

High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges: Protection at sea

Regional roundtable: protection at sea in the Mediterranean

Wednesday, 10 December 2014, 13:15-15:00
Palais des Nations, Room XVII

Moderator:

Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on International Migration and Development

Panellists:

Admiral Giuseppe De Giorgi, Chief of the Italian Navy

Mr. Laurent Muschel, Director of Migration and Asylum, Directorate General Home Affairs, European Commission

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Dayri, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Libya

Mr. Syver Grepstad, Norwegian Seafarer

Mr. Vincent Cochetel, Director, Regional Bureau for Europe, UNHCR



UNHCR / A. D'Amato

The High Commissioner's Dialogue on protection at sea has both a thematic and geographic focus. The events unfolding in Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and elsewhere are reminders that the need to ensure international protection for refugees is as urgent as ever. With few opportunities to enter Europe by regular means, thousands of people threatened by persecution and serious human rights violations in their home countries are undertaking risky journeys by sea to reach safety. The dramatic situation at Europe's southern sea borders, with the increasing death toll in the Mediterranean Sea and the large numbers of refugees and migrants risking their lives in unseaworthy vessels, is a wake-up call and highlights the need for joint European action based upon solidarity and burden-sharing. UNHCR's Central Mediterranean Sea Initiative is a comprehensive strategy, including a 12-point action plan, promoting urgent and collective action needed to save lives and uphold the tradition of rescue at sea.

*Sandwiches will be provided for participants outside of the room.
Interpretation will be offered in Arabic, English and French.*