



The MICIC Initiative Guidelines and the September General Assembly High-Level Event on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

United Nations High-Level Event on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. The Secretary General's report for the meeting, *In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants*, recommends that Heads of State "give favorable consideration to incorporating the insights into national policies and practices, of the State-led Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative to protect and assist migrants caught in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters".

The Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Initiative

The MICIC Initiative, launched in 2014, seeks to improve the protection of migrants when the countries in which they live, work, study or travel are affected by conflict or natural disaster. Led by the governments of the Philippines and the United States, the MICIC Initiative Working Group undertook a broad, inclusive consultation process in order to produce non-binding and voluntary *Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster* ("Guidelines") <http://micicinitiative.iom.int/>.

The MICIC Initiative and its Guidelines

The Guidelines offer practical, concrete advice for States, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector, including those who employ and recruit migrants, on how to plan for and include migrants, without discrimination, in crisis response. The Guidelines seek to strengthen local, national, regional, and international action to promote the wellbeing of migrants, their families, and societies. The Guidelines are an important contribution to efforts to address large movements of migrants and the migration consequences of crisis. The non-binding Guidelines complement the existing legal frameworks and mechanisms that address the protection of refugees and stateless persons.

The MICIC Initiative also demonstrates the merits of a State-led, yet inclusive, collaborative, and multi-stakeholder process. Co-led by the Philippines and the United States, the MICIC Initiative Working Group is comprised of the governments of Australia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International

Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, and the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University. IOM serves as the Secretariat for the MICIC Initiative. The Guidelines were developed through a series of six regional governmental consultations sponsored by the European Commission, six parallel regional civil society led and organized consultations, consultations with the private sector, civil society, and partner inter-governmental organizations sponsored by the United States and Australia. The consultation process was complemented by targeted research and capacity building. Such an inclusive process, focused on practical, useful guidance, reinforces the collective responsibility to improve the governance of migration. The MICIC Initiative and the Nansen Initiative are model processes for developing further guidance and engagement on addressing migrants' vulnerabilities and needs more broadly.