



Enhancing Security and border management in the Sahel

IOM participates in a counter-terrorism workshop in Algiers

3 to 5 March 2014- IOM participated in the workshop "Strengthening Border-related Counter-Terrorism Capacities in the Sahel and the Maghreb through International Databases and Enhanced Cooperation, Coordination and Information-Exchange". The three-day workshop, held in Algiers, was attended by 34 delegates from across Africa. It was facilitated by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED) of the United Nations and organized by the "Centre africain d'études et de recherche sur le terrorisme" (CAERT) of the African Union in Algeria.

The aim of the workshop was to promote best practices with regard to international tools and databases that strengthen border control and security. The workshop also aimed to establish a standard for effective national, cross border, and international coordination and information exchange among target countries and relevant stakeholders. Finally, the workshop focused on consolidating the implementation of relevant international counter-terrorism codes.

IOM's participation in the workshop aimed to promote IOM's Immigration and Border Management (IBM) programme's core objective of supporting countries in their efforts to regulate movements at the border while minimizing cross-border threats to national security and political stability, including how the Organization pursues these objectives in the Sahel and Maghreb.

The IBM programme supports countries in the field with trainings and expertise on travel document examination procedures. The programme also enhances border management information systems and promotes best practice for information-sharing and coordination at airports, land border posts, and ports.

The first day of the workshop focused on mechanisms of cooperation and best practices required for the proper



examination and assessment of travel documents and traveler identities. IOM presented the core principles of Integrated Border Management and the most efficient means of achieving interagency cooperation and coordination at the national and international level.

In addition, IOM conveyed ways to ensure and facilitate well secured borders, regular cross-border movements and rights-based immigration and border management. Training tools developed by IOM, including the Essentials of Migration Practices (EMP) and the Passport Examination Procedures Manual (PEPM), were presented as proven capacity building tools for national officers responsible for border control and migration governance.

IOM also introduced possible solutions to effective and systematic management of cross border movement, using the newly developed IOM Biometric Information Management System (B.I.M.S.) and the IOM border management information system MIDAS which is compatible with the Interpol DB I-24/7. On the second day, IOM gave a presen-

tation on the importance of establishing institutionalized cooperation between border agencies and border communities to enhance the effectiveness of national border management policies. Participants engaged in dialogue on the need for greater cross border cooperation among neighboring countries and bilateral agreements for regulating free movements of border communities.

On the final day, IOM led real life simulations in cooperation with Interpol and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The simulations aimed to highlight the benefits of inter-agency cooperation and the advantages of using international tools, such as the Interpol database I-24/7 and the WCO database, to meet the challenges of transnational crime such as travel documents fraud; migration and terrorism; money laundry; and, trafficking of human beings. IOM, in close collaboration with the United Nations, the African Union, and Interpol, will continue to promote and facilitate sustainable peace and stability in the Sahel and Maghreb region.

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