

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

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**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

## QUESTION 1

**Please describe in general terms the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken during 2014 as well as those it is planning to undertake in 2015 that respond to the objectives of the 2015 coordination meeting. (Note that specific activities and initiatives can be listed as part of question 2 and 3 below.)**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a long term interest in migration issues, as migration processes are closely related to agriculture and rural development, poverty reduction, food security, and natural resource management. Being aware of the migration-development nexus, FAO strategically works to maximise positive impacts of migration, particularly in rural areas, fostering rural-urban linkages, advocating for a better management of rural labour mobility and identifying good practices. The ultimate goal is to enhance country capacity and policy coherence to reduce distress migration and promote migration patterns that contribute to improve food security and poverty reduction.

Migration is an increasingly relevant area of work for FAO. In its revised Strategic Framework, FAO renewed its commitment to address migration issues, as migration and remittances are considered within FAO's integrated approach for rural poverty reduction under its Strategic Objective 3.

In 2014, an intervention approach on “Youth migration, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility” has been developed. The aim is to create a coherent set of activities to deal with the issue of migration, mobility and youth employment. Based on this framework, a set of proposals have been developed, which include outcomes on rural youth migration and agricultural seasonal migration, as well as explicit links to rural youth employment interventions. By operating through a coherent framework for action, FAO aims at leveraging the synergies among the proposals at global, regional and country level. Moreover in 2014, FAO became an official member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), therefore improving its contribution to global cooperation on migration issues.

In 2015, FAO will continue in its efforts to leverage the positive impacts of migration for reducing rural poverty. FAO will expand these areas of work in collaboration with partners, especially with other UN agencies, but also with partners from the private sector and civil society. In particular, FAO's focus will be on:

- **Enhancing evidence** about the impact of labour migration and remittances on food security and rural livelihoods;
- **Providing technical support and capacity development to governments** to enhance policy coherence and better incorporate migration into agriculture, food security and rural development policies, strategies and programmes;
- **Strengthening policy dialogue and policy coordination** across key sectors and stakeholders (government, civil society and private sector, including producers' organizations and migrant networks), with particular attention to policy options to address the root causes of migration;
- **Contributing more systematically to existing global cooperation mechanisms** and engaging with key partners, like the Rome-based Agencies, IOM, World Bank, and ILO, in promoting migration for development.

In 2015, FAO will initiate the implementation of project activities in Tunisia and Ethiopia, funded by the Italian Development Cooperation. The aim of the project is to reduce distress economic migration of the rural youth by fostering rural diversification and youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. The project involves: developing sound diagnostics and stakeholders' capacity to incorporate migration in rural development planning; facilitating policy dialogue and partnerships to promote rural youth employment and seasonal migration; improving rural youth access to information and support service.

## QUESTION 2.

**Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your entity's initiatives and activities in respect to the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action presented at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.**

### *1. Protect the human rights of all migrants*

Creating decent farm and non-farm jobs in rural areas is part of FAO's approach to migration. Decent rural employment is work that provides a living wage and reasonable working conditions, thereby empowering rural workers and their families to lead productive, healthy and dignified lives. Promoting viable and attractive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture and rural areas, particularly for the youths, can make a significant contribution to easing migratory pressures and reduce distress out-migration.

In 2014, FAO has developed a project to be funded by Italy on "Youth migration, food security and rural poverty reduction: Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility". It will be implemented in Tunisia and Ethiopia with the aim to reduce distress economic migration of the rural youth by fostering rural diversification and youth employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

### *2. Reduce the costs of labour migration*

FAO is work in line with GMG efforts to reduce the transaction costs of labour migration, including transfer costs of remittances and labour recruitment costs in agriculture. For instance, FAO and IFAD submitted a technical joint position paper to European Union (EU) Development Cooperation (DEVCO) in July 2014 on the issue of migration and remittances, with the objective of moving forward towards the formulation of a FAO-IFAD approach for joint intervention at operational level. The joint note sets the basis for such common approach with a focus on food security and youth employment through agro-entrepreneurship and diaspora investments in rural areas, and sets out four priority areas for action, namely: financial inclusion and rural investments; youth entrepreneurship and employment; skills development; and policy coherence. These priorities build on the respective comparative advantages and areas of strength of the two organizations.

### *3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking*

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### *4. Address the plight of stranded migrants*

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### *5. Improve public perceptions of migrants*

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### *6. Integrate migration into the development agenda*

FAO has increasingly been engaged in enhancing policy coherence and promoting the incorporation of migration into agriculture, food security and rural development policies, strategies and programmes. At global level, as a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), FAO participated in highly technical

working meetings and thematic working groups on data and research and mainstreaming migration into national development strategies. Through this body, FAO participated in international discussions, also on the post-2015, advocating for a stronger focus of migration, including internal and seasonal migration, into the development agenda.

#### *7. Strengthen the migration evidence base*

FAO has developed evidence on migration and the role of remittances in agriculture and rural development, looking at its impacts on production, social stress and equity, and the consequent effects on poverty and food security. FAO's activities to strengthen the migration evidence base include contributions to and publication of articles, working papers, and peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as global normative work.

#### *8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation*

Throughout 2014, FAO has strengthened its collaboration with a number of partners in the area of migration. Collaboration with IFAD, DEVCO and the Italian Cooperation has resulted in the creation of a number of project proposals (see above). FAO is contributing more and more to existing global cooperation mechanisms, such as the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, as well as the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development, the Global Remittances Working Group, the UN Task Team for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

In June 2014, FAO became an official member of the Global Migration Group (GMG) thereby gaining access to the main body for dialogue on migration issues at global level. Participation in GMG also gives FAO the necessary visibility and recognition to expand work in this thematic area as it is an effective channel to interact more systematically with other UN agencies through information exchange and engagement collaborations at global and country level. FAO participates in relevant meetings, both at managerial/strategic and technical/operational levels. For instance, FAO has recently contributed and endorsed a joint GMG Communiqué on Migration in the Post2015 process, and is also providing inputs to a potential UNDAF guidance document on migration.

### QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate the rationale, the strengths, weaknesses and the areas for improvement of the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda related to international migrants, migration and mobility.

#### 1. Safe, legal and orderly migration (10.7)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
[This section was intentionally left blank]	FAO advocates for increasing the attention as well to internal and seasonal migration in order to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people and reduce distress rural out migration. This should include for instance the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, including seasonal migration schemes.

#### 2. Reducing remittance transfer costs (10.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
FAO welcomes the inclusion of explicit reference to reducing the transaction costs of remittances among the proposed targets and hopes that increasing attention would be given to facilitating productive investments of remittances in rural areas.	[This section was intentionally left blank]

#### 3. Rights of migrant workers (8.8)

protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
FAO welcomes that the target on protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe and secure working conditions explicitly mentions migrant workers.	FAO advocates that migrant workers in precarious or informal jobs are also covered by the target, in particular migrants working in the agriculture sector, including temporary and seasonal migrants. FAO works to extend these rights to rural migrant workers and their families. It works towards preventing forms of exploitation and discrimination; promoting safe and fair working conditions; improving the portability of rights and benefits, including to social protection, and the recognition of skills and qualifications.

4. Eliminating trafficking of women and children (5.2 and 16.2)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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5. Addressing the “brain drain” through retention and training of health workers (3.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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6. Scholarships for developing countries to enrol in higher education in other countries (4b)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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7.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
[This section was intentionally left blank]	[This section was intentionally left blank]

8.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
[This section was intentionally left blank]	[This section was intentionally left blank]