



European Commission



United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees



Swedish Migration Board



International Organization for
Migration

Senior Level Review Meeting of the Söderköping Process
Stockholm, Sweden 12-13 October, 2006

Concluding Statement

We, the Participants of the Senior Level Review Meeting of the Söderköping Process (further: the Participants of the meeting) have summarized the proceedings of the Senior Level Review Meeting and its outcome in the following Conclusions:

1. Referring to the objectives of the Senior Level Review Meeting as a mechanism through which directions and priorities for the Söderköping Process are defined, the Participants of the meeting have agreed to further build on the achievements of the Söderköping Process in 2007.

Participants of the meeting, recognizing the mutual interests and the national priorities and capacities related to the issues of migration, asylum and border management, and noting the new or remaining challenges in these spheres, have strongly recommended to maintain and enhance ownership of the participating states over the process through a gradual transfer of responsibilities from the partner organizations (SMB, UNHCR, IOM and the EC) to the Participating States in the fourth quarter of 2006, and in particular –

- 1.1. With the support of the Secretariat, the Participating States hosting workshops will endeavor to coordinate all arrangements including invitation letters, chairing and facilitation, selection of experts and follow-up on initiatives;
- 1.2. The Participating States undertake to designate a focal point for Söderköping Process issues based on the terms of reference attached to the Concluding Statement, and inform the Secretariat by 31 October, 2006. Secretariat has been assigned, together with focal points from all ten countries, to prepare an agenda and to organize a seminar for 10 focal points in order to coordinate joined activities.
- 1.3. The Participants of the meeting undertake to carry out regular consultations with particular focus on enhancing the exchange of experience between EU MS/Romania and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine and to develop more actively bilateral and multilateral initiatives in refugee protection and migration management issues, including information exchange, research and study visits;
- 1.4. The Participants of the meeting recognize the need to follow-up on all thematic workshops held within the framework of the process and agree to monitor, report and evaluate on all activities carried out in follow-up to the workshops held in 2006;
- 1.5. The Participants of the meeting agree to provide regular information to the Söderköping Process website (www.soderkoping.org.ua)

2. The Participants of the meeting recognize the growing complexity and inter-connectedness of migration and asylum issues and the resultant need to involve all 10 participating states in bilateral and multilateral initiatives generated within the Söderköping Process and beyond.

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

4. The Senior Level Review Meeting was preceded by the Advisory Board Meeting of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine at which the following activities to be implemented in 2007 have been agreed upon:

- 4.1. Vilnius seminar follow-up research on migration flows, including irregular and regular migration and migration trend maps,
- 4.2. Minsk seminar follow-up study visit for a Lithuanian expert to reception centers in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus to suggest necessary recommendations. On the basis of the outcomes, future follow-up activities for the managers of asylum seeker centers from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine to new EU member states will be elaborated,
- 4.3. Research on local integration of refugees in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus by enhancing governments' capacities in assisting to develop a Comprehensive Integration Strategy,
- 4.4. Training and research follow up activities for the border guards of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, together with the new EU member states and Romania.

5. The Participants of the meeting appreciate the important contribution of the EU in funding and of the Government of Sweden, UNHCR and IOM in co-funding the process, and in the interests of ensuring sustainability, recommend to identify both in-kind and financial contributions which can be allocated by Governments towards the implementation of activities, and in particular research and study visits.

6. The Participants of the meeting share a common interest in combating irregular migration and supporting legal migration and recognize the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers as represented in national legislation and international conventions, and support actions to ensure respect for those rights.