

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(102) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 104) asked:

Has the idea of a regional processing centre ever been put on the agenda of the Bali process before? If so, by whom, and what was the reaction of the participants in the Bali process?

Answer:

A regional approach to addressing irregular migration has been discussed at various meetings of the Bali Process.

At the Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Workshop on Protection, Resettlement and Repatriation in June 2010, the Workshop agreed on the desirability of developing and applying consistent standards for protection, resettlement and repatriation in the region.

At the Workshop, UNHCR offered to co-host an expert workshop before the next Bali Regional Ministerial Conference to progress the development of a coordinated and comprehensive regional approach to refugees and irregular movements.