



CONCEPT NOTE

Expert Meeting on Border and Migration Management in Emergency Situations

Budapest, Hungary
23-24 March 2017

In recent decades, processes of globalization (such as the increased flows of goods, finance, technology, and transportation) have intensified, and with them, so has the movement of people, both domestically and across international borders. New migration patterns and flows can emerge and change rapidly including due to climate change, health crisis, political instability, military conflicts etc, evolving much more quickly than the policies and practices of states, leaving policymakers and politicians struggling to “catch up” with events as they unfold¹.

In the past two years, mass migration has significantly increased in the direction of the European countries, causing emergency situations. In 2015, EU Member States reported more than 1,820,000 detections of illegal border-crossing along the external borders. This never-before-seen figure was more than six times the number of detections reported in 2014².

Taking a look at the emergency situations caused by natural or manmade disasters, the expert meeting will discuss those situations which have resulted in mass migration and involved large numbers of vulnerable migrants. The meeting will have a special focus on the issues related to the management of mass migration from war-stricken regions.

¹ Global Forum on Migration & Development 2016, “Governance of migration and development, supporting evidence for thematic area 3” (IOM Bangladesh, 2016). p.15. Available from:

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/final_report_governance_ninth_gfmd.pdf

² FRONTEX “Risk Analysis for 2016”, Available from: http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Annula_Risk_Analysis_2016.pdf



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The aim of the meeting is to present tools, mechanisms and best practices which provide for the balance between the facilitation of movement, protection of those who cross the borders in emergencies and the security of the national borders.

Against this background, law enforcement and asylum policy aspects - including protection of vulnerable migrants - will be discussed as two components at equal feet, with the aim to create the necessary synergies among these two aspects.

The meeting will be structured around the following issues:

- national and international legal framework in relation to emergency situations,
- the activities of the organisations and persons implementing/applying the legislation,
- infrastructural and technical conditions to provide security for the borders and safety for the migrants,
- financing of border and migration management systems, and
- cooperation among relevant stakeholders involved in the management of emergency situations.

Along these lines, the meeting will address five topics related to border and migration management in emergency situations. Both aspects – preparedness and response – will be reviewed.

Topic I: National and international legal regulation of emergency situations

Migration management in emergency situations requires different legal regulations than under normal terms. This can result in easier conditions for border crossing or in stricter procedures, as well. In this session, the participants representing countries differently affected by the migration pressure will present how their national legal framework regulates migration management in a possible emergency situation and whether and how this framework was amended after such situation had occurred. It can also be discussed what international law stipulates in case of an emergency situations in the field of migration management and what are the main patterns regarding the practice of the countries in the regulation of the management of such situations.

Topic II: Institutional and organisational changes in the entities managing emergency situations

Managing massive flows of irregular migrants can require the establishment of new organisational entities, temporary border and migration management

units within the existing institutional framework, the modification of the system of integrated border management, as well as special training to the law enforcement and immigration authorities' personnel in order to reflect on the extraordinary procedural aspects. In this session, the changes affecting the organisation and the tasks of these authorities can be presented through practical examples.

Topic III: Infrastructural and technical aspects ensuring safety and security

Migration management in emergency situations, i.e. the reception of, the provision of care to and the control of migrants, requires special infrastructure. New objects and technical equipment might be necessary for the security of border control, as well. Under this topic, legally accepted, efficient and effective elements of infrastructure and technical equipment can be explored in more detail.

Topic IV: Financing the management of emergency situations

This session will examine what forms of financial support - besides the national financial resources - are available for the countries in need, in order to manage the emergency situation. The discussion might include the question of financial burden-sharing among the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Topic V: Cooperation among stakeholders involved in the management of emergency situations

Emergency situations require the enhancement and re-structuring of intra-agency cooperation, different forms of cooperation among relevant authorities and organisations, as well as the deepening and widening of international cooperation. Under this topic, the changes and developments in intra-agency, inter-agency and international cooperation in case of emergency situations will be explored.

