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5ᵀᴴ INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

23-24 November 2022, Amman, Jordan

Conference Summary

INTRODUCTION

The **5th International Border Management Conference, organised annually by ICMPD,** took place on **23 and 24 November 2022** at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The conference was co-organised by the **Ministry of Interior of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** and with the support of the **European Union and several other projects**, this 2-day event welcomed 150 participants from 21 countries and different EU and international organisations.

As in previous years, the conference gave the occasion and opportunity for counterparts from border guard, border and immigration police, customs as well as from other entities involved in border management such as civil aviation to meet, exchange and get exposed to other colleagues' experiences.

I.   PRE-CONFERENCE PARALLEL SESSIONS (23 November 2022)

This year, to foster **additional interaction and networking among participants**, a number of pre-conference parallel sessions were organised on 23 November prior the official conference opening. The parallel sessions gave the possibility to share and discuss good practice and lessons learned in regard to the following matters:

1. **Brainstorming session: Data Collection and Analysis in the Field of Border Management:**
   The first session focused on lessons learned from Tunisia, as well as on the technology in a border and migration management context which includes all tools, machines, IT systems, weapons, instruments, premises, clothing, communicating and transporting devices used in border management. Border and migration management technology also can be defined as the sum of arrangements, procedures, techniques, skills, methods, processes and systems used for accomplishing the border management objectives. Technology is driven by increasing flows of passengers and need for enhanced security requirements, and increasing flows of irregular migrants, often in reaction to changes in the modus operandi of criminals or terrorists. It was highlighted that the centralised information system and the information systems of each ministerial department shall continue to co-exist since each institution has its own objectives and needs. For sustainability purposes, it is important that this is model is driven by government will and ownership, and also that it is tailored to fit their needs and domestic context.

2. **Experience sharing: Gender and Human Rights Mainstreaming in Border Management**:
   The present session allowed for the audience to get acquainted with the case of the Lebanese Armed Forces, involved in border management in Lebanon, that established a Gender Department and the positive impact this step has had in supporting the LAF's daily work at borders. Challenges remain however, as female representation in the institution remains quite low. An example of the training session from Gender in Border Management was presented to the audience by Lebanese national trainers. Concrete situations in border management were also presented by an EU expert to illustrate the best way how mainstreaming of Human Rights can be carried out in the gender domain.

3. **Document Security in Border Management: Exchange of Good Practises in Improvement of Capabilities in the Detection of Fraudulent use of Documents**:
After a brief overview of main notions of relevance to Document Security, this session provided participants with the chance to become familiarised with a few examples of project interventions that include notably capacity building activities, development of training materials and adapted curricula as well as development of beneficiary agencies' technical capacities in this domain. Discussions focused also on the latest developments and challenges in cybersecurity and cybercrime, lack of cooperation between various concerned services where willingness to receive is higher than to share information. Difficulties in maintaining different equipment provided in case international support is ended was also evoked. Jordanian representatives from BRD and GID presented lessons learned from successful implementation of the Dutch-funded document security project in Jordan. One of the main takeaways of the session was that cooperation at the national level between border management agencies as well as with other entities like the civil aviation sector is key to overcome and efficiently face challenges resulting from ever more inventive criminal groups. The importance of international cooperation and collaboration was also stressed.

4. **Case study: Integrated Border Management is Multi-Dimensional Governance in Practice: Security Agencies, Ministries, Civil Society and Private Sector Engagement in the Maritime Strategy**:
This case study enlightened the process and challenges in the development of the Lebanese Maritime strategy. The Border Control Committee of the Lebanese Armed Forces coordinates all border agencies and the private sector involved in elaborating the strategy. The Chairman of the Border Control Committee, the Head of the Maritime Trade Affairs Section and the Lebanese Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the co-author of the Legal Assessment for the Lebanese Maritime Domain provided their insights and contributions to the success of the Maritime Strategy project. The EU-Funded Strengthening Capacity for IBM in Lebanon Project facilitates the development of the Maritime Strategy.

5. **Awareness raising session: Multi-agency Governance as a Driver of Integrated Border Management:**
This session allowed participants to become acquainted with challenges and recent developments related to IBM implementation in the context of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (update on IBM Jordan). This presentation set also the scene for the sharing of a few experiences between different officials as to the multiple forms of inter-agency cooperation that can take place in support of national integrated border management processes.

6. **Brainstorming session: Modernisation in Border Management: How Can Procurement Better Support Border Management?**
This session brought together representatives from the beneficiary agencies to speak about their needs for improvement and modernisation in their border management systems. The main idea of the session was to envision in which ways procurement can be optimised to support border management agencies most effectively. Focus should not be only on the purchase of technical equipment and/or IT tools, but also on all activities supporting longevity and sustainability of the procured items. These include, of course, the transfer of competences

and skills for the maintenance of newly acquired tools to keep their operability for as long as possible, but also relevant institutional building support to adapt and optimise beneficiaries' methods of work, etc.

II. THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 5ᵗʰ INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (23 November 2022)

Mr. Borut Eržen, *Head of ICMPD Border Management and Security Programme, welcomed all participants and presented the overview of the 5ᵗʰ edition of the International Border Management Conference. He invited keynote speakers to address the audience as an introduction to the event, which was hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and supported by the European Union, represented by the EU Delegation to Jordan.*

Opening speeches were subsequently delivered by:

- ***H.E. Mazen Al-Farrayeh***, *Minister of Interior of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*
- ***H.E. Ambassador Maria Hadjitheodosiou***, *Head of the EU Delegation to Jordan*
- ***Mr. Martijn Pluim***, *Director of Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD*

Speech of H.E. Mazen Al-Farrayeh

Minister of Interior of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

"In the name of God, peace be upon you.

To begin, it pleases me to welcome you all to your second home, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with great pleasure, and wishing you and this conference a great success, and I would like to address

you with all the meanings of thanks for your participation in the activities of this conference, which we hope from the Almighty God that its effectiveness will be crowned with all the meanings of goodness and success.

Your Excellency's, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The geopolitical location of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which connects three continents, is characterized by providing Jordan with great opportunities that can be benefited from in international trade and attracting investments to Jordan in a way that serves the national economy and provides job opportunities for Jordanians. Despite this, the geographical location itself has imposed great challenges on the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, especially in light of the political and security unrest witnessed by some countries in the region decades ago, which clearly and greatly affected the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in all fields, especially those related to crossings and borders, and Jordan receiving large waves of refugees over the course of those decades, leading to what Jordan has endured for more than 11 years, as a result of hosting more than one million and three hundred thousand Syrian refugees, in addition to thousands of refugees of other nationalities.

At a time when most of the countries surrounding Jordan in the region suffered from security and political turmoil, Jordan, under its wise Hashemite leadership, which was characterized by moderation, tolerance, strength and cohesion of the Jordanian people, with its official, military and security agencies, was able to maintain its security and political stability and was able to control its borders in spite of these disturbances, which raised the cost and burden of security on the Kingdom.

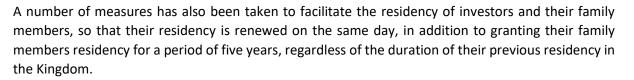**Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,**

Despite the wide spread of drug issues in many countries, and the increase in smuggling operations, the Jordanian security services, in cooperation and partnership with our armed forces, are working to dry up the sources of drugs, fight this scourge, and take measures to ensure that they do not enter across the borders, and they are also implementing an extensive security campaign to combat this phenomenon.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

The impact of the geographical location of Jordan and the security and political instability, which testifies to the reception of refugees, was not limited to only that, but Jordan became one of the countries receiving large numbers of foreign workers/migrants/immigrants, which led to an increase in the burdens on the Jordanian economy, which suffers for many reasons, the most important of which is its hosting of these large numbers of refugees, and this coincided with the weakness of voluntary return projects or the resettlement of refugees in other countries, in addition to the lack of funding for the Jordanian response plan to the Syrian crisis.

The Jordanian government has taken a number of policies and decisions that would stimulate the Jordanian economy, including facilitating the entry of foreigners to the Kingdom for the purposes of tourism or treatment, especially since Jordan is characterized by the efficiency of the medical sector or its distinction at the level of the Middle East. Rather, the matter went beyond that by circulating to our diplomatic missions to provide us with the names of foreign investors and businessmen wishing to visit the Kingdom in order to grant them entry visas for a period of five years, in addition to authorizing the heads of Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad and the directors of border centre to grant visa for 5 years to sponsor countries that do not need approval from the Ministry of Interior.

A number of measures has also been taken to facilitate the residency of investors and their family members, so that their residency is renewed on the same day, in addition to granting their family members residency for a period of five years, regardless of the duration of their previous residency in the Kingdom.

Distinguished audience,

These measures and facilities, although their aim is economical and simplistic, are taken under these circumstances, indicating the strength and fortitude of Jordan and its complete control over its borders, and express greatly the extent of stability that it is witnessing at all levels.

Jordan is committed to all the international conventions to which it is taking into account the aspects related to human rights and the humanitarian aspect for those who have been resettled among the Syrian refugees in a third country and allowed them to return to the Kingdom for the purposes of visiting and meeting with their families who were unable to return voluntarily or leave Jordan to another country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The acceleration of international migration during the recent decades and its repercussions (positive and negative) on all countries of the world, whether they are sending or receiving this migration, may require the Jordanian government to prepare a strategic plan to deal with foreigners residing on the territory of the Kingdom. This plan aimed to reach the immigration government, the Ministry of Interior was able to complete the first phase of the central data management system project, in cooperation with the relevant ministries and institutions and in full partnership with the European Union through the Euro-Mediterranean Migration Project and its executive arm, ICMPD. This project adds to the unification of data sources of foreigners on the territory of the Kingdom to reach the stage of analysing these numbers in a systematic statistical way so that we can draw policies and make correct decisions based on evidence. The second phase of this project started in early June 2022.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

At the end of my speech, I cannot but highly appreciate the efforts of the European Union, ICMPD, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the efforts made in order to achieve the desired goals. I also cannot but to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to our Jordanian Armed Forces, our security services and all relevant international bodies, for the efforts being made for the security of the homeland and the citizen, wishing this important conference every success.

Peace be upon you, God's mercy and blessings."

Speech of H.E. Ambassador Maria Hadjitheodosiou

Head of the EU Delegation to Jordan

"Your Excellency *Mazin Abdellah Hilal AL FARRAYEH, Minister of Interior,*

Your Excellencies, dear Ambassadors of EU Member States,

Dear *Martijn Pluim, Director of ICMPD,*

Distinguished guests,

Dear friends,

I am very happy to join you today for the opening of this annual conference, taking place, for the first time, in Jordan.

And, I want to congratulate Jordan for hosting this conference, as this proves that Jordan is taking a leadership role when **exploring the potential of border management as an enabler of cooperation in the region**!

As part of a broader positive agenda, an efficient and modern border management is an important aspect to promote security, and while at the same time enhance trade and the economic prosperity of a country.

Efficient and effective border management facilitates legitimate cross-border movements of people and goods, and, at the same time, **secures** state borders, including by detecting transnational organized crime.

The challenge is to ensure that border management policies, administrative and operational arrangements, as well as human resources, are sufficient and enabled to pursue both the developmental and security aspects of cross-border movements in a carefully balanced manner.

We all also agree that border control officers have a responsibility to exercise their power according to law and professional norms, and need to be transparent and accountable for what they do, or do not do.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to briefly present the views of the European Union when it comes to the **Integrated Border Management ("IBM") concept** – an idea that is at the core of our assistance not only here in Jordan but **in many other countries around the world**:

We believe that **an integrated approach, involving all public services working at the border, is the best way to:**

- Manage state borders efficiently;
- **Address migratory challenges** in line with international agreements such as the **Refugee Convention** of 1951 and its Protocol of 1967;
- **Cope with potential threats** at the external frontier;
- Facilitate the **legal movement of persons** and **transit of goods** across state borders.

This concept of **Integrated Approach** is based on **three principle "pillars"** (as we call them) on improving working procedures:

(a) first **within** a service active at the state border,
(b) secondly **between** the different services,

(c) and thirdly, at **international level**.

The **ultimate goal** is to establish effective, efficient and coordinated border management in order to ensure **open,** and at the same time, **secure** borders.

The EU's cooperation with Jordan in this particular area of has been supported by **concrete financial commitments**.

In total, the EU spent about €10 million EURO on support aimed to strengthen Jordan's border management agencies.

To be more precise: This conference is supported through the EU-funded project "**EU Support to Integrated Border Management and Trade Facilitation in Jordan**."

In the framework of this program:

- We helped Jordan in designing its first border management strategy, including, an Implementation Action Plan;
- We provided equipment for four border crossing points in the Aqaba Governorate,
- We supported the establishment of Jordan's first **"integrated"** border management training centre for the different services working at the state border, and,
- We funded training sessions and workshops on matters such as EU regulations on rules of origin, and Code of Ethics and Integrity

We are hopeful that in the future the IBM training centre will become **fully** "integrated" and will incorporate staff from the JAF (Jordanian Armed Forces), thus involving all main border management services.

I also want to mention that we see a value in increasing the number **of women in the services working at the border**, and **land** border crossing points in

particular. This is not only about engaging women in all sectors of border management, and facilitating the interaction with passengers, but also about **strengthening security** at the state borders in general.

We want to encourage the Jordanian administration **to finalise and adopt**, as a matter of priority, the border management strategy I mentioned earlier. This strategy, with **clearly defined** objectives and steps to be taken will guide the different donors in Jordan in deciding **where to best invest their resources**, which are **always** scarce!
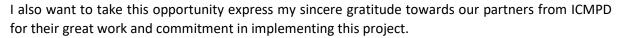
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise Jordan's **generosity** in keeping its borders open and welcoming a large number of refugees, while remaining committed in ensuring the protection of its population.

On behalf of the European Union, I would like to thank you **whole-heartedly** for hosting such a number of Syrian and other refugees in your territory.

Let me reassure you that the **European Union is committed** to continue supporting Jordan in its efforts to enhance and modernise its border management system to address effectively old and new challenges.

I also want to take this opportunity express my sincere gratitude towards our partners from ICMPD for their great work and commitment in implementing this project.

Thank you!"

Speech of Mr. Martijn Pluim

Director of Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD

"Distinguished Minister of the Interior Mr. Mazin Abdellah Hilal AL FARRAYEH,

Distinguished Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom, Ambassador Ms. Maria HADJITHEODOSIOU,

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of ICMPD, it is an honour to welcome you today to the **5th edition of the annual International Border Management Conference**. Let me start by thanking the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, honourably represented here by HE Minister of Interior Mr. Al Farrayeh, for hosting us today in Amman. It's been a pleasure to co-organise this event with you.

I am pleased and satisfied to see you all gathered today, coming from so many different regions, countries and institutions. I in particular appreciate the presence of representatives from the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service. This broad participation is confirmation that **in our present interconnected world, no single country, state administration nor institution is in a position to solve cross-border challenges on its own**. Covering a wide range of topics and tackling complex and – *sometimes* – controversial issues, Border management demands constant efforts from all relevant stakeholders to strengthen and adapt their national systems through **efficient and effective mechanisms of cooperation and coordination**.

ICMPD was created almost 30 years ago as an international organisation aimed to foster dialogues and facilitate partnerships and cooperation on migration-related matters within and around Europe. Eventhough we work more globally, promoting partnerships and cooperation still remains at the core of what we do **– this is actually in our DNA**.

Fostering cooperation and partnership also represents **an essential part of the work that we do in the domain of border management**. Over the past 20 years, ICMPD has been continuously and successfully implementing and adapting an **Integrated Border Management** approach in various regions and countries. During this journey, we have engaged multiple counterparts and addressed not only security matters but also promoted adequate balance with actions supporting economic and social developments.

Dear colleagues,

Dear colleagues, our previous conference took place in Kyiv, in November 2021. A city which has – unfortunately – become an example of a world which is increasingly insecure and unpredictable.

The **increasing number of challenges** witnessed over the past year is evidence that we are living in a **fast changing world that demands strong capacities both of resilience and adaptation.** And this is especially in the domain of border management.

The pandemic had already put tremendous pressure on border agencies over the past 2 years. Unfortunately, this pressure did not end; on the contrary. Linked directly or not to the present war in Ukraine, **many challenges test the border stakeholders' capacities**. Increasing flows of irregular migrants crossing the borders, smugglers using ever more aggressive means, disrupted supply chains at global scale, hybrid threats, cyberattacks, the increasing impact from climate change and many other issues of concern make it even **more evident that a balanced approach between border security and trade facilitation needs to be ensured**.

Strengthening of cooperation and coordination among all border management stakeholders, but also with other actors of relevance – for instance border communities and the private sector – **is key** in order to ensure **efficient and effective systems** favourable to legal movement of persons and goods while at the same time fighting cross-border crime.

Dear colleagues,

From ICMPD, we feel privileged to be a part of these efforts and we are convinced that initiatives aiming at the promotion of border management are and will continue to be a key priority. I hope the Conference that we launch this evening and that will be continued tomorrow will meet your expectations. Beyond the very interesting topics that many colleagues will present to you, we consider this gathering as rare and unique opportunity to exchange among colleagues from Africa, Asia and Europe and to learn more from each other. This annual conference is an **instrument** at your disposal to establish new contacts, strengthen dialogue, support sharing of practical experiences and possibly open path to further cooperation among ourselves and yourselves. As every year, these interactions among peers are **key**, and in many cases **the first step towards jointly agreed solutions.**

Thus, I am pleased to see among speakers and participants, experts from **EU and non EU MS countries**, all coming from different regions and representing different border management agencies. This conference, and indeed all of ICMPD BMS activities would not be possible without the trust placed in us by you and our donors. I would like to thank in particular the European Commission, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland. You generous and continuous investment in border governance is essential to promote security, mobility and trade – and thus development. Thank you!

 I hope that this Conference yields fruitful outcomes for all, and that the close collaboration and common understanding that we have built will continue with strengthened commitments for the way forward.

Thank you."

Following speeches, Mr. Borut Eržen officially announced the launch of the Conference.

III. 5ᵗʰ INTERNATIONAL BORDER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (24 November 2022)

The second day of the conference gave the opportunity for participants to get acquainted with and exchange on the recent challenges and developments in the field of border management (which was the focus of Panel 1), hear about concrete benefits from the implementation of the integrated border management approach (Panel 2), and finally, to be familiarised with good practice examples that foster international cooperation wherever border security or trade facilitation are concerned (Panel3).

Panel 1: The challenging and ever evolving world of border management

After a brief welcome by Mr. Borut Eržen and a presentation of the overall agenda for the day, Panel 1 was kicked off by **Ms. Monika Weber**, ICMPD Senior Advisor on Border Management and Security. Ms. Weber reflected on the overall developments worldwide in the aftermath of the pandemic and in the context of increased strains resulting from the Russian invasion to Ukraine. Many challenges have an impact on national border management systems that need to adapt as fast as possible to continue ensuring security and safety for citizens and travellers but also for legal trade. In this fast and ever evolving context, challenges that border management stakeholders are facing are of very different natures, linked to external factors, but also to internal developments notably in those which are linked to technologies that demand quick adaptation by the officers. The panellists chosen for this first session gave a chance for the audience to learn a bit more some of these challenges.

- **Mr. Luca Tagliaretti, Executive Director a.i. of eu-LISA** summarised the main developments in regard to the modernisation and development of European Union-wide information systems in support to the border management. **Eu-LISA** is an EU agency based both in Estonia and France that provides and manages IT solutions to the Member States to exchange and share information and data of relevance to border management and asylum more efficiently and quickly. The biggest challenge comes from the need to ensure that all external borders are uniformly open to legal crossings while at the same time secured, thus safeguarding freedom of movement inside the Schengen area. After presentation of the 3 major systems already in place and use, i.e. **Schengen Information System (SIS II)**, **Visa Information System (VIS)** and the **Eurodac**, Mr. Tagliaretti gave an outlook on the future solutions to be released. The **Entry-Exit System (EES)** will be introduced at all ports of entry, storing biometrics of travellers, replacing

the passport stamp and to be used for all third country nationals. The **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** will allow the pre-screening of third country travellers and help assess risk profiles before allowing the boarding of passengers towards the EU. Finally, the **ECRIS-TCN** aims to support the exchange and sharing of criminal information regarding EU citizens and third country nationals. Another challenge is to ensure adequate **interoperability** among the systems, as well as other systems (judiciary, customs and others). The relevant component is under development. **Risks linked to cybersecurity and infrastructure** also need to be taken into account. This requires that border officers are adequately trained and their working methods adapted to this new environment too. EU-LISA is also exploring innovative ways to apply artificial intelligence notably to support risk analysis work.

- The presentation of the second panellist, **Mr. Lukas Vilim**, Cyber Security Expert from the Czech Republic, came in high relevance to the previous presentation as it related to the 'New challenges for border security in the cyberspace'. For security stakeholders, including in the field of border management, data and information are crucial. Cybercrime and cybercriminals do not acknowledge borders and therefore, strong international cooperation between law enforcement authorities is the key to coping with this ever increasing challenge, notably as of the COVID-19 crisis. A first step towards improved cooperation lies in the way cybercrime and cybersecurity are defined and apprehended. Mr. Vilim presented definitions in place in EUMS, but also elsewhere; using an example of Jordanian legislation in that regard). A common understanding is the first step towards increased cooperation in this domain and exploring ways of fighting cybercrime, notably through tracing offenders through cyberspace. Mr. Vilim gave an overview of the domains which are targeted by cyberattacks: any critical infrastructure, the health sector, private sector and as well as border security systems. It can take various forms, from disinformation campaigns, particularly during election periods, to the promotion of (irregular) migration, the broadcast of messages of hatred, all sorts of fraud, and can also make up a part of hybrid threats instrumentalised by national or international terrorist groups, foreign powers, and organised criminal groups. In the border security domain, criminal groups use encrypted systems, cryptocurrency and the dark web, where forged travel or ID documents or weapons can be purchased. Effective tools exist to overcome cyber threats markedly through the set-up of dedicated response teams (within the administration or company) or a crisis management system. Various fora and networks of specialists provide advice and support in that regard (Budapest Convention, Support unit of the G7 24/7 HTC Network, TRACE project).

- The third speaker, **Dr. Ali Abd Alaziz Al-Yassery**, **Director General of the Joint Planning Centre, National Security Advisor of the Republic of Iraq,** evoked the very complex geopolitical situation of his strategically located country. Facing a continuous state of war for more than 30 years, Iraq exists as a stage for all types of confrontation. This tumultuous history has led authorities to deem border management and security as an essential pillar for Iraq's stability and security. Work on this matter was made possible to actually start with support from the EU and partners, notably using the integrated border management approach with ICMPD. Following the description of the overall institutional framework of border stakeholders in Iraq,

Dr. Ali Al-Yassery listed the main challenges of very different natures that are faced by national border authorities, namely terrorism and foreign fighters, especially ISIS activity. The country is subject to an increase of smuggling of weapons, drugs and other illicit products from and towards the whole region. Challenges result also from the legal framework that needs to be aligned among different stakeholders, the scarce material resources at border agencies in a very dangerous environment, the overall set-up of the Republic of Iraq with the provincial status of Kurdistan for instance, etc. In this context, Iraq oversees IBM for cooperating with some of its neighbouring countries such as Jordan and Türkiye, as well as other states, for the chance to improve its border security and stability. Dr. Ali Al-Yassery then gave a short update about the project with ICMPD based on EU support. He attested to the set-up of a command and control team, support of the reconstruction of several BCPs, a wall at the Syrian border, as well as the elaboration of the IBM strategy of Iraq, setting the path for additional activities to strengthen the national system.

- The following speaker, **Mr. Vaidas Čypas**, Chief of the International cooperation department of the State Border Guard Service of the Republic of Lithuania, provided an occasion to hear about the recent experiences of a Member State in regard to the recent challenges faced at the EU external border. Mr. Čypas described the context of the migration crisis that started in the middle of 2021 at the border with Belarus. Significant increase of illegal crossing of migrants originating from Middle East and Southern Asia appeared to be part of hybrid attack orchestrated by a foreign power, using people as a tool for nefarious purposes. Although different contingency plans already existed, this came as an unexpected event for Lithuanian authorities, notably due to the volume of the flows of people arriving at the borders. A high number of people were refused on Lithuanian, Latvian and Polish territories and were sent back to Belarus that had orchestrated all this to affect public security in the region. Extraordinary measures were engaged with the support of many different actors, not only from Lithuania, but also from Estonia, Austria, Frontex and Europol, among others. Faced with this exceptional situation, all plans of contingency established in the past had failed. They engaged into emergency mode, allowing for stopping a large number of persons, but also adapting logistical support and for sharing intelligence, etc. They also engaged in the implementation of exceptional measures, notably the establishment of a barrier along the green border with Belarus. This is not meant to stop flows completely, but to allow time for better situational awareness for border guards and to give more time to act against criminal measures. A centralised and remotely controlled land surveillance system (CCTV) is now underway to be completed by end 2022. The barrier as it stands is regularly damaged, even by Belarus officers who provided clandestine support to force passage of irregular migrants.

- The last speaker of the panel, **Mr. Mohammad Aminu Mohammed**, **Deputy Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service in charge of Border Management**, provided the audience with an overview of the main issues at stake in the African context. He opened his presentation with a reminder of the fact that human beings were created for mobility and that this has both positive and negative aspects. The main concern for state authorities is to make sure that mobility is happening in secure and safe conditions, and that border crossing is done

in licit ways and for licit purposes. Criminal activities and offences being considered on the African continent vary from more serious forms like terrorism, to less serious. Mr. Mohammed briefed the audience about the regular changes and developments of new routes for smuggling migrants within and through Nigeria. Among many other challenges, a main issue is of persons travelling across borders without any identity document or without undergoing checks by border officers. He expressed the interest in studying other regions' experiences as a possible source of inspiration for Nigerian authorities. He gave an outlook of the various dynamics ongoing in the continent over the past years. He evoked notably Africa-wide efforts towards a "borderless" continent, in which context the African Union's Integrated Border Governance Strategy was adopted in 2020. The experience and achievements of ECOWAS were also evoked thanks to which any citizen of the region can in principle enter and establish business in any other member state. Challenges are numerous indeed. This starts from incomplete demarcation of borders, their actual porosity, the existence of communities that are composed of families living over several countries, etc. African countries must find the solution to this situation inherited from history. Other challenges are linked to the poor maintenance of facilities and equipment, lack of access to basic commodities, etc. Mr. Mohammed listed a few solutions allowing for licit mobility to take place in the region while ensuring security at borders, notably through the establishment of a unified operational system across the continent using PNR, API data, setting up one visa system, using biometrics, and establishing a joint risk assessment platform for cooperation (inspired by what Frontex and EUMS are doing for instance).

Panel 2: Increasing relevance and benefits of the Integrated Border Management approach

Panel 2, moderated by ICMPD Border Management and Security Advisor **Mr. Tony Mihaitoaia**, brought together five interventions from the panellists: Brig. Gen. Youssef Haddad, Head of Border Control Committee, Lebanon, Brig. Gen. Awad Al-Shrafat, Director of the Residence and Borders Department, Public Security Directorate, Jordan, Mr. Seidu Iddisah Iddrissu, Commissioner Customs, Ghana Revenue Authority, Col. Artjom Babajev, Kyrgyzstan Border Guards and Mr. Borut Eržen, Head of ICMPD Border Management and Security Programme.

Mr. Mihaitoaia opened the panel with an introduction of IBM and its increasing relevance for both the strategic framework and operational component as a response to the current global challenges, as their potential to transform from a latent threat to a manifest one can unfold quickly, as demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Russian aggression in Ukraine caused the most significant European displacement of people and immediate world response since World War II – certainly as most countries in the world are affected in various ways, not only the EU. Equally, the Russian invasion, by now the cause of displacement for over 6 million people fleeing danger, has illustrated the challenges for IBM. We are facing increasing pressure from cross-border crime, terrorism and threats of a hybrid nature. There is a need to address the passenger rise and cargo flows, by improving data collection, risk management and interoperability that underlines the need for digitalisation of IBM and brings challenges regarding maritime, land and air transport. On terrorism and hybrid threats, various challenges are related to the timely sharing of information to improve the quality of checks and rapid response. The border authorities can contribute through improving border guards' access to various databases and information systems.

- The first intervention, delivered by the **Brig. Gen. Youssef Haddad**, shared the benefits of IBM in the Lebanese context. The IBM movement supported by ICMPD brought tangible results, e.g. in approval of the IBM Strategy by the Government and its Action Plan by the respective agencies. The functioning Border Control Committee of the Lebanese Armed Forces supports and coordinates actions related to the implementation of both the strategy and the action plan. IBM Contributes to better planning and coordination of the border agencies using platforms such as the BCC, TNA working group, expert groups, etc. IBM brings the benefits of simplifying and harmonising procedures and streamlines the resources of different border agencies. At the same time, agencies can work faster and more efficiently respond to emergencies and threats on the operational level.

- **Brig. Gen. Awad Al-Shrafat**, representing the host country, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, delivered the next intervention. He welcomed the participants and appreciated this "golden" opportunity to discuss the challenges related to the world instability also affecting the Middle East. IBM supports border security at the national and international levels. He also spoke of Jordan's response to the security challenges at the green, blue and air border crossing points, where the agencies work on IBM development. ICMPD and UNODC cooperate with Jordanian border agencies to implement trade facilitation standards and to allow the easier flow of legal goods through the border. ICMPD supports Jordanian partners, among others, in capacity-building activities that include study visits, providing necessary equipment, e.g. for the Training Centre in Aqaba, and development of the IBM strategy and related action plan. Jordan faces high migration flows; it is estimated that ¼ of the population living in Jordan are immigrants, among them, 1,35 million Syrian refugees. The IBM and migration policies respond to the challenges related to these migration flows, such as providing migrants with health services, education, water and nutrition, and fighting against terrorism and other threats jeopardising the country's security.

- **Mr Seidu Iddisah Iddrissu**, Customs Commissioner from the Ghana Revenue Authority, spoke about the history and concept of the National Border Security Fusion Center (NBFC), including its purpose, mission, structure and framework, function as well as its strides, advantages and challenges. The NBFC is a platform facilitating inter-agency collaboration for border security and management at the national level. NBFC has fifteen members from different agencies. The centre analyses border-related issues to support integration, unification and alignment of border agencies' capabilities to secure Ghana's borders for national security. Results of the analysis are quickly distributed to relevant border agencies to support operations at the borders. The centre assists the border agencies in maintaining a unified front and drive in advancing Ghana's border security, de-conflicting issues relating to operations, capacity building and responding to threats and directives thereof from the National Border Security Committee.

- **Col. Artjom Babajev**, representing Kyrgyzstan's Border Guard Service, held a presentation about the achievements in implementing the National Strategy for the Establishment and Introduction of the IBM system. The Government issued a decree on the strategy in 2012. A complex IBM system was developed, and 196 tasks were given to complete the implementation,

of which, 86 were implemented, 74 are in progress, and only 36 were not fulfilled. Altogether ten normative legal acts regulating activities in the field of border security and three international agreements with neighbouring countries were issued. The IBM system brought positive results, such as the unified system for external accounting migrations that distributes information between BCPs, border guards, consular officers, police and other agencies. The technical applications for border control were installed, and some border infrastructure was developed.

- **Mr. Borut Eržen**, Head of ICMPD Border Management and Security Programme, presented practical examples resulting from ICMPD engagement in the global border management dimension. The BM team was established in 2003, and with the present restructuring, it became a thematic programme focusing on IBM. The portfolio of projects delivered with the support of BMS amounts to approx. 116 M Euros. ICMPD is supporting IBM development in 27 countries with different partner administrations, such as border police, border guard, customs, immigration, armed forces, etc. He gave examples of projects focused on the implementation of IBM. These comprise various types of actions: capacity building, procurement, construction of and supporting training centres, document security, business process analysis, command and control rooms, development of IT tools like the "border event tracker" application or the "Integrated Maritime Surveillance System" (ISMariS), and the support of the "Smart Traveller" mobile phone application of the Tunisian Customs. These are just a few examples of the variety of IBM activities delivered by the ICMPD BMS programme and projects.

Mr. Mihaitoaia summarised the benefits of the IBM approach as follows:

- Shared responsibility, duty to cooperate in good faith and obligation to exchange information;
- Constant readiness to respond to emerging threats;
- Greater coordination and integrated planning;
- Comprehensive situational awareness;
- Improved technical standards;
- Common border management culture and high level of professionalism.

Panel 3: Good practice examples that proved efficient in support to enhanced international cooperation

This 3rd and final panel was moderated by **Mr. Lamine Abbad**, Head of ICMPD Office in Amman and Portfolio Manager for the Middle East. This session allowed the audience to become more familiarised with various concrete examples of good practices implemented in line with the IBM approach.

- The first presentation was related to **Ukraine**, where a representative of the **State Border Guard Service** shared experiences related to developments since the start of Russia's aggression in February 2022.

- The next speaker coming from the Czech Republic, **Mr. Petr Zollman**, Security and Emergency Response Planning Manager at Smart Wings, presented from a private sector perspective how

commercial airlines contribute to border security and mobility. After a short introduction of his company Smartwings, which is the largest Czech airline with a wide network of commercial flights, Mr. Zollman shared practical experiences from his company that works in close cooperation with border and customs authorities. All applied measures are implemented in order to comply with security requirements (non-compliance can lead to very costly sanctions), but also with the purpose to minimise impact on travellers. The presentation of Mr. Zollman related to the sharing of data of airline passengers with the border management authorities. He described the main features of the airline reservation system "Amadeus", and in which way that information related to the flights and their passengers can be utilised. Access to Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data is provided depending on the legislation of each country. It provides national border authorities with a useful tool to pre-identify passengers, analyse travel patterns and possibly take preventive actions where needed. Updated data collected and provided from check-in systems, flight destination and possible connections as well as traveller ID are sent to the Amadeus System no later than 15 minutes after flight departure. In order to improve the service provided and allow smooth circulation of airline passengers, companies need to establish and maintain regular contacts notably with governmental authorities for their feedback, as well as minimise risks for incidents and avoid sanctions.

- The next panellist, **Ms. Saoussen Charfi**, Counsellor at the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tunisia, presented some good practice examples from the Tunisian approach to IBM. In the geopolitical context where Tunisia is located, border management and security is a very challenging domain. Thus all relevant agencies, border guard, border police and customs notably with participation of the armed forces in some cases, play an important role in the fight against cross-border crime, terrorism, but, at the same time, share the need to ensure that licit and seamless crossing of borders is facilitated. Tunisian stakeholders identified early that such challenges demand to be tackled by joint efforts, whether at national or international level, working also with non-state actors, relying on good cooperation and trustful relationships with the border communities, etc. In recent years, international cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels, notably with the EU, Germany, Japan, the US, the UN and of course ICMPD, was and is still highly instrumental to the Tunisian authorities in the progressive implementation of its National Border Security Strategy. Ms. Charfi then illustrated this process of Tunisian IBM through the description of several actions implemented with ICMPD, with support to the set-up of command and control rooms for each border agency, progressively enhancing border situational awareness and coordination of activities in the field, implementation of joint patrolling activities, and the progressive implementation of an integrated maritime and coastal surveillance system. Facilitation of movement at the borders is also covered with the implementation of the "Smart Traveller" mobile application prepared by the customs to the benefit of all travellers at land, sea and air border crossing points. Along with these various actions that were identified as good practices in the Tunisian national guidelines for IBM drafted by all national stakeholders with the support of ICMPD, the increased focus on training of border staff is also to be noted. In that sense, Tunisia is currently constructing, with the support of Germany, Austria and Denmark, inter-agency border management training centres that will

significantly improve the operational capacities of the officers from border guard, border police and customs individually as well as jointly.

- The following presentation of good practice example was made by **Mr. Umair Mahmood Siddiqui**, Lead Expert of the Pakistan Single Window Company. Through his presentation 'Pakistan Single Window: Securing International Supply Chain through Cross Border Data Exchange', Mr. Siddiqui introduced to the audience the "Pakistan Single Window" (PSW) concept that is being implemented in major seaports. This solution has been developed in close correlation with the reality of Pakistani border management, which comprises the existence of many state agencies and other stakeholders. The PSW Programme completed its 1st phase in June 2022, which began in 2017. This consists of a complete online trade registration experience. Since the economy of Pakistan is mainly based on the agricultural sector, there are a lot of measures and authorities to be considered in the export and import process to ensure safety and security of the supply chain. The PSW Programme, with an estimated budget of 67 M dollars, may represent potential savings of no less than 430 M dollars per year, and counts, among its main sponsors, the Government of Pakistan, Customs (Federal Board of Revenue) and donors – as a result of a multi-donor collaborative effort. It is foreseen to further expand this approach and increase international exposure of the PSW Programme with the aim to establish connections with China Single Window, TradeLens Maersk, International Plant Protection Agency, UK and Egypt customs, among others.

- The last speaker, **Mr. Adrian Cooper**, Head of the Training Institute within the Migration Capacity Partnerships for the Mediterranean (MCP Med TI) introduced the context and purpose of the institute that was set up to consolidate and strengthen further sustainability of training delivered through various initiatives run by ICMPD. With the support from the EU together with Malta, Austria and Denmark, the training institute was established to become a fully licensed EU Further Education Institution and Awarding Body that can carry out courses with accredited qualifications, providing fully recognised academic credits. Trainings are provided on any migration theme (border management topics can be covered too), they are made available in English; Arabic and French and their durations can vary from few hours to few days, provided on e-learning and b-learning. Considering student backgrounds (consisting mainly of southern partner countries), training activities are tailored to their cultural, regulatory and operational realities, fostering a positive learning environment.

Following a brief question and answer session, the conference was closed by the Head of the ICMPD BMS Programme, Mr. Borut Eržen, who gladly invited all participants to the next conference in 2023: the 6th International Border Management Conference - of which the venue and scope will be communicated in the coming months.