

Barcelona, 4th July, 2011 - The Global Working Group on Children on the Move met in Geneva last week after the first two meetings in Oxford and London. Held at the ILO, the meeting sought to finalise the planning around the objectives of the Working Group and pave the way for a detailed action plan.

The meeting was attended by a number of UN agencies, international NGOs and donors whose goal as a group is to increase visibility of the issue of children on the move in international fora to push for effective policy responses in protecting the rights of all migrant children.

Najat M’Jid, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, caught participants by surprise when she joined the meeting showing her commitment to the issue and her support to the group’s efforts.

The morning saw the revision of the concept note and the presentation of the research part plan of action while the afternoon was devoted to discussing the advocacy brief and how to mainstream the views of children and increasing their influence throughout the entire process the working group follows. Led by the ILO, the subgroup on research and data gathering presented attendees with an ambitious general framework for the group to move forward which participants applauded however highlighting the need to take it in different stages.

The advocacy brief was also discussed but further detail in the plan of action is needed to decide if and how the group will try to influence decisions in November’s Global Forum of Migrations, to be held in Switzerland.

Attendees at the Geneva meeting were representatives from Enda Tiers Monde, ILO, Intervida, IOM, MAEJT, OAK Foundation, Save the Children UK, Terre des Hommes, UNHCR, World Vision International and the Global Movement for Children.

The Global Working Group on Children on the Move was created at an interagency meeting in London on 20 January 2011, convened by the Global Movement for Children following the International Conference on Children on the Move, organized in Barcelona in October 2010. The group aims at coordinated action in promoting a more comprehensive approach to public

policies in the protection of children on the move and it has set forth a plan of action revolving around the following five objectives:

- Facilitate coordination and collaboration among key international actors;
- Mainstream children on the move in research and data gathering;
- Increase the visibility of children on the move in key policy-development spaces and events;
- Promote the development of child protection mechanisms in the corridors where most children move (within and between countries);
- Ensure that children who have experienced mobility influence policies and strategies on children on the move.