

Global Roundtable on Temporary Protection 15 – 16 July 2013

International Institute of Humanitarian Law,
Villa Ormond, San Remo, Italy

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

In 2011, UNHCR embarked on a process to study the history, contemporary content and application of the concept of temporary protection. In 2012, UNHCR convened an Expert Roundtable on Temporary Protection in San Remo, Italy, to discuss the scope and meaning of temporary protection and its relevance to various situations. The roundtable brought together 19 international experts from 15 countries, drawn from NGOs, academia, regional and international organizations, as well as from each of UNHCR's regional operations. The Expert Roundtable led to the adoption of Summary Conclusions.¹

The Summary Conclusions acknowledge that temporary protection is a well-established concept and practice of international refugee law, particularly as a response to the mass movement of asylum-seekers.² They further highlight that temporary protection has particular utility in response to humanitarian crises and complex cross-border population movements, predicted on responsibility- and burden sharing,³ while ensuring protection from *refoulement* and basic minimum treatment. As such, it could be particularly suited to regions in which the 1951 Refugee Convention is not generally applicable, most notably Asia and the Middle East.⁴ In recognizing the need for a predictable, harmonized yet flexible response to humanitarian crises and complex population movements, UNHCR was encouraged

‘to draft a model framework on temporary protection, and to pursue it in two regional organizations/processes. The League of Arab States and the Bali Process were expressly mentioned. The drafting of a Protocol to one of the existing treaties, on the other hand, was regarded as premature’.⁵

The model framework could address the scope of temporary protection, minimum standards of treatment, conditions under which such protection would come to an end, international cooperation and burden sharing, consultation and coordination, and the role of UNHCR and other relevant actors.⁶

¹ UN High Commissioner for Refugees, *Roundtable on Temporary Protection : 19-20 July 2012. International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy : Summary Conclusions on Temporary Protection*, 20 July 2012, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/506d908a2.html>.

² Id., para. 1.

³ Id., paras. 3, 4.

⁴ Id., paras. 7, 8.

⁵ Id., p. 7.

⁶ Id.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

The second Global Roundtable on Temporary Protection shall review the draft Global Framework on Temporary Protection, as well as explore its practical applicability to a range of contemporary situations.

3. Convenor

The Global Roundtable on Temporary Protection will be convened by UNHCR and hosted by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

4. Participants

A select group of participants, including Government officials, leading academics, practitioners, NGOs and international organizations and UNHCR will be invited to the roundtable to contribute to these discussions.

5. Timing and location

Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th of July 2013 at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Villa Ormond, San Remo, Italy. Participants are expected to attend the entire meeting.

6. Documentation

A Draft Global Framework on Temporary Protection, together with the Summary Conclusions and other background materials shall guide the work at the meeting, and be provided in due course.

**Division of International Protection
15 March 2013**