



## **10-Point Plan Expert Roundtable No. 1: Controlling Borders while Ensuring Protection 20 – 21 November 2008, Geneva**

*[T]here's a way they search you if you are someone who simply doesn't have papers. You are automatically made to feel like a criminal. I felt I was being criminalized... There was a feeling that if you told the truth, they would arrest you. Things get decided when you are in that queue. There are even people who change their story when they get there. Someone even told me 'if you have serious problems, then don't show your passport'.....*

Barry, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo arriving in Belgium<sup>1</sup>

### **Introduction**

UNHCR in cooperation with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva is planning to host an expert roundtable entitled 'Controlling borders while ensuring protection' in Geneva on 20 and 21 November 2008. The purpose of the roundtable is to identify key objectives of a protection-sensitive entry system in a mixed migration context and practical measures as to how they can be achieved.

Based on UNHCR's "10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration" (10 Point Plan)<sup>2</sup>, the roundtable aims at assessing past experiences and explore concrete steps to overcome real or perceived obstacles. Participants will discuss concrete measures on how to reconcile States' interest to effectively control their national borders, to curb irregular migration and prevent security threats, and the international protection needs of individuals.

The roundtable will bring together experts involved in border/entry management, at national land, sea or air borders. These will include government officials, international and national governmental and non-governmental organisations, private actors and academia from different regions.

The roundtable is the first of four UNHCR will organise as part of a two-year project on UNHCR's 10-Point Plan. The project also encompasses the compilation of good practices for a protection-sensitive management of mixed movements, which will be published in the form of a handbook structured along the 10-Point Plan. The discussions in the roundtables will constitute a primary source of good practice examples for the handbook.

Furthermore, the project includes the organisation of four regional conferences.<sup>3</sup> Together the three project strands examine the central topic of mixed migration from different perspectives: The regional stakeholder conferences aim at enhancing responses to mixed migration in a particular regional context; the expert roundtables

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<sup>1</sup> "Barry," *Refugees Stories Project*, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (Brussels) [<http://www.ecre.org/refugeestories/files/Barry.pdf>].

<sup>2</sup> This document is available at: [[www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf)].

<sup>3</sup> For full details on the Two Year Project on the 10 Point Plan, please visit: [[www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/483bca3a2.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/483bca3a2.pdf)].



have a thematic focus and will assist in the further development of practical responses within the 10-Point Plan; the 10-Point Plan Handbook is a compilation of key practical examples across regions.

### Suggested participants:

Around 30 experts from governments, international agencies, academia and civil society will be invited. The participants will be chosen on the basis of their in-depth knowledge of, and practical experience in, the topic for discussion, and may include:

- **Governments:** Border and coast guards, interior ministries, airport authorities, consular/visa officers, etc.
- **IGOs:** UNHCR, IOM, FRONTEX, UNODC, Interpol
- **NGOs:** UK Refugee Council, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, etc.
- **Private Actors:** Airline and shipping companies
- **Academia:** Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, etc.

### Proposed agenda:

#### DAY 1

8:30 – 9:00	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Welcome</b>
9:15 – 9:30	<b>Introductory Session:</b> <u><i>The 10 Point Plan of Action and Two Year Project</i></u>
9:30 – 10:30	<b>Opening Session:</b> <u><i>Establishing a working definition of “protection-sensitive entry systems”</i></u>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Working Session I:</b> <u><i>Reconciling (state) security and (refugee) protection</i></u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What are the core functions of a protection-sensitive entry system?</li> <li>ii. Is there a conflict of interest between border control and international protection objectives?</li> <li>iii. Are there specific protection safeguards required in the context of combating international crime, such as smuggling and trafficking?</li> </ol>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch



- 13:30 – 15:00      **Working Session II: Protection-sensitive entry systems: A common task**
- i.      Who are the main actors of a protection-sensitive entry system?
  - ii.     What are their respective roles and responsibilities?
  - iii.    Are there any protection tasks that do not fall within the mandate of a specific actor?
  - iv.     Other challenges
- 15:00 – 15:30      Coffee Break
- 15:30 – 17:00      **Special Session: Identifying the legal problems implicated in protection-sensitive entry systems**
- i.      Extra-territorial application of the *non-refoulement* principle
  - ii.     Non-penalization of entry of asylum-seekers
  - iii.    State obligations and private actors in the entry system
- 18:00 – 19:00      Reception

## DAY 2

- 9:00 – 10:30      **Working Session III: Establishing and improving protection-sensitive entry systems**
- i.      Which are the main steps to establish such a system?
  - ii.     What resources and tools are needed?
  - iii.    How can training, monitoring and other support best contribute to the improvement of the system?
- 10:30 – 11:00      Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30      **Working Session IV: Controlling Borders and Mixed Migration: An international phenomenon requiring international cooperation**
- i.      What is the relevance of information sharing and information networks?
  - ii.     Which local, regional or global approaches have been useful?
  - iii.    How can ideas and best practices be better exchanged and discussed?
- 12:30 – 13:30      Lunch
- 13:30 – 14:30      **Conclusions, Recommendations and Closure**

