

Report on the Workshop and Planning Session

"Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration in Africa -With Special Emphasis on Trafficking in Women and Children"

Durban, South Africa, 28-29 August 2001

1. The Background

IMADR jointly with Alternatives (Canada) organized on 28 August 2001 in Durban, South Africa, the "Workshop to Promote Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration in Africa: With Special Emphasis on Trafficking in Women and Children" as part of the NGO Forum, preceding the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR). The workshop was sponsored by CIDA (Canada) and received technical support from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It was followed by a closed Planning Meeting which discussed the proposed project of the same name, which is under consideration by IMADR and Alternatives.

For IMADR, the workshop was designed on the basis of its activities to combat trafficking in women and children, which launched in 1993. It was when trafficking in women was condemned by the World Conference on Human Rights as violence against women as well as racial discrimination against vulnerable women of vulnerable social categories, and therefore a typical case of dual discrimination combining gender and racial discrimination.

The Project Against Trafficking in Women developed by IMADR included a series of workshops in Asia which began in Tokyo in 1994 and was followed by meetings in Chengmai, Beijing, Colombo and Tokyo. It also included activities at the UN such as the 1999 Consultation in Geneva preceding the annual session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Research activities were also conducted with the support of the Toyota Foundation, first in 1994-96 and then on 2000-2001.

The Workshop was based on these prior activities in terms of the programme of the NGO Forum Workshop of 28 August and the Planning Session of the 29 August. The Workshop singled out the human insecurity built in the Africa-Europe trafficking routes, focusing on how the UN and the NGO communities in the sending and receiving countries should cooperate.

The Planning Session developed a comparative approach between Asia, Europe and Africa, putting the Africa-Europe trafficking within the context of the global criminal networks of exploitative migration, and discussed the concrete means to promote human security in order to prevent exploitative migration, primarily in Africa but within all the regions connected with each other by the global criminal networks.

2. The Workshop

The above-mentioned Workshop took place as part of the WCAR NGO Forum from 15:00 to 17:00, on 28 August at the Hoy Park Club in Durban. After a brief introduction by Kinhide Mushakoji (IMADR) and Farida Osmani (Alternatives), the first presentation was made by Ms. Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi (Executive Director, Women's Consortium of Nigeria) who analysed the different aspects of exploitative migration in Africa focussing on the West African situation.

The complex conditions, which caused the trafficking of women and children of the region into Europe, beginning with the local poverty and insecurity exploited by the traffickers, first locally and further extending to Europe and the Middle East, were analysed.

Then the seriousness of the situation in the receiving countries in Europe was presented by Ms. Thanh-Dam Truong (Senior Lecturer of the Institute of Social studies in The Hague), who pointed out the global nature of the criminal organizations conducting the trafficking and other forms of exploitative migration. She stressed the impact of the global economy on the expansion of the transnational organized crime, and the inadequacy of the national legal mechanisms and the insufficiency of information sharing in face of the highly organized criminal networks.

Both presentations stressed the human insecurity of the victims, which is intensified by their treatment as criminals by the police and immigration authorities. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening the supporting activities of the civil societies in the sending and receiving countries.

The activities developed by the United Nations and by inter-governmental organizations were reported by Francesco d'Ovidio (IPEC-ILO), who stressed the IPEC role in combating trafficking as part of child labour exploitation. He stressed the need of broad cooperation between the UN and the local NGOs, whose activities are supporting IPEC activities especially in Africa.

Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants pointed out the need to increase the coherence between international conventions and national legislation in support of the rights of the migrants, especially of the undocumented migrant workers including the trafficked women and children. She emphasized the importance of any effort to reduce the human insecurity of the victims of exploitative migration who are often treated as "illegal" by the States.

The presentations were followed by an hour of intensive discussion. Many cases of exploitative migration, especially in Africa were reported. The interconnectedness of different kinds of exploitative migration victimizing women and children, and the trafficking routes linking neighbouring Western African countries were discussed.

The debate then turned to the problems involving the sex industries and the civil society in the sending and receiving countries of exploitative migration. The discussion led to the problem created by the global nature of the criminal networks connecting Africa to practically all other sending and receiving regions, and a general agreement was reached about the necessity to develop closer interactions, sharing of information, and joint

action to alert the public of the sending and receiving countries.

3. The Planning Session

The planning session, held as a closed meeting at the Beach Hotel, Durban, began by broadening the perspectives of the Workshop. The alarming situation of exploitative migration in the Middle East, South and South-East Asia were presented, and compared with the Africa, where cases from East Africa were added.

The presentation of Ms. Anna Agathangelou (Director of Global Change Institute, Cyprus), treated, from the perspective of Cyprus, the inter-connectedness of trafficking routes including the Middle East, stressing the human insecurity generated by the globalization of the economy. Renu Rajbandhari (Vice-President, National NGO Federation of Nepal took Nepal as an example of the fact that exploitative migration has its roots in the complex discrimination combining caste, class, ethnic, and gender.

The following discussion focussed on the racist nature of the sex industry, the global nature of the criminal trafficking networks, and the importance of a coordinated approach focusing on combating the socio-economic insecurity. Presentation by Ms. Yoko Komiyama (MP, Japan) pointed out the need to mobilize the political will to promote human security for prevention of exploitative migration. Theo van Boven (Professor, Maastericht University, the Netherlands) addressed the need to combine human rights with the legal approach, with the emphasis on the former, in dealing with the exploiters/victim roles promoting the human security of the latter.

The jus cogens condemning slavery as a crime against humanity should be stressed in dealing with the victims of exploitative migration. It was acknowledged that the International Organization on Migration (IOM) plays an important role in preventing exploitative migration and protecting its victims through a combination of multiple projects to combat trafficking of women and children. Here again the networking of NGOs, IGOs and the UN was stressed, while the following discussion emphasised the special responsibility of the States, and the role of political leadership within each of them.

The third Session looked at the role of the civil society in preventing exploitative migration. Fatoumata Sire Diakite addressed the diversity of the problems in different sub-regions of Africa. She reported about the NGO networks in West Africa, and called for cooperation with other African sub-regions, and with Europe and other industrialized regions.

Mel Nuqui (Director, DAWN, Philippines), reported about the exploitative migration of Filipinas to Japan where they are recruited formally as "entertainers" but are forced to earn extra money by prostitution. She also stressed the human insecurity of the victims of exploitative migration involving also the question of their "mixed-blood" children. The personal account of a Filipina survivor which followed her exposition, led to the discussion of different case reports of the insecurity experienced by victims, both in the sending and the receiving countries.

Helene Sackstein (NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child/Focal Point on the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Geneva) reported on the forthcoming Yokohama Conference "Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children". She underlined the importance of developing a well integrated monitoring system about trafficking covering international, regional and national levels.

The presentation of Seiko Hanochi stressed that both governments and NGOs should understand the close interactions between the criminal organizations, the sex industries, the States and the global financial market, and take the necessary measures to control the political economic sources of the insecurity of the victims of exploitative migration. The discussion which followed the presentations, covered the role of the social workers and of the shelters, and the responsibility of the civil society to support the survivors.

The historical context of exploitative migration was also addressed, and the connection of trafficking with colonialism and slavery was raised with reference to the case of the "Comfort Women" sexual slavery.

The concluding session provided an occasion for all the participants to make suggestions about a plan of action, and for a Project Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration. The importance of the following approaches was pointed out:

- to approach the dynamic processes of exploitative migration;
- to develop inter-regional and international networks for information sharing and coordinated actions;
- to develop a good data base of statistical data and/or concrete cases;
- to combine with internet networks personal contacts permitting the sharing of human experiences, and;
- to identify target groups in developing common international strategies.

The Planning Session was concluded with all the participants agreeing to keep in touch to order to continue the planning dialogue in view of developing the proposed Project Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration.

4. Future Development

The following three points to help the development of a Project Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration can be derived from the discussions of the open Workshop and of the closed Planning Session.

- a) The trafficking of women and children in Africa is an integral part of the human insecurity generated by poverty, conflicts, environment destruction, AIDs/HIV and other diseases.
- b) In Europe, the States and some NGOs are beginning to develop legal and social measures to combat trafficking within the European Community. The activities are, however, mostly un-coordinated, and ignore the different aspects of the problem, which cannot be successful unless the roots of the problems in the sending African countries are appropriately dealt with.

- c) The Africa-Europe connections of exploitative migration can not be successfully treated, unless a coordinated strategy is developed, since this trafficking route is part of a global process of exploitative migration conducted by transnational criminal networks sending the victims to rich regions, mainly Europe but worldwide.

In a more detailed manner, all points made during the two meetings provide the diverse perspectives which must be brought together in designing a Project Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration by IMADR and Alternatives (Canada). In this sense the Workshop and the Planning Session were useful, not only for the participants who shared their experiences and agreed to keep in touch, but also for the preparation of a Project to which all the participants agreed to cooperate and help develop a broad network of NGOs, IGOs and UN Agencies for combating exploitative migration, especially in Africa but also in other world regions.

Tokyo, 23 September 2001

ANNEXE

Workshop Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration in Africa With Special Emphasis on Trafficking in Women and Children THE NGO FORUM SESSION

28 August 2001

Hoby Club, Durban

Panel Discussion on Human Insecurity generated by Exploitative Migration

Chair: Farida Osmani (Alternatives)

The Panel will present the key aspects of exploitative migration with emphasis on sending countries in Africa and receiving countries in Europe. Then the activities combating exploitative migration by the UN system will be presented. This will provide the base for a general discussion on the role of the civil societies in combating exploitative migration in the sending and receiving countries.

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| 15:00-15:10 | Opening |
| 15:10-15:20 | Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi (Executive Director, Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), Nigeria), "Exploitative Migration of women and children in Africa" |

15:20-15:30 Thanh-dam Truong (Senior Lecturer, International Social Studies, The Netherlands),
"The Recipient side of exploitative migration in Europe"

15:30-15:40 Francesco d`Ovidio (Representative of IPEC-OPS, ILO), "The UN System: The ILO
Activities against exploitative migration, especially Trafficking"

15:40-15:50 Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro (UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants),
"The Rights of the Migrants including Undocumented Migrants"

15:50-16:50 General Discussion

The discussion opened to the floor will focus on the necessary conditions for an international cooperation to combat exploitative migration, especially trafficking of women and children by the NGO communities in the sending countries, especially in Africa, and the receiving countries, especially in Europe. The discussion is expected to lead to the identification of the components of a plan for joint action between NGOs governments and the UN System in order to prevent exploitative migration.

16:50-17:00 Closing

**Workshop Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration in Africa
-With Special Emphasis on Trafficking in Women and Children-
CLOSED PLANNING SESSION**

29 August 2001

The Beach Hotel, Durban

9:00-9:10 Defining the Objective of the Workshop and of the Planning Session

Defining the objectives of the Workshop and Planning Session in relation with the proposed application to the UN Fund for Human Security, and preparing the Workshop at the NGO Forum

9:10-10:50 The Local and Global Aspects of Exploitative Migration of Women and Children

The connection between the local conditions in the sending countries, the countries of transit, and of the countries of exploitation will be discussed within the global context and related to the problematique of human security. The papers of Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi, and Thanh-dam Truong discussed at the 28 NGO Forum Workshop will also provide the basis for the discussion.

Joint Chairs:

- Fatoumata Sire Diakite (Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women in Africa)
- Thanh-dam Truong (Senior Lecturer, Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands)

Panel:

- Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi (Executive Director, Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), Nigeria)
- Gunila Ekberg (CATW), "Exploitative migration in the recipient country: Canada"
- Anna Agathangelou (Director of Global Change Institute, Cyprus), "The exploitative migration in the Middle East: The routing of exploitative migration"
- Renu Rajbhandari (Vice-President, National NGO Federation of Nepal, Nepal), "The example of South Asia: the sending side and the domestic conditions of exploitative migration"
- Nimalka Fernando (President, IMADR, Sri Lanka), "The example of South Asia: The receiving side and the need of a regional approach to combat exploitative migration"

10:50-11:05 Coffee Break

11:05-12:35 Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration: the Activities of the UN, of International Law, and of National Political Initiatives

The UN Organizations are presently engaged in various activities combating exploitative migration. The human rights as well as anti-crime legal frameworks are evolving, political initiatives a taking place in certain countries. It is crucial to develop an overall strategy relating all these initiatives. The discussion of this Session will also base itself on the presentations about the OHCHR and ILO made at the NGO Forum Workshop.

Chair:

- Anna Agathangelou
- Representative of the Federation of Women Lawyers of Kenya

Panel:

- Yoko Komiyama (Member of Parliament, Japan), "The role of political leadership and the Fund for Human Security"
- Theo van Boven (Professor, Maastricht University, The Netherlands), "Exploiters and victims: Legal and human dimensions"
- John Tesha (IOM regional Representative), "The IOM activities against exploitative migration especially trafficking"

14:00-15:50 The Role of the Civil Societies in Preventing Exploitative Migration

The activities of shelters and other NGO activities must be better supported by the governments and civil societies. The social security sector, the corporate sector, the research community and the media must be mobilized. Exploitative migration can be controlled only when networks between the NGOs of the sending, transit, and receiving countries are established and work with governments, with regional organizations and with the UN system. Regional examples from Africa, South-East Asia as well as international example of the Stockholm process will be reported. The Middle East and South Asia already discussed at the 10:00

Session will eventually be referred to.

Joint Chairs:

- Virginia Wangare Greiner (AGISRA)
- Fatoumata Osmani (Alternatives)

Panel:

- Mel Nuqui (Director, Dawn Philippines, Philippines), "The NGOs in face of exploitative migration in developing societies: the case of the Philippines"
- Masako Owaki (Member of Parliament, Japan), "Combating exploitative migration in industrial recipient civil societies: The case of Japan"
- Helene Sackstein (NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child/Focal Point on the Sexual Exploitation of Children, Switzerland), "The regional and international cooperation to combat exploitative migration of children"
- Seiko Hanochi (IMADR, York University), "Exploitative migration as a problem of human insecurity"

15:50-16:05 Coffee Break

16:05-17:25 General Discussion on a Joint Plan of Action

Joint Chair:

- Kinhide Mushakoji (IMADR)
- Olasimbo Olagbegi (WOCON, Nigeria)

Closing debate on the basis of the discussion of the previous three Sessions, concrete measures required to guarantee human security for the victims and potential victims of exploitative migration, especially trafficking in women and children in and from Africa. The active participation of participants who have not made presentations is of prime importance.

17:25-17:35 Closing Remarks by Farida Osmani (Alternatives)