



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

OPENING SESSION

Launch of the Mediterranean edition of the Labour Migration Handbook

**Statement of Michele Klein Solomon
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Dear Honourable Ambassador Amrani, dear Mr. Lozano García, dear Ambassador Kovačič, dear participants,

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Morocco for kindly hosting this event. I would also like to thank OSCE for initiating and facilitating the overall process of elaborating the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*. I personally attended the 13th OSCE Economic Forum under the Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship in Prague in May 2005 where the idea of compiling a Handbook as a tool for policy makers and social partners was suggested and discussed for the first time. After the publication and discussion of the *Handbook's* first edition with a particular focus on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), it is a great pleasure to be here for the launch seminar of the updated and revised Arabic edition tailored to the Mediterranean region. This is an excellent example of the highly-valued cooperation and pooling of resources and expertise between ILO, OSCE and IOM.

The Mediterranean constitutes a dynamic region with substantial migratory flows and interests in the phenomena of migration. The participants at this seminar from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and from the Northern part of the region represent countries of origin, destination and transit, and often a combination of them at the same time. It is further a region with a demonstrated commitment to contribute to improved management of migration flows. Thus I am delighted to participate in the opportunity to discuss key parts of the *Handbook* as well as related issues of concern to the international community with the main stakeholders in this important region.

For IOM, in today's increasingly mobile world, with growing integration of economies, societies and cultures, assisting governments and other key stakeholders to create the capacity needed to manage human mobility is a key priority. All States need to have the ability to plan and manage the movement of people – both into and out of their territories, and while resident therein -- in a safe, effective and humane manner. Protecting the fundamental rights of all migrants is critical to this endeavor; so too is better prepared and managed labour mobility, for which the new Handbook launched here today aims to make a substantial contribution. Properly managed, migration can contribute to the realization of the human and development potential of countries of origin and destination, as well as individual migrants and their families. Maximizing the positive potential of migration, and minimizing potential negative effects, including related to trafficking and smuggling, are shared objectives of all States and stakeholders in this region and beyond. Inter-state and multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation are fundamental to achieving these objectives.

IOM welcomes the opportunity provided here by the Government of Morocco to contribute to safer and more effective and mutually beneficial labour migration through the launching here today of this Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies for the Mediterranean region.