



## **“KEY MIGRATION ISSUES” WORKSHOP SERIES<sup>1</sup>:**

### **IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

**30 AUGUST 2006**

*organized jointly with UNHCR*

#### **INFORMATION NOTE**

### **BACKGROUND**

Today international migration is widely seen in the context of globalization and the growing wealth disparities it engenders between different regions. People can be drawn to migrate because they lack economic opportunities and perspectives in their home countries, encouraged by the demand for cheap and flexible labour in countries of destination. Whereas generally, flows of goods and capital are progressively being liberalized, the movement of people remains much more restricted. This is despite the demands for foreign labour, and ‘push-factors’, including violent conflict, natural disasters, environmental degradation, and discrimination. The result is a greater tendency to resort to irregular migration channels for entry and/or stay in countries of destination. Among the many challenges posed by irregular migration, are the needs: to create legal migration opportunities, and to protect the human rights of irregular migrants who are socially excluded and are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

This workshop will identify causes and consequences of irregular migration; address questions of terminology and the representation of irregular migrants in public discourse and the media; look at the living and working conditions of irregular migrants; present national responses; and describe international models of cooperation and capacity building.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Identify causes and consequences of irregular migration and understand the role of illicit intermediaries;
- Enhance knowledge on situations of irregularity and on the problems and needs of migrants in these situations;
- Present national responses to irregular migration;
- Understand the benefits and deficiencies of existing migration control measures and of new technologies for identification in light of the rights and interests of all stakeholders involved;
- Discuss how common policy approaches to the issue of irregular migration can be developed;
- Discuss the integration of irregular migration in development cooperation between states as a means of preventing irregular migration and addressing its root causes.

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<sup>1</sup>This Series is financially supported with grants from UNFPA

## **ORGANIZATION**

A first session will focus on the status of irregular migrants, notably with regard to access to legal representation, public services and health care. It will look at situations of vulnerability and exploitation of undocumented migrants and identify good practices concerning how to tackle these.

A second session will present different national responses to irregular migration including their impact on asylum regimes. In addition, the benefits and deficiencies of existing practices such as detention, deportation and regularization of undocumented migrants will also be discussed.

A third session will focus on international cooperation and capacity building in the fields of law enforcement, border control, visa regulations and collection and sharing of data. It will discuss the use of new technologies, particularly biometrics, and look at how countries can incorporate such techniques into their national strategies. This session will also include a policy discussion about “policing versus policy making”, and whether the root causes of irregular migration can and should be addressed through development cooperation.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The workshop is designed for members of permanent missions responsible for the Commission on Population and Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Committees and other matters where migration issues are of relevance. The selected candidates are requested to regard their participation as a firm commitment.

## **RESOURCE PERSONS**

IOM, UNHCR, Government representatives, NGOs, Academics.

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

The workshop will be conducted in English.

## **DATE AND VENUE**

The workshop will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 30 August 2006, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Conference room 8.

## **REGISTRATION**

Members of the permanent missions accredited to the United Nations in New York who wish to participate in this workshop are requested to complete the attached nomination form and return it to the following address:

**UNITAR** c/o Ms. Sarah Rosengaertner  
1 United Nations Plaza, Suite DC1-603  
New York, NY 10017-3515  
Phone: (212) 963-9683 or 9196  
Fax: (212) 963-9686 or 0995

**Registration deadline: 23 August 2006**

