

SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING

MIGRATION AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Vienna, 25 September 2000

FINAL REPORT

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I. Background

The OSCE held the last of three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings for 2000 in Vienna on 25 September. The meeting was dedicated to the topic of "Migration and Internal Displacement".

The issues on the meeting's agenda have differing histories in the OSCE. The issue of migration was on the agenda of the then CSCE at its inception. By addressing this issue, especially in the context of freedom of movement, the CSCE sought to overcome the artificial division of Europe. Most of the CSCE/OSCE commitments on migration are contained in the Helsinki Final Act and a number of follow-up documents. They deal with human contacts, family reunification and freedom of internal movement and choice of residence.

Despite the emergence of the new challenges in the OSCE region after the end of the Cold War, the above-mentioned commitments remain highly relevant, not least because they remain the subject of non-compliance: some participating States still have exit visa requirements for their citizens, others made it difficult for the citizens of other States to enter their territory. In the Newly Independent States, the legacy of the *propiska* system still impedes freedom of movement. Citizens get their place of residence stamped in their passport, and they risk loss of some of their rights (such as property rights, citizenship, and political participation) if they reside in a location different from that shown in their documents.

The OSCE has been actively involved in promoting the right to freedom of movement and choice of residence between the participating States, as well as freedom of internal movement in the OSCE region. The OSCE has been participating in several sub-regional forums, such as the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on Migration in the CIS countries¹. Due to the breakdown of the USSR and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, new states and new inter-state borders have emerged. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in co-operation with other relevant international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has been assisting the border services of new states. A number of projects have been implemented in several OSCE states directed at reform of the *propiska* system and establishment of a system of internal registration compatible with international standards.

While migration is a long-standing issue of OSCE concern, the issue of internal displacement is relatively new to the OSCE agenda. Internal displacement has come to the fore in recent years as one of the most pressing humanitarian, human rights and political issues now facing the global community. Unlike refugees who have an internationally established system of protection under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and can look to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for support, the internally displaced (people who were forced to flee their homes but have not crossed internationally recognised borders) have no comparable protection system to respond to their needs; primary responsibility for the security and

¹ The 1996 Geneva Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

well-being of displaced populations lies with national authorities. The phenomenon of internal displacement has been encountered too often in the OSCE region to leave it unaddressed.

In 1992, Austria played a significant role in promoting the work of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons, Prof. Francis Deng, on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. In 2000, with Austria taking over the OSCE Chairmanship, the issue of internal displacement received increased priority on the OSCE agenda.

The OSCE has a very great potential to deal with this issue. Protection of internally displaced persons has become a part of the everyday work of a number of OSCE field operations. The ODIHR is doing its part in promoting the Guiding Principles by assisting participating States with the improvement of the legislative framework in this field. To promote more effective solutions to the issue of IDPs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ODIHR, in collaboration with the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement, organised in May 2000 in Tbilisi a Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement in the South Caucasus. As follow-up, the ODIHR is planning the review of legislation of the three countries of the South Caucasus to ensure their compliance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Migration and Internal Displacement are multifaceted phenomena. Institution and capacity building as well as legislative reform are particularly relevant. International co-ordination and co-operation is of fundamental importance in addressing issues of migration and internal displacement, as is the need to see the issues in the broader context of conflict resolution, regional stability, economic progress and the development of civil society.

Consequently, the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Migration and Internal Displacement pursued the following objectives:

- To discuss and evaluate the relevance and the state of implementation of OSCE commitments with regard to migration and internal displacement;
- To raise awareness and increase understanding among the OSCE participating States and in the OSCE bodies, institutions and field operations of new developments in the field of internal displacement, in particular of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and to elaborate how OSCE bodies, institutions, field operations and participating States could play a role in their practical application;
- To encourage national and international co-operation on migration and displacement issues between government authorities, civil society, OSCE participating States and international organizations.

II. Executive Summary

The meeting began with an opening plenary session before the participants dispersed to two working groups in order to have a more concrete and focused discussion on the agenda topics. The plenary session was opened by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner. Brief introductions were given then by the Moderator, Minister Georg Mautner-Markhof of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR. This was followed by the keynote speeches given by Prof. Francis Deng, Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons and Mr. Peter Schatzer, Director of External Relations, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The participants then dispersed into the two working groups.

Working group I addressed the implementation by the participating States of the OSCE commitments in the area of migration, freedom of movement, human contacts and family reunification.

Working Group II focused on the role of the participating States and the OSCE in protection and assistance to internally displaced persons.

The meeting was closed with a Plenary Session where the recommendations of both groups were presented and discussed.

The following key issues with regard to *migration* were identified:

- Migration and internal displacement are multifaceted phenomena. Institution and capacity building as well as legislative reform are of particular relevance.
- A comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach is needed to the complex phenomena of population displacement and migration. Distinctive solutions should be found for addressing regular, irregular and refugee migration. A balance should be preserved between the control-oriented approach to migration management, in the case of irregular migration, and a humanitarian approach. Within a comprehensive approach to migration, asylum should be preserved as a separate legal concept and not influenced by the political, economic or security considerations of migration policy.
- Special attention should be addressed to the root causes of migration such as socio-economic difficulties and political instability, focusing rather on prevention than alleviation of the burden of migration.
- The move from the control-oriented and restrictive approach to migration management towards positive admission policies, such as promoting and providing assistance to family reunification should be considered.
- Migration should be considered within a broader framework dealing with conflict resolution, regional stability, economic progress and the development of civil society.
- An equal emphasis should be maintained on migration issues in countries of origin, transit and destination, protecting individuals across the full cycle of migration.

As far as the issue of *internal displacement* is concerned, the participants were invited to identify the key challenges for OSCE activities by answering the following questions:

1. How can the OSCE enhance its activities to address the problems of internal displacement?
2. How can the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement be included into the work of OSCE structures, institutions and participating States?
3. How can the OSCE intensify co-operation with other relevant actors in the field, such as governments, civil society, international organizations and agencies at the local, regional, national and international level?

The answers given by the participants laid down a basis for identifying several key issues and promoting a number of concrete action proposals:

- Internal displacement should be defined as an OSCE human dimension issue of direct concern to the Organization.
- Internal displacement should be addressed from a regional perspective, as the enhanced regional and cross-border co-operation can contribute to the process of peaceful resolution of existing conflicts.
- The OSCE should, as a part of its reporting and monitoring activities, regularly review the situation of IDPs. Special emphasis should be put on systematically informing OSCE decision-making bodies about discriminatory practices against IDPs and about their needs for assistance and protection. Dialogue with relevant governments should be initiated with a view to promoting greater respect for the rights of IDPs. During election observation, it should be a matter of special scrutiny whether IDPs can freely exercise their right to vote.
- The OSCE's activities with regard to internal displacement should be integrated into existing institutions, with the mandate of the High Commissioner on National Minorities extended to provide greater scope to investigate the position of IDPs in member states, and the ODIHR also assuming a greater role with respect to IDPs. If this does not prove to be effective, it might be necessary to allocate responsibility to a particular body.
- A Ministerial Council decision should be elaborated to integrate internal displacement into OSCE activities, using the Guiding Principles as a framework.
- Heads of Missions should ensure that all their staff members dealing with IDPs be provided with the Guiding Principles. The OSCE should issue a guide on how the Guiding Principles should be applied.
- Projects to foster understanding between population groups, in particular those involving community leaders and young community members, should be particularly encouraged.

III. Recommendations

This report, just as the Meeting itself, focuses on concrete recommendations arising from the working groups. The recommendations from the delegates of participating States, international organizations (IOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are wide-ranging and aimed at various actors (OSCE political bodies and institutions, OSCE field operations, Governments of the participating States). The recommendations have no official status, and the inclusion of a recommendation in this report does not suggest that it reflects the views or policy of the OSCE.

It is emphasised that the OSCE cannot implement all of these recommendations. However, they can provide a basis for measuring the degree of follow-up.

Outcome of Working Group I

The Implementation by the participating States of the OSCE Commitments in the area of Migration, Freedom of Movement, Human Contacts, Family Reunification.
Moderator: Dr. Eric Rudenshiold, Head of Democratisation Section, ODIHR

Working Group I addressed a wide range of issues including some that are not exclusively within the Human Dimension, in particular, the interplay between various economic factors and migration. Issues like visa policies, family reunification, asylum and resettlement were touched upon. A number of participants also informed the Group about the situation in their countries/regions and challenges faced by them.

The complementarity of challenges facing OSCE participating States was highlighted across all issues. Increased control was not seen as a panacea for the actual root causes of the migration issues discussed. Whereas control-oriented management was recognised as important, the consensus of participants was that the humanitarian aspects regarding movement of people are equally important.

The following recommendations were made:

To OSCE participating States:

- to reaffirm the adherence to Helsinki commitments on freedom of movement and choice of residence;
- to ensure that the interests and rights of refugees and internally displaced persons prevail over political considerations;
- to develop separate tools for addressing regular, irregular and refugee migration, while equally respecting the basic human rights of all categories of migrants;
- to create a linkage between immigration and integration policies;
- to consider moving from controlling and restrictive actions towards positive actions such as promoting and providing assistance to family reunification;
- to reduce obstacles to freedom of movement for the sake of both human rights and economic development;
- to focus on prevention rather than alleviation of the burden of migration;

- to bear in mind that restrictions on legal migration can lead to abuses of the institution of asylum, resulting in overburdening the system and a possible increase in trafficking of human beings;
- to call on the participating States to increase support for the follow up of the 1996 Geneva Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- to acknowledge the necessity of measures to resolve the problem of statelessness in the OSCE region;
- to ensure that human rights are integrated into the work of border and migration authorities;
- to guarantee easier access to documentation by displaced persons, increased co-operation on voluntary repatriation and better guarantees for proper treatment of asylum seekers;
- to explore the possibility of concluding agreements on readmission of irregular migrants.

To OSCE Institutions:

- To continue playing a leadership role in protecting both the interests of States, as well as the needs and rights of migrants and displaced persons within them;
- to consider migration within a broader framework dealing with conflict resolution, regional stability, economic progress and the development of civil society;
- to ensure close co-ordination with international financial institutions in combating poverty as a major cause of migration;
- to develop comprehensive, multidisciplinary approaches to migration, including the security aspects;
- to strengthen the co-ordination of the OSCE institutions with international organizations including IOM, UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other concerned institutions;
- to exchange information on best practices concerning the issue of freedom of movement in secessionist regions;
- to maintain an equal emphasis on migration issues in countries of origin, transit and destination, protecting individuals through the full cycle of migration;
- to promote the balance between control oriented migration management and humanitarian-based approaches;
- to shift policies towards promoting and encouraging self-reliance and grassroots initiatives;
- to explore the idea of connecting traditional receiving countries with source or transit countries for the purpose of sharing expertise on all facets of migration management, including legislation, asylum and visa policies, and border management procedures/practices - both on a bilateral or multilateral basis;
- to strengthen the NGO community through direct funding and programmes. Programme selection and implementation should focus on quality not quantity.

To OSCE Field Presences:

- to use the existing capacities of OSCE field operations for practical measures to protect of irregular migrants, including information, training and awareness raising activities;

Outcome of Working Group II

The role of the participating States and the OSCE in the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons.

Moderator: Prof. Walter Kaelin, University of Bern, Switzerland.

The discussion brought together actors from different areas and levels. Representatives of States, international organizations and NGOs met in a positive spirit and engaged in a very constructive discussion. Although the meeting was not aimed at finding consensus, it was apparent that participants reacted positively to most of the recommendations made. Particularly helpful was the fact that the topic of the discussions was approached both from a top-down perspective focusing on issues of standards, principles, frameworks and mechanisms, and from a bottom-up approach addressing specific issues such as the fate of displaced children and women, the need to better address mental-health issues, or the paramount importance of local dialogue between civil society and authorities.

Reference to past and current problems of internal displacement in the territory of former Yugoslavia, and in Turkey as well as in the regions of Northern and Southern Caucasus was made both by representatives of governments and NGOs, and participants tried to draw lessons from these experiences. There was agreement on the need to address these situations in a comprehensive way addressing the root causes of the problems. One participant stressed the need to adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, norms of international law and the Helsinki principles in this regard. Others stressed the need to approach root causes at the regional level. As regards the protection of and assistance to IDPs, some participants stressed the primary responsibility of States while others called for a more active role of the international community.

International organizations presented their approach to the issue of internal displacement. The Council of Europe referred to its relevant activities and standards related to migration and displacement and offered its readiness to co-operate fully with the OSCE and other international governmental and intergovernmental organizations active in this field. The ICRC recalled that armed conflicts and non-respect for applicable standards of humanitarian law are among the main causes of internal displacement. UNICEF gave a reminder that children and women are the main victims of internal displacement and have the same rights to survival and well-being as other IDPs.

During the discussion it became clear that there is a specific role for the OSCE. As an organization, it is able to bring together security and humanitarian issues and, thus, is in a unique position to tackle the real causes of displacement, and to address situations of protracted displacement. The OSCE's specific strength also lies in the area of early warning and monitoring. Finally, it can contribute to defining national and regional policies, e.g. in the areas of property and return.

The following recommendations were made:

To OSCE participating States:

- Prime responsibility for assisting and protecting internally displaced persons must rest with national governments.
- The regional approach and the process of regional co-operation can assist and complement the process of peaceful resolution of existing conflicts. A need for greater cross border co-operation exists in many regions.

To OSCE Institutions:

- The framework for a more systematic OSCE approach should be the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
- There should be a Ministerial Council decision to integrate internal displacement into the activities of the OSCE, using the UN Guiding Principles as a framework for doing so.
- The next OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in October 2000 should discuss the role of the OSCE with matter of internal displacement. The main conclusions from the present meeting should be included, in particular the recommendation that the Guiding Principles are a valuable guide in shaping the response of the OSCE and its participating States to the plight of IDPs.
- A more detailed discussion document should be prepared for the Ministerial Council.
- The Chairperson-in-Office should write to Heads of Missions, directing that all personnel dealing with IDPs be provided with the Guiding Principles. The OSCE should issue a guide as to how these principles should be applied.
- Internal displacement should be defined as an OSCE human dimension issue of direct concern to the Organization.
- The situation of internally displaced persons in the region should be regularly reviewed and dialogue with governments should be initiated with a view to promoting greater respect for the human rights of IDPs.
- New as well as protracted situations of internal displacement should be monitored and reviewed using the Guiding Principles.
- Opportunities for co-operation with other organizations working in this area, ICRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, and other UN agencies, and the Council of Europe, should be closely examined. OSCE activity should be value-added and non-duplicative.

- When developing the framework for addressing the needs of IDPs, the principles and modalities of the Platform for Co-operative Security should be used.
- Preventative strategies should be developed to regularly give early warning of mass displacement so that it can be more effectively dealt with, combined with efforts to diffuse tension.
- As part of its reporting and monitoring activities, the OSCE should more systematically inform the decision-making bodies of the OSCE of discriminatory practises against IDPs and of their needs for assistance and protection. During election monitoring, it should be a matter of scrutiny whether IDPs can freely exercise their right to vote
- The OSCE should address questions relating to IDPs in its training activities, including those directed towards assisting participating States to develop their own training capacity.
- The UN Handbook on Internal Displacement and the training modules on Internal Displacement (in development) could be used as valuable tools in the training process.
- OSCE should establish principles of impartial assistance.
- The mandate of the High Commissioner on National Minorities should be extended to provide greater scope for investigating the position of IDPs in participating States.
- The ODIHR should assume a greater role with respect to IDPs and in turn be granted greater resources to fulfil this function.
- Technical assistance programmes to help strengthen constitutional protection, laws and national institutional policies that promote the rights of and equitable treatment for IDPs should be developed.
- To build on the experience of the one-day Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, there should be a week-long seminar on how best to integrate Internal Displacement into OSCE activities. A greater training need by NGOs and field staff was also identified.

To OSCE Field Missions:

- Heads of Missions should evaluate the activities of their field operations according to the Guiding Principles.
- OSCE Field Missions should assist in the registration of IDPs.
- There should be a greater involvement of field staff in monitoring situations of internal displacement and providing protection, when appropriate, especially during the return of IDPs.

- OSCE should produce guidelines as to how the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement ought to be implemented.
- Projects to foster understanding between population groups, in particular those involving community leaders and younger community members, should be particularly encouraged.

Annexes:

1. Agenda

2. Annotated Agenda

3. Keynote Speeches

MIGRATION AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

25 SEPTEMBER 2000
HOFBURG, VIENNA

AGENDA

9.00-10.00

OPENING SESSION: NEUER SAAL

Opening by

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Moderator

Minister Georg Mautner-Markhof, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria

Introductory remarks by

Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

Key-note speeches by

Prof. Francis Deng, Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons

Mr Peter Schatzer, Director of External Relations, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Technical information by the OSCE/ODIHR

10.00 -12.30

WORKING GROUPS: NEUER SAAL & RATSAAL

Working Group 1

The Implementation by the participating States of the OSCE Commitments in the area of Migration, Freedom of Movement, Human Contacts, Family Reunification

Moderator:

Dr. Eric Rudenshiold, Head of Democratization Section, OSCE/ODIHR

Introducer:

Dr. Vladimir Shkolnikov, OSCE/ODIHR Migration/Freedom of Movement Adviser

Resource persons:

Ms Lisa Batey, Centre for Technical Co-operation with Eastern Europe and CIS countries, IOM, Vienna

Mr Tom Price, OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr Stefan Scholz, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN, Geneva

Working Group 2

The Role of the participating States and the OSCE in Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons

Moderator:

Prof. Walter Kaelin, University of Bern

Introducers:

Ms Roberta Cohen, Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement

Ms Irene Khan, Deputy Director of the UNHCR Division for International Protection, Geneva

Resource person:

Mr Branimir Radev, Deputy Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan

12.30 - 14.00	LUNCH offered by the Austrian Chairmanship
14.00 - 16.00	<i>Working Group 1 and 2 (continuation)</i>
16.00 - 17.00	BREAK
17.00 - 18.00	CLOSING SESSION: NEUER SAAL <i>Moderators' Reports</i> Discussion of follow-up measures Comments from the floor

**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
MIGRATION AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT**

ANNOTATED AGENDA

OVERVIEW:

The meeting will focus on two areas: On the one hand, it should discuss specific aspects of migration, including internal and external freedom of movement and other human rights standards, economic and security issues involved as well as OSCE commitments and other international standards, their implementation and possible future activities. On the other hand, awareness should be raised on existing protective standards for displaced persons, as well as with regard to recent developments at the UN and regional level. OSCE participating States, institutions and field operations should ensure the uniform implementation of international standards and best practices. Documentation of best practices and of field experience on these issues should also be considered.

Recommendations may be addressed to the OSCE as a whole, its institutions including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to its field offices, or to the participating States. Discussions will take place in two working groups: one focusing on OSCE commitments in the area of Migration, the other on protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. For each working group the common questions are:

- Which are the key problems migrants and internally displaced are confronted with in the OSCE area?
- What can the OSCE do to promote implementation of its commitments relevant to the fields of migration and internal displacement and to enhance its activities with particular regard to the 'added value' of the organization?

WORKING GROUPS

I. The Implementation by the participating States of the OSCE Commitments in the area of Migration, Freedom of Movement, Human Contacts, Family Reunification.

Context:

Freedom of movement and human contacts figure prominently already in the Helsinki Final Act, especially with reference to the solution of humanitarian problems that arise in that connection. Throughout the 1980s, a body of specific commitments was developed. The right to and respect of freedom of movement was reaffirmed in the Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting of January 1989, in the Document of the Copenhagen Meeting on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, June 1990 and in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, November 1990. The Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE of 1991 made a special reference to removal of restrictions with respect to intra-state travel stating that the participating States undertake to keep such restrictions to a minimum. (Chapter 3, para 33)

In addition to the human rights aspects of internal and external freedom of movement (visa and registration policies, treatment of migrant workers, deprivation of social and political rights as a consequence to restrictions on freedom of movement, development of corruption and organised crime including trafficking in its various forms), the phenomenon of migration may affect economic and security issues, thus warranting a multi-dimensional approach pertinent to the comprehensive concept of security.

Working Group I will deal with an evaluation of the state and implementation of relevant OSCE and other international standards, examples of best practices (humane migration management - training of border guards, etc.), activities of OSCE in the field of migration and cooperation with governmental authorities of participating States, with civil society and other international actors active in the field, including the evaluation of various free travel agreements (e.g. Schengen, Bishkek); it will also be informed about the current state of the CIS-Conference Process.

Discussions in this working group will include:

- Are the 'early' CSCE/OSCE commitments in the field of migration still relevant today and how can they be implemented?
- What are the international standards in the field of migration and how can these be implemented?
- How can implementation be improved by OSCE participating States, institutions and field operations?
- How can OSCE enhance co-operation with other actors active in the field at the local, regional, national and international level?

II. The Role of the participating States and the OSCE in protection and assistance to the internally displaced persons

Context:

Commitments of CSCE/OSCE participating States dealing explicitly with refugees and displaced persons were first developed in the 1990s, such in the above-mentioned CSCE Helsinki Document 1992 and the Document of the Stockholm Meeting of the CSCE Council of 1992. Of particular concern is the increasing number of internally displaced persons in the OSCE region as well as in a global context.

At the UN level, the Representative of the UN-SG on Internally Displaced Persons, Prof. Francis Deng, had been requested by the UN Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly to develop a comprehensive framework for the internally displaced. The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were finalised in 1998 and have since been widely disseminated, including to the OSCE, and used.

The OSCE, through its participating States, institutions and field operations has a potential and a responsibility to address problems of internal displacement. OSCE institutions and field operations can play an important role in protecting the rights of the internally displaced. So far, OSCE field operations have been dealing with internal displacement on an ad hoc basis. Given the development of an international normative framework, OSCE could address internal displacement in a more systematic manner (inclusion of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in regular training for OSCE field personnel, assistance of ODIHR to participating States with regard to the development of the necessary legal framework, etc.)

Topics for discussions in this working group will include:

- How can OSCE enhance its activities to address the problems of internal displacement (with regard to the various stages of internal displacement and specific vulnerable groups)?
- How can the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement be included into the work of OSCE structures, institutions and participating States?
- How can OSCE intensify cooperation with other actors relevant in the field, such as governmental authorities, civil society and other international organizations at the local, regional, national and international level?

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25 September 2000

ENGLISH only

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**SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING
ON MIGRATION AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT**

OPENING STATEMENT

**H.E. MS. BENITA FERRERO-WALDNER
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE OF OSCE**

**Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria
Vienna, September 25, 2000**

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, as well as in my capacity as Foreign Minister of Austria, of the host country of this meeting, I wish to extend to all of you a very warm welcome at this year's third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting.

We are facing a significant evolution in the character of international relations and the practise of foreign policy. The well-being of individuals is moving increasingly to the centre of our conceptions of peace and security. Governments therefore are more and more challenged by the call for a people-centred foreign policy with human security at its core.

This has found expression in increasing attention by the international community to issues such as civilians and armed conflict, trafficking in drugs and human beings, organised crime and international terrorism. All these issues are now perceived as what they really are: phenomena that threaten the security and well-being of the human person.

Naturally this process has considerable impact on the OSCE, which has been working for the protection of the integrity and unhindered development of the

individual - free from threats to the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms - for more than 25 years. This is why Austria has chosen for the third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, too, a topic closely related to human security and of particular relevance to our region: migration and internal displacement.

Indeed, various unresolved minority issues and a tendency to rising nationalism in several OSCE participating States have led to conflicts in recent years, in which often civilians have been the principal victims. Along with the changing nature of conflict from inter- to intra-state wars, we are confronted with situations where the individual intentionally is being made a target of warfare, violating fundamental norms of humanitarian and human rights law. Thus migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, have become particularly vulnerable groups and continue to suffer the painful consequences of conflicts.

Increasingly it is being recognised that migration and the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons are global phenomena, which require a coordinated and interdisciplinary response. They involve aspects of all three OSCE dimensions, from implications for political and military stability and security to economic and environmental developments as well as, of course, human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

As you are aware, in the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, participating States stressed the need to identify and address the root causes of displacement and involuntary migration as well as the need for international co-operation in dealing with mass flows of refugees and displaced persons. In the Charter for European Security of November 1999, OSCE participating States reaffirmed their respective commitments and underlined their will to pursue without discrimination, the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons in their places of origin.

During my tenure as Chairperson-in-Office, I have repeatedly addressed the significance of an effective response to migration, refugee issues and the current IDP crisis at international fora and conferences, including the UN Security Council and the UN Human Rights Commission.

It is recognised that the protection of, and assistance to, millions of people displaced within the borders of their own countries, is a particular challenge to the countries concerned and to the entire international community affected by spreading insecurity. In addition to physical insecurity, human beings facing internal displacement suffer from a range of hardships, such as emotional trauma, separation

from family members, loss of economic opportunities, disruption of education and schooling and the severance of cultural and social ties. Often women and children form the majority of the displaced and carry a disproportionate share of the burden resulting from displacement.

A number of international efforts regarding IDPs are already under way. I would like to mention the Representative of the UN Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons, Prof. Francis Deng. I thank him for his pioneering role as an devoted advocate for internally displaced persons worldwide. For several years now his work has served as a catalyst for effective response.

One of his most important achievements is the development of the 'Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement' reflecting the normative framework for the protection for and assistance to IDPs. These Principles, elaborated at the request of the United Nations, have gained broad international recognition and are being used by many governments as well as international and regional organisations in addressing internal displacement. In particular, the Guiding Principles have proved be a useful tool for a wide range of actors at the field level.

Several other regional organisations have undertaken initiatives with regard to internal displacement, particularly the Organisation of African Unity and the Organisation of American States. I am very pleased that during Austria's chairmanship, the OSCE will for the first time address this issue in a more systematic manner. I believe that the OSCE is well positioned to address the problems of internal displacement in its region. OSCE institutions and field operations can play a particularly important role in protecting the rights of the internally displaced. The Guiding Principles should well be included in the training for and work of members of OSCE field operations, while the ODIHR could consider assisting the participating States in recognising the basic rights of IDPs as citizens.

Migration has been gaining enhanced interest within OSCE as result of the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and developments in the Balkan region.

Responses to the migration phenomenon encompass the entire range of visa and registration policies, border control, the treatment of migrant workers, deprivation of social and political rights as a consequence to restrictions on freedom of movement as well as the phenomenon of corruption and organised crime.

In this context, specific attention should be devoted to irregular migration, in particular to trafficking in migrants for various purposes, a problem unfortunately growing in particular in South Eastern Europe, but not only there.

Trafficking in human beings has therefore been high on the Chair's agenda, such as in the framework of a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on this issue in June and in OSCE's input into the activities of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Only last week, OSCE organised and chaired the inaugural meeting of the Pact's Task Force on trafficking in human beings here in Vienna.

Future local, national and international co-operation requires comprehensive approaches to migration management, dealing with conflict resolution, regional stability, economic progress and the development of civil society. As far as OSCE is concerned, co-operation between OSCE field operations and representatives of other international organisations, such as IOM, UNHCR and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the problems of refugees, displaced persons, migration and asylum issues has to be enhanced.

A holistic and comprehensive approach will certainly bring an additional advantage to the countries of the region and reinforce the respective activities undertaken by ODIHR and the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration and forced displacement by internal conflict and other grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law remain a challenge to which the international community is called upon to respond. Closer co-ordination and co-operation will be essential. Austria in her capacity as OSCE Chair stands ready to undertake all efforts necessary together with other international actors, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and others. I can assure you my continued personal interest in these issues.

I am looking forward at today's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting to a focused and practical debate. I trust that it will benefit from highly professional expert input as well as from lively discussions in order to take the OSCE a step further in responding to the plight of millions of migrants and internally displaced world wide.

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**Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Migration and Internal
Displacement**

Vienna, 25 September 2000

Key-note address by

Pof. Francis M. Deng

**Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally
Displaced Persons and Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution
(Washington, D.C.)**

Your Excellency, Foreign Minister Ferrero-Waldner,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Government of Austria and to the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Her Excellency, Mrs. Benito Ferrero-Waldner. The Government of Austria has been a steadfast supporter of the mandate on internally displaced persons since its inception and this Supplementary Human Dimension meeting on Migration and Internal Displacement represents another significant and welcome initiative in raising the profile of the issue and in seeking effective responses to the considerable challenge posed by internal displacement.

Indeed, internal displacement has come to the fore in recent years as one of the most pressing human rights, humanitarian and political issues facing the international community. Globally, there are an estimated 20-25 million people forcibly displaced within the borders of their own countries by armed conflict and systematic violations of human rights. Of these, between these 5 million are found within the OSCE region, the largest numbers in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Georgia, the Russian Federation, and Turkey.

It was in view of the mounting crisis of internal displacement and its global dimension that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights decided in 1992 to

request the Secretary General to appoint a Representative on Internally Displaced Persons. I was honoured to be asked by the Secretary General to undertake that challenging responsibility.

In the discharge of the mandate, I have conceptualized the role of the Representative as that of a catalyst in the international system and focused my activities on four areas: fostering effective institutional arrangements at the international level for responding to the protection and assistance needs of the internally displaced; developing an appropriate normative framework to these same ends; focusing attention on specific situations through country missions, and undertaking further research to broaden and deepen our understanding of the problem in its various dimensions.

With respect to the first area of work, the gaps in the international system relating to the internally displaced have always been obvious: in contrast to refugees, there is no single specialised agency to provide protection and assistance to the internally displaced. There exist a number of remedial options ranging from the creation of a specialised agency for the internally displaced, to the designation of an existing agency to assume full responsibility for them, to a collaborative arrangement that would utilise existing capacities and enhance the effectiveness of the international system. Regarding the first option, it is clear that there is no political will in the international community to create a new agency for the internally displaced. The argument that one single agency should be charged with responsibility for the internally displaced is an idea that resurfaces periodically, as it did again earlier this year. And yet, a broad consensus has emerged that the problem is too big for one agency and thus requires the collaborative capacities of the international system.

There is, however, a need to strengthen the collaborative approach in order to overcome the challenging problems of co-ordination and the gaps in response, especially in the realm of protection, that frequently arise under the present arrangement. The reform agenda of the UN Secretary General drew special attention to the gaps in the international system in responding to the protection and assistance needs of the internally displaced and gave the Emergency Relief Co-ordinator (ERC) the responsibility of seeing to it that these needs are adequately addressed.

Working in close collaboration with the ERC and within the framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the main international human rights, humanitarian and development agencies have adopted a policy paper on the protection of internally displaced persons, which sets out a number of strategic areas

of activity for ensuring protection. Recently, a coordinator has been appointed to lead an interagency network which will examine a number of country situations of internal displacement with a view to ensuring an effective response to the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons and an appropriate coordination mechanism.

Parallel to the process of supporting greater collaboration at the international level, the mandate also is in the process of furthering co-operation with regional organizations. The importance of regional approaches to the problem of internal displacement should be underscored. Responsibility for preventing and responding to internal displacement crises cannot rest on the United Nations alone. Regional organizations have an important role to play in these respects and indeed, many are beginning, to varying degrees, to devote attention to issues of conflict prevention and mass displacement.

In the case of the OSCE, its evolution from an East-West discussion forum into an operational institution that seeks to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts within States has provided the Organization with significant scope through which to seek to address existing crises of internal displacement and prevent future crises from occurring. The means at the Organization's disposal include its activities of human rights promotion, protection and monitoring, efforts of capacity-building, democratisation and electoral assistance, and its role in assisting in the search for sustainable political solutions to on-going and protracted conflicts. The development of the Organization's work in these areas is most encouraging. Even more encouraging, however is the interest on the part of the OSCE and its participating States, as demonstrated by the convening of this meeting, to devote more focused attention to seeking ways to enhance their response to internal displacement, including by exploring and elaborating ways in which OSCE institutions, field operations and participating States could play a role in the practical application of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

The Guiding Principles are the culmination of several years work towards the development of a comprehensive normative framework for the internally displaced. Beginning in 1994, and at the request of the UN Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly, a team of international legal experts working under my direction first studied the extent to which international law provides adequate protection for internally displaced persons. In a two-part Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms, they found that while existing law covers many aspects of relevance to the situation of internally displaced persons, there nonetheless exist significant gaps

and grey areas where the law fails to provide sufficient protection. They recommended the development of guiding principles to bring together into one compact document all the legal provisions relevant to the internally displaced and to address the gaps and grey areas. The Commission welcomed the Compilation and, on that basis, requested my mandate to develop an appropriate normative framework for the internally displaced. The Guiding Principles were prepared in response to that request.

The Guiding Principles were developed over a period of years and finalised at an expert consultation hosted by the Government of Austria in January 1998, the second meeting hosted by Austria in the process of developing the normative framework. The process was a broad-based one which brought together legal experts from all different parts of the world and included representatives of international organizations, regional intergovernmental bodies, including the OSCE, non governmental organizations at the international and national level, and research and academic institutions.

The Guiding Principles restate the existing norms of human rights and humanitarian law as well as analogous refugee law that are relevant to the internally displaced. Although not a binding instrument, they reflect and are based on existing international law. They set forth the rights of internally displaced persons and the obligations of governments, insurgent groups and other actors toward these populations in all phases of displacement, providing protection against arbitrary displacement, protection and assistance during displacement and during return or resettlement and reintegration. Their aim is to provide practical guidance to all those with a role to play in addressing the plight of the internally displaced.

Since their presentation to the Commission on Human Rights in 1998, the Guiding Principles have been widely acknowledged by UN bodies. The UN Secretary-General has cited the Guiding Principles as a major achievement in the humanitarian area and recommended to the Security Council that in cases of massive displacement, it encourage States to follow the legal guidance provided in the Principles. The Council indeed has begun to refer to them in regard to specific situations. The IASC welcomed the Guiding Principles and called upon its members to disseminate them and have their staffs apply them, especially in the field. The General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have requested that I make use of the Principles in my dialogues with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The General Assembly and the Commission have also encouraged the wide dissemination and application of the Principles by regional organizations. Several regional organizations have indeed begun to disseminate the Principles, to use them as a basis for measuring conditions on the ground, and to sponsor workshops featuring the Principles. In May of this year, the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) co-sponsored with the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement and the Norwegian Refugee Council, a regional workshop on internal displacement in the South Caucasus, convened in Tbilisi, Georgia. Attended by representatives of the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, international organizations, national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international experts, the workshop used the Guiding Principles as a basis for discussing strategies for addressing situations of internal displacement in the region more effectively. A summary report of the workshop is available at this meeting.

Dissemination of the Principles has also been facilitated through their translation into different languages, including those of several OSCE participating States, in particular Russian, Azerbaijani, and Georgian. At the initiative of the Government of Armenia, the Principles will soon also be available in Armenian.

It is my hope that the OSCE will use the Guiding Principles when it deals with situations of internal displacement, in particular through its field staff who have increasingly become involved with displaced populations. The Principles could also assist OSCE Governments with the drafting of laws and policies on internal displacement.

The most tangible means for assessing conditions on the ground and the effectiveness of the international response to specific situations are through on-site visits to affected countries. The country missions that I undertake offer the opportunity for dialogue with Governments and other concerned actors on ways to improve the conditions of the internally displaced, in particular by bridging the gap between principles of protection and assistance and the actual needs of the internally displaced on the ground. They also help advance our understanding of the regional characteristics of internal displacement and the needed response at various levels.

To date, I have undertaken eighteen country missions. Included among these are visits to a number of OSCE participating States, namely the Russian Federation, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and most recently, Georgia and Armenia. I have also been invited to undertake a mission to Turkey next year. In view

of on-going concerns over the plight of those internally displaced by the conflict in Chechnya, I have been engaged in dialogue with the Government of the Russian Federation and hope that my request of March of this year to undertake a mission to the North Caucasus region will be responded to positively.

Finally, the mandate has been involved in the preparation of studies on internal displacement, the most significant of which is the comprehensive study composed of two volumes: Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement and The Forsaken People: Case Studies of the Internally Displaced, published by the Brookings Institution in 1998. The objective of this study was to probe into such issues as the numbers and distribution of internally displaced persons globally, their needs, how they are being met, what gaps exist in meeting them, and how these gaps can be bridged by the international community, including regional organizations and NGOs. The study contains case-studies of several situations of internal displacement in the OSCE region and makes a number of suggestions for how the OSCE could strengthen its effectiveness in matters relating to internal displacement.

In addition, the mandate is also engaged in research into certain thematic issues. A paper on political participation by internally displaced persons in the OSCE region has been prepared by my office and published by the Brookings Institution Project for distribution at this meeting. It reveals that internally displaced persons are often unable to vote on the same terms as their non-displaced compatriots as a result of practical difficulties posed by situations of displacement or deliberate policy choices by national and local authorities. Effective promotion and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and other relevant international standards, including OSCE Human Dimension commitments, both by States and by international actors such as OSCE and ODIHR, is required to address these concerns.

To conclude, I would like to recall one of the findings of the above-mentioned regional workshop on internal displacement in the South Caucasus, notably that the role of regional organizations, as well as international organizations, is critical in several key areas, in particular: advocacy to promote the rights of internally displaced persons, advice to Governments on best practices, and the promotion of political solutions to conflict situations. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide a comprehensive framework for the achievement of these goals. As such, they provide the OSCE and the participating States with a valuable tool with which to meet the challenge posed by internal displacement. I hope this meeting is successful

in elaborating more fully the precise means through which the OSCE and participating States can utilise the Principles to their full potential, thereby meeting that challenge in an effective and timely manner.

25 September 2000

ENGLISH only

**OSCE SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON
MIGRATION AND INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT**

Vienna, 25 September 2000

**Statement by Mr. Peter Schatzer, Director, External Relations
Department and Senior Regional Adviser for Europe
International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

Mr. Chairman,

Madame Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Organization for Migration and its Director General, I am pleased to contribute to this timely meeting. Mr. McKinley, who would have liked to be present here today, has, due to a previously accepted commitment, asked me to speak on his behalf and to convey his thanks to the OSCE and the Austrian Presidency.

Political and economic causes influence migration decisions, and political and economic considerations have a bearing on the responses to migrants in destination and transit countries. Due to the "New Economy" and economic upturn, new labour market needs offer opportunities for migrants at both ends of the employment range - the low level positions that open up when an economy is doing well, and the high-end positions that have to be filled in a dynamic manner to keep economic growth on track. These labour market needs have in a few cases already led to new initiatives and programmes. One example is the IOM-coordinated seasonal labour programme from Albania to Italy. Such programmes help opening up regular channels for economic migrants who frequently claim that it is the lack of such channels that forces them into going via illegal routes.

Demographic factors such as the ageing of populations in many industrialized societies add a further dimension, and so does the globalization of information and transport opportunities. Not all of the information that lures migrants to new shores is however correct or truthful. Providing accurate information to potential migrants poses a formidable challenge - including to international organizations.

Reports about growing numbers of irregular migrants, the increasing number of countries affected by migration and the need - also for the stability of democratic societies - to take concrete and swift measures to deal with the negative aspects that dominate many debates about international migration today, add to the complexity of the phenomenon.

Statements about the positive role that migration has played - and can continue to play - in the development of many societies will not receive the attention they deserve if a wide public perceives migration as freighted with crime, unemployment, competition for low-level jobs, loss of ethnic identity, etc. Among the dramatic news about such negative connotations it goes unnoticed that a large majority of the estimated 150 million international migrants make valuable contributions to the economies and societies of their host countries, and contribute more to their home countries through remittances than does official overseas aid.

Allow me to illustrate the intricacy of what we have to deal with: a speedboat operated by smugglers travelling by night across the Adriatic might have aboard asylum seekers, irregular migrants in search of work, women forced into sexual exploitation and common criminals seeking to develop their dubious activities in Western Europe and beyond.

Another example comes from a recent FAO report on the drought in Tajikistan:

"Many households have exhausted their coping capabilities; often they have absolutely no alternative sources of income to make up for the loss of harvest and income. Some households have planted second crops. However, chances of a good harvest are low on the second crop as the water levels in the canals and rivers are low and irrigation pumps are not functioning properly due both to their poor state of repair and disrupted electricity supply. Many men are planning to borrow money and migrate to the Russian Federation to look for employment. However, most households realise the difficulties in finding employment but still see this to be as the only option out. Those who have found work in Russia have done so in low paying

jobs and are unable to remit money to the families they left behind. Many have failed to find any kind of job and are unable to come back."

I cite these cases to underline the complexity involved, in particular of the human dimension already evoked by you, Madame Chairperson-in-Office. When dealing with migration, and in particular when combating irregular migration, ensuring human security remains a formidable task.

IOM's constitution contains the basic human rights principle of the free movement of persons. Much of the work of the CSCE also focused on this important notion. This right to leave one's country and return to it is a well-established principle of international law and one basic legal principle on migration. There is however no single source of international law governing the movement of persons, their rights and their obligations. Instead, elements can be found in United Nations human rights and ILO conventions, regional conventions, UN Conference Programmes of Action etc. The most recent and comprehensive - although not binding - compendium of commitments in this regard is Chapter X of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Cairo Programme of Action also includes a reference that "the long-term manageability of international migration hinges on making the option to remain in one's country a viable one for all people. "

Another issue is the ability of officials and the availability of the tools necessary to manage migration. This requires administrations to be capable of negotiating within established and accepted rules, with a common background and with the best interest of those involved in mind. In countries with limited migration experience, specific laws have to be adopted. Training of officials including border guards, but also of NGO staff, in migration law and migration management, merits growing attention and resources. In the OSCE region, much of this has already been achieved or at least initiated, for instance under the CIS process and in EU-accession related procedures. But more remains to be done, especially with countries only recently affected by migration and that do not envisage EU membership in the near future.

The cross-border nature of international migration makes wide-reaching cooperation in search of solutions not just a logical consequence but a political imperative. But international dialogue on migration is still in its early phase. Given the large number of organizations dealing with elements of the overall migration scenario, we have joined forces with the United Nations, namely UNITAR, UNFPA

and the ILO, in setting up the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) that carries out training in migration legislation and practice and supports initiatives to foster regional migration dialogues. OSCE member states are involved in several of these regional migration diplomacy efforts which bring together officials from countries in "migration regions" e.g. in Central and North America in the Puebla group and in Europe within the Budapest group, the Nordic Baltic region and the CIS conference follow-up.

This latter process has emerged from the 1996 Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring Countries. It has established a broad framework for governments to address migration and displacement problems in accordance with international standards and has provided a basis for other interested states and organizations (UNHCR, IOM, OSCE) to support CIS countries in an effort to link migration, displacement and security through complementarity of expertise and objectives. The last Steering Group meeting in July 2000 recommended the continuation of the process through 2004.

Within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, IOM has at the invitation of the Special Coordinator, launched the Cross-Table Migration Initiative (CTMI). The rationale underlying this idea is that migration issues and their regularisation are key factors in the overall search for stability. Regional cooperation models designed to achieve durable peace and cooperation should include migration management elements. The CTMI is tasked with addressing migration management concerns of relevance across the subject matters of all three Working Tables of the Stability Pact. Furthermore, we are also actively involved in the Pact's Refugee Return Steering Group, as well as the Task Force on Trafficking which is organised under the auspices of Working Table III related to Security as well as Justice and Home Affairs issues and chaired by the OSCE.

And as we meet here today, a ground breaking training session on migration management for the Western Mediterranean region under the Odysseus programme is being opened in Tunis - the reason for the absence of IOM's Director General from Vienna. This meeting brings together high-level officials from the South of the Mediterranean and experts and practitioners from Europe. We hope that this event will lead to more systematic approaches across the Mediterranean basin.

OSCE and IOM have, over recent years, developed an impressive track record of cooperation in the management of migration related questions. They range from registration for humanitarian evacuations, to setting up the operational capacity to allow refugees to vote in elections that decide on the future of their homelands and thus contribute to stability and conditions conducive to return, the integration of persons of different nationality in States that have been newly created or re-established, the return home of IDPs and of nationals to their countries of origin and, last but not least, a growing number of activities to combat trafficking in human beings and assist its victims.

Future cooperation could occur not only in present crisis areas, such as South Ossetia, Nagorno Karabakh or Tadjikistan, or in support of Meshketian return initiatives to Georgia; in a more generic form, they can present themselves in the context of programme strategies directed at achieving stability through local governance or democratic participation of displaced populations and migrants (e.g. through future out-of-country voting programmes). In addition, border management development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia too supports security concepts and stabilization efforts.

In these and other areas where mandates and ability to take concrete action intersect, IOM stands ready to work with the OSCE. This can occur either within broad inter-agency frameworks or on the basis of specific Memoranda of Understanding for particular programmes. We see our cooperation characterised by responsiveness, flexibility and pragmatism.

Thank you very much.