

Knowledge to lead

Course on International Migration Law

Organized in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

13-15 June 2012
Conference Room C (NLB)
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

Orderly and humane management of migration is recognized today as a prerequisite for migration to be beneficial to both host and origin societies and migrants. In pursuing this objective, States of destination and origin have the responsibility to protect the human rights of migrants and nationals, and to take into consideration the interests of both, within the parameters set by international principles, standards and norms (globally referred to as International Migration Law or “IML”).

Many conventions exist at the universal and regional levels applying to those involved in the migration process, but these instruments are spread across various branches of law (human rights, humanitarian law, international labour law, transnational and international criminal law, refugee law). There is no one instrument where “international migration law” all come together or central source where overall information is easily accessible, and there is little understanding of the relationship of each of these instruments to the others.

Reference is also frequently made to principles and standards deriving from State sovereignty and having a direct bearing on the management of migration: right to protect borders, to confer nationality, to admit and expel foreigners, to combat trafficking and smuggling, to safeguard national security within the limits of international obligations. States’ competences and obligations in their mutual relationship (duty to cooperate, to readmit nationals) are less well defined and are treated in isolation.

This dispersion of norms and principles contributes to the widespread belief that there are gaps in the protection of migrants and/or regulation of migration at the international level. Moreover, there is sometimes uncertainty about the exact content or intent of international instruments and lack of knowledge as to the status of their ratification and implementation by States. A further related issue is the still insufficient dissemination of information about the rights and duties to be enjoyed or respected by all migrants and, at all levels in national administrations, of the international norms to be applied by migration officials.



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Course Objectives

The course is intended to:

- Highlight the key international legal instruments dealing with the protection of all migrants;
- Identify States' competences and obligations seen from an international perspective, notably jurisdiction to: grant nationality, access to and removal from national territory, as well as to extend national security.
- Recognize the international law governing displacement, trafficking and smuggling, and rescue at sea as it applies to migration.
- Provide an overview of the implementation of International Migration Law at the regional and national levels.

Dates and Venue

- Wednesday, 13 June, from 9:30 AM to 1 PM and from 3 to 6 PM;
- Thursday, 14 June, from 10 AM to 1PM and from 3 to 6 PM;
- Friday, 15 June, from 10 AM to 1 PM and from 3 to 4:30 PM.

The entire course will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in Conference Room C (NLB).

Target Audience

The course is designed for members of Permanent Missions responsible for the Second and Third Committees and other matters where migration issues are of relevance. Representatives of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society are welcome to apply. The number of participants will be limited to 40 persons. Preference will be given to applicants from Permanent Missions notably of developing countries.

Registration and contact:

If you have any questions regarding the event or registration, please contact UNITAR at:

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