

Human Rights at International Borders

OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines

Launching event on the margins of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly

23 October 2014, ECOSOC Chamber (CB), 1h15 – 2h45 PM

Organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Migrants seeking a safer and better future have since time immemorial been crossing borders throughout the world. Nowadays, border governance is often prompted solely by national security considerations, and the human rights of migrants are often violated. International borders are not zones of exclusion or exception of human rights obligations. States have the duty to comply with their human rights obligations and all of the safeguards and checks and balances that are embedded in national legislation. States are bound by these duties wherever they exercise their jurisdiction; including where their migration governance operations take place.

Policies curtailing migration often result in the diversion of migrants into irregular channels where vulnerabilities are exacerbated. Conversely, rights-based approaches to border and migration governance that adhere to internationally recognized standards bolster the capacity of the international community to mount effective and sustainable challenges to abusive migration and transnational organized crime. Developing a set of principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders would offer tools to translate the international human rights framework into practical measures for border governance, ensuring that measures taken to address migration (including irregular migration), migrant smuggling, and other cross-border phenomena do not violate human rights.

OHCHR has been working on these principles and guidelines since 2012, together with multiple stakeholders. They accompany the report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Migrants (A/69/277) and will be provided to the 69th session of the General Assembly (GA).

Objective

This side-event aims to launch a set of *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders*. These Guidelines are offered by OHCHR to states and other relevant stakeholders to develop human-rights respecting border governance measures; and thus improve the respect, protection and fulfilment of migrants at international borders.

Participants

Chair	Representative of the Permanent Mission of Argentina (tbd)
Opening remarks	Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights
Panellists	H.E. Mr Thomas Mayr-Harting, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
	Ms. Michele Klein Solomon, Permanent Observer of IOM to the United Nations
	Mr. Francisco Carrión-Mena, Chairperson of the Committee on Migrant Workers
	UNHCR (participant tbd)
	Ms. Catherine Tactaquin, Executive Director, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights