

**International Dialogue on Migration 2012
Managing Migration in Crisis Situations**

**Intersessional Workshop
Moving to Safety: Migration Consequences of Complex Crises
24 and 25 April 2012**

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Introductory Remarks

Dear Ambassador Strohal,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants and UN Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to this workshop, the first in this year's International Dialogue on Migration, on "Moving to Safety: Migration Consequences of Complex Crises".

I thank Ambassador Strohal for his opening statement and for putting this workshop in the larger context of the 2012 International Dialogue on Migration and its programme of work. This workshop fits well into a tradition of the IDM to highlight emerging migration policy issues and new challenges.

Violence, conflict, natural disasters and any of their catastrophic combinations are affecting a growing number of people around the world. We all know this. The movement of people, often on large scale, is a typical consequence of such crises, but the patterns of this movement are a lot more complex than is often assumed.

IOM has witnessed many such "migration crises" - in North Africa, Haiti, Pakistan, the Horn of Africa and many other places - as well as some of the limitations of the existing humanitarian structure to fully grasp and address the complex realities presented by the migration consequences of crisis situations.

Through this IDM workshop, and the rest of this year's programme as outlined by Ambassador Strohal, IOM does what it was created for and what - we hope! - we do best: to bring the migration perspective to the table.

Our experience around the world has taught us that understanding human mobility is a critical element in addressing crises and, therefore, of resolving "migration crises". In a unique way, IOM's response is based on its migration management approach.

To give you a few practice examples of how IOM has used its migration crisis management approach to complement humanitarian response: providing emergency transport and conducting evacuations, for instance, can save lives or reduce tensions in conflict zones. IOM has helped identify assistance and protection gaps that exist, for example, for potential victims of trafficking or unaccompanied minors in large scale forced movements of disaster-affected populations. Or, by offering livelihood options

during the transition and recovery phase following a disaster, IOM has helped minimize further forced displacement and promoted durable solutions.

The existing humanitarian system, and especially the cluster approach, has proved its value and effectiveness, challenges notwithstanding. As you know, IOM is working closely with its humanitarian partners in a range of emergency and post-crisis settings, among other things as cluster lead agency for camp management and camp coordination in natural disasters.

IOM's migration crisis management framework offers a pragmatic way to complement the existing humanitarian system. We ask ourselves questions such as: How do people move in the event of a disaster? What is the relationship between migration patterns before and after a crisis? What happens to those who do not or cannot move in crisis situations?

Let me give you an example to illustrate why such questions are necessary: in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake all efforts were focussed on addressing internal displacement, and understandably so. This meant, however, that there was a "blind spot" in the system for population movements across borders. Consequently, there was little preparedness for the large forced migration flows to the Dominican Republic, trafficking and smuggling, including of children, which obviously existed prior and intensified after the earthquake.

Our proposal to you is therefore to look at crises from a migration angle. We hope that this workshop will help create a better understanding of the variety of migratory patterns that can result from complex crises; that we can use these two days to assess how migration policy tools might apply in crisis situations; and that it will raise awareness of the fact that mobility can also play a part in overcoming crises.

The IDM is your venue. We want to hear from you about your experience, policies and initiatives on migration crises, internal and cross-border displacement, and the immediate and long-term consequences of crises for the movement of people. To guide the discussions, you will have seen that the agenda suggests a number of questions:

- How can the notion of "migration crises" be practically useful in addressing crises in which the movement of people is a significant dimension?
- How can migration management frameworks support response to crises?
- What are the specific roles and responsibilities of States and the international community in addressing the migration consequences of complex crises?
- What lessons drawn from responses to internal displacement can be transferred to cross-border forced migration, and vice versa?
- In what ways does human mobility heighten or lessen vulnerability? How can States and the international community better prevent and prepare for forced migration and protect migrants, while supporting mobility for the benefit of crisis-affected populations?

I hope that by the time we meet tomorrow for the concluding sessions we will be able to begin answering some of them. The workshop will take us through discussions on internal displacement today and cross-border displacement tomorrow, pausing for a special session to reflect on migration crises more broadly. The success of the workshop depends

on your thoughts, inputs and questions and it is a pleasure to welcome all of you here today, especially the panellists who join us from various corners of the world. The IDM aims to be an inclusive venue, so I am happy to see our UN partners, members of civil society and migrant representatives in the room and on the panels. I am particularly honoured to welcome Rene Castro, Minister for Environment, Energy and Telecommunications of Costa Rica; Lancaster Museka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Services, Zimbabwe; Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Home Affairs of the European Commission; Catherine Wiesner, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the United States' Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration; and Camilo Gudmalin, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines for the special session on migration crises tomorrow morning. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Australia for its financial contribution to IDM in 2012.

Thank you very much and I hope you enjoy the discussions today and tomorrow.