

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
WEEKLY MEETING

**Summary Record**

27 September 2006  
Geneva

**I High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development  
- 14-15 September 2006**

*Mr. Robert Paiva (IOM), Director, External Relations Department*

Mr. Paiva briefed on the outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), which was held at the UN General Assembly on 14-15 September 2006 (as per UNGA Resolution A/RES/60/227 – April 2006). The purpose of the HLD was to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration in order to identify ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The HLD was the first high-level General Assembly debate and ministerial level meeting on migration since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, and saw the attendance of about 60 ministers and 30 vice ministers as well as representatives from international organisations, NGOs and the Private Sector.

A number of preparations for the HLD took place following the adoption of the GA resolution in April 2006. These were largely facilitated by IOM, and included discussions with member states and a hearing with NGO's and the private sector to select representatives for the HLD. Furthermore, the UN Secretary-General issued a report on International Migration and Development (6 June 2006), with a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on migration and development, stating the importance of the issue.

Among the outcomes of the HLD was an explicit recognition of the link between migration and development. There were no new commitments from states and no resolution coming of the meeting. However, the HLD showed that an open debate about migration and development at global level, between sending and receiving states is possible and that there is interest in continued dialogue. Also, the HLD agreed to create a Global Forum on Migration and Development, which is scheduled to meet for the first time in 2007 hosted by Belgium (details of the forum such as secretariat and linkage to the UN are still to be worked out). Overall, Mr. Paiva stressed that given the sensitivity of the issue discussed, the HLD must be considered a success.

For more details on Mr. Paiva's briefing, please see the PowerPoint presentation from the meeting at: <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/calendar/calendardetails.asp?meetID=1087>

For more information on the HLD and the issue of Migration and Development, please see IOM's website at: <http://www.un.int/iom/IOM-HLD.html> , which among others has links to the SG Report as well as the Chairperson's summary from the HLD.

The discussion following the briefing focussed on the follow-up to the HLD. Mr. Paiva stressed that IOM will be working with both developing and developed states on integrating migration

into their development policy planning / poverty reduction strategy papers. He furthermore underlined that also UN country teams need to consider the issue in more depth. There is no scheduled next HLD. UNFPA underlined the importance of acknowledging women as migrants and reiterated that the State of World Population report 2006 focuses explicitly on this issue.

## **II Colombia - IDPs (Mission de-briefing)**

*Mr. Arild Birkenes (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre / Norwegian Refugee Council), Country Analyst*

Mr. Birkenes de-briefed on his recent mission to Colombia. He provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the background and humanitarian implications of the conflict in Colombia and then concentrated on protection concerns among returning IDP communities in the northern Choco region.

The focus of his presentation was on the establishment of the so-called Humanitarian Zones, which are self-proclaimed entities of land close to areas of origin where IDPs are challenging the dominance of the paramilitary groups.

Mr. Birkenes visited these Humanitarian Zones and spoke with representatives of the communities. Essentially, what the people want is: 1) Security; 2) Compensation (for lost land); 3) Opening up of Rivers (which are sedimented); and 4) Investigation and sanctions against perpetrators.

For most of these areas, as Mr. Birkenes outlined, the people cannot expect much. In terms of security, civilian authorities do not dare to enter the zones and the army's attempts to provide assistance has been very limited. Also, the government tends to perceive the zones as guerilla areas, which for a majority of them is not the case. Regarding the compensation, the National Commission for Reparation lacks capacity and the paramilitaries lacks willingness. On the opening of rivers, large-scale illegal agricultural projects are creating sediments and long-term improvement may fail to materialise as long as these schemes continue to cause sedimentation and alter the environmental balance in the region.

For more details of Mr. Birkenes' presentation, please see the PowerPoint presentation made at the meeting: <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/calendar/calendar/details.asp?meetID=1087>

For more details on Colombia from IDMC, please see the IDMC Country Report on Colombia (June 2006): [http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpCountries\)/CB6FF99A94F70AED802570A7004CEC41](http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpCountries)/CB6FF99A94F70AED802570A7004CEC41)

The discussion following the briefing focussed on what can be done from an Inter-Agency perspective, which was seen as limited at the moment, partly because the Colombian Government is reluctant to cooperate with international actors, which are often perceived as guerrilla sympathizers.

## Participants

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