

MC/INF/298

**Original: English
12 November 2009**

NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

IOM POLICY AND ACTIVITIES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. IOM is committed to the principle that orderly and humane migration benefits migrants and societies. The Organization acts to help meet the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect for the human rights and well-being of migrants. IOM's mandate allows it to work with migrants, refugees, displaced persons and others in need of migration services or assistance.² For the purposes of this document, the term "migrants" refers broadly to all the categories of persons within the IOM mandate.

2. The prime responsibility for ensuring the respect of the human rights of migrants lies with States. A State has the duty to protect all persons on its territory, nationals and non-nationals alike. Each State also has the right – and the duty – to defend and protect its nationals abroad, and to allow other States to protect their nationals residing on its territory. Many other international actors, including IOM, have a key supporting role to play in achieving the effective respect of the human rights of migrants.

II. MANDATE

3. IOM's primary objective is to facilitate the orderly and humane management of migration.³ Underlying this objective is the concept that organized migration is needed, *inter alia*, to ensure respect for the human dignity and well-being of migrants. Indeed, concern for the dignity and well-being of migrants has been present in IOM constituent documents since the Organization's inception.⁴

4. In 2004, IOM Member States endorsed the consolidation of the International Migration Law and Legal Affairs Department, in order to streamline and strengthen IOM's involvement in International Migration Law. International Migration Law is an umbrella term for the complex web of legal relationships that together regulate the movements of individuals. Notably, International Migration Law includes both the rights and duties of migrants, and those of States.

5. In June 2007, the IOM Member States adopted the IOM Strategy, which defines the Organization's strategic focus for the following years. It set forth as one of the Organization's priority activities "to enhance the humane and orderly management of migration and the

¹ This document updates the information document "Migrants' Rights: IOM Policy and Activities" prepared in 2002 for the Eighty-fourth Council Session (MC/INF/259).

² See the Constitution of the International Organization for Migration: Preamble and Chapter I.

³ *Ibid.* See also Council Resolution No. 1150 of 7 June 2007 and its Annex "IOM Strategy Document".

⁴ In 1951, one reason for creating IOM was the need to protect migrants leaving Europe, and the preamble to the Brussels Resolution referred to establishing the provisional intergovernmental arrangement (from which IOM was born) in order to move people desiring to emigrate with "full respect for human rights". Subsequently, the preamble to the 1954 Constitution stressed the need to promote cooperation among international actors with a view to the emigration of persons where "they may ... live with their families in dignity and self-respect." Furthermore, in 1989, an additional preambular paragraph was added to the Constitution concerning consultation on migration issues "not only in regard to the migration process but also the specific situation and needs of the migrant as an individual human being".

effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with international law.”⁵ Another priority activity set forth therein is “to participate in coordinated humanitarian responses in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field and to provide migration services in other emergency or post-crisis situations as appropriate and as relates to the needs of individuals, thereby contributing to their protection.”⁶

6. Thus, the IOM Constitution and certain Council decisions provide the basis for IOM’s involvement in promoting the human rights of migrants, and for its protection role, within the parameters identified therein.⁷

7. While there is no simple definition of protection, it is typically defined as all activities aimed at obtaining full respect of the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law. The relevant international legal framework for the protection of migrants is International Migration Law, which is derived, inter alia, from relevant instruments of human rights law, labour law, refugee law, humanitarian law, maritime law and consular law.⁸

8. While certain intergovernmental organizations have a formal legal protection function based on mandate (such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), the concept and indeed application of protection is not restricted to a legal mandate. It also extends to de facto protection, where an organization’s activities in effect extend protection to persons benefiting from the services of the organization. In other words, the actual assistance being rendered constitutes a form of protection, especially where it protects the life and well-being of persons at risk. Where protection is not the prime objective of the organization concerned, or even necessarily a formally recognized objective, it is a consequence or effect of the implementation of the main or exclusive purpose of the organization.

9. As illustrated in the following section, although IOM does not have a legal protection mandate, it does provide de facto protection for the human rights of migrants through many of its activities.

III. ACTIVITIES

10. Directly, or indirectly, in furtherance of its overall objective to facilitate the orderly and humane management of migration, IOM works towards the respect of human dignity and the protection of the individual in the implementation of its activities; that is, through its action.

⁵ Council Resolution No. 1150 of 7 June 2007, Annex “IOM Strategy Document”, Part I: Strategy (Activity No. 2).

⁶ Ibid., Activity No. 9. In the footnote to Activity No. 9, it was stated that: “Although IOM has no legal protection mandate, the fact remains that its activities contribute to protecting human rights, having the effect, or consequence, of protecting persons involved in migration.” An additional relevant priority activity found in the IOM Strategy is “to assist States in the development and delivery of programmes, studies and technical expertise on combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, in a manner consistent with international law.” Ibid., Activity No. 11.

⁷ For additional references to pertinent Resolutions, see the document entitled “Protection of Persons Involved in Migration: Note on IOM’s Role” (June 2007).

⁸ For a compilation of International Migration Law instruments, please refer to the *Compendium of International Migration Law Instruments*, compiled and edited by Richard Perruchoud and Katarína Tömolöová, IOM/T.M.C. Asser Press by Cambridge University Press, in English (2007), French (2008) and Spanish (2009).

11. Many of IOM's operational activities providing assistance to migrants result in protection of the beneficiaries. For instance, by providing safe transportation or evacuation in conflict situations and related assistance, IOM protects the physical integrity of the migrants and contributes to the full realization of the right to leave any country and to return to one's country of nationality. Through the provision of shelter and assistance to victims of trafficking, IOM protects the fundamental human right not to be held in slavery or servitude. The IOM special resettlement or emigration programmes in situations of internal strife contribute to the implementation of the right to find safe haven abroad. The IOM migration health programmes ensure, inter alia, migrants' fitness to travel and facilitate health-care follow-up in destination countries, thus promoting and helping realize their right to health.

12. A number of IOM activities have the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants as a primary objective. For example, IOM undertakes information dissemination campaigns to increase awareness of the rights and duties of migrants and the realities of migration. These campaigns, which are a means of empowering migrants by informing them of their rights and procedures to implement them, help ensure that the respect for their rights is promoted and that practical steps against discriminatory practices can be initiated.

13. Consistent with the Organization's gender policy adopted by the Council in 1995, IOM protects the human rights of migrants in a gender-sensitive manner.⁹ IOM programmes contribute to the promotion of the human rights of migrant women, including equality and non-discrimination, the rights of the girl child, the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, the right to family life, and the right to be free from sexual and gender-based violence.

14. The Organization also supports governments in their efforts to develop national migration legislation in accordance with international norms, to reduce migrant exploitation and xenophobia, and to ensure migrants' access to justice, and indeed, the realization of their human rights. At the request of governments, IOM also provides advice on whether existing national legislation complies with international legal standards.

15. IOM believes that increased knowledge and acceptance of the legal instruments that govern migration at the national, regional and international levels foster protection of the human rights of migrants. To this end, the Organization provides training and capacity-building on International Migration Law for government officials, civil society groups, international governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and IOM staff.

16. Research and information dissemination is another crucial element in promoting understanding of International Migration Law. IOM conducts research to analyse and evaluate the various aspects of international, regional and national migration laws and the interplay between them. With a view to collecting and disseminating International Migration Law, IOM has developed an extensive online migration law database¹⁰ and produced the comprehensive *Compendium of International Migration Law Instruments*.¹¹

17. Clearly, not all IOM programmes and projects have the human rights of migrants as their central theme. However, concern for human rights is present in the Organization's activities. For example, IOM includes considerations relating to the rights and duties of

⁹ Council Resolution No. 932 of 29 November 1995.

¹⁰ The International Migration Law Database, available at www.imldb.iom.int/section.do.

¹¹ See footnote 8.

migrants – and of States – in its advisory services, capacity-building projects and technical assistance on a variety of topics, such as facilitating regular migration, preventing irregular migration, combating human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, and aspects of migrant processing and integration. Seminars and workshops organized by IOM on a range of topics are another area in which IOM routinely integrates the topic of the human rights of migrants.

18. IOM is committed to ensuring that the human rights of migrants are respected and upheld in the full range of its activities. To this end, IOM has developed guidelines for its staff to help ensure that operations are implemented in accordance with international law. It also offers training on International Migration Law for its staff so that the personnel who develop and implement IOM projects and programmes are fully aware of the rights and responsibilities of migrants, and those of States.

19. These are only a few examples of how IOM de facto protects individuals falling within its mandate. Additional examples are provided in the Annex to this document. It should be noted that IOM's protection role and activities in no way absolve States from their duty to ensure effective respect of the human rights of migrants. Rather, IOM supports and supplements the activities of States in the application of their duty to protect.

IV. PARTNERS

20. The success of IOM initiatives depends on close and effective cooperation with States, other intergovernmental organizations,¹² and especially with both international and national NGOs. Given the global dimension of the lack of respect for the human rights of migrants, cooperation is crucial to effectively and comprehensively promote the observance of rights.

21. IOM works with NGOs worldwide in its many fields of activities. Of particular relevance in the context of the human rights of migrants is IOM collaboration with its NGO partners to provide, through joint efforts, better and more targeted assistance to migrants in need, particularly at the local level.

22. IOM cooperates with several of the special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council¹³ and with United Nations treaty-monitoring bodies¹⁴ in the fulfilment of their mandates. Furthermore, IOM is actively involved in a number of inter-agency working groups dealing with various aspects of International Migration Law and contributes to the collective efforts of United Nations country teams on human rights issues.

23. In addition, IOM is an active member of the International Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrants Rights Convention. The Committee is made up of

¹² A recent example of inter-agency cooperation on the human rights of migrants was the collaborative effort of the Global Migration Group, composed of IOM and 13 other agencies, to analyse the challenges of protecting the human rights of migrants and to publish the report *International Migration and Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (October 2008).

¹³ Examples include the Special Rapporteurs (i) on the human rights of migrants; (ii) on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; (iii) on violence against women, its causes and consequences; (iv) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; (v) on the right to education; and (vi) on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights of internally displaced persons.

¹⁴ For instance, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other members of civil society.¹⁵ IOM sees its role in the Campaign as that of furthering its own objectives to uphold the human rights of migrants.

V. CONCLUSION

24. IOM Member States have determined that a prime objective of the Organization is “to enhance the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with international law”. Traditionally providing migration assistance, IOM is now taking measures and implementing projects to actively promote respect for the human rights of migrants. The Organization has assumed a more dynamic role in this realm without transforming itself into a supervisory or monitoring agency in terms of the application of international norms. Respect for the human rights of migrants is essential to ensure their dignity and well-being, an objective that is central to the spirit and philosophy of IOM.

¹⁵ One example of a recent activity of the Steering Committee is the publication of the *Guide to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families* (April 2009), which encourages governments worldwide to ratify and implement the Convention.

Annex

IOM ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD

1. This annex aims to provide an illustrative sampling of recent IOM activities contributing to the active protection and/or promotion of the human rights of migrants.¹ The examples that follow involve various types of activities, such as training for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to increase knowledge and understanding of International Migration Law; awareness-raising on the rights and duties of migrants and realities of migration; protection of, and provision of assistance to, trafficked persons; and capacity-building and technical assistance to help ensure that migration is managed in full respect of the human rights of migrants.

Africa

2. **CEN-SAD countries:** At the request of, and in close cooperation with, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Government of Niger, IOM developed a training curriculum on International Migration Law for government officials of the CEN-SAD countries. The training course emphasized migration issues pertinent to the region and had the overall aim of ensuring that migration legislation and policies in CEN-SAD countries are in accordance with international law, including human rights law.

3. **Southern African region:** the IOM Partnership on HIV and Mobility in Southern Africa (PHAMSA) addresses the HIV vulnerability of labour migrants in southern Africa. PHAMSA aims to reduce HIV incidence and the impact of AIDS among migrant workers and their families through various activities, including, inter alia, working with government and international organization partners to raise awareness of the right to health for migrants, specifically advocating for the integration of population mobility and migration issues into different national HIV/AIDS plans and policies; and working with the media and developing information materials on the complex relationship between migration and HIV.

4. In another example, the IOM Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP) provides a framework for counter-trafficking training for various stakeholders such as law enforcement officials, border officials, health professionals, labour inspectors, media professionals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This training highlights the need to protect and provide assistance to trafficking victims and to ensure that victims are treated in accordance with human rights principles and best practices aimed at safeguarding them and upholding their dignity.

5. **West African region:** IOM has developed a website aimed at enhancing the understanding of the migration phenomena in the West African context primarily from a legal standpoint, with special emphasis on the human rights of migrants.² Visitors to the website, which primarily addresses universities and governments in the region, have free access to training modules and documents on International Migration Law and region-specific

¹ Owing to space constraints and in order to avoid the repetition of similar types of activities, many IOM activities having a human rights component are not described in this annex. This is true both for countries mentioned in this annex as well as those not mentioned herein.

² See <http://www.droit-migrations-ao.org>. All documents are available in French; certain documents are also available in English.

information. The website is an outcome of two training workshops organized by IOM at the Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) of Dakar: one in October 2004 entitled “Migration and Human Rights Protection” and another in March 2007 entitled “Law and Migration in West Africa”, with participants from universities and administrations of seven West African countries, as well as from international organizations present in the region. Those workshops also resulted in the IOM publication *Migrations et protection des droits de l'homme*.³

6. **Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya:** IOM supports these Governments’ efforts to stem irregular migration and promote regular migration in full respect of the human rights of migrant workers, facilitating the development of coherent labour migration policies and practices among the countries. To this end, IOM, inter alia, provides targeted training to build the knowledge and capacity of the West African countries’ public administrations in the area of labour migration management. IOM also facilitates the provision of advice and information to potential migrants regarding the legislative and regulatory frameworks and labour needs in selected destination countries in the European Union (EU) and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. It is expected that, as a result of this project, potential migrants will become more aware of the dangers of irregular migration and the possibilities for regular migration. Furthermore, government agencies, public employment services and other relevant bodies are expected to be better able to provide potential migrants with the information and support they need.

7. **Angola:** Under a project to increase awareness of human rights and reduce the incidence of human trafficking in and from Angola, IOM organized several training workshops to build the capacity of Angolan immigration officials, police officers and representatives of the Association for Angolan Policewomen. Topics included, inter alia, definitions of human trafficking; distinctions between human trafficking and migrant smuggling; and identifying, interviewing and protecting trafficked persons. Trainees were provided with information materials on human rights and counter-trafficking to distribute to their colleagues and migrants. IOM also organized round tables for key stakeholders from the Government of Angola, civil society and the diplomatic arena to strengthen dialogue on trafficking in persons and human rights.

8. **Cameroon:** IOM is helping build the capacity of the Government of Cameroon to protect domestic workers from abuse and to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude. The project’s three primary components are a study on domestic work and servitude in Cameroon; a training programme for officials from relevant ministries and agencies aimed at defining strategies and action plans to combat trafficking for domestic servitude and improve the protection of domestic workers; and the production and distribution of information materials on the human rights of domestic workers in Cameroon. This project contributes to preventing the abuse of migrant workers employed in Cameroon’s domestic work sector.

9. **Egypt:**⁴ IOM has organized a number of training courses in Egypt incorporating the human rights of migrants as a topic. For instance, IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a training programme on migration management for junior Egyptian diplomats, which included information on, inter alia, the rights of migrant workers under international law and the distinction between trafficking and smuggling. The Organization also conducted a training course on International Migration Law and the human rights of migrants for participants from the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, government officials,

³ Published in 2005 (available in French only).

⁴ Some of IOM’s other activities involving not only Egypt but also certain Middle Eastern countries are described under the “Middle East” heading.

representatives from the League of Arab States, the EU, the Institute for Diplomatic Studies and the staff of three Egyptian NGOs. In addition, IOM conducted a course for law enforcement officials to strengthen their capacity to combat trafficking in persons and to provide trafficking victims with timely and appropriate assistance and/or referrals to groups providing assistance.

10. **South Africa:** In collaboration with the joint United Nations team on AIDS in South Africa, IOM implements a project entitled “Increased access among migrants to HIV prevention, treatment and care services and programmes in Limpopo and Gauteng Province, South Africa.” It aims to improve coordination and strengthen networks and referral systems on HIV responses targeting migrants; to improve awareness and knowledge of migrants’ health issues and their right to health in targeted migrant communities and service providers; and to review, develop and raise funds for a national project on migrants’ access to health services.

11. In another example, IOM is undertaking an initiative to counter xenophobia, under which it has published the report *Towards Tolerance, Law, and Dignity: Addressing Violence Against Foreign Nationals in South Africa*. This report aims to contribute to the efforts made by the Government of South Africa to reduce xenophobic attitudes and related violence targeted at migrants in the country, and to facilitate migrants’ socio-economic integration into South African society. Another element of this initiative is an awareness-raising campaign emphasizing the need to promote the respect for human life and dignity, the rule of law and human solidarity among all persons within the borders of the country.

12. A final example is the provision by IOM of capacity-building training for law enforcement officials and service providers concerned with migrants (such as social workers) in the Limpopo Province on the rights and responsibilities of migrants. The specific issues covered have included gender-based violence, unaccompanied minors, labour exploitation and migrants’ access to health and other public services.

Middle East

13. **Arab region:** In close cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM organized the Regional Expert Meeting on Rights-Based Assistance to Victims of Trafficking, held in Cairo under the auspices of Egypt’s First Lady, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak. The meeting was attended by representatives from Arab countries, NGOs, civil society, research institutes and United Nations agencies operating in the Arab region and beyond, who discussed the best international and regional practices in the area of direct assistance to the victims of trafficking. At the meeting, the Arabic version of *The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking* was launched, which provides policymakers, legislators, law enforcement agencies and community and health workers assisting trafficked persons and vulnerable migrants in the region with suggestions and guidance on effectively delivering comprehensive assistance to trafficking victims.

14. **Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt:** IOM has a regional initiative to address the need to identify and protect Iraqi victims and potential victims of trafficking and to prevent trafficking in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt. This project is composed of complementary measures at the regional and national levels, including in the first phase, inter alia, regional training on the provision of direct assistance to victims of trafficking; the establishment of a shelter and a direct assistance fund for victims of trafficking in the Syrian Arab Republic; and the development of a regional

direct assistance fund for Iraqi victims of trafficking who are not eligible for assistance under other programmes. In the second phase, the project aims to further support the efforts of the Governments of these five countries to combat trafficking and provide direct assistance and protection to Iraqi victims of trafficking in those countries.

15. In another project aimed at building governmental and non-governmental capacity in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Egypt to manage Iraqi migration flows and safeguard the human rights of Iraqi migrants, IOM is engaged in promoting humanitarian solutions to the Iraqi displacement crisis to the benefit of affected Iraqi migrants.

16. **Bahrain:** In order to support the Government and civil society in Bahrain in countering human trafficking and protecting trafficking victims, IOM provides technical assistance to enhance their respective capacities and undertakes awareness-raising activities. For instance, IOM has conducted training workshops for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the areas of law enforcement, shelter management, and data collection and management. In connection with this training, IOM developed information materials setting out the human rights of contractual workers.

17. **Iraq:** IOM has facilitated the creation of the Inter-ministerial Legislative Task Force in Iraq to review the country's migration-related regulatory framework. The Task Force drafts recommendations to be submitted to the Council of Ministers of Iraq with respect to both revising existing legislation and developing new legislation. IOM has lent its expertise to the Task Force to help ensure that Iraq's migration-related legislation is both effective and compliant with international norms.

18. **Kuwait:** In partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, IOM is working to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Kuwait to provide direct assistance to the victims of trafficking. Through training and a study tour for Kuwaiti officials, the project aims to provide exposure to best practices in shelter management and victim assistance.

19. In addition, IOM organized a course in Kuwait for government and civil society representatives, designed to enhance knowledge on the management of temporary foreign labour in Kuwait, with specific focus on the authority and responsibilities of States and the rights and obligations of mobile populations.

Latin America and the Caribbean

20. **Caribbean region:** Working together with legal experts from ten Caribbean countries and officials of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), IOM developed the *Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Model Legislation and Explanatory Guidelines: A Booklet*, which takes into account the local and regional contexts and is consistent with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000). The subjects covered in the model legislation include, inter alia, assistance to, and the protection of, trafficking victims, and the prevention and criminalization of trafficking.

21. **Plurinational State of Bolivia:** IOM is working to mainstream gender considerations into the fight against trafficking in persons in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. In order to create a conceptual framework, three workshops were held, with participants from national institutions, NGOs and other concerned organizations. The outcomes of these workshops were

included in a manual that aims to help government institutions, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs understand the trafficking phenomenon from a gender perspective and to provide them with guidelines for incorporating this perspective into their counter-trafficking activities.

22. In another example, IOM has worked in the Plurinational State of Bolivia to raise awareness about trafficking and smuggling in persons through workshops and the distribution of posters, brochures and informational material. The information was aimed at governmental institutions, education facilities, civil society and the general public.

23. **Ecuador:** IOM is providing the Government of Ecuador with technical support for drafting the Comprehensive Human Mobility Bill, which proposes regulating the legal and institutional treatment of human mobility in Ecuador in a manner that is in full compliance with national and international human rights standards. In this context, IOM is organizing workshops for civil society in four different cities as part of the participatory dialogue to discuss the Bill.

24. In another example, at the request of the Government of Ecuador, IOM implemented an information campaign in the provinces of Cañar, Azuay and El Oro to disseminate key information to Peruvian migrant workers on the procedure to legalize their migratory status, which led to a substantial increase in the number of Peruvians accessing the legalization process.

25. In a final example, as part of a project providing assistance to Colombian nationals in search of international protection across the Colombian border with Ecuador, Panama and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, IOM is working with the Office for Refugees of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide its officials with training on subjects including, inter alia, the human rights of migrants and Ecuador's new refugee policy.

26. **Guatemala:** Under a programme for temporary workers, IOM arranges the legal and orderly recruitment and deployment of seasonal agricultural workers from Guatemala to Canada. Specifically, IOM facilitates the recruitment of the workers and preparation of necessary documents; provides medical examinations and pre-departure information; undertakes monitoring during the stay in Canada and evaluations upon return with migrants, employers and the Government of Guatemala; and provides migrants with post-return support in planning employment for the following season. Through this programme, migrants are provided with, inter alia, low-cost medical insurance for their family members in Guatemala; Spanish-language employment contracts with wages above the legal minimum; and the same rights and obligations as Canadians working in this sector (for example, medical insurance, parental benefits, pension plan and tax schemes).

27. **Mexico:** IOM and its partners – the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the government of the State of Chiapas – have opened a centre for unaccompanied minors in Mexico's southern border in the town of Tapachula. The centre provides a safe haven and care for an increasing number of unaccompanied minors from Central America. The centre provides basic health care and psychological support, telephone access to contact family members, recreational activities and vocational training opportunities. The Under Secretary of the Interior of Mexico, in cooperation with IOM, established an inter-institutional working group to promote synergies and concrete actions to protect unaccompanied minors. IOM is also working with the State of Chiapas to develop

guidelines and build the capacity of all institutions coming into contact with unaccompanied minors.

Asia and Oceania

28. **Azerbaijan:** In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, IOM organized three training courses for the State Migration Services of Azerbaijan on International Migration Law, including human rights, admission, detention, return and expulsion. IOM has also provided training on International Migration Law for students at Nakhchivan State University.

29. **Cambodia:** Through the Promotion of Human Rights of Victims of Trafficking, in particular Minors, through Legal and Policy Support at Provincial Levels project, IOM sought to support the promotion of the human rights of trafficking victims by increasing the capacity of the front-line provincial law enforcement bodies and judiciary in Cambodia to identify and efficiently process individual cases. Among other activities, IOM provided training to Cambodian law enforcement officials, court officials and lawyers to increase the technical quality of the prosecution process so that, inter alia, law enforcement bodies could better identify the victims of trafficking and take the necessary measures to protect them. IOM also worked to strengthen the institutional environment and response to trafficking, for example, to sensitize the prosecution process to the vulnerability of victims and to provide sufficient safeguards for their protection.

30. **Indonesia:** IOM created a legal assistance fund in Indonesia to provide the victims of trafficking or their families with financial support for legal representation or assistance to, inter alia, prepare for court hearings, become informed regarding rights as a witness, bring civil charges against the suspect and seek compensation for damages. Through this fund, IOM also assists partner NGOs in appointing lawyers who can act as victim counsellors. The fund can also pay expenses associated with supporting victims in the criminal justice process, such as transportation costs to court and accommodation.

31. **Japan:** IOM provides assistance to facilitate the voluntary return and reintegration of trafficking victims identified in Japan. The assistance provided includes, inter alia, free legal aid and advice, psychosocial counselling, medical care, representation vis-à-vis various authorities, security assurance measures and support for economic reintegration upon return.

32. In another example, IOM is coordinating the establishment of a network of, inter alia, government authorities, NGOs and private companies in Japan to promote and protect the human rights and welfare of Japanese-Filipino children and their Filipino mothers. The network also aims to facilitate the regular migration/return of these children and their mothers from the Philippines to Japan, as well as their integration into and contribution to Japanese society.

33. In a final example, each year IOM's Special Liaison Mission in Tokyo accepts a small number of Japanese law trainees for a short internship. These trainees, who have passed the National Bar Examination and are being trained at the National Judicial Training Center to become fully fledged lawyers, are extensively briefed on International Migration Law, the human rights of migrants and related IOM activities. This internship programme is expected to expand the knowledge and familiarity of these topics among future lawyers in Japan, which is in turn expected to facilitate better protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants.

34. **Thailand:** The dependants of labour migrants going to Thailand from neighbouring countries are among the most vulnerable of all migrants to health and social risks. Thus, IOM has aimed to improve the overall livelihood of migrants and reduce their vulnerabilities, with particular focus on children in two tsunami-affected provinces, by fostering access to quality health services; reducing the stigmatization of and discrimination against migrants in host communities; facilitating access to education; promoting the human rights of migrant children and their families; providing special protection to children in the most exploitative situations; and advocating improved migrant policy at the national and local levels.

35. In another example, IOM has worked to build the capacity of the Ministry of Labour and the National Human Rights Commission to carry out awareness-raising activities for government officials, employers of migrant workers and migrants themselves to improve understanding of international migration, labour migration issues, including abusive and exploitative labour practices, and the rights and obligations of migrants in Thailand. This project has, inter alia, involved the creation of a targeted training curriculum and helped to develop the capacity of both employers of migrants and migrant communities to provide assistance to migrants.

36. In a final example, IOM has formed a mobile legal counselling team to, inter alia, reach out to local migrant communities in Thailand in order to identify their legal needs and provide them with legal support. Other project components include making migrants aware of their rights and obligations and access to social services, and enhancing the capacities of local government officers and host communities to deliver social services to migrant workers and their families and generally improve their human security.

Europe

37. **Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania:** IOM coordinated six study visits and two consultation meetings for officials from these countries' national administrative structures responsible for the first reception, protection and treatment of unaccompanied minors, in order to exchange information on these topics. These activities resulted in the publication of the *Manual of Best Practices and Recommendations*, which is intended for government authorities and public institutions working on issues relating to children, migration and refugees; law enforcement agencies; NGOs and social service providers; international organizations; expert researchers; policymakers; and representatives from the European Commission.

38. Building upon that project, IOM is partnering the Governments of these six EU countries to ensure that unaccompanied minors are informed of their rights as children and the increased difficulties they are likely to face in exercising basic rights (such as the rights to education, health, housing and judicial protection) if they leave the reception centres where they are hosted. To this end, unaccompanied minors and reception centre staff in the six partner countries will be consulted to help identify priority needs and develop awareness-raising materials targeted to unaccompanied minors. Once developed, the materials will be disseminated across all EU Member States as well as certain third countries that are major sources of unaccompanied minors. In addition, the aforementioned Manual will be updated to include findings and recommendations regarding the potential disappearance of unaccompanied minors from reception centres, and the manual will be disseminated among policymakers and other stakeholders throughout the EU.

39. **Estonia, Finland and Latvia:** In cooperation with the Institute of Law of the University of Tartu, Estonia, the Finnish League for Human Rights and the Latvian Centre for Human Rights, IOM has developed an e-learning tool for members of the judiciary in those countries. The tool consists of modules on anti-discrimination legislation at international, European Community and national levels. It seeks to enhance user awareness of human rights and their capacity to apply and implement anti-discrimination legislation, with the overall objective of helping to combat discrimination.

40. **Republic of Moldova and Ukraine:** Under a project whereby IOM provides technical support and capacity-building for the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine for the implementation of readmission agreements with the EU, IOM contributes to safeguarding the human rights of irregular migrants detained in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine through capacity-building measures for civil society and government agencies and by upgrading physical infrastructures of holding facilities and equipping them in line with international standards.

41. **Italy:** At the request of the Government of Italy, IOM is supporting efforts to improve migrant reception standards in Lampedusa and other locations in Sicily and Sardinia, in cooperation with other relevant organizations and local authorities. IOM's assistance covers different phases, from the arrival of migrants to their transfer to further reception structures. The Organization's activities include providing information and legal counselling to migrants and displaced persons on the consequences of their irregular entry into Italy and risks associated with their irregular stay; identifying and assisting vulnerable persons such as the victims of trafficking or violence and unaccompanied minors and referring them to relevant authorities for proper follow-up and assistance; and monitoring procedures in reception/temporary residence centres. For instance, upon arrival and during first reception, IOM stresses the need to protect migrants' health as a priority and advocates for health concerns to take priority over other requirements related to identification and police measures.

42. **Republic of Moldova:** IOM has several counter-trafficking-related projects in the Republic of Moldova, which involve both: (i) empowering the Moldovan authorities and civil society to address the issue of trafficking; and (ii) providing direct assistance to victims and potential victims of trafficking, such as victims of domestic violence and unaccompanied minors. IOM's comprehensive approach extends to, inter alia, protection, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of victims; trafficking prevention; criminalization of trafficking; and prosecution of perpetrators. For instance, through the Chisinau Assistance and Protection Centre, IOM offers four types of rehabilitation services: medical, psychological, legal and socio-economic. Through another project, IOM helps to strengthen the framework for cooperation between the Government and civil society in providing assistance to the victims and potential victims of trafficking. A different project involves developing and monitoring individual reintegration plans for the victims of trafficking, which includes assistance such as vocational training and small business start-up packages.

43. **Portugal:** IOM is working with the Government of Portugal and the NGO Jesuit Refugee Service to ensure that irregular migrants hosted in a temporary installation centre pending removal orders are treated in a humane and dignified manner, in respect of their rights according to international humanitarian standards. IOM is involved, inter alia, in monitoring and evaluating the centre; training the centre's staff on subjects such as cultural diversity and identification of vulnerable persons; and producing information materials covering topics such as opportunities for regular migration and the risks of irregular migration.

44. In another example, IOM worked with partners from certain EU governments and civil society on a project coordinated by the Government of Portugal to assess a potential “one-stop-shop” model for the integration of migrants in EU Member States. A one-stop-shop procedure would bring under one roof the integration-related services provided by governmental and non-governmental actors, including the provision of information on the rights and duties of migrants. IOM’s primary contribution was to draft working documents for discussion among the project partners. The assessment resulted in a handbook with practical guidance and suggestions for implementing a one-stop-shop model in EU Member States.

45. In a final example, IOM developed an advertisement for International Migrants Day (18 December) advocating human rights for all and referring to migrants’ rights and duties, which was published in the three principal national newspapers in Portugal.

46. **Turkey:** IOM facilitates training for a core group of lawyers to build their capacity to provide legal assistance to potential and actual victims of trafficking in Turkey. It is envisioned that this core group will not only provide legal assistance to victims, but will also work to integrate the topic of human trafficking into the curriculum for trainee lawyers, and thus ensure that future lawyers are fully prepared to handle trafficking cases. This project also addresses the international dimension of trafficking by increasing cooperation among bar associations in the Black Sea region, including through a seminar involving the National Bar Associations of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Bulgaria and Romania on the topic of mainstreaming a human rights approach into assistance to the victims of trafficking. The seminar provides an opportunity to establish a network to facilitate communication between these bar associations and to promote mutual legal assistance.

47. **Ukraine:** IOM is an active participant in the Diversity Initiative, a network of over 50 partners from the international, civil, corporate and government sectors, as well as representatives of various embassies and diplomatic missions, which works to uphold the human dignity of migrants, refugees and visible minorities in Ukraine. In this framework, and in coordination with government counterparts and NGO monitoring organizations, IOM maintains a centralized and standardized database to record incidents suspected to be racially motivated. IOM also analyses trends of racially motivated attacks and provides ad hoc medical assistance for the victims of such incidents, while partner organizations provide legal assistance as needed.

48. In another example, to promote the benefits of cultural diversity and increase awareness of xenophobia among university students in five pilot universities in Ukraine, IOM is creating an academic diversity consortium for these universities and developing an education module on cultural awareness.