their own devices.

### THE BROADER POLICY ENVIRONMENT: FINDING APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS

Most participants agreed that the immediate response capacity of the humanitarian system is satisfactory, as shown during the Libyan crisis. In

fact, interagency coordination was seen as crucial to fill some of the shortcomings of the normative and humanitarian frameworks that exist for migrants. The existing legal categories do not capture the diversity of conditions, needs, and vulnerabilities among populations on the move in situations of crisis. In fact these issues cut across a wide variety of institutional responsibilities. This was identified as one of the primary operational challenges. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Transformative Agenda has taken steps to address some of these needs by encouraging more creative, flexible, and adaptive operational coordination mechanisms; the strengthening of leadership; and the promotion of accountability towards affected people.<sup>5</sup>

Participants also recommended that crisis management actors draw lessons from past policy successes and failures and to capitalize on creative responses developed in previous crises. The IOM-developed Migration Crisis Operational Framework can also be a useful tool in that respect: the framework aims to provide a better analytical and operational framework to allow IOM to address the migration dimensions of crises.

Participants also emphasized the importance of preparedness and contingency planning to increase the predictability and effectiveness of response. The policies and actions of both national governments and intergovernmental organizations prior to crisis play a critical role in crisis management. For instance, policies regarding rights of migrants in destination countries directly affect how migrants are treated within crises or whether they are even considered within crises management strategies. Host countries must do better to ensure that migrants are included in national contingency plans. This implies better knowledge and data generation on the number, location, and profile of migrants in their country. A participant suggested that countries of destination could consider opening escrow accounts contributed to by migrants or their countries of origin, which would help to ensure the availability of funds to cover the costs of assistance and evacuation should a crisis occur.

<sup>5</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee Transformative Agenda 2012, adopted by the IASC Principals in December 2011, available at: [www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-template-default&bd=87](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-template-default&bd=87).

Countries of origin also have a responsibility to put in place policies to assist their nationals abroad during crises. The measures taken by the government of the Philippines present useful models in this respect, in terms of the education of migrants before departure, awareness and outreach capacity of consular services, and tracking of its nationals abroad. Again, knowledge of where and how many migrants are present in a country is of paramount importance for countries of origin in reaching out to their citizens abroad and, if necessary, planning for the logistics of return. Efforts of IOM to increase the predictability of response—notably through the establishment of a Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism—and organizational coherence through the development of a Migration Crisis Operational Framework were commended as important contributions to preparedness efforts.

#### SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES: EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Each state has the primary responsibility to provide assistance and protection for the victims of conflict, natural disasters, or other emergencies occurring on its territory.<sup>6</sup> This includes international migrants. However, when “migration crises” spill across borders, all stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels have a role to play to ensure the protection of migrants. Participants emphasized the need for strengthened coordination and partnership between host, origin, and neighboring countries; international organizations and NGOs; and other stakeholders such as private sector companies.

Host states have the responsibility to take care of people on their territory while origin countries have responsibilities toward their citizens abroad. This requires both host and origin countries to devise and implement preparedness measures and contingency plans as mentioned above, but also to develop cooperation and consular relations in the event of a crisis. In that respect, a number of participants highlighted the positive experience and creative measures implemented by states such as the Philippines and Bangladesh, and called for greater sharing of experiences. Neighboring states

also have responsibilities in the event where the crisis spills over national borders, as happened during the Libyan crisis when Tunisia and Egypt received hundreds of thousands of migrants fleeing the conflict. International organizations, such as IOM and the United Nations, have a key role to play by supporting states in terms of coordination and by liaising between the different stakeholders.

However, a number of participants pointed to the limited capacities and resources of some host, origin, and transit states, especially where countries struggle with challenges such as low levels of development. Specialized agencies such as IOM and UNHCR therefore also have a complementary role to build capacities of states through training and sharing of expertise, and by supporting them when a crisis occurs. Partnerships with other stakeholders must also be developed or strengthened to better share the burden, such as with recruitment agencies and employers of migrants who might have a greater role to play to protect them. It was pointed out that the humanitarian system is well aware of the importance of broadening partnerships, a concept central to the IASC’s Transformative Agenda, which promotes better coordination with and support to state authorities and other actors. Participants agreed that building capacities of states and communities to cope with “migration crises” is a longer-term undertaking that requires better linkages between humanitarian and development responses. Some participants proposed that it could be integrated within strategies aimed at strengthening the resilience of populations.

## Addressing Long-Term Consequences

While acute phases of emergencies tend to be highly visible, often less attention is paid to the longer-term consequences for both countries of origin and migrants; especially when migrants are forced to return home due to a crisis in their destination country. The second half of the meeting focused specifically on the long-term challenges of returning migrants. In this respect, participants discussed the specific case of the

5 UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (December 19, 1991), UN Doc. A/RES/46/182, paragraph 4.

Libyan crisis and its impact on the Sahel region, as well as the role of the international community, affected states, and concerned governments. Overall, there was strong consensus about the need to improve the link between immediate humanitarian assistance and longer-term development measures.

### CHALLENGES IN RECEIVING AND REINTEGRATING RETURNING MIGRANTS

Participants addressed the various challenges facing migrants after returning to their places of origin. First and foremost, many migrants return to conditions that led to migration in the first place, such as poverty, lack of employment opportunities, or tenuous food security. Precipitous return from a crisis zone is often accompanied by psychosocial trauma, which is rarely addressed through crisis management efforts. This puts tremendous strain both on returning migrants and also their families and communities. These factors help to fuel a revolving door of migration where many of those who return aspire and attempt to migrate again. However, a lack of regular migration options in many instances may lead to an expansion of irregular channels, such as routes for human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

At the community and country levels, reintegrating returning migrants can pose a variety of challenges. In many parts of the world, remittances have become a major source of revenue and livelihood for migrants' families, and in turn constitute an important piece of the interlocking puzzle that affects development, stability, and sustainability. Where migrants are forced to abandon employment, funds dry up resulting in a drop in the income of those that have come to depend on remittances. Furthermore, the sudden and simultaneous return of large numbers of migrants (such as during a crisis situation) can create the potential for social tensions by adding pressure on already strained labor markets, resources, ecosystems, and social services. In addition, the return of migrants may bring underlying structural issues to the surface, such as unclear land tenure and property rights.

### LIBYA AND THE SAHEL REGION

The events in Libya showed that effective coordination among all actors is crucial to a timely and successful response. The cooperation shown between organizations like IOM and UNHCR was a good example of this. Interagency coordination with respect to humanitarian assistance for this often “invisible” group should be seen as contributing to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Transformative Agenda. Likewise, cooperation and communication between receiving, transit, origin, and neighboring states was vital for preventing a greater humanitarian disaster, especially at the borders. In addition, the contributions of other actors deserve greater attention. For example, the private sector has only partially been engaged in crisis planning and management, although employers carry important responsibilities to employees in terms of assistance, documentation, and evacuation. The role of regional cooperation—including regional consultative processes (RCPs) on migration—in promoting better preparedness for such situations was underlined, as was the critical contribution of neighboring countries that kept their borders open to fleeing migrants during the Libyan crisis.

The crisis in Libya also showed that the repatriation of migrants in times of crisis puts a significant toll on countries of origin. This can be especially problematic in already fragile states. The consequences of the crisis in Libya on the Sahel region are the most recent examples of the difficulties arising from the return of migrants after a crisis. During the crisis in Libya, more than 420,000 returnees—out of a total 790,000 migrant workers that left the country—crossed the borders into Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger to flee the fighting.<sup>7</sup> Migrants often returned to the same situations that prompted them to migrate in the first place.

Lack of opportunity, poverty, and insecurity all pose significant problems for returnees, and such issues are often not included in crisis management strategies. In Chad, the recent influx of returning migrants aggravated existing problems and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the crisis coincided with a

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Report of the Assessment Mission on the Impact of the Libyan Crisis on the Sahel Region*, UN Doc. S/2012/42, January 18, 2012, p. 6, para. 18. See also [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MigrationCaughtinCrisis\\_forweb.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MigrationCaughtinCrisis_forweb.pdf).

severe drought during the yearly “hungry season” before harvest. As a consequence, many of those who returned found a situation of poverty and food insecurity. In fact, some returnees, who had spent much of their lives as migrants, felt that they had returned to a foreign country, empty-handed, with no way to support themselves or their families. Within these countries of origin, capacity needs to be developed in a wide variety of areas and support is needed from states and international organizations. At the same time, the potential positive role of migration in resolving some of the longer-term consequences for returning migrants and their communities needs to be remembered and highlighted.

Participants also emphasized pre-existing security issues and political instability in the region, which were exacerbated by the large scale and sudden returns particularly in the Sahel. In the turmoil triggered by the crisis in Libya, population movements also included some individuals engaged in organized criminal activities, and the uncontrolled movement of arms became widespread. All of this occurred in the absence of meaningful regional cooperation on sharing intelligence and border management.

These observations highlighted the need for long-term planning and coordination when dealing with the migration component of crises. The linkages between short-term emergency management and longer-term development challenges must be improved. Migration in times of crisis tends to be handled in the context of short-term humanitarian efforts, while long-term development concerns fall by the wayside. Likewise, migration factors are too often neglected in the larger development debates. Some participants acknowledged that this dichotomy between humanitarian action and development is perpetuated in institutional divisions of labor and in the way in which funding is allocated. Participants suggested that the current emphasis on strengthening resilience of communities might provide a good framework for improving linkages between the two approaches. It was also stressed that migration management should take into account the positive effects of migration on development for post-crisis recovery and reconstruction by offering new labor migration opportunities for returned migrants.

Finally, the relevance of the linkages between migration, crises, and development in the context of the upcoming UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development—taking place within the General Assembly on October 3 and 4, 2013—was underlined by numerous participants. The High-Level Dialogue comes at a time of increasing awareness of global migration trends and concern for their effects. This is demonstrated for instance by the growing recognition and importance of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the expanding Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) throughout the world. Furthermore, the issue of international migration is a key part of the interlocking facets that affect development, stability, and sustainability. As stated by one participant, migration was not included in the Millennium Development Goals formulated in 2000 and was excluded from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change until it was incorporated in the Cancun Conference of the Parties (COP) agreement in 2010. As preparations have started for the creation of a post-2015 development agenda, the linkages between international migration on one hand, and both humanitarian and development challenges on the other, need to be made more explicit and clearer.

## Conclusion

While events in Libya brought the topic of international migrants in times of crisis back to the forefront, the issue is not new. Lessons learned in managing previous crises should be used as reference points when developing future crisis mitigation and response plans. One is that there is no specific international legal, normative, or institutional framework in place for the majority of migrants caught in crises. In addition, low levels of social protection and little respect for migrants’ human rights in host or transit countries before a crisis can lead to higher vulnerability during a crisis. Migrants are confronted with a number of practical difficulties, which may become even more problematic for particularly vulnerable categories of migrants. Furthermore, their protection needs increase when their countries of origin have no migration management mechanisms in place. Building on these observations, participants identified four key ideas to address more effectively the

situation of migrants caught in crises.

- 1) **Focus on the broader policy environment, and find appropriate solutions.** The operational challenges caused by the diversity of conditions, needs, and vulnerabilities among migrants in crisis situations need to be addressed. The IASC's Transformative Agenda incorporates measures in this regard. The Migration Crisis Operational Framework developed by IOM can also be a useful tool, since it aims to provide a better analytical and operational framework to address the migration dimensions of crises. The existence of adequate policies concerning the rights of migrants in destination countries is relevant for the inclusion of migrants in national crisis management strategies and will have an impact on their overall vulnerability during a crisis. At the same time, countries of origin should put in place policies to assist and protect their nationals abroad in the event of a crisis. Generating better data and knowledge of migrant populations, their location, profile, and potential vulnerabilities is also important both for destination countries in providing protection and assistance and for countries of origin in planning for the logistics and effects of return.
- 2) **Improve effective coordination.** As the events in Libya showed, effective coordination among all actors is crucial to a timely and successful response. The cooperation among organizations such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), IOM, and UNHCR was promising, as was cooperation and communication between receiving, transit, origin, and neighboring countries. This contributes to the IASC Transformative Agenda, which could provide a useful framework to enhance solution-oriented coordination in the future. In addition, the contributions of other actors deserve greater consideration, such as employers' responsibili-

ties to migrant employees in terms of assistance, evacuation, or documentation.

- 3) **Pay attention to longer-term consequences.** In many cases, repatriation of migrants in crisis puts a significant toll on countries of origin, especially where the socio-economic and political situation is already fragile. Capacity-building and support from states and international organizations were suggested as critical, while the potential positive role of migration in resolving some of the longer-term consequences for returning migrants and their communities could be further developed.
- 4) **Bridge gaps between humanitarian emergency relief and longer-term development objectives.** Situations in which migrants are caught in crises have both humanitarian and development dimensions. Migrants will have immediate humanitarian protection and assistance needs. Yet, their situation and broader effects on their families and communities cannot be divorced from questions of development, socioeconomic opportunity, and stability. The notion of "resilience" might lend itself well to better integrating humanitarian and development dimensions.

Participants translated this need for synergies as a need for a more comprehensive strategy on dealing with migration, crisis, and development. Ideally, the first steps would be to outline existing vulnerabilities so that states and organizations can be best prepared for both immediate and long-term challenges. This would include a broadened base for humanitarian action both in knowledge generation and in resource allocation and would consider the links between immediate humanitarian response and long-term development measures. The upcoming UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as well as the preparations for the Post-2015 Development Framework provide a good opportunity to further develop and strengthen policies on this matter.

# Agenda

## International Dialogue on Migration 2012

### Migrants in Times of Crisis: An Emerging Protection Challenge

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

08:45 – 09:00      **Breakfast**

09:00 – 09:30      **Opening Remarks**

H.E. Mr. Christian Strohal, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office and Specialized Institutions in Geneva, Chair of the IOM Council*

Mr. William Lacy Swing, *Director General, IOM*

9:30 – 11:00      **Session 1: Protecting Migrants in Crisis Situations**

Issues to be addressed include:

- *The initial challenges faced by international migrants and their families in home countries, when their host country undergoes a humanitarian crisis;*
- *The challenges for national authorities in providing a response to the movement of international migrants during the immediate emergency phase;*
- *Ways in which migration management and assistance can effectively be incorporated in humanitarian response frameworks and examples of good practice;*
- *The role of the international community, affected regions, and concerned governments in responding to the situation of international migrants during crises.*

#### **Moderator**

Dr. Youssef Mahmoud, *Senior Adviser, IPI*

#### **Introduction**

Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, *Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies, IOM*

#### **Speakers**

H.E. Mr. Libran N. Cabactulan, *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,*

*Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN*

Ms. Catherine A. Wiesner, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State*

Mr. John Ging, *Director of the Coordination Response Division, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA)*

11:00 – 11:30      **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00      **Session 2: Addressing Long-term Consequences**  
(Case Study: Sahel Region)

Issues to be addressed include:

- *The long-term challenges faced by international migrants upon their return, when their host country undergoes a crisis;*
- *The long-term consequences for host countries when a crisis has caused a large outflow of migrant workers;*
- *Both the challenges and opportunities for governments of home countries when confronted with large numbers of returning migrant workers;*
- *Ways in which the challenges regarding international migrants in crisis situations have an impact on migration, humanitarian, development, and security perspectives and how these perspectives can in turn effectively address those challenges;*
- *The role of the international community, affected regions, and concerned governments in responding to the situation of international migrants after crises.*

**Moderator**

Mr. John L. Hirsch, *Senior Adviser, IPI*

**Introduction**

Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, *Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies, IOM*

**Speakers**

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Allam-mi, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chad to the United Nations*

Professor Susan Martin, *Herzberg Professor of International Migration and Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University*

Mr. Levent Bilman, *Director, Policy and Mediation Division, UN Department of Political Affairs*

## Participants

**Ms. Eleanor Acer**  
Human Rights First

**Dr. George Andreopoulos**  
The City University of New York

**Ms. Fabienne Bartoli**  
Permanent Mission of France to the  
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**Mr. Andrew Billo**  
Asia Society

**Ms. Evelien Borgman**  
International Organization for Migration,  
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**Ms. Katrina Burgess**  
Permanent Mission of Canada to the  
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**Dr. Joseph Chamie**  
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**Ms. Anne Bang Christensen**  
Delegation of the International Federation of  
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**Ms. Sivanka Dhanapala**  
UNHCR Liaison Office in New York

**Mr. Joseph Cornelius Donnelly**  
Caritas Internationalis

**Mr. Christian Doktor**  
Permanent Mission of Germany to the  
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**Mr. Pierre Dorbes**  
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**Ms. Bettina Etter**  
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**Ms. Hend Abdel Ghany**  
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs

**Ms. Annalena Hagenauer**  
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**Ms. Rita Herencsár**  
Permanent Mission of Hungary to the  
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**Mr. Eiji Hinoshita**  
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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**Ms. Salwa Kader**  
United Federation for Middle East Peace

**Mr. Ralph Kader**  
United Federation for Middle East Peace

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Permanent Observer, International Organization  
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**Mr. Jérémie Labbé**  
International Peace Institute

**Ms. Lotta Maijala**  
Permanent Mission of Finland to the  
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**Mr. Gregory Maniatis**  
Office of the Secretary-General's Special  
Representative on International Migration and  
Development, Mr. Peter Sutherland

**Ms. Lea Matheson**

Deputy Permanent Observer, International Organization for Migration, Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations

**Mr. Barry Mirkin**

United Nations Development Programme

**Ms. Karen Morgan**

United States Mission to the United Nations

**Mr. Gregorio Morrobel**

Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations

**Ms. Amy Muedin**

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**Mr. Joshua Mugodo**

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

**Ms. Luana Natali**

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

**Ms. Leslie Nikolopoulos**

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

**Ms. Nicole Nummelin**

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – International Office

**Ms. Grainne O'Hara**

UNHCR Liaison Office in New York

**Mr. Chris Perry**

International Peace Institute

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Helena Pimentel**

Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations

**Ms. Karoline Popp**

International Organization for Migration, Geneva

**Mr. Thomas Reisen**

Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations

**Ms. Eva Richter**

NGO Committee on Migration

**Mr. Chris Richter**

International Organization for Migration, Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations

**Ms. Sarah Rosengaertner**

Poverty Group, UNDP Bureau for Development Policy

**Ms. Rhea Saab**

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**Ms. Trude Kvam Ulleland**

United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

**Ms. Sophie van der Meer**

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**Ms. Kimya Zahedi**

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**Mr. Pascal Zimmer**

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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