

Senior Level Review Meeting of the Söderköping Process

Stockholm, Sweden 2-3 October 2008

Concluding Statement

We, the Participants of the Senior Level Review Meeting of the Söderköping Process (“the Participants”) have discussed a strategy for the continuation of the Söderköping Process beyond 2008 and have agreed to the following Conclusions:

The Participants wish to underline the positive impact the Process has had on sharing of experience between participating Governments and agree to build on the achievements of the Process by establishing and maintaining a sustainable form of cooperation between the 10 Governments involved in the Process beyond 2008. The Participants encourage Governments involved in the Process to continue supporting the Process financially, and recognize the importance of the financial contributions pledged for 2009 by participating Governments.

The Participants express their appreciation to the National Coordinators of the Söderköping Process and the Secretariat of the Söderköping Process for facilitating bilateral and multilateral dialogue and for enhancing the ownership of Governments. The Network of National Coordinators has proven to be an effective coordination mechanism, and one which should continue to function in the future to ensure the sustainability of the process in the longer perspective.

The Participants call upon UNHCR, IOM and SMB to continue their efforts in promoting comprehensive regional approaches to capacity building in asylum and migration management.

Among the initiatives carried out in 2008, the Participants recognize the importance of the ‘Smuggling Study’ and the ‘Labour Migration Study’. Furthermore, the significance of the establishment of a regional network of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) dealing with migration and asylum issues and its potential to link governments and NGOs in their work with migrants, asylum seekers and refugees is appreciated by the Participants.

The SWOT analysis carried out during the Meeting sets important benchmarks for assessing achievements and remaining priorities of the participating Governments, and should serve as the basis for developing and enhancing the sustainability of the Söderköping Process. Handover of responsibilities to Governments is regarded as the most important priority, and the Participants agree to focus on sustainability as a key priority in 2009.

The Participants welcome the action-oriented and practical framework developed for cooperation on migration, asylum and border management within the framework of the Söderköping Process, as reflected in the Concept Note for 2009-2011.

Participating Governments fully recognize and appreciate the important contributions of the European Union, the Swedish International Development Agency, UNHCR and IOM and invite them to continue supporting the implementation of principles and priorities identified within the framework of the Söderköping Process including – local integration of refugees and migrants (and others.....?)

The Participants take note of their Governments' support of the application under the Thematic Programme of Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum for the continuation of the Process, which has been submitted to the European Commission.