

## Template for Notetaking for the IMRF in-person side-event

### Preparedness for the Next Pandemic: Towards a Resilient Global

#### Architecture on Borders and Health

Date and time: May 19, 2022 / 8:30-9:30am

Notetakers: Xin Guo, Lawrence Huang

Notes of the session	Member State/UN/Stakeholder
<p>Participants reflected on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, exchanged on a set of guiding principles to manage mobility during public health crises, and began discussions to advance global consensus on borders and health through a Group of Friends.</p> <p>Key lessons learned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human mobility must be integrated into pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery planning.</li> <li>• Four key principles should guide how governments manage mobility: travel measures should be clear, equitable, streamlined, and future-focused.</li> <li>• Travel restrictions needed to be closely aligned with neighboring countries and implemented in consultation with experts and affected populations.</li> <li>• The pandemic forced countries to innovate with new digital technologies for safe, contactless travel.</li> <li>• Many countries had to accommodate huge numbers of returnees and worked to facilitate their mobility back to the destination countries.</li> <li>• Cross-jurisdictional, multi-sectoral coordination, as well as international partnerships and capacity building, were essential.</li> <li>• Inclusive, non-discriminatory access to vaccination and testing for all migrants and equitable vaccine distribution is needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Organization for Migration (IOM)</li> <li>• World Health Organization (WHO)</li> <li>• Migration Policy Institute (MPI)</li> <li>• Government of Australia</li> <li>• Government of Colombia</li> <li>• Government of Kenya</li> <li>• Government of the Philippines</li> <li>• Government of the United States</li> <li>• Africa Centres for Disease Control</li> <li>• Quakers United Nations Office</li> </ul>
<p>Summary (500 words max)</p>	



## Introduction

### **Andrew Selee: President, Migration Policy Institute**

- Pointed out there is a lack of common standards common tools to prove vaccination status across borders, and a common understanding of what works to manage public health risk. We fail to build consensus of such critical issues, and therefore creating an increasingly unequal global mobility system.
- MPI is advancing [four guiding principles](#) to manage borders and mobility in the age of pandemics: Travel measures, from border closures to testing requirements, should be clear, equitable, streamlined, and future focused.

### **António Vitorino: Director General, International Organization for Migration**

- Recalled that this is an issue that has preoccupied IOM since March 2020. IOM has been systematically collecting data on travel restrictions and measures taken at the border crossing points, working with States to help manage security at the border, and providing support to migrants stranded by the pandemic.
- Stressed that it is essential to ensure that human mobility is fully incorporated into pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plan. From IOM perspective, this includes the need to promote principles for managing migration and travel during pandemics that are clear, equitable, streamlined, and above all future focus.
- Noted challenges that prevent many migrants from pursuing regular migration pathways include access to vaccination. Cited data that while almost all 93% of the country assured that migrants in regular situations have access to COVID-19 vaccines, only 56% give access to migrants in irregular situations.
- Noted comprehensive pandemic preparedness and response plan will integrate border management measures within all of government approaches and international cooperation to promote resilience. A cross border and cross sectorial collaborative approach will be more cost-effective.
- Expressed support for the creation of the Member-States led Group of Friends on cross border mobility within pandemic preparedness, to complement and support the ongoing review of international health regulations and Member State negotiations towards the pandemic treaty, in line with objective 12 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

### **Zsuzsanna Jakab: Deputy Director-General, World Health Organization**

- The pandemic has hindered Universal Health Coverage (UHC) commitment by exacerbating inequalities and inequities in access to health services. Over 90% of countries reported disruptions to essential health services. Disruptions in immunization programs and immunization campaigns also impacted migrants.
- Only 17% of 104 national deployment vaccination plan (NDVPs) submitted to the COVAX Facility explicitly included migrants in irregular situations.
- Introduced that during the special session of the General Assembly, a decision was taken to negotiate an international instrument on pandemic preparedness. This can promote better transparency, accountability, and effectively managing future public emergencies. The working group is strengthening preparedness and response towards global policies to address the current pandemic and prevent future crisis.
- Emphasized that the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator is crucial to address systematic gaps and inequalities.

## Panel discussion

### **Blas Nuñez-Neto: Acting Assistant Secretary, Border and Immigration Policy, Department of**

**Homeland Security, United States**



## Key Terms:

**(Recruitment) business partners:** entities with which a company (business enterprise) has some form of direct and formal engagement for the purpose of recruitment activities.

**Country of destination:** the destination for a person or a group of persons, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.

**Country of origin:** a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.

**Debt bondage:** the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his or her personal services or those of a person under his or her control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined.

**Discrimination:** any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as race, colour, sex, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms.

**Due diligence:** an ongoing risk management process that a reasonable and prudent business enterprise needs to follow in order to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how it addresses its adverse human rights impacts. It includes four key steps: assessing actual and potential human rights impacts; integrating and acting on the findings; tracking responses; and communicating about how impacts are addressed.

**Exploitation:** the act of taking advantage of something or someone, in particular the act of taking unjust advantage of another for one's own benefit.

**Employment agent/agency:** any natural or legal person who provides services consisting of hiring or engaging migrant workers to make them available to a third party (see “end-user employer” below) that assigns tasks and supervises the execution of these tasks

**Employer:** a person or an entity that engages employees or workers, either directly or indirectly.

**End-user employer:** also referred to as a “user enterprise”; a business enterprise that contracts the services of an employment agency, which in turn provides the services of an agency worker. The end-user employer usually supervises the work and it is normally performed on its premises; however, the end-user employer is not party to the employer–employee contract, or responsible for payment of wages directly to the worker.

**Forced labour:** work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/herself voluntarily.

**Grievance:** a perceived injustice evoking an individual's or a group's sense of entitlement, which may be based on law, contract, explicit or implicit promises, customary practice, or general notions of fairness of aggrieved communities.

**Grievance mechanism:** any routinized, State-based or non-State-based, judicial or non-judicial process through which grievances concerning business-related human rights abuse can be raised and remedy can be sought.

**Labour migration:** movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment.

**Labour recruiter:** any natural or legal person who performs a licensed recruitment function, including recruitment agents and employment agents.



**Migrant worker:** a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which that person is not a national.

**Migration:** the movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State.

**Pre-departure orientation programmes:** courses designed to help prospective migrants acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to facilitate their integration into the country of destination. They also address expectations and provide a safe environment in which to answer migrants' questions and concerns.

**Recruitment:** includes the advertising, information dissemination, selection, transport, placement into employment and – for migrant workers – return to the country of origin where applicable. This applies to both jobseekers and those in an employment relationship.

**Recruitment fees and costs:** any fees or costs incurred in the recruitment process in order for workers to secure employment or placement, regardless of the manner, timing or location of their imposition or collection.

**Remedy:** the (legal) processes aimed at redressing the violation of a right, as well as the substantive outcome of such a process.

**Subagent:** informal and unlicensed individual agents who, working in usually loose partnerships with labour recruiters, are often the first point of contact for individuals seeking foreign employment. Subagents charge fees for their services, which distinguishes them from other individuals within “social networks” that facilitate migration without charging fees.

**Subcontractor:** a person or business (operating as a registered entity) which has a contract (as an “independent contractor and not an employee”) with a contractor (labour recruiter) to provide some portion of the work or services on a project which the contractor has agreed to perform. The subcontractor is paid by the contractor for the services provided.