

**ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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**INPUT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO THE  
ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION <sup>1</sup>**

*International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

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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.

## **A. IOM's contribution to the overall theme of the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

*Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications*

As the leading global agency on migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: (i) assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; (ii) advance understanding of migration issues; (iii) encourage social and economic development through migration; and (iv) uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. Over the past sixty years, IOM has partnered with Member States, UN agencies and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector to improve human development outcomes for migrants, while enhancing overall levels of development for societies of origin, transit and destination.

One of the ways in which IOM promotes comprehensive approaches is by facilitating dialogue and exchanges of good policies and practices between governments and other relevant actors. For example since 2001, IOM's International Dialogue for Migration (IDM) has provided a regular forum for advancing understanding of current and emerging issues in migration governance, to identify and exchange effective policies and practices on migration at global, regional and national levels, and foster international cooperation. The IDM is one of the few fora covering the whole spectrum of migration issues which consistently brings together States and non-State actors.

At the regional level, Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) are important mechanisms which foster dialogue, cooperation and the cross fertilization of ideas and practices among States on migration issues at regional and inter-regional levels. These informal and largely non-binding gatherings established and led by governments are now present in virtually all regions of the world. IOM participates in most of the major RCPs as a member, partner or observer, and provides services to most, either as a secretariat, or other services on request such as research and information dissemination, policy advice, capacity building and technical cooperation, and project implementation. IOM promotes the discussion of migration and development in these meetings, as a result of which reports are sometimes published<sup>2</sup>. In addition, IOM provides organizational and substantive support to the global RCPs meetings taking place every two years<sup>3</sup>.

IOM implements capacity building and training on all aspects of migration management including migration policy, international migration law, labour migration, immigration and border management, migration health, counter trafficking, and managing migration in conflict

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<sup>2</sup> For example, "Labour migration from Colombo Process countries: Good practices, challenges and ways forward".

<sup>3</sup> The next global meeting of RCPs will be held in Lima, Peru on 22-23 May 2013, convened by the Government of Peru and IOM. The meeting will also serve to focus RCPs' preparations for the High Level Dialogue.

and post conflict situations. IOM undertakes extensive research on migration issues, while also strengthening the capacity of partners in migration research, data collection and analysis, focusing specifically on coherence and maximizing the positive impact of migration and minimizing the negative effects. IOM seeks to address gaps in understanding of migration and monitor emerging trends, for instance through a greater focus on “South-South” migration and its implications. IOM supports States in implementing international legal instruments and standards to which they have signed up, through trainings and awareness raising on international migration law and direct support to drafting or amending migration related laws and policies. It further supports regional and international monitoring bodies by providing information on the implementation of relevant instruments as well as supporting States in drafting reports and giving additional information on migration trends to the monitoring mechanisms.

As the only agency dealing with all aspects of migration and with a global presence, and as a founding member of the Geneva Migration Group which later became the Global Migration Group (GMG), IOM has contributed actively to strengthening inter-agency coordination and efforts through its participation at global, regional and country levels in coordination processes, including by mainstreaming migration into development frameworks. Together with the UN Development Programme, IOM currently chairs the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning. It also works actively with and consults the academic community, civil society and the private sector.

## **B. IOM’s contribution to the roundtable themes of the 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

### *1. Round table 1: Assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparations of the post 2015 development framework.*

IOM, in its global efforts to harness the positive impacts of migration on development while mitigating its negative impacts, promotes comprehensive migration approaches that empower migrants, protect their rights and recognize the value of safe and healthy migration and its impact on home and host communities including on their sustainable development. IOM’s comprehensive approach aims to ensure that migration has a positive effect on all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental development.

One key element of this work is to strengthen data and data collection mechanisms in order to measure the links between different aspects of migration and development. As one example, Migration Profiles provide a concise statistical report, prepared according to a common framework, making it easier to understand "at a glance" the migration situation in a particular country. They have proven to be a useful a tool for migrant data collection, analysis and capacity building in support of evidence based and strategic migration policy planning at the national and regional levels. To date, IOM has supported the implementation of more than fifty Migration Profiles in specific countries. IOM has also published a guidance tool on how governments and implementing partners can develop and conduct a Migration Profile exercise, including a module providing a framework for the analysis of the impact of migration on development.

IOM's World Migration Reports (WMR) are an important tool to raise awareness on a variety of migration topics, and have covered many issues relevant to the migration and development nexus. The 2013 WMR (forthcoming) focuses on "Migrants' Well-being and Development". It is based on unique empirical data of 25,000 migrants surveyed in 150 countries by Gallup. Unlike most analyses which focus on monetary and macro-economic effects of migration, this report will assess the effects on international migration on development from the perspective of "human well-being" - the effects of migration on the lives of migrants in terms of social networks, financial security, health, professional development, among others. The report also promotes a more balanced discussion of migration and development – focusing not only on South-North migration, but also South-South, North-South and North-North flows. WMR 2013 background papers and seminars have provided important input to the report and to the discussion on how migration can be factored into the post 2015 UN development agenda.

Another important element of IOM's work is to raise awareness on the main factors that facilitate positive links between migration and development. IOM has played and continues to play an active role within the global discussion on a post-2015 UN development agenda. As a member of the relevant UN Task Team and its associated working groups, IOM has, in consultation with key partners, co-authored or contributed to a range of thematic think pieces to highlight the important links between migration and development in the post-2015 agenda, such as on Population Dynamics, Financing for Development, Trade, Health and Disaster Risk Reduction. IOM holds the co-lead for the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics, which include discussion of migration. In this role, IOM facilitates civil society consultations and the high-level Leadership Meeting of UN Member States.<sup>4</sup>

IOM has also assessed the contributions of diaspora groups/transnational communities to development. In 2012 one of the "Issue in Brief" series, a joint publication with the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), focused on the Asian diaspora, not only as senders of remittances but also as a source of human capital and indirect investment. In collaboration with MPI, IOM has recently published a guidance tool for governments and migration practitioners entitled: "Developing a road map for engaging diasporas in development: a handbook for policy makers and practitioners in home and host countries". To take stock of government initiatives, policies and programmes in this area, allow for a sharing of experiences and insights, and promote good practices, IOM is organizing, in the context of its annual IDM, a Diaspora Ministerial Conference<sup>5</sup> which will examine the relationships between diaspora groups and States; societies; development; and crises.

As regards emerging trends that should be reflected in future migration and development planning, as well as in the post-2015 development agenda, IOM emphasizes the effects of environment/climate change; health; the growing significance of "South-South migration"; and the interactions between migration and humanitarian crises (for the latter, see section 2 below). For example, IOM has pioneered practical responses, research, and policy dialogue on the linkages between migration and environmental factors. 2013 will see the release of a

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<sup>4</sup> In Geneva in February 2013 and in Dhaka in March 2013, respectively.

<sup>5</sup> To take place on 18-19 June in Geneva, Switzerland.

regional assessment of the effects of climate change and environmental factors on migration as well as the first "Training on Migration, Environment, Climate Change and Adaptation"<sup>6</sup>.

Similarly, in efforts to implement the World Health Assembly resolution on the Health of Migrants adopted in 2008, IOM conducts research and shares knowledge on the social determinants of health for migrants and their families, and on other relevant health-related aspects of migration to inform evidence-based policies. IOM also works with governments and other partners to promote multi-sectoral approaches that address the structural determinants of migrants' health. Healthy migrants are better able to attain their human development potential; concurrently, the health costs of migration are reduced both for migrants and societies.

With respect to migration among developing countries and its development implications, the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States' Migration Observatory, implemented by IOM, has established research networks on migration issues in the six ACP regions to produce and collect data on South-South migration and build relevant capacities in ACP countries. The ACP Observatory has also published an extensive analysis of indicators on the migration-development nexus.<sup>7</sup>

2. *Round table 2: Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to woman and children, as well as to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to ensure regular orderly and safe migration.*

IOM promotes a rights-based approach to migration that ensures access by migrants to their social and economic rights, taking into account differentiated vulnerabilities based on gender, age, health, legal status and other factors. IOM seeks to raise the awareness of States and other relevant actors of the importance to achieving positive development outcomes of respecting the rights of all individuals, and builds the capacity of relevant partners in this. While States have the sovereign right to determine migration policies, and rules on entry and stay (with the notable exception of obligations on non-refoulement), such policies and rules must be in conformity with international obligations and take into account the individual's rights and needs. IOM promotes a human rights based approach to migration management based on existing international and regional legal frameworks, ensuring sustainability and respect for the rule of law. It collaborates directly with governments in order to assist them in implementing international standards as well as with other international organizations and NGOs to further the respect for international law in relation to migration, since the enjoyment of rights is inherent to human development. IOM specifically promotes respect for the human rights of Victims of Trafficking by paying specific attention to protection and assistance needs. IOM assisted more than 2,700 victims of trafficking in 2011, of which 35 per cent were children.

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<sup>6</sup> To take place 21-23 March 2013 in Seoul in collaboration with UK Foresight, Asian Development Bank and Geneva Centre for Security Policy.

<sup>7</sup> ACP Observatory on Migration, S. Melde 2012 Indicators of the impact of migration on human development and vice versa. Available on the website of the ACP Observatory on Migration.

IOM draws attention to the implications of humanitarian crises for migration and migrant populations, including in terms of protection and development. Specifically, IOM is working to address the role of human mobility in disaster risk reduction strategies, disaster preparedness, and national climate change adaptation programmes. IOM's work in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery – including as the global lead agency for camp coordination and camp management in natural disasters – contributes directly to ensuring protection and to provide assistance to crisis-affected populations, particularly those forcibly displaced. The IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) adopted by IOM Member States at the Council meeting in November 2012 seeks to enhance the quality and coherence of IOM's operational response to migration crises and to help all crisis-affected populations to protect their rights, including that of access to assistance, health care and psycho-social support, and more quickly resume productive lives. Among other aspects, the MCOF highlights the protection and assistance needs of international migrants caught in crises in their countries of destination. IOM has evacuated tens of thousands of migrant workers and their families from crisis and conflict affected countries such as Kuwait and Lebanon, and recently Libya and Syria. For instance, IOM has evacuated nearly 3,250<sup>8</sup> international migrants from Syria to their home countries, at their request and in collaboration with their countries of origin. 72 per cent of vulnerable and stranded migrants provided with evacuation/return assistance were female migrant workers.

- 3. Round table 3: Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies, and promote coherence at all levels.*

In addition to IOM's numerous partnerships and its support to global and regional policy fora on migration mentioned at the outset, IOM promotes and facilitates bilateral and multilateral agreements covering various aspects of migration management to improve cooperation among States of origin and of destination and mechanisms of exchange of information aimed at ensuring sound, equitable and humane conditions of migration for all.

IOM has provided support to countries in developing national migration and development strategies (e.g. Zimbabwe) or national development strategies (e.g. Senegal, Albania) and policies (e.g. Austria, Russian Federation) in which migration is addressed as an integral issue. IOM also helped to put in place State institutional structures dedicated to migration and development (e.g. Mali, Senegal). IOM has further assisted states to implement the UN Development Programme-led Joint Migration and Development Initiative (Egypt, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Philippines, Morocco). IOM seminars/workshops helped build the capacity of State officials on key migration and development issues. IOM also supported regional conferences to enhance inter-State dialogue on how to address the impact of the global economic crisis on migration and development. At country level and wherever IOM is present, IOM is an active partner within the UN country team, including in efforts to mainstream migration into the UN Development Action Frameworks processes. IOM works closely with

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<sup>8</sup> Figure as at 17 Jan 2013

UN partners, governments and civil society in the effort to build common agendas and programmes, especially in the area of migration and development.

IOM led the development of the GMG publication “Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A handbook for policy-makers and practitioners” (2010). This handbook is being piloted in Jamaica, Moldova, Tunisia and Bangladesh with oversight by the UN Development Programme and IOM. As a result, one State has already developed a national policy and plan of action on international migration and development (Jamaica).

IOM works with a broad range of partners from the international community, including World Health Organization, UN-AIDS, ministries of health, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to enhance understanding and cooperation to improve the health of migrants, their families and host communities. IOM provides technical and financial support to countries to develop national inter-sectoral responses (Sri Lanka, Jordan, Turkey) to develop migrant friendly health policies and coordinated responses on migrants’ health. It promotes multi-sectoral dialogue on the health of migrants at global, regional and national levels, and the harmonization of policies and protocols to ensure continuity of care across borders.

IOM also builds sustainable partnerships between governments, the private sector and diaspora/transnational communities to facilitate the development of policies and mechanisms that ensure the mobilization of the vast social, human, cultural and financial resources generated through human mobility for development. For nearly four decades, IOM has facilitated the transfer of valuable human capital and skills of qualified nationals to their countries of origin. The Organization has also worked on creating greater awareness and transparency about costs and services offered by financial and money transfer operators.

*4. Round table 4: International and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.*

IOM works with governments to promote a “high road” scenario for human mobility – one in which facilitating, not restricting, human movement is the priority, one which sees migration as a process to be managed rather than a problem to be solved, and one that aims at creating more options for people to engage in legitimate economic activity and realize their human development aspiration and potential through mobility. IOM works to enhance the positive contribution labour mobility can have on the growth and development of countries of origin and destination, as well as the human development and well-being of the migrants themselves. It does so by raising awareness of international and regional legal standards in relation to labour migration and promoting greater respect for the rights of migrant workers, in particular the principle of non-discrimination, in labour standards, employment, social protection and social dialogue. IOM encourages cooperation, including with the private sector, and measures to punish all forms of exploitation of migrant workers, irrespective of migration status, and ensure that there are mechanisms for complaint and redress for those who have had their rights violated. IOM also promotes and facilitates the development of legislation, policies, and mechanisms that improve remittance services to migrants in order to benefit the families and communities in the States of origin.

To these ends, IOM facilitates technical and ministerial government workshops on labour migration management and labour market integration, such as a project to improve labour migration administration in Central America and the Dominican Republic, and the Migration Dialogue for Southern African region. The IOM Independent Network of Labour Migration and Integration Experts (LINET) which covers the European Union plus Norway, Croatia and Turkey, has focused on in-depth, policy-relevant analysis of labour migration and integration issues. One of the studies published by IOM/LINET in 2012 concerns labour market inclusion of less skilled migrants in the European Union. Furthermore, IOM works with World Health Organization and other partners to promote ethical recruitment of health workers to avoid depleting critical human resources, and promotes the contribution of the health-skilled diaspora to development of that sector in countries of origin. To prepare individuals for their migration experience, IOM conducted, in the first half of 2012, migrant training and pre-departure courses in 43 countries for over 20,600 individuals. These training programmes reduce overall the social and financial costs of migration for all stakeholders, by reducing migrants' dependence on post-arrival services and better preparing them to work and adapt to living in a new society. In the same vein, IOM provides quality pre-departure health assessments for migrant workers and their families in compliance with international standards and advocacy for non-discriminatory practices. It promotes health education and information as a means to empower migrants for safer and dignified migration.