

represented a first gathering of Governments from the three sub-regions to discuss priorities and establish common understandings on key migration and forced displacement issues. The follow-up conference in Addis Ababa, which was organised in collaboration with the African Union (AU), sought to go into further depth on issues identified in Nairobi and, in particular, to begin to respond to its recommendations. It did so in part via IMP's newly established *Country Reporting System (CRS)*, aimed at measuring and evaluating the concrete impact of action recommendations adopted by Governments and other participants at IMP meetings. Governments, based on questionnaires that they had completed under the CRS, were invited to report on concrete action and progress made since the Nairobi Conference. Operational IMP partner agencies also presented reports on their activities.

Furthermore, at the IMP Conference in Addis Ababa, an informal IMP/AU document entitled "*Towards the Establishment of a Strategic Framework for a Policy of Migration in Africa*" (identified as "Strategic Framework" from now on) was presented to African Governments. Based on the OAU Lusaka Declaration (2001), the AU had requested IMP in early 2003 to develop such a draft framework, which was developed in consultation with IOM, ILO and UNHCR. The Strategic Framework was welcomed by government representatives, who asserted that a pan-African document such as this Strategic Framework developed by IMP constitutes a most useful tool for developing and presenting a co-ordinated international migration policy position based on common priorities, both in discussions within and beyond Africa. Participants agreed to provide additional input and comments to IMP and to follow the evolution and eventual presentation of the Strategic Framework in future meetings of African government experts and to the Summit of AU Heads of State with the objective of creating an instrument that could be implemented as a practice-related and concrete tool for action by Governments and other concerned stakeholders.

2. *The Issyk-Kul Dialogue (Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States)*

In July 2002 in Istanbul, Turkey, IMP organised the Third Meeting of the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue*, covering Central Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States and bringing together, to the extent possible, the same government officials who had attended other *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* meetings.²

On the basis of the priorities identified at the 2001 meeting, this five-day meeting focused on migration, human security, state security and regional stability. Topics discussed under this rubric included, *inter alia*, border control, irregular migration and asylum; the security needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants; human trafficking and migrant smuggling including health-care concerns, particularly the problem of HIV/AIDS in the region; safeguards for refugees and migrants in the context of combating terrorism; the impact of migration, refugee and internally displaced person flows on state security, local host communities, and regional security and stability; conflict prevention; and protracted displacement situations, post-conflict rehabilitation, return and repatriation.

Recommendations emanating from the meeting dealt specifically with the situation in Afghanistan (a new participant in the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue*); measures to ensure prevention, protection and prosecution strategies relating to trafficking in persons; irregular migration, asylum and border management; and national and regional security and stability. The 2002 *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* meeting in Istanbul also provided an occasion to gather results from the (2001-2002) IMP/UNFPA Migration Data and Definitions Pilot Project, launched in August 2001 with the generous financial support of UNFPA, one of IMP's co-sponsoring agencies.

In line with the Istanbul Conclusions and Recommendations (2002), IMP is currently planning the fourth meeting of the *Issyk-Kul Dialogue*, scheduled for December 2003 or early January 2004 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The fourth meeting will focus on one or two of the following priority areas identified in July 2002:

² The *Issyk-Kul Dialogue* is comprised of countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan), the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Neighbouring States (Afghanistan, China, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey).

labour migration; migration and human rights and human security; co-operation through sub-regional groupings; and m

A key aim of the Conference was to bring together donors, interested Governments, leading banks and other agencies to discuss key development issues and challenges relating to migrant labour remittances; to identify and learn from notable regional and country initiatives that have reduced the cost of remittances and eased the access to other financial services for migrant workers; and to define a more collaborative global strategy for enhancing the developmental impact of remittances using low-cost, convenient and accessible national and international remittance facilities.

In preparation for the Conference, IMP was commissioned by DFID to prepare a research document entitled “Labour Remittances: Country of Origin Experiences, Strategies, Policies, Challenges, Needs and Concerns”, highlighting the perspectives of Governments in developing countries and countries in transition on this issue, and reflecting positions expressed at IMP meetings. The paper was presented and distributed at the London Conference.⁷

⁷ Available upon request at unimp@gve.ch.