

**FIFTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Secretariat  
New York, 20-21 November 2006

**UNITAR's MIGRATION RELATED ACTIVITIES**

*United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)*



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research's (UNITAR) work in the field of international migration, including its activities prior to the General Assembly's High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), reflect its core mandate namely to strengthen the United Nations system through appropriate training on social and economic development and peace and security-related matters of critical relevance to member-states.

#### **A. UNITAR/UNFPA/IOM “KEY MIGRATION ISSUES” WORKSHOP SERIES**

Prior to the High Level Dialogue that took place in New York on 14-15 September 2006, UNITAR New York, supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the “*Key Migration Issues*” Workshop Series.

The Series' purpose was to inform and educate the diplomatic community, and stimulate critical thinking about migration and its various inter-linkages, in particular its relationship with development. It provided a neutral platform, bringing together various stakeholders involved in migration issues and facilitating dialogue and collaboration amongst them.

The Series hosted seven events on the topics of: international human trafficking; labour migration; diaspora contributions; HIV, AIDS and migration; human rights and migration; regional consultative processes; and irregular migration.

Each event gathered fifty to one hundred international experts and participants. The focus throughout all meetings was on practical approaches and existing good practices. Emphasis was placed on the contributions that all stakeholders, including governments, and also the private sector, civil society—migrant associations and other NGOs, academics, trade unions, employer associations— UN and international organizations can bring to the debate.

The main reflections and recommendations drawn from the Series were presented in a summary report. They underpinned five factors, which can and often do play a role in fostering the development impact of international migration, namely: addressing root causes; supporting diaspora contributions; facilitating circular migration; protecting human rights of migrants; and building partnerships.

Many delegates and experts alike have commended the organizing agencies for the substantive input to the debate and the assistance the Series provided in preparing delegates for the General Assembly's High Level Dialogue. These expressions of appreciation serve as the basis for sustaining this effort and expanding its purview in 2007.

## **B. UNITAR'S MIGRATION RELATED ACTIVITIES IN 2007**

In follow-up to the General Assembly's High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) the Secretary-General proposed to establish a global consultative forum to continue states-led, open-ended and informal discussions on international migration and development at the global level. The Government of Belgium offered to host the first Global Forum meeting, which will likely take place in July 2007.

In light of this fact, UNITAR, in collaboration with UNFPA and IOM, will pursue its "*Key Migration Issues*" Workshop Series in 2007. The seminars will concentrate on substantive issues to be discussed at the first Global Forum meeting in Belgium in July 2007 to provide governments with an overview on achievements and challenges in the fields under consideration.

The Series will pursue raising awareness and advancing policy thinking on the link between migration and development, responding to a number of objectives that were laid out during the migration-related discussions that took place at UN Headquarters this year, including strengthening cooperation and dialogue; building governments' capacities; and improving coordination amongst relevant agencies. Further, each seminar will discuss "recent developments" to brief delegates on migration in the context of the Forum, the Global Migration Group (GMG) and the United Nations' work.

A course on international migration law, facilitated by IOM, will complement the Series, examining all international and regional legislation pertaining to international migration—a body of law increasingly referred to as "international migration law" —while providing an interactive, skills-based learning experience for delegates.