

## **Bali Process Ad Hoc Group**

### **“Technical Workshop on Repatriation and Reintegration”**

**Manila, Philippines 23-24 November 2010**

#### **Co-Hosts' Summary**

1. The Philippines and IOM co-hosted a *Technical Workshop on Repatriation and Reintegration* in Manila on 23 and 24 November 2010 following a recommendation of the Bali Process Meeting of Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials held in Bali, Indonesia on 10 and 11 June 2010. The workshop was generously opened by Honourable Esteban Conejos Jr., Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines.
2. The workshop was attended by 46 delegates, representing the governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as IOM and UNHCR. Canada and the United States of America attended the workshop as observers.
3. The workshop, chaired by IOM, was guided by introductory remarks by the co-chairs of the Bali Process, Australia and Indonesia, together with the Philippines as hosting Government. Remarks covered the difficulties and complexities involved in repatriating nationals in irregular situations whether overseas workers, rejected asylum seekers or other migrants. It was underscored that consistent approaches with returning irregular migrants not found to be in need of protection would be an important component of regional cooperation.; and complemented other Ad Hoc Group efforts to develop information strategies, coordination mechanisms among immigration agencies, improved documentation and visa integrity and to preserve the integrity of asylum management and processing.
4. IOM presentations introduced the principles of return as an indispensable component of an effective migration management structure and provided an overview of IOM's activities with respect to assisted voluntary return and reintegration. The need for specialized care for vulnerable migrants, in particular victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, women and children, and those in need of medical attention was also underscored.
5. A presentation on IOM's work in Sri Lanka highlighted the value of tailoring reintegration packages to individual returning migrants and complementing this effort with community development projects.
6. The sovereignty of states as to who remains in their countries was reiterated and it was recognized that while voluntary return was the preferred option, enforced deportation mechanisms remain an integral part of effective migration management regimes.
7. An overview of effective Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes highlighted the following points:
  - Return as an important aspect of upholding the integrity of both asylum regimes and legal migration pathways.

- AVRR as the preferred and beneficial alternative to enforced deportation for the migrant, host government and government of country of origin.
- AVRR serves to uphold the dignity and human rights of migrants.
- AVRR is in no way meant to replace or overshadow a credible and robust Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process geared toward providing international protection to refugees who may be part of these mixed migration flows.
- One overarching goal of AVRR is the sustainability of the return.

*Delegates identified numerous issues for continued focus of the Ad Hoc Group including:*

In the area of prevention

8. Participants reconfirmed the value of effective information campaigns in painting a realistic picture of the risks inherent in irregular migration movements.

In the area of facilitating returns

9. The importance of a regional consistency of approach with regard to the management and processing of irregular migrants particularly with regard to the processing time frames was stressed.
10. The need for close cooperation including information sharing between host country, transit country and country of origin in the return planning and implementation was recognized.
11. The establishment of identity of irregular migrants without travel documents was highlighted as a particular problem and participants called for close cooperation between host countries and countries of origin to facilitate the process.
12. Concerns were raised with regard to the use of detention for asylum seekers and the various state policies on this were discussed.
13. Cases found to have no credible claim for international protection under the refugee convention are still covered under a number of other conventions that afford them rights.

The Way Forward

14. Harmonization of approaches in the region was considered important in the prevention of secondary movements and the consistent application of international instruments, such as the Protocol on Smuggling of Migrants, in the region. A regional cooperation framework would offer opportunities to realise these objectives.
15. The suggestion was tabled that the research project called for at the Third Meeting of the Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials with the aim of establishing an information base relating to regional approaches to protection, resettlement and repatriation be augmented to pick up themes on the regional cooperation framework that had been raised at the Regional Cooperation on Refugees and Irregular Movements Workshop, and the Technical Workshop on Repatriation and Reintegration.