



IOM Media Briefing

THE [MIGRATION] NEWSDESK

Latest Press Briefing Notes from the International Organization for Migration presented twice weekly at the UN in Geneva

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Photo: UN Photo/Joao Araujo Pinto

IOM Welcomes UN Member State Consensus Ahead of Summit on Refugees and Migrants

Posted on Fri. August-5-2016

Switzerland - Paving the way for the 19 September Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, Member States at the United Nations in New York, on 2 August, reached consensus on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

The Summit will be the first such Head of State gathering on refugees and migrants in the United Nations, and provides a historic opportunity to improve the international community's collective response.

It is taking place against a backdrop of unprecedented human mobility around the world, coupled with protracted situations of displacement in many countries, and the dangerous rise of anti-migrant sentiment, xenophobia, racism and discrimination.

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing noted that it was encouraging that Heads of State and Government would now be able, on 19 September, to make commitments and pave a course to significantly improve the lives and well-being of migrants worldwide, and to improve the governance of migration.

"I commend the member states for their expressed commitment to fully protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status, and their pledge to combat with all the means at their disposal the abuses and exploitation suffered by countless refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations," he said.

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Aid reaches Syrians stranded at the Jordanian border. Photo: WFP

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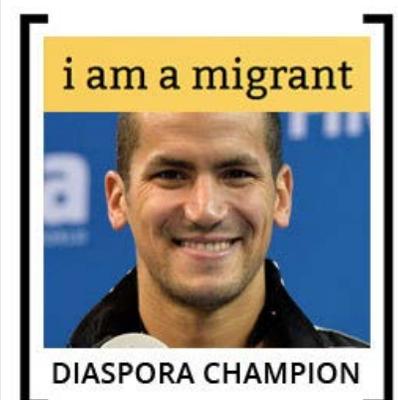
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"Every move has been fundamental to my success. If I had stayed in my home country would I have won three Olympic medals?" - [Oussama](#), from Tunisia to the United States.

IOM, UN Agencies Deliver Urgent Relief to People Stranded at Syria-Jordan Border

Posted on Fri. August-5-2016

Switzerland - World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Ertharin Cousin, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake, and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Director General William Lacy Swing today announced the successful completion of a relief operation to provide more than 75,000 people with food and humanitarian relief items.

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A Ghanaian mother learns more about IOM's "Free to be Me" toolkit. The project aims at combatting child trafficking in eight districts of the Volta Region. [Follow us.](#)



IOM Chief of Staff Ovais Sarmad addresses the ARCP. Photo: IOM

IOM Supports Arab League Preparations for UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants

Posted on Fri. August-5-2016

Egypt - The Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration (ARCP) met this week (2-3 August) to prepare for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants to be held in New York on 19 September.

The meeting was convened by the League of Arab States, with IOM and the UNHCR providing technical support. The deliberations from this meeting will provide a regional contribution from Arab League member states to the UNGA Plenary Meeting and to the process to conclude two global compacts – one on refugees, and the other on safe, orderly and regular migration – which are expected to be launched on 19 September.

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“QUOTE OF THE day”

"We need to find alternatives. We need legal channels for safe migration not just for those that are entitled to international protection, not just the refugees, but also for migrants who can contribute to European economies, labor markets." - Federico Soda, Director, IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean. [More here.](#)

Migration Flows Europe



For the latest Mediterranean Update data on arrivals and fatalities please visit: <http://migration.iom.int/europe> #MigrationEurope

Migration in the News

- [AFP](#), [UN](#), [Thomson Reuters](#), [Charity Today](#) and [ANSA Med](#) reported that the heads of IOM, WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF have announced the successful completion of a relief operation to provide food and other humanitarian aid to over 75,000 people trapped on the Syria-Jordan border.
- [NPR](#) interviewed IOM's Federico Soda on the increase of migrant deaths in the Mediterranean since last year.
- [Daily Mail](#) reported that a Congolese mother gave birth aboard an Italian Navy ship after being rescued off the coast of Sicily with her partner and 870 other asylum seekers. It quoted IOM's Flavio Di Giacomo.
- [Washington Post](#) reported that aid groups in South Sudan say continued violence is preventing them from getting food and medicine to severely malnourished children whose mothers are too hungry to feed them. It quoted IOM's Ashley McLaughlin.
- [CNN](#) reported on Libya's ongoing civil conflict. It cited IOM figures.
- [The Guardian](#) reported that asylum claims in Costa Rica are set to quadruple this year from 2014. It now plans to offer temporary protection to 200 pre-screened refugees from the region for up to six months while their US asylum applications are processed. UNHCR and IOM will cover the cost.
- [The Irrawaddy](#) reported that service centers for Burmese refugees who wish to return home will soon be opened in camps along the Thai-Burma border. But areas that many of the refugees fled from are still considered unsafe. The Voluntary Repatriation Centers will be set up with the support of agencies including IOM.

Trending on the Internet

- [DW](#) reported that Hungary has stopped thousands of refugees and migrants from coming into the country, but now needs foreigners to help meet its labor shortage.
- [The Guardian](#) reported that a scheme to reclaim eroded and deforested land is offering young Ethiopians an alternative to risky irregular migration abroad.

Media Contacts

For comment / interviews on today's news, please go to the contact(s) listed at the end of each press briefing note.
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