

5th Almaty Process Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)

Human Mobility in Central Asia: Rights of vulnerable migrants and refugees
and new opportunities for regional cooperation.

September 27 and 28, 2018, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Venue: Orion Hotel

AGENDA

Day One: 27 September 2018

12:30 – 13:00	Registration
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Opening — Welcome Remarks
<p>Welcome address by Mr Ibraimzhanov Bolotbek Saparbayevich, Chairperson of the Almaty Process, Chairperson of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Welcome address by Ms. Victoria Kasabyan, Head of Almaty Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM) / The UN Migration Agency, Sub-regional Coordination Office for Central Asia</p> <p>Welcome address by Ms Yasuko Oda, Regional Representative for UNHCR in Central Asia</p> <p>Welcome address by Mr. Brian Stimmler, Deputy Chief of Mission, from the U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic</p>	
14:30 – 15:00	Group Photo
15:00 – 16:00	Global IOM Approaches in Promotion of Orderly, Safe and Regular Migration
<p>During this session IOM will share its experience in promotion of orderly, safe and regular migration through various approaches and tools, such as Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) and Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration. In 2015, IOM developed a Migration Governance Framework</p>	



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(MiGOF) to help define what “well-managed migration policy” might look like at the national level. To help operationalize the MiGOF and to assess national frameworks the MGI was developed. The MGI is a tool, which offers insights on policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance. The MGI is not meant to rank countries, but rather to be a framework to help countries in the assessment of the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, as well as to identify gaps and areas that could be strengthened. In this session IOM will also present best practices from various inter-state mechanisms that work on migration issues across the world. As UN leading migration agency that provides support to global and regional platforms and processes IOM has gathered substantial knowledge on how to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation among responsible actors.

Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration

- **Ms. Kristina Galstyan**, Migration Policy Officer, International Partnerships Division, IOM Headquarters

Assessing National Migration Policy Frameworks: Insights from the Migration Governance Indicators

- **Mr. David Martineau**, Migration Policy Officer, Multilateral Processes Division, IOM Headquarters

Moderator: Victoria Kasabyan, Head of Almaty Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM) / The UN Migration Agency, Sub-regional Coordination Office for Central Asia

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:30 Emergency response preparedness for refugee situations: Case study of Tajikistan

Refugees are people who have fled conflict and widespread violence, suffered persecution and crossed borders, and consequently require international protection. As they are not citizens of the country of asylum, refugees often have specific needs related to documentation and access to housing, health, education and employment. Their legal status is, in many cases, an element of vulnerability in itself. UNHCR is accountable for ensuring the international protection of refugees and for seeking durable solutions. Its obligation in refugee situations begins with preparedness and continues through the emergency stage, ending only when solutions are identified. Preparing for an emergency involves risk monitoring, scenario-based contingency planning, and establishing how to deliver assistance and protection. UNHCR’s Refugee Coordination Model promotes best practice in order to make refugee



coordination more predictable, inclusive and collaborative. It also helps other humanitarian actors working in refugee operations, leading to better protection, assistance and durable solutions for refugees.

On 10-12 April 2018, the Government of Tajikistan, the UN and humanitarian partners have run Tajikistan's first-ever refugee response simulation – part of efforts to strengthen multi-agency emergency response in Tajikistan. Organized under the leadership of the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of the Republic of Tajikistan and UNHCR, over 250 people from the government, the UN and NGOs took part in the field exercise as part of continuing efforts to enhance community – region - and country-level emergency response in preparation for the possible arrivals of a large number of refugees fleeing from conflict in a neighbouring country. In this session, a representative of Tajikistan and UNHCR will share an overview of this context-specific simulation, lessons learned from this experience particularly in terms of coordinated response, and how they would reinforce Tajikistan's ongoing contingency planning.

Presenter:

- Lieutenant General **Rustam Nazarzoda**, the Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan (tbc);
- **Mr. Vito Trani**, Representative, UNHCR Tajikistan

17:30–18:00

Q&A open floor discussion with government and non-government participants

Day Two: 28 September 2018

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening — Welcome Remarks

Welcome address by **Mr Ibraimzhanov Bolotbek Saparbayevich**, Chairperson of the Almaty Process, Chairperson of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

Welcome address by **Mr. Jonathan Hayes** - Regional Refugee Coordinator, Georgia, Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), Government of the United States

9:30 – 11:00 Dialogue of Senior Officials on the Role of the Almaty Process and Future Prospects for Development



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- a) **Raising the status of the Almaty process as a subject of international relations**
- b) **Establishment of technical expert group**
- c) **Voluntary contributions to the Almaty Process by member countries**
- d) **Establishment of two deputy Chair positions**
- e) **Development of the Almaty Process logo**

Central Asia has a long history of complex population movements, including both voluntary migration and forced displacement. The countries of the region are still struggling with some of the consequences of these movements, especially those that occurred as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the creation of independent Central Asian states. The resulting instability, persistent inter-ethnic tensions and conflicts over resources - particularly in the densely populated Fergana Valley - still cause internal and cross-border movements within the region. Additional factors affecting mobility in Central Asia were environmental degradation and a high potential for natural disasters. A large number of stateless persons and refugees live in the countries of the region, in particular, from neighboring Afghanistan.

The Almaty Process is a regional consultative process for the protection of refugees and international migration to, from and within the Central Asian region. The Almaty Process is aimed at solving numerous challenges, caused by the complex dynamics of migration, and at improving regional cooperation and coordination on mixed migration through the following objectives:

- Assistance in the dialogue on international migration and refugee protection;
- Development of mechanisms for monitoring and resolving issues related to unregulated migration;
- Encouragement of the achievement of a common understanding of the causes and consequences of displacement and migration;
- Promotion of coherent, comprehensive and differentiated policies regarding displaced persons; and
- Development of project-based actions aimed at enhancing state capacity with the goal of managing migration and refugee protection.

In this session it is proposed to consider the possibility of raising the status of the Almaty process to the level of a participant in international affairs as a subject of international law.

It is worth noting that within the framework of consideration of this topic, a question is raised about the establishment of the Technical Group of the Almaty process. The Technical Group will ensure prompt and coordinated response to the initiatives of the participating states of the Almaty process and will include two officers of the authorized body on migration and migration policy from each participating state. At the same time, it is expected to consider and approve the work plan of the Group for 2019-2020.



In view of the foregoing, if all parties agree to the Agreement, there will be a need to introduce amendments to the Operating Mechanism, which was approved at the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Refugees and International Migration in Almaty, Kazakhstan on June 5, 2013.

Presentations by participating government representatives:

- **Mr. Samat Toktobolotov**, Deputy Chair of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. Noori Obaid Khan**, Deputy Director General of the UN & International Conferences Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- **Mr. Alimirzamin Askerov**, Chief of the Department for Humanitarian and Social Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Mr. Akmadi Sarbasov**, Chair of the Committee of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- **Mr. Tolibdzhon Sharipov**, Deputy Head of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Population Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan

Moderator:

- **Mr. Samat Toktobolotov**, Deputy Chair of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Dialogue of Senior Officials on the Role of the Almaty Process and Future Prospects for Development (continued)

Presentations by participating government representatives:

- **Mr. Atadurdy Hojayev**, Head of the State Migration Service for Balkan Velayat, Turkmenistan
- **Mr. Muhammad Adnan Dayar**, Deputy Secretary for Refugees, Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- **H. E. Mr Aliyr Lebbe Abdul Azeez**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva, Chair of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (video)



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- Discussion on the proposal made by the Chairperson of the Almaty Process

Moderator:

- **Mr. Samat Toktobolotov**, Deputy Chair of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00–16:00 **Vulnerabilities of migrants and families affected by migration in Central Asia. Overview of IOM regional research in 2018.**

Challenges and Possibilities for the System of Identification and Referral of Migrants in vulnerable situations

Migration in the Central Asian region is mostly labour-based, the overwhelming majority of migrants are headed to the Russian Federation. The amendments in the migration policies of the Russian Federation in terms of simplifying the procedures for the entry, residence and employment of the Central Asian migrants, and the concurrent introduction of re-entry bans for certain categories of migrants, the accession of Kyrgyzstan to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the general economic downturn in the Russian Federation and Central Asia are changing directions and the nature of migration flows in the region. Kazakhstan becomes second most popular country of destination.

Due to the fact that migration flows change rapidly, the individual situations of migrants change rapidly as well. Often those categories that are traditionally considered to be vulnerable stop being them, and vice versa, some narrow groups, that have never been regarded as vulnerable before, are now falling into the vulnerable category due to a combination of factors.

Not all migrants in vulnerable situations find a place in the social system of their countries (upon return), since they do not belong to the vulnerable categories of the population in the national legal system. Moreover they are practically not visible in the legal system of a foreign state when in transit or when seeking employment opportunities in the country of destination. In this regard, IOM conducted a regional research in 2018 to an effort to develop the guidelines for the identification and referral of migrants in vulnerable situations for the three countries of the Central Asian region - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

In this session, the IOM research team presents the results of the study, including standard operating



procedures for identifying and referring vulnerable migrants and recommendations for improving national legal systems. Discussions and presentations will be devoted to different categories of vulnerable migrants and the work carried out by government bodies, NGOs and international organizations in relation to them.

Presenters:

- **Ms Halina Turina**, lawyer, Lead international expert – IOM, Belarus
- **Mr Denis Dzhivaga**, lawyer, National expert – IOM, Kazakhstan
- **Ms Gulnura Idigeeva**, lawyer, Private Institution 'Information and Advisory Centre 'Daris', Kazakhstan
- **Ms Zamira Azhigulova**, lawyer, National expert – IOM, Kyrgyzstan
- **Mr Takdirshoh Sharipov**, lawyer, National expert - IOM, Tajikistan

Moderator:

Mr Yevgeniy Khon, National Programme Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sub-regional Coordination Office for Central Asia.

Needs and rights of women and girls affected by labour migration in Central Asia, and strategies to address them

The International Organization for Migration – UN Migration Agency (IOM) has launched a research project, which aims to further the understanding of contributions, vulnerabilities and needs of women and girls affected by migration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through fieldwork and analysis of the existing studies on the topic. The research also includes policy and media analysis and mapping of existing programmes and services in order to identify gaps in the policy and in the programmes aimed to serve the needs of the women affected by migration in the respective countries. The main goal of this interdisciplinary research is to build the evidence base to facilitate responsive gender policy and programmes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in order to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability of migrant women and girls before, during and after migration and of women and girls who stayed behind. Within the framework of this session, the main results of the IOM research will be presented, as well as representatives of government bodies, NGOs and international organizations involved in gender issues in connection with the migration issues will be invited.

Presenters:



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- **Ms. Gulnara Ibraeva**, chief expert analyst, PIL Research Company
- **Ms. Gulnora Beknazarova**, expert analyst, PIL Research Company

Moderator:

Ms Damira Umetbaeva, National Programme Officer, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sub-regional Coordination Office for Central Asia.

16:00–16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17.30 The rights of refugees and asylum seekers

Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI): Examples of QAI Eastern Europe and South Caucasus in improving asylum system

High quality refugee status determination procedures are a prerequisite for refugee protection. In order to ensure that refugees can exercise their rights under the 1951 Refugee Convention, one first needs to know if an individual (or members of a group) is entitled to these rights. As part of its supervisory responsibility under Article 35 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, UNHCR supports signatory states around the world to develop and improve asylum systems and related legal frameworks.

UNHCR's collaboration with asylum authorities has in some contexts extended to the joint development of mechanisms to regularly monitor and review asylum decisions and related processes with a view to maintaining high quality standards. Such cooperation often takes the form of dedicated 'quality assurance projects' which usually are jointly run by asylum authorities and UNHCR, often with the involvement of dedicated project staff. Quality assurance projects have been undertaken in a number of countries and regions since the first 'Quality Initiative Project' was started in the United Kingdom in 2003.

Quality assurance projects differ in terms of objectives, length of cooperation and breadth of engagement. Some countries run quality assurance mechanisms in which UNHCR does not have direct involvement. During this session, some examples in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus will be presented to describe the collaboration between the government authorities and UNHCR as well as its impact on refugee protection through QAI.

- **Presenter: Mr. Marin Roman**, Regional Protection Officer, Office for UNHCR in Central Asia

UNHCR's work plan for enhancing refugee protection: 2017-2019

This session will reflect on the progress made with regard to the 2017/2018 UNHCR's work plan that was



originally proposed to assist the Governments in Central Asia in strengthening institutional safeguards for protecting those who are in need of international protection (the 2017/2018 UNHCR work plan, that was distributed at the SOM in 2017, will be circulated). The draft 2018/2019 UNHCR work plan on refugees and asylum issues will be also presented to seek feedback from the Almaty Process members.

Presenter: Ms. Urara Furukawa, Senior Regional Protection Officer, Office for UNHCR in Central Asia

17:30 – 18:00 Wrap up and closing remarks. The ceremony of the transfer of the chairmanship to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Closing remarks by **Mr Ibraimzhanov Bolotbek Saparbayevich**, Chairperson of the Almaty Process, Chairperson of the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

18:00 – Closing Reception – “5th Almaty Process Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)”



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