



Caribbean Regional Conference on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons in Mixed Migration Flows

Promoting Cooperation and Identification of Good Practices

Nassau, The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

22-23 May 2013

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Conference participants, recognizing the unique and diverse character of the Caribbean, underscored the need to enhance regional cooperation and partnership in order to respect international and regional protection standards and to improve the management of mixed migration flows in the Caribbean

KEY TOPICS

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

Enhancing Regional Cooperation

Delegates agreed to recommend that consideration be given to working together to establish a regional consultative process; and highlighted the need for such tools as:

- Guidelines for the efficient treatment and protection of refugees and vulnerable migrants within mixed flows
- Data collection and analysis that are in line with international legal standards and instruments applicable to refugees and vulnerable migrants
- *A Model Framework for Co-operation following Rescue at Sea Operations involving Refugees and Asylum-seekers*, taking into account the regional specificities, to clarify roles and responsibilities related to rescue-at-sea and disembarkation
- Differentiated procedures for refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children

Enhancing National and Regional Capacities

Delegates agreed to recommend that consideration be given to enhancing national and regional capacities to effectively manage mixed migration flows, through action such as:

- Training and capacity building programs and curricula
- Legislative frameworks to:
 - Protect refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable migrants; and
 - Criminalize and prosecute traffickers and smugglers.
- Identification and referral mechanisms at entry points for the different categories of persons in mixed migration
- Sharing best practices
- Mobilization of adequate resources

Identifying Solutions

Delegates agreed to recommend that consideration be given to exploring mechanisms to more effectively identify solutions for refugees and vulnerable migrants within mixed flows, such as:

- Protection safeguards in multilateral and bilateral agreements
- Recognizing that refugees and other vulnerable persons should be informed of their rights and responsibilities in relation to all solutions
- Better public awareness of the realities of mixed migration flows