

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Distress at Sea – how best to respond?

Expert Meeting in Djibouti, 8 - 10 November 2011

AGENDA

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 8 November 2011

09.00 – 13.00 Introduction and Overview (Plenary)

09:00 – 09:30 *Welcome and Introduction*

Welcome: Mr. Hassan Darar Houffaneh, Minister of Interior, Government of Djibouti

Introduction: Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

09:30 – 11:00 *Rescue at sea – a longstanding maritime tradition and legal obligation*

Presenters: Professor Tullio Scovazzi, University of Milan: *Rescue at sea and international maritime law*

Ms. Alice Hicuburundi, DOALOS, UN New York: *UNCLOS and rescue at sea*

Professor François Crépeau, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants: *Rescue at sea and international human rights law*

Dr. Neil Falzon, University of Malta: *Rescue at sea and international refugee law*

Chair: Captain Hartmut Hesse, International Maritime Organization (IMO)

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00 *Distress at sea situations involving asylum-seekers and refugees - identifying the challenges and discussing the way forward*

Presenters: Mr. Abdullah Al Qahdi, Yemen Coast Guards: *Challenges from the perspective of Yemen*

Dr. Reuben Brigety, United States: *Recent US Government Experiences in the Gulf of Aden*

Commodore Roderick Bowe, Royal Bahamas Defense Force: *Challenges in the Caribbean*

Ms. Maria Stavropoulou Greece: *Migrant and refugee movements across the Greek seas*

Chair: Professor François Crépeau, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 *Distress at sea situations involving asylum-seekers and refugees - identifying the challenges and discussing the way forward (continued)*

Presenters: Mr. John Murray, International Chamber of Shipping: *The shipping industry's perspective*

Mr. Samuel Kame Domguia, African Union: *The 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM-Strategy)*

Captain Hartmut Hesse, IMO: *A draft regional agreement on concerted procedures relating to the disembarkation of persons rescued at sea*

Chair: Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

15.00 – 15.30 *A draft Model Framework for Cooperation in rescue at sea emergencies involving asylum-seekers and refugees*

Speaker: Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30 Working Groups

Participants will be divided into four working groups to critically review the draft Model Framework for Cooperation proposed by UNHCR, on the basis of their own experience. The results of the working groups will be presented to the Plenary.

The following questions may be discussed in the working groups:

- *Do you think the Model Framework would have been helpful for a resolution of situations that you have experienced?*
- *Could the Model Framework be implemented in your region? What regional specificities would need to be taken into account?*
- *Do you have suggestions for improvements to the Model Framework?*

17:30 – 18.30 Reports from Working Groups and Conclusion of Day One (Plenary)

Chair: Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

19.30 Cocktail Reception

DAY 2 – Wednesday, 9 November 2011

7.00 Departure for field missions (see further details ANNEX I)

Participants will be divided into two groups:

- *Group A will visit the border crossing point and reception centre in Loyada, and the refugee Camp Ali Addeh*
- *Group B will visit the facilities at the sea departure point in Obock*

15.00 Return Group A

18.00 Return Group B

19.00 – 20.00 Debriefing and drinks - observations during field trips and discussion (Plenary)

Chair: Ms. Anja Klug, UNHCR

DAY 3 – Thursday, 10 November 2011

09.00 – 12.00 Cooperation on Rescue at Sea Emergencies – An Element of a Broader Regional Approach (Plenary)

09.00 – 09.10 *Introduction*

Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

09.10 – 09.45 *Comprehensive regional strategies on irregular mixed movements*

Presenters: Mr. Surat Suwannikkha, Thailand: *The regional cooperation framework and the Bali process*

Mr. Christopher Horwood, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat: *Regional cooperation in the Gulf of Aden– follow up to the 2008 Sana'a Conference on refugee protection and international migration*

Chair: Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

09.45 – 10.45 *Reception arrangements after disembarkation – what support can be provided?*

Presenters: Mr. Michelangelo La Tella, Italy: *Reception arrangements in Italy – challenges and good practices*
Mr. Olivier Dubois, ICRC: *Retrieving and identifying the remains of those who perish at sea*
Ms. Ann Mayman, UNHCR Yemen: *Reception arrangements in Yemen*
Chair: Ambassador Fisseha Yimer, Ethiopia

10.45 - 11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00 – 12.00 *Identifying solutions – what support can be provided?*

Presenters: Colonel Samba Fall, CNRRPD, Senegal: *Capacity building for self-reliance and local integration*
Ms. Vijaya Souri, IOM: *IOM and Rescue at Sea*
Mr. Jon Hoisaeter, UNHCR: *Support for Malta under the Eurema project*
Ms. Anja Klug, UNHCR: *Specific resettlement quotas for refugees rescued at sea*
Chair: Ms. Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, Director, IOM

12.00 – 13.00 Conclusions and Recommendations

Panel: IOM, IMO, Government of Djibouti, Government of the United States
Chair: Dr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 End of Expert Meeting

ANNEX I

Field Trip Itinerary Wednesday 10 November 2011

GROUP A: Loyada/Ali-Addeh trip

7.00 a.m. – Departure from Djibouti-ville by UNHCR bus.

7.30 a.m. – 8.00 a.m. – Loyada border crossing point.

9.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. – Meeting with Ali-Sabieh Prefet (courtesy).

10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. – Visit clinic with AMDA (medical IP).

11.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. – Visit primary school with LWF (Education IP).

11.15 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. – Visit with APEF (Community Services IP).

11.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. – Visit transit area. Meet new arrivals from Somalia.

13.00 p.m. – Lunch in Ali-Sabieh (La Palmerie).

14.00 p.m. – Return to Djibouti-ville.

GROUP B: Obock trip

7.00 a.m. - Departure from Djibouti-ville to Obock.

11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. – Meeting with Obock Prefet (courtesy).

11.30 a.m. -12.00 p.m. – Obock Main Hospital.

12.00 p.m. – 13.00 p.m. - Migration Response Centre (MRC).

14.00 p.m. – Lunch in Tadjoura.

18.00 p.m. – Arrival Djibouti-ville.