Presentations by the participants focused on their respective organizations’ repatriation operations and described four different scenarios involving repatriation and reintegration of unaccompanied and separated children:

- Repatriation of eligible American citizens from abroad to the U.S. and provision of effective and efficient temporary assistance for their transition and reestablishment in the United States.

- Repatriation and reintegration of unaccompanied and separated children in West Africa, e.g. street children in Dakar, to communities of origin throughout the region. Steps include identification and accompaniment in the country of reception, investigating family of origin, preparing and conducting reintegration, transnational cooperation, and community activities.

- Voluntary repatriation, both organized and spontaneous, of refugees to southern Sudan from countries of refuge. Goal of physical, legal, and material safety, and reconciliation.

- State-sponsored repatriation from the Netherlands of unaccompanied minors refused asylum status, including diverse programs of assistance once the child has returned to the county of origin.

Key issues/questions raised:
• Need for international cooperation on both sides of repatriation efforts: sending and receiving countries. Need for both “North-North” and “North-South” cooperation. “Migration is a transnational issue requiring transnational solutions.”

• Wide range of types of “Repatriation,” to include anything from forced return of economic migrants to voluntary return of refugees. Need to distinguish due to inherent differences and complexities of these varying situations and the circumstances of an unaccompanied minor.

• Despite these differences, should solutions to all repatriation operations of unaccompanied minors have similar attributes, i.e. comprehensive and durable?

• Repatriation and reintegration assistance and networks are often more reactive than preventative.

• There is a need to improve the economic situation in countries of origin to minimize push factors. Some programs that have tied repatriation operations to economic assistance have been controversial.

• Number of unaccompanied minors arriving in Europe has been on the rise since the mid-1990s.

• Coordination between necessary agencies and personnel in the country of departure and the country of arrival, including relevant government agencies/ministries, NGOs, international organizations, and communities is essential to lasting solutions for repatriated children.