

**FIFTH COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

New York, 20-21 November 2006



United Nations



**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Population Division

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# DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

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## PREFACE

Since 2002, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat has been organizing annual Coordination Meetings on International Migration. The purpose of these meetings is to bring together representatives of all the entities of the United Nations system working on international migration to discuss topics of common interest and exchange information on recent and future activities with a view to enhancing coordination in the area of international migration.

On the way to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly conducted on 14 and 15 September 2006, the Coordination Meetings provided a useful venue for the United Nations system to keep abreast of developments in the intergovernmental process leading to the Dialogue and to exchange views about what the Dialogue could achieve. The Fifth Coordination Meeting, held from 20 to 21 November 2006, just two months after the Dialogue, provided the first opportunity for experts and practitioners in the United Nations system to reflect on how their respective entities would respond to the outcomes of the Dialogue. This volume presents a report of their deliberations as well as a set of papers documenting recent and future activities on international migration by the different entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working on international migration.

Eighty participants representing agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental institutions active in the field of international migration attended the Fifth Coordination Meeting. This high level of participation attests to the growing importance of international migration for the United Nations system. Aware of the increasing engagement of entities of the United Nations system in activities related to international migration and valuing mechanisms that promote coordination, the General Assembly had called on the Population Division of DESA to continue convening annual Coordination Meetings on International Migration in resolution 58/208 of 13 February 2004.

In keeping with a trend set in previous meetings, the Fifth Coordination Meeting also provided a forum for the consideration of new developments at the intergovernmental level. In this case, the meeting focused on the State-led initiative resulting from the High-level Dialogue, namely, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). A representative of the Government of Belgium, which had undertaken the task of organizing the first meeting of the Global Forum, briefed participants on the measures being pursued to ensure an inclusive and transparent preparatory process. Representatives of the United Nations system had the opportunity to pose questions and express views on how to ensure the success of this major endeavour.

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## Explanatory notes

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

AEG	Advisory Expert Group on National Statistics
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APC	Inter-governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations
BOP	Balance of Payments
BOPCOM	Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CMS	Center for Migration Studies
CMW	Committee on Migrant Workers
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
DAR	Development Assistance for Refugees
DFID	Department for International Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EC	European Commission
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Community
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GCIM	Global Commission on International Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GMG	Global Migration Group
GPAT	Global Programme Against Trafficking in Persons
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICMPD	International Center for Migration Policy Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
IDM	International Dialogue on Migration, IOM
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations
IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
ILO	International Labour Office
IMDI	International Migration and Development Initiative
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMILA	Investigation of International Migration in Latin America
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPI	Migration Policy Institute

MSIT	Migrant Saving and Investment Trust
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHDR	National Human Development Report
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RCPs	Regional Consultative Processes
SSRC	Social Science Research Council
THP	The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
TSG	Technical Subgroup on the Movement of Persons—Mode 4
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Framework
UN/DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

## **PART ONE**

### **REPORT OF THE MEETING AND INFORMATION PAPERS**



## REPORT OF THE MEETING

The Fifth United Nations Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 to 21 November 2006. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat in response to General Assembly Resolution 58/208 of 13 February 2004 on international migration and development which requested, *inter alia*, that the Secretary-General continue convening meetings to coordinate activities regarding international migration.

The main objectives of the Coordination Meeting were: (a) to discuss the implications of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which was conducted by the General Assembly on 14 and 15 September 2006, and (b) to exchange information on activities in the area of international migration and development.

Eighty participants representing agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental institutions active in the field of international migration attended the meeting. Also present were invited experts and representatives of Member States of the United Nations.

### I. OPENING

Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of the Population Division of DESA, welcomed participants and opened the meeting. He pointed out that 2006 had been the year for international migration at the United Nations. At the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in September 2006, the General Assembly had focused for the first time its full attention on international migration and development issues. Member States had been represented at high levels, thus signaling their commitment to the issue. The main conclusions of their deliberations had been summarized in the report of the President of the General Assembly. A resolution on international migration and development was being negotiated by the Second Committee of the General Assembly and was expected to be adopted by December 2006. Mr. Hovy noted that in May 2006, after protracted negotiations, the Commission on Population and Development had adopted a comprehensive resolution on international migration and development, which had helped to set the framework for discussions at the High-level Dialogue.

### II. THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division of DESA, also welcomed participants and noted that the number of entities represented at the Coordination Meeting had increased substantially since 2002, when the Population Division had first convened such a meeting. This increase in interest reflected the growing importance of international migration issues for entities in the system. She thanked participants for their support for this activity and noted that the information obtained from previous Coordination Meetings had provided useful input for the preparation of the Secretary-General's report for the High-level Dialogue.

Ms. Zlotnik then presented the background paper prepared for the meeting, entitled "The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and Beyond". The paper provided an overview of

the main preparatory activities for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, a summary of the debate during the Dialogue and an overview of migration-related events after the Dialogue. In resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly had decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session in 2006. It had also decided that the purpose of the Dialogue would be to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative implications. The resolution stipulated that the outcome of the Dialogue would be a summary from the chair, which would be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations.

Ms. Zlotnik recalled that in 2003, Sweden and Switzerland had set up the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), which was composed of 19 commissioners. This initiative had had the support of the Secretary-General who was the first to receive, in October 2005, the recommendations emanating from the work of the Global Commission. One recommendation in particular, number 33, was addressed to the Secretary-General and called for the creation a global migration facility which would bring together entities within and outside the United Nations system involved in international migration. In response to this recommendation, the Secretary-General established, in April 2006, the Global Migration Group (GMG), consisting of the six members of the former Geneva Migration Group and four new members—UNDESA, UNFPA, UNDP and the World Bank.

In January 2006, another important development had taken place: the Secretary-General had appointed Mr. Peter Sutherland as his Special Representative (SRSG) on International Migration and Development. Mr. Sutherland was to promote the engagement of Governments at the highest levels in the High-level Dialogue and provide advice on how to build on that event.

In 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/227, which established that the High-level Dialogue would consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive roundtables. In addition, the resolution requested the President of the General Assembly to organize up to two panel discussions prior to the High-level Dialogue. The panels were organized so as to permit the heads of key entities within and outside the United Nations system to present to Member States their views on how best to leverage international migration to support development and how to prevent the negative consequences of migration. The first panel took place on 8 June 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and included presentations from SRSG Sutherland and high-level representatives of UNDESA, UNFPA, the World Bank and ECLAC in representation of the regional commissions. The second panel was held on 4 July 2006 in Geneva and included presentations from SRSG Sutherland and the heads of UNCTAD, UNHCR, UNHCHR, ILO and IOM.

General Assembly resolution 60/227 also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development.<sup>1</sup> This report, which had been prepared by the Population Division with the input from many other United Nations entities as well as IOM, included a proposal to establish a consultative Forum on international migration, which would be State-owned, State-driven, non-decision making, and would not produce negotiated outcomes. Out of the 127 Member States making statements during the High-level Dialogue, two thirds expressed support for such a Forum. Moreover, the Government of Belgium offered to organize and host the first meeting of the Global Forum on International Migration and Development in 2007.

Ms. Zlotnik then highlighted the issues discussed at the High-level Dialogue which were most relevant to the United Nations system. First, the Dialogue concluded that it was necessary to strengthen international cooperation to promote the positive impact of international migration on development. Second, respect for human rights was essential to ensure that international migration would be beneficial

for all. Third, there was a need for international cooperation in combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. Fourth, there was a pressing need to address the root causes of international migration, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of peace and security, and human rights violations. Lastly, there was a need to enhance or build capacity in a variety of migration related areas. Ms. Zlotnik concluded by suggesting that the United Nations system could make a valuable contribution to the Global Forum's first meeting by providing, at the request of Member States, examples of best practices, practical responses to the challenges posed by international migration or substantive inputs. She encouraged participants to share information on their activities in light of the conclusions of the High-level Dialogue.

During the discussion, the IOM representative remarked that the presentation was a very useful introduction for the meeting. He noted that, in addition to the role of the United Nations system, it was important to consider the contribution of other relevant international actors in the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. The annual Coordination Meetings convened by the Population Division were an important mechanism to coordinate the activities of the United Nations system with those of other international organizations. One practical way to coordinate follow-up activities would be to link the websites of the United Nations Population and IOM. In her response, Ms. Zlotnik agreed that coordination in the area of international migration by a mechanism such as the Coordination Meeting would not be restricted to the United Nations system. Within the system, the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) was already promoting coordination and coherence on a variety of topics, including international migration.

Some participants pointed out omissions in the report of the Secretary-General to the High-level Dialogue. The representative of UNEP noted that the impact of environmental degradation on migration, in particular in small island States, was not addressed. The representative of UN-HABITAT remarked that the linkages between urbanization and migration were not considered in the report. Because international migrants were predominantly concentrated in cities, city administrations were the ones most directly involved in planning for services needed by migrants, including accommodation or education. Participants suggested that both topics, namely migration and environment and migration and urbanization, be considered in future reports. Ms. Zlotnik noted that environmental change mostly led to internal rather than international migration and that internal migration might be more crucial for development in many countries than international migration. Regarding urbanization and internal migration, the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development that was to be held in 2008, would focus on that topic.

The representative of the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) suggested that, given the historic importance of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, it would be desirable for the Population Division to prepare an account of how the intergovernmental process, with guidance from the Secretary-General, had led from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to the Dialogue.

Lastly, Mr. Hovy drew the attention of participants to the recently published *Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development*<sup>2</sup> which, as its title suggested, contained a compilation of all the relevant recommendations on international migration and development included in the outcome documents of the United Nations conferences and summits held since 1990. The Compendium thus allowed a better understanding of the evolution of government views on the topic.

### III. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Christine Detaille, First Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, made a presentation on the preparations for the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and

Development (GFMD), which was being organized by the Government of Belgium and would be held in Brussels, Belgium, in July 2007. She noted that Belgium was an active player in the field of international migration and development. Thus, together with IOM, Belgium had organized a conference on international migration and development in March 2006. Belgium had also been instrumental in putting the issue of international migration and development on the agenda of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). She added that the Government of Belgium was actively developing a policy that would integrate international migration issues into the development agenda and vice versa, thus ensuring policy coherence in both areas. The ministries responsible for development, foreign affairs and home affairs had a tradition of cooperation and shared a common budget line for international migration.

Ms. Detaille underscored that the first meeting of the Global Forum would focus on creating added value. Thus, the Forum would go beyond the analysis of international migration and development by focusing on best practices, the identification of innovative approaches and the development of action-oriented strategies. The Forum was being organized in an open and transparent fashion, involving all Member States that wished to participate as well as other stakeholders in the preparatory process. Each Member State of the United Nations would be asked to designate a focal point for the Forum and to suggest thematic priorities. In choosing the themes for the first meeting of the Forum, care would be taken that they were relevant to both developed and developing countries. An open-ended group of States, called the “Friends of the Forum”, would be invited to discuss and approve the themes for the first meeting of the Forum. Ms. Detaille underscored the efforts being made to involve as many Member States as possible in the Forum. She welcomed, on behalf of the organizers of the first meeting of the Forum, the support of United Nations entities and other relevant institutions.

In the discussion that followed, participants raised questions on the participation of NGOs and of representatives of migrant and transnational communities, on the selection of themes, and on the group of States called the “Friends of the Forum”. Ms. Detaille explained that the involvement of stakeholders would depend on the themes of the Forum which were yet to be determined. She added that the Government of Belgium would welcome input from United Nations entities on specific themes. Gender would be one of the “cross-cutting” issues at the Forum. She observed that the selection process for the “Friends of the Forum” would be very transparent. Lastly, Ms. Detaille pointed out that it was important to consider how to follow up the outcomes of the first meeting of the Global Forum.

The representative of UNITAR informed participants that UNITAR, in cooperation with UNFPA and IOM, had organized seven workshops on key migration issues at United Nations Headquarters in preparation of the High-level Dialogue and that the organization of workshops on relevant themes would continue during 2007. She offered the expertise of UNITAR in helping identify themes for the first meeting of the Global Forum. Participants also inquired about the relationship between the Forum and the United Nations, the role of the Global Migration Group (GMG), and the availability of funding.

Ms. Detaille noted that Belgium would be very interested in receiving support from the United Nations, in particular from GMG, in preparing the Forum. However, the type of support needed would depend on the themes that would be discussed at the Forum. She remarked that the organizers had raised sufficient funds to pay the full costs of the Forum’s first meeting.

#### IV. THE GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP

The third substantive topic of the meeting was devoted to the activities of the Global Migration Group (GMG). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who chaired the GMG during the second half of 2006, was represented by Mr. José Riera, Senior Policy Adviser. In his



presentation, Mr. Riera provided an overview of recent activities of GMG and indicated possible areas where GMG might provide substantive support to the Global Forum.

Mr. Riera explained that the goal of GMG was “to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to [international] migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG was particularly concerned about improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalizing on the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration.”<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Riera informed participants that GMG had produced two key documents under UNHCR’s chairmanship. The first was a brochure on GMG, its membership and terms of reference which had been published by IOM. The second was a compendium of the activities of GMG members in the areas of policy research, data collection and publications. Both documents had been distributed among participants. Mr. Riera characterized GMG as a “coalition of the willing”, whose members shared information, planned joint activities and were in the process of developing synergies among themselves. Meetings at the working level had produced a number of useful recommendations, including a set of working methods, which were likely to be adopted at the meeting of GMG Principals in December 2006.

Mr. Riera informed participants that, at a meeting in early September, the GMG Principals had discussed the potential outcome of the High-level Dialogue and the role of the Global Forum. While GMG was supportive of the Global Forum, its Principals were awaiting the determination of the themes that would be addressed by the first meeting of the Global Forum to see how best to provide support, whether individually or collectively.

Speaking on behalf of UNHCR, Mr. Riera noted that the High-level Dialogue had prompted a new approach by UNHCR, which consisted in considering that persons forced to flee their country were part of the global debate on international migration and development, while emphasizing that refugees were in special need of international protection. To guide debate during the High-level Dialogue, UNHCR had added a webpage to its website focusing on international migration and its relation with forced migration. The page contained recommendations for consideration of the Dialogue and a ten-point Plan of Action on refugee protection in cases where persons qualifying as refugees were part of larger international migration flows, a development described as “mixed migration”.

In the discussion that followed, the representative of IOM expressed appreciation for the work done by UNHCR as chair of the GMG and noted the usefulness of the compendium of GMG activities in the areas of data collection, research and documentation. He suggested that the compendium be posted on the websites of all GMG members. He also pointed out that the role of GMG would be discussed during the forthcoming annual session of the IOM Council, which would take place in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2006. All GMG Principals had been invited to attend the Council’s session.

The representative of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) inquired about the working methods of GMG and whether the staff attending GMG meetings at the working level were fully dedicated to GMG activities. Mr. Riera explained that GMG did not have a secretariat and, consequently, staff participating in working level meetings continued to have other responsibilities. He added that, in terms of the collaboration between GMG and the Global Forum, it might be possible for some of the members of GMG to provide staff support to the Forum. Regarding substantive support, GMG members would be in a better position to respond to requests the sooner the themes considered by the Forum were decided, since it was not easy for GMG members to change programmes of work at short notice.

Participants also expressed an interest in knowing how the terms of reference of GMG had been established and whether there was an intention to expand membership. Mr. Riera explained that the terms of reference for GMG were based on those of the former Geneva Migration Group. He noted that UNESCO and UNITAR had already applied for GMG membership, while UNICEF had expressed interest in joining GMG. Mr. Riera said that the issue of expanding the membership would be discussed at the meeting of GMG Principals in December 2006.

#### V. POSSIBLE THEMES FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GLOBAL FORUM

The afternoon session focused on possible themes for the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) suggested that, in identifying themes for the first meeting of the Global Forum, preference should be given to the least controversial ones in order to build consensus among Member States. For instance, the issues of human trafficking, migrant smuggling and the role of transnational communities were areas in which Member States could likely make significant progress.

The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) indicated that it was important to examine international migration in all its complexity. In addition to focusing on the situation of migrants in receiving countries, she underscored the need to identify strategies which could maximize the contribution of international migrants to their countries of origin.

The representative of UNITAR urged the organizations present at the coordination meeting to focus on how they could contribute to the first Global Forum, given that the agenda of that meeting was primarily going to be driven by Member States. In particular, she suggested that the various United Nations entities could play a positive role in facilitating cooperation and dialogue in areas of their specific expertise.

The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) expressed the opinion that it was important for the Global Forum to address issues perceived as controversial. Specifically, he stressed the need to focus on public perceptions about international migration and the impact of religion and culture in migrant integration. He thought that the themes focusing on data improvement, preventing human trafficking or facilitating the flow of remittances were too narrow. In his view, discussing difficult issues was useful, even if no consensus was reached.

The representative of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) noted that the High-level Dialogue had provided a venue where countries of origin and countries of destination could share their different perspectives on international migration. He agreed with the representative of UNESCO that, instead of avoiding controversial issues, the Global Forum could be a venue to air the differing views and positions that Member States held on the issue. With respect to the concept of co-development as described in the report of the Secretary-General, he noted that the evidence supporting the view that development could be fostered by international migration was weak and proposed a programme to study the issue further.

The representative of the International Metropolis Project suggested the United Nations Secretariat could review the evidence relating international migration to development. Such a review would include an assessment of the conditions necessary to promote and sustain development in countries of origin, an evaluation of the impact of international migration on the development of countries of origin and a

discussion of strategies to promote the development benefits of international migration. Such a document was needed to inform those working on international migration who often had only a limited understanding of the development process. He suggested that the United Nations should support work to identify good practices and ways to implement them. He concluded by calling for more research on the relationship between international migration and development.

The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also noted the disjunction between the debate on international migration and the development discourse. For instance, UNDP had no publicly stated position on international migration. Recently, representatives of UNDP and IOM had met several times to develop a possible research programme on the linkages between international migration and development. Given the weak understanding of the linkages between international migration and development, he thought it was premature to embark on large-scale, action-oriented programmes except, perhaps, in the area of remittances.

The representative of UNITAR agreed that few experts on international migration had a solid understanding of developmental issues and development experts tended to be poorly informed about international migration. To improve understanding on both sides, she called for increased dialogue, collaboration and exchanges between international migration and development experts.

Echoing the concerns expressed by the UNDP representative, the representative of MPI expressed her organization's hesitation to become involved in action-oriented migration and development programmes because of the paucity of evidence to guide such programmes. At the same time, she cautioned against inaction. Since international migration was ongoing and increasing in many contexts, Governments could not pause to gather the appropriate evidence before formulating policy or taking action. Hence the identification of good or best practices had been one of the leitmotifs of the High-level Dialogue. Since most of the evidence available was anecdotal, she called for best practices to be described not only in terms of projects, but also as concrete outputs. For example, it was not clear from the existing information what the impact of hometown associations was. Although there was not enough time before the first meeting of the Global Forum to conduct an in-depth evaluation and analysis of current practices, MPI was engaged in doing so.

The representative of SSRC called for innovative ways to evaluate best practices. He noted that current research focused largely on transfers, including remittances, ideas and technology, and argued that the evaluation of best practices should not be limited to such transfers, but focus also on strategies for maximizing their use and their impact. Furthermore, it was important to study the long-term developmental impact of the accumulation of migrant resources and skills.

The representative of IFAD drew attention to the activities of IFAD in promoting rural development to improve rural livelihoods and thus reduce the need to emigrate. Echoing the views of previous speakers, she called for the systematic evaluation of the impact of such projects.

The representative of UN-HABITAT noted that cities were the main destination of international migrants whether they moved from developing to developed countries or from developing to other developing countries. Hence, greater attention should be devoted to the impact of international migration on cities. Specifically, it was important to identify best practices to provide accommodation for and promote the integration of international migrants at the local level. She stressed the need for strategies promoting inclusive urban management and for research on the relationship between international migration and urbanization.

The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study in Population (IUSSP) recalled that national systems for the collection of international migration statistics differed among countries. In an

effort to improve the comparability of international migration statistics, her organization was working with UNFPA to promote the collection of information on international migrants through population censuses using a standardized approach. She encouraged the international agencies present at the coordination meeting, several of which had experience in collecting or collating data on different aspects of international migration, to exchange information and share best practices in this regard. She supported the collection of data not only on the major types of international migrants, such as migrant workers, but on other types of human mobility as well. For instance, the increasing international mobility of students merited attention.

Several speakers suggested that it was important to focus on the inalienable rights of migrants as human beings and on ways to involve the migrants themselves in policy formulation and international dialogue. It was recognized that international migrants had the responsibility of abiding by the rules and regulations governing migration. The overstay of migrants admitted on a temporary basis, for instance, posed problems and undermined the integrity of migration policy.

Recalling that the path from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development to the 2006 High-level Dialogue had been long and complex, the representative of CMS called upon the participants to think beyond the first meeting of the Global Forum. Noting the absence of a clear direction for future debate on international migration, he called for clear objectives and targets for the medium term. He advocated for the involvement of all stakeholders in the Forum, including the business sector, the banking sector and academia. He noted that the interrelations between international migration and security and the issue of migrant integration were of mounting concern to Governments.

In concluding the discussion on the possible themes for the first meeting of the Global Forum, Ms. Zlotnik highlighted the importance of focusing on constructive ways of moving the dialogue on international migration and development forward. First, she cautioned against implying that international migration could be the key motor for development. International migration was one of the consequences of the development process, or lack thereof, not necessarily one of its causes. As several delegates had pointed out during the High-level Dialogue, international migration policies did not obviate the need for sound development planning. Thus, the well-documented contributions of overseas nationals to the development of China and India only became effective after critical economic changes had occurred in those countries. The real challenge in promoting development was to improve the lives of everyone, especially those too poor to migrate, and not just to improve the lives of international migrants and their families.

Ms. Zlotnik also noted that States faced a number of dilemmas in trying to ensure the best possible development outcomes related to international migration. For instance, while most experts agreed that temporary labour migration could contribute significantly to development because temporary migrant workers had the highest propensity to send remittances, temporary migration programmes often restricted the rights of the migrants involved. Similarly, measures to prevent the emigration of skilled workers from poor countries might infringe on the right every person had to leave any country, including one's own. Positive incentives to retain skilled personnel could, in principle, eliminate this dilemma but, if they did not result in substantial increases in wages or improvements in working conditions, many skilled persons might still opt to leave. Even with regard to less controversial issues, such as combating human trafficking, practices meant to protect victims might act perversely as incentives for some migrants. The Global Forum would almost surely have to grapple with these dilemmas, irrespective of which themes it focused on.

## VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The second day of the meeting was largely devoted to an exchange of information among the representatives of different entities about recent and future activities in the area of international migration and development.

The representative of the Statistics Division of DESA informed the meeting that the Division continued to work on the development of statistical standards and methods for the collection and dissemination of international migration statistics. Definitions and sources used for the generation of migration statistics continued to differ substantially among countries. Only a handful of countries had made progress in implementing the most recent set of United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration<sup>4</sup>. In addition to a lack of standardization, data on emigration and return migration were mostly lacking. To palliate the lack of information on emigration, countries of destination were requested to issue data classified by country of origin and provide those data to the United Nations so that other countries could estimate the number of their previous inhabitants who were living abroad. During the High-level Dialogue, many Member States had recognized the deficiencies of statistics on international migration and the need to improve them. In response, the Statistics Division was stepping up its work on the implementation of the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, in particular by convening an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Statistics that would meet in New York from 4 to 7 December 2006.

The Statistics Division also informed the meeting about the revised definition of remittances proposed by the United Nations Technical Sub-group on the Movement of Persons under Mode 4. The Sub-group had the task of reconciling the definition of remittances with the revisions made by the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics and those of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts regarding balance of payment statistics. The new set of definitions started by defining personal transfers, which were a part of personal remittances, which were, in turn, part of total remittances. Definitions of each of the components of these new categories of transfers were presented and compared to previous definitions. The representative of the Statistics Division explained that, in revising the definition of remittances, an attempt had been made to broaden the scope of the concept by including non-conventional types of transfers.

The representative of the Liaison Office of the Regional Commissions noted that the regional commissions had collaborated with DESA and IOM in preparing two side events during the High-level Dialogue. He stressed the importance of exchanging information on good practices within and among regions. Because of the considerable volume of South-South migration, it was essential to share know-how and expertise at the regional level. He noted that the Fifth African Development Forum, whose theme was youth, had been held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 16 to 18 November 2006. The Forum had included a segment on youth employment and migration and another on African youth living abroad. The representative welcomed the creation of the GMG and noted that the regional commissions would formally apply for membership.

The representative of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) informed participants that the work of OHRLLS was guided by the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, which considered poverty as a complex, multidimensional phenomenon. In this regard, the emigration of highly skilled personnel had a particularly negative impact on some of the least developed countries. In follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and in partnership with IOM

and UNDP, OHRLLS was focusing on the developmental impact of remittances on the least developed countries. The priority of that topic had been recognized on the way to the High-level Dialogue and already in February 2006, the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Migrants' Remittances, held in Cotonou, Benin, had examined current patterns of migrant remittances as well as policies and practices to promote their beneficial impact on development. The declaration adopted by the Conference had served as input to the High-level Dialogue.

The representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presented an overview of the activities of the Committee on Migrant Workers, which monitored the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by States Parties. He informed participants that the Convention had been ratified by 33 countries, the majority developing countries. States that were party to the Convention were lagging behind in the mandated reporting on its implementation (only four reports had been received by the Office). During 2006-2007, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants planned to visit and report on the human rights situation of international migrants in Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and the United States of America.

The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) informed participants that the activities of the ILO were guided by the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, a set of non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration adopted by a Tri-Partite Meeting of Experts in November 2005. The Framework, he explained, was part of an ILO plan of action whose objective was to enhance the management of labour migration to ensure that it contributed positively to the growth and development of both countries of origin and countries of destination, as well as to the well-being of the migrants themselves. He noted that although the plan of action was broadly consistent with the themes of the High-level Dialogue, the ILO had nevertheless decided to change the priority of some of its work in light of the Dialogue's outcomes. Thus, as part of its Global Employment Agenda, the ILO was exploring the causes of migration in countries of origin and identifying strategies to reduce the pressures to migrate through the generation of decent employment, especially for women and young workers. The ILO was in the process of analyzing the interrelations between trade and international labour mobility, particularly with respect to their impact on women and youth. To promote the beneficial effects of remittances, the ILO had become a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Remittances, set up after the 2003 International Conference on Migrant Remittances and chaired by the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). The ILO continued to promote the ratification of Convention No. 97 concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949) and No. 143 concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (1975), as well as the application of the principles relating to the protection of migrant workers. In this regard, the ILO continued to advocate for the portability of pensions. ILO's unique tripartite structure, consisting of representatives of Governments, employers and trade unions, was an asset in promoting dialogue and action on labour migration issues. Aware of the deficiencies of existing statistical sources on international migration, ILO was about to launch a programme of specialized household surveys. ILO was in favour of developing a comprehensive collection and dissemination strategy for international migration statistics but considered that a key element in such a strategy would be to improve the statistical capacity of developing countries.

The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) drew attention to the importance of international migration laws for refugee protection. In cases where voluntary repatriation was not an option, UNHCR promoted the integration of refugees by encouraging Governments of asylum countries to grant them citizenship. The number of flows that could be described as "mixed" because they included both migrants moving in search of better opportunities abroad and persons in need of protection had been increasing. In such cases, UNHCR worked closely with other actors to ensure that people in need of international protection were identified and their right to protection

upheld. In the cases of flows of undocumented persons heading to Italy or Spain, IOM had been a key partner in this regard. In Northern Africa, UNHCR was collecting information on the number and intentions of transit migrants. In 2004, UNHCR in collaboration with ILO had launched a project to develop a comprehensive solution for the displacement of Afghan people. This project included conducting household surveys in both Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlighted IOM's work in the areas of research, operational activities and intergovernmental dialogue. IOM carried out research activities both at headquarters and at its national and regional offices. A key focus of recent research had been the nexus between international migration and development considering, in particular, poverty alleviation and remittances. Research on transnational communities and ways to improve the contributions of migrants to communities of origin had also been undertaken. With respect to operational activities, IOM was developing labour migration schemes, facilitating the return of highly skilled migrants to countries of origin and promoting circular migration, mostly in response to specific requests made by Governments. In an effort to improve capacity in understanding and using international migration law, IOM had produced a compilation of international legal instruments on international migration. The representative of IOM noted that most of the perceived gaps in the international legal framework on international migration were, in fact, gaps in the application of existing legal instruments rather than in the scope of the instruments themselves. With regard to the promotion of intergovernmental dialogue, IOM continued to support a number of regional consultative processes, which were particularly useful in allowing Governments to build mutual trust and begin to address contentious issues whose consideration was still premature at the global level. In follow-up to the High-level Dialogue, IOM had increased its efforts to integrate international migration into development planning tools, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). IOM was also committed to the International Migration and Development Initiative (IMDI), a proposal to enhance the development benefits of labour migration by matching better labour demand with labour supply. Lastly, as a member of GMG, IOM was committed to interagency coordination.

The representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acknowledged that international migration was a pressing issue in a number of developing countries and that it could have important implications for development. Remittances, in particular, had clear impacts on the well-being of families. Other effects of international migration, such as the loss of skilled workers or its impact on service delivery in countries of origin, were more difficult to assess. At the country level, UNDP worked to integrate international migration into national development plans, particularly in ways that might contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNDP focused on three main areas: (a) formulating national policies to manage international migration; (b) encouraging the temporary return of skilled migrants, and (c) increasing the development impact of remittances. The UNDP programme entitled Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) promoted the short-term return of expatriates to undertake specific activities or projects in countries of origin. UNDP was also developing projects in collaboration with other United Nations entities to maximize the benefits and impact of remittances.

The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said that the work of its organization focused on promoting migrant integration, safeguarding the rights of migrants and facilitating the international mobility of students. UNESCO had been promoting the integration of migrants by collaborating with IOM in the establishment of museums on the history of migration. UNESCO was conducting research on the reasons that make Member States reluctant to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Regarding the international mobility of students, UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS) compiled and disseminated statistics on foreign students. UNESCO was also engaged in

promoting the recognition of skills and qualifications across borders, and in facilitating the mobility of scientists to promote technological development and innovation in countries of origin.

The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) noted that the increased focus on the linkages between international migration, poverty reduction and development had important implications for the work of UNFPA in areas such as women and development, youth and migration, and human rights. She noted that international migration was not adequately addressed in development tools, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). With its global network of country offices, UNFPA was well positioned to make a significant contribution to enhancing awareness and increasing national capacity to address the challenges posed and the opportunities brought about by international migration. UNFPA planned to continue its collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in offering training workshops on key migration issues to delegates from the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. The 2006 edition of the report on the State of the World Population had been devoted to the social and economic implications of international migration for women, including the scourge of human trafficking. During 2005-2006, UNFPA had organized two expert group meetings on international migration, one exploring the links between international migration and the MDGs, and the other focusing on female migration. UNFPA provided support for population censuses because it considered that accurate population data, including international migration data disaggregated by age and sex, were essential to provide the basis for sound policy formulation and programme implementation.

The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) pointed out that the migration of women on their own had a profound impact on the families they left behind. The impact of migration differed by sex: among children left behind, girls faced different problems and opportunities than boys. UNICEF was in the process of carrying out a number of surveys on the impact of international migration on families and their children, including the effect of remittances. In this regard, UNICEF was working to improve the measurement of both financial and social remittances. In partnership with UNDP, UNICEF was developing programmes to improve the beneficial effects of remittances on families with children. This partnership owed much to the High-level Dialogue.

The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) said WHO was particularly interested on the international mobility of health personnel. In recent years, the World Health Assembly had adopted several resolutions on international migration and health. One chapter of the World Health Report 2006, entitled *Working Together for Health*, had been devoted to the impact of international migration on the health sector of developing countries. The report concluded that, globally, there was a shortage of 4.2 million health workers, over a million of whom were needed in Africa. In a number of developing countries, the emigration of health workers had weakened already fragile health systems and impeded progress towards achieving the MDGs. WHO and OECD were assessing the stocks and flows of migrant health workers in OECD countries and analyzing the effect of workforce policies in the health sector on the international migration of health personnel. At the country level, WHO was collaborating with ILO and IOM to explore the effects of the emigration of health workers in six countries: Costa Rica, Kenya, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago. Lastly, WHO would launch a Health Worker Migration Policy Initiative in May 2007 to support the adoption of an International Code of Practice governing the recruitment and international migration of health workers as well as the implementation of recent WHO resolutions on the issue. In the discussion that followed, several participants noted that to ensure that the availability of health workers in developing countries improved it was necessary to consider not only why they emigrated but also why many quit their jobs and dropped out of the health professions altogether.



The representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) reported that UN-HABITAT had issued a number of publications on migration and urbanization. She noted that both internal and international migrants tended to flow to cities where economic opportunities were greater. However, migrants in cities often ended up joining the informal sector of the economy and settled in areas that did not have adequate services. Often, local authorities had to cope with the task of providing adequate housing and services to growing number of migrants, whether they originated in the same country or abroad. Combating the concentration of migrants in ghettos or slums was important to build “inclusive cities”. Local authorities might involve migrants in local decision-making and promote good relations among the local population and migrants by diffusing tensions early and promoting integration. In this area, as in others, greater availability of information on the geographical settlement pattern of internal and international migrants would go a long way to provide the evidence needed for the formulation of more effective policies and programmes.

The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) noted that the selective emigration of parents changed the composition of families and added strain to family relationships affecting, in particular, the children left behind. At the same time, the contribution of migrant remittances to the well-being of the rural population often outweighed that of official development assistance. To raise awareness about the scope and impact of international migration on rural development, IFAD had organized workshops and commissioned several studies. IFAD had also undertaken various initiatives to engage transnational communities in the development of countries of origin, reduce the costs of transferring remittances and promote decent work in rural areas in order to reduce migration pressures. A joint programme with the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) aimed at reducing the costs of remittance transfers, providing increased access to financial services, including credit and insurance, and supporting employment-generating projects in communities of origin. Another project, implemented in collaboration with the European Union, aimed at investing remittances in productive activities in rural areas. IFAD was also undertaking several projects to foster the participation of migrant organizations abroad in the development process of countries of origin. IFAD had produced a documentary entitled “Cash Flow Fever”, exploring the role development projects had in spreading the beneficial impacts of remittances. The documentary was shown during meeting.

The representative of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) reported that SSRC would convene a group of experts to explore the nexus between migration and development. This activity would try to broaden the scope of research, from a narrow focus on economic outcomes to one involving human security in all its facets. The term “migration” would be interpreted in a broad way to encompass internal and international migration, forced migration, and tourism. Participating experts would be requested to write papers on a number of topics, which would be discussed at a conference. In organizing the conference, SSRC was seeking to cover a variety of country experiences.

The representative of the Metropolis Project reported that the annual Metropolis conferences were a useful vehicle for disseminating ideas and research results. Thus, it had been at one of the annual Metropolis conferences that the “brain gain” was first discussed, that is, the proposition that the emigration of highly skilled workers could be beneficial to countries of origin by inducing non-migrants to upgrade their skills. Evidence to prove that this “brain gain” accrued was still scarce, however. He also cited the 2006 International Metropolis Conference, which had brought a new perspective to the debate on international migration and development by focusing on cities as the centres and motors of development.

The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) informed participants that the Union, with some 2,100 members in 140 countries, aimed to improve demographic data and to enhance the understanding of population and development issues. The IUSSP had established a panel on international migration which was expected to organize a meeting of experts in

2007. The meeting would focus on the definitions underlying international migration statistics and ways to improve data collection methods. A workshop on the emerging dynamics of international migration, with a focus on transnational communities, was planned for 2008.

The representative of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) said that the Institute had four main areas of work. The first, entitled “Gaining from Migration”, involved a collaborative effort with OECD to ascertain how to maximize the benefits of international migration on countries of origin and those of destination. The second, carried out in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), focused on lessons learned from the operational experience of IADB on how to make remittances work for development. The third focused on the role of transnational communities in relation to conflict or peace building. MPI was carrying a literature review on this topic. A second stage would assess the trade-offs between the engagement of migrants in their home communities and their integration into the host society. The fourth involved supporting the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The representative of the Center for Migration Studies (CMS) noted that the Center published the prestigious journal *International Migration Review* (IMR). The rising number of submissions to the journal underscored the heightened interest on international migration issues. The integration of migrants, especially of second-generation migrants, and the socio-economic aspects of international migration were considered by the Center as two key policy issues. The next issue of IMR would feature the speech that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had delivered at the High-level Dialogue as well as the summary of the High-level Dialogue by the President of General Assembly. The Center was considering organizing a forum to assess the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue.

The representative of The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration said that the Hague Process was established in 2000 as a forum to discuss contentious issues and to build consensus on migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced persons. An important milestone in the short history of the Hague Process was the adoption in 2002 of the Declaration of The Hague on the Future of Refugee and Migration Policy. The Declaration was endorsed by leading international figures, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. The Hague Process organized consultations on emerging issues and facilitated meetings of the Club of The Hague, which included distinguished leaders from over 30 countries. His Royal Highness Prince Constantijn of the Netherlands chaired the governing board of the Hague Process. The Hague Process was active in four major areas. Under its business initiative, two roundtables had been organized to promote the engagement of the business sector in migration governance. The “big cities” initiative, headed by the Mayor of The Hague, brought together the representatives of 10 large cities from all over the world to discuss and share their experiences in migrant integration. At the regional level, the Hague Process had carried out consultations in the Middle East and in Asia. Lastly, the Hague Process supported the international dialogue on international migration and development, with the objective of being a catalyst for the adoption of novel and realistic migration policies.

The representative of the US Census Bureau summarized the various data collection activities undertaken by his organization. Since 1995, the US Census Bureau had been leading an international initiative to improve international migration statistics. Collaborators in this initiative included UN-ECE, OECD, EUROSTAT and the Conference of European Statisticians. A report on the work accomplished, including an inventory of definitions to harmonize international migration statistics, would be issued in 2007 with a view to serving as guide for the 2010 round of censuses. In addition, two analytical projects were under way. The first was a study on the effect that regulations on residence had on the definition underlying a country’s international migration statistics. The second sought to obtain estimates of emigration from the immigration data of receiving countries.

During the discussion, a number of participants commented on the usefulness of the coordination meetings particularly with respect to the sharing of information among United Nations entities and with the research community. The meeting allowed participants to find out about new initiatives and to develop opportunities for collaboration. Given the increase in intergovernmental activity in the area of international migration and development, it was felt that there was a greater need than ever to share information among practitioners in international organizations, research institutions and non-governmental organizations focusing on improving the understanding of migration issues. While the Global Migration Group promoted coordination among the heads of major intergovernmental organizations working on international migration, the coordination meetings provided an opportunity to share information at the working level among a much wider community. In order to facilitate further the sharing of information, it was suggested that the addresses to the websites of participating organizations be distributed.

## VII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

In summarizing some of the main messages emerging from the Meeting, Mr. Hovy focused on the need to improve the evidence base, both in terms of generating better and more appropriate data on international migration and in terms of carrying out in-depth analyses and policy evaluations. The need to identify what worked and under what conditions continued to be high. Methods to test different practices and identify the best needed to be developed. The task was particularly pressing as the nature and scope of international migration kept changing and, as many participants had indicated, the types of international mobility relevant to development continued to expand.

Ms. Zlotnik thanked the participants for their active participation in the Meeting and their useful contributions. She proceeded to declare the meeting closed.

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> “International migration and development” ( A/60/871).

<sup>2</sup> *Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development. The United Nations Agenda and the Global Commission on International Migration Compared.* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII7).

<sup>3</sup> *Acting Together in a World on the Move* (Global Migration Group, 2006).

<sup>4</sup> *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration.* Revision 1. (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14); and *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.* Revision 2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8).



## **INFORMATION PAPERS**



## **AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Monday, 20 November 2006**

*Morning Session: 10:00 – 13:00*

- I. Opening of the meeting
- II. The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
- III. The first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
- IV. The Global Migration Group

*Afternoon Session: 15:00 – 18:00*

- V. Implications of the High-level Dialogue: Follow-up activities

### **Tuesday, 21 November 2006**

*Morning Session: 10:00 – 13:00*

- VI. General discussion of activities in the area of international migration and development

*Afternoon Session: 15:00 – 18:00*

- VII. Conclusions
- VIII. Closing of the meeting





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# THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND BEYOND

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## A. THE WAY TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

### *1. Intergovernmental process*

The High-Level Dialogue has been the culmination of years of debate in the General Assembly about how to address international migration and its interrelations with development. The Second Committee of the General Assembly began consideration of this issue in 1994, in reaction to difficulties arising during the negotiations on international migration and development at the International Conference on Population and Development.

The first resolution on the topic (49/127) requested the Secretary-General to prepare “a report on international migration and development, including aspects related to the objectives and modalities of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development” (para. 2). The report prepared in response to this request showed that there was not sufficient support among Member States for convening an international conference on the topic and that there was considerable opposition to it (E/1995/69).

After 1995, the Second Committee would request four more reports relating to the possibility of holding a conference, all of which reiterated the general findings of the first. The 2001 report (A/56/167) presented the most comprehensive set of views on whether to convene a conference: 47 Governments were generally in favour of convening a conference on international migration and development, 26 expressed reservations about doing so, five expressed only partial support and 110 did not express a view. The subsequent report (A/58/98) showed a drop in the number of Governments expressing a favourable view about convening a conference.

In view of these results, in 2003 the Second Committee decided that the General Assembly would, in 2006, devote a High-level Dialogue to the task of identifying appropriate ways and means to maximize the development benefits of migration and minimize its negative impacts (resolution 58/209 of 23 December 2003). The output of the Dialogue would be a Chairman’s summary and the Second Committee would consider international migration and development as one of its agenda items also in 2006.

### *2. The Global Commission on International Migration*

In 2003, the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland took the initiative to launch the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM). The Commission, composed of 19 expert commissioners serving in their personal capacity was supported by over 30 Governments and operated as an independent group from January 2004 to the end of 2005. It produced a report containing a series of principles and recommendations to strengthen the national, regional and global governance of international migration. The report was presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in October 2005. Recommendation 33 of the report was directed to the Secretary-General and it called for the immediate establishment of a high-level inter-institutional group to define the functions and

modalities of, and pave the way for, an Inter-agency Global Migration Facility which would ensure a more coherent and effective institutional response to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration.

### *3. The Global Migration Group*

In response to this recommendation, the Secretary-General held consultations with the heads of the major United Nations entities involved in international migration and with the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at a meeting held on 27 October 2005. As a result of these consultations, it was decided to expand the Geneva Migration Group<sup>1</sup> to create a new mechanism for coordination and cooperation among key United Nations entities and the IOM. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, in her capacity as Chair of the Geneva Migration Group at the time, was requested to prepare, in consultation with other members, the terms of reference for the expanded group. Mrs. Arbour transmitted the terms of reference to the Secretary-General in February 2006.

The Secretary-General approved the terms of reference and proceeded to establish the Global Migration Group (GMG) with the following members: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC and the World Bank. Since its establishment, the GMG has held three meetings at the level of executive heads. The members of GMG commented on the draft of the Secretary-General's report for the High-level Dialogue and provided input for its revision. They were key actors in the preparatory activities for the Dialogue and participated in the round tables organized during the Dialogue itself.

### *4. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development*

In January 2006, the Secretary-General, in order to promote participation of Member States in the High-level Dialogue at the highest possible level and to consult Member States regarding the way forward, appointed Mr. Peter Sutherland as his Special Representative on International Migration and Development.

### *5. A Global Migration Forum*

The report of the Secretary-General for the high-level dialogue presented, as requested by Member States, "a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development". It also provided recommendations for further action and proposed the establishment of a consultative Forum—led by and open to all the 191 Member States of the United Nations—that would offer Governments a venue to discuss issues related to international migration and development in a systematic, comprehensive way. The proposed Forum would not produce negotiated outcomes. It would provide Governments timely exposure to promising policy ideas, as analyzed by the most relevant, qualified bodies from both inside and outside the United Nations system. The Forum would complement, and add value to, the activities of the regional consultative processes.

## **B. THE DEBATE DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE**

The High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development was held from 14 to 15 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005.

During the Dialogue, high-level officials of 127 Governments made statements. Other orators included representatives of one Observer State and of 10 intergovernmental entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

The Dialogue consisted of six plenary sessions and four interactive round tables. Participants in the round tables included 162 high-level representatives of Governments, officials of 16 relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Executive Secretaries of two United Nations regional commissions, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and representatives of 12 civil society and private sector entities.

The debates and deliberations during the Dialogue, including its round tables, were rich and touched on all key topics relative to international migration and development. A summary of the main points made relative to each topic is presented below.

### *1. International migration and development*

Participants agreed that international migration could be a positive force for development. They underscored that the High-level Dialogue had contributed to improve the international community's understanding of the synergies between international migration and development. International migration was recognized as a persistent phenomenon in human history whose dynamism, intensity and complexity had increased as people gained greater access to information about opportunities abroad and as improvements in transportation made possible and affordable their movement over long distances. The global character of international migration was stressed.

International migration was described as a dynamic human link between cultures, economies and societies. It contributed to the free commerce of ideas and experiences and in many instances had been a key engine of material and intellectual progress.

Participants stressed that migration's benefits were most likely to accrue when it occurred in a safe, legal and fair manner. Migrants, by satisfying unmet labour demand at destination, made the economy of receiving countries more productive. Their remittances provided stable incomes for their families and could be leveraged to produce other beneficial development outcomes. Migration could change attitudes, empower people, contribute to the transfer of skills and know-how.

There was widespread support for addressing international migration as part of the international development agenda and to integrate international migration issues into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies. It was suggested that, supported by the right policies, international migration could contribute to the achievement of some of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, remittances could contribute to the reduction of poverty.

Participants recognized that international migration could also have detrimental effects. Furthermore, they warned that international migration by itself was not a long-term development strategy. They agreed that international cooperation based on a spirit of solidarity could make a major contribution in addressing the issues raised by international migration. They thought desirable to adopt a realistic and pragmatic approach to migration issues, integrating the imperatives of development and ensuring that international migration was addressed holistically at all levels, national, regional and global.

## *2. Co-development*

Several participants endorsed the concept of co-development, that is, the concerted improvement of economic and social conditions at both origin and destination through the active involvement of migrant communities. Countries that were supporting co-development projects noted that engaging migrants in their design and implementation was yielding beneficial results in the form of local job creation and practical solutions to development problems. Co-development projects strengthened partnerships between migration associations and authorities in countries of origin. They could support the integrated development and prevent the marginalization of poor regions with high migration potential.

Participants noted that strategies based on co-development could mitigate some of the negative impacts of international migration. For instance, co-development strategies could be used to support the formation and retention of skilled personnel in countries where the emigration of highly skilled persons, particularly health-care professionals and teachers, was causing shortages that compromised the delivery of crucial services.

Participants recalled that a number of international conferences had adopted outcome documents calling for the expansion of financial mechanisms to support co-development projects. The European Union was considering the establishment of a co-development fund.

## *3. The root causes of international migration*

Participants recognized the importance of addressing the root causes of international migration. They stressed that combating poverty and fostering human development through the universal provision of health care and education remained the main priorities. It was important to place developing countries on the path to sustainable development by addressing key development issues such as foreign direct investment, foreign aid, debt relief and trade. Access to decent work in both countries of origin and destination was considered critical in ensuring that international migration was voluntary and beneficial for all.

Participants stressed that people had the right to live in peace, free from fear and want. That is, human security had to be assured. It was also important to ensure that the benefits of globalization were distributed more equitably and to create sufficient jobs with decent wages in developing countries. It was recognized that, too often, migrants were forced to seek employment abroad because of poverty, conflict or violations of human rights. The promotion of good governance, respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights were all considered necessary to ensure that people migrated out of choice and not because of necessity. Examples were offered of projects to improve livelihoods in rural areas so as to reduce migration out of need. It was emphasized that providing opportunities for all people to forge sustainable livelihoods in their own countries could go a long way in reducing migration pressures. Elimination of discriminatory trade regimes and subsidies was mentioned as a key measure in this regard.

## *4. Remittances as a tool of development*

Participants agreed that migrants' remittances, estimated at \$US 232 billion in 2005, were the most tangible benefit of international migration and called for greater efforts to maximize their development impact, especially by enhancing their multiplier effects. In several countries remittances constituted a sizable percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP). Because remittances went directly to the families of migrants, they improved the lives of millions and had beneficial effects on the health of families receiving them and on the educational attainment of their children. In some countries, remittances had helped to reduce inequality in the income distribution. It was in these ways that international migration contributed to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. However,

some participants thought that better evidence and more analysis were necessary to establish how international migration could best contribute to that end.

Many participants stressed the need to promote the cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances and several indicated that they had taken steps to reduce transfer fees by, for instance, negotiating with money transfer companies and banking institutions, fostering competition among them, and improving the access of migrants and their families to banking services, including those provided by microfinance institutions. Furthermore, several participants recognized that countries of origin could enhance the development impact of remittances and migrants' savings by collaborating with the private sector in extending access to financial products and services to migrants and their families. Developing creative synergies between banks and microfinance institutions was also recommended, especially in contexts where it was necessary to develop the financial literacy of the population. Of particular relevance was the provision of credit for the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises and the availability of attractive investment options for migrants, so that those investments could have development impacts on the broader community. To reap the full benefits of these measures, countries of origin should endeavour to create an environment conducive to asset building, entrepreneurship and investment.

There was agreement that remittances were private funds and that they should not be viewed as a substitute for official development assistance, foreign direct investment or debt relief. Several donor countries expressed their commitment to working with countries of origin and the private sector in reducing the transfer costs of remittances and supporting their productive use. Examples of good practices included the creation of tax exempt "savings for development" accounts in host countries where migrants could save funds to invest eventually in the country of origin.

Some participants warned about the potentially negative consequences of remittances, including the culture of dependency that they might foster both at the household and at the national levels. It was also noted that the remittances expected from skilled workers often did not compensate for the loss of needed skilled personnel. Participants remarked that much remained to be understood about the effect of remittances on development, and that it was important to improve the measurement of remittances. They also noted the important work carried out in this regard by the multilateral development banks and bilateral development agencies and invited them to exchange best practices.

### *5. Engaging migrant communities abroad*

Participants focused on strategies to realize the benefits of migration by strengthening ties between migrant communities abroad and the communities of origin. It was recognized that in many contexts international migrants had contributed to the development of their countries of origin. They had helped in expanding trade, tourism and telecommunications between countries of origin and those of destination. They had assisted in the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills. Migrants also engaged in entrepreneurship both at destination and at origin, particularly if they returned. They had thus spawned businesses, generating wealth and jobs.

It was suggested that countries of origin and countries of destination could increase support for migrant-led transnational enterprises, thereby creating jobs at both origin and destination through co-development projects. A number of donor countries were actively engaging the migrant communities in their midst in the formulation and implementation of development projects in countries of origin under co-development strategies.

Participants noted that the engagement of migrant communities with countries of origin could be facilitated by the recognition of dual citizenship or by granting voting rights to citizens abroad. Several participants reported that their laws had been changed recently to allow dual citizenship or an "overseas

citizenship”. Mention was also made of the creation of special government units working to promote closer ties with migrant communities abroad. Through those units, Governments were providing support for the creation or consolidation of migrant associations and promoting their active engagement with the society of origin. Those units were also designing and implementing policies promoting the attachment of citizens abroad to the country of origin. In one country, biennial conferences were being held to maintain the engagement of citizens abroad. The importance of involving not only the migrants themselves but also the second and third generations was underscored.

Participants also noted the importance of providing consular services and consular protection to their citizens abroad. Some countries had carried out censuses of citizens abroad through their consular facilities and others were focusing on identifying highly skilled emigrants to engage them in development projects at home. Some participants called for the participation of established migrant communities in the political life of host countries. Others expressed concern about the engagement of migrant communities abroad in activities that could destabilize the societies of origin.

### *6. Return migration*

Participants considered that migrants who returned to their home countries could be agents of development, provided that policies in countries of origin facilitated the transfer of funds, access to loans and the establishment of small or medium-sized businesses. Governments were urged to cooperate with the private sector in establishing reintegration programmes, including job placement, for returning migrants. A number of participants reported that their countries had programmes to facilitate the return and reintegration of migrants by, for instance, providing training and financing for the establishment of small businesses or by promoting the return of persons with needed skills, particularly nurses and medical doctors. Some countries were trying to attract back citizens who could invest in specific sectors of the economy, particularly in agriculture. Incentives offered included access to land and credit. Participants noted that return was more likely when stable institutions supporting the involvement of migrants in the development of countries of origin existed.

Some participants reported that their countries had benefited from the temporary return of expatriates with needed skills that was being supported by international programmes such as TOKTEN run by UNDP or the MIDA programme (Migration for Development in Africa) of IOM. Often, those returning temporarily would train or teach others in the home country, thus contributing to the transfer of skills and knowledge even if their return was not permanent.

Some participants noted that those returning for good were often elderly migrants who could not find jobs easily. They called for the collaboration of countries of destination to help defray the costs of supporting those returnees. Participants also called for measures to ensure the portability of pensions.

### *7. Migration of the highly-skilled*

Participants recognized that the demand for skilled personnel was growing in many countries. Hence, it was important for all countries to make an assessment of their immediate and long-term needs and devise plans to meet them through training. Some participants suggested that, given the global scale of the problem, it might be useful to address it also at the global level. The migration of specialists was needed to maintain or enhance international competitiveness and to facilitate the transfer of technology, know-how and skills. In order to ensure that sufficient skilled personnel remained in developing countries, it was suggested that donor countries might support increased training opportunities in developing countries by, for instance, promoting the creation of centres of excellence in regions highly affected by the emigration of skilled personnel, such as Africa or the Caribbean. Some donor countries were already supporting the training of teachers and medical staff specialized in combating AIDS.

Several participants reported on the efforts of their countries to retain or attract back skilled emigrants, including by developing joint research projects between expatriate scientists and those remaining in the country, improving working conditions or salaries, or actively recruiting students who completed their training abroad. Some donor countries reported on the support they provided for the return of skilled expatriates to countries of origin, whether return was on a temporary or a permanent basis. A number of countries reported benefiting from such schemes and from the temporary return of skilled migrants through the programmes run by UNDP or IOM.

Of special concern was the outflow of skilled personnel in the health and education sectors of low-income countries, since their departure compromised both the quality and quantity of services in those countries. Insufficient government funding for those sectors was recognized as contributing to this emigration. Support in upgrading the working conditions in the health and education sectors was recommended. It was also recognized that developed countries had the responsibility of curtailing recruitment from countries where skilled human resources were scarce. Several countries mentioned adopting codes of conduct to stop the active recruitment of skilled workers, particularly medical personnel, from low-income countries. Noting the lack of coherence between policies supporting the universal access to health care and primary education and the recruitment of nurses and teachers from low-income countries, some participants suggested that other measures might be necessary to counter the negative effects of excessive skilled emigration, including support for the formation of skilled personnel in the most affected countries or some other mechanism of compensation.

Some participants remarked that, because of the non-recognition of qualifications obtained abroad, the skills of some migrants remained underutilized. To avoid this waste of human resources, they called for international cooperation to improve the recognition of degrees, certificates and qualifications obtained abroad.

### *8. Labour migration*

Participants remarked that labour migration was crucial for the world economy. In some countries, the labour market was highly dependent on foreign workers. In others, temporary labour migration allowed to fill specific labour needs. Often, labour migration was regulated under bilateral agreements and migrants were hired under temporary contracts certified by the official authorities of both, the country of origin and that of destination, to prevent abuse.

Several countries of origin and some of destination reported having official orientation programmes to ensure that migrants knew their rights and responsibilities before departure or just after arrival, and to familiarize migrants with the culture of the host society. Some countries also reported having reintegration programmes for returning migrant workers. Through their consular services, countries of origin provided protection to their citizens while abroad. In most instances, official recruitment agencies were licensed to place migrant workers abroad and several countries reported having strict regulations on the functioning of recruitment agencies.

Participants noted that the relatively high participation of women in labour migration had prompted some Governments to re-examine their labour migration regulations and procedures to ensure that they were gender sensitive and that they offered adequate protections to female migrants. Some countries reported that they were expanding markets for migrant labour, particularly for female workers.

Interest was expressed in completing the GATS negotiations on Mode 4, the international provision of services by natural persons, and thus opening new markets for international service providers. One

participant suggested that countries of origin might wish to constitute a negotiating forum to promote the movement of service providers.

### *9. Migrant integration*

The integration of migrants was considered essential to maximize their beneficial impact on host societies. Participants underscored that the social aspects of international migration deserved urgent attention. The integration of migrants in receiving countries required mutual adaptation and acceptance by both the host society and the migrants themselves. A crucial factor in promoting migrant integration was to ensure access to the labour market. It was therefore important to reduce unemployment among both migrants and their children, provide training if necessary, and be vigilant to prevent exploitative practices.

The integration of migrants depended also on the ability to communicate in the local language and access to decent housing, health care and education. The possibility of naturalization and family reunification were also factors facilitating integration. Some countries, especially those with a long history of immigration, promoted migrant integration actively. An open dialogue with civil society organizations, including migrant organizations, trade unions and employers, was thought useful in developing strategies to promote social cohesion.

Participants stressed that racism, discrimination, xenophobia and abuse should not be tolerated. They thought that the promotion of mutual understanding and tolerance between host societies and migrant communities was crucial. Information campaigns to raise awareness about the positive contributions that migrants made to the host society, as well as about their rights and responsibilities, were deemed useful. Participants warned against politicizing migration issues.

Noting that international migrants tended to settle in urban areas, participants recognized that migrant communities could help rejuvenate and add dynamism to cities. City authorities, being at the front line in addressing the needs of migrant communities, required support in providing services and implementing measures to promote integration.

Some participants focused on the impact of international migration on the demand for services, including health care, education and housing. In some countries, there was concern about the increasing incidence of infectious diseases related to the presence of migrants. In countries affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, migrants might be at heightened risk of infection, especially if they were subject to discriminatory practices in access to information and services. It was acknowledged that the provision of health services to all migrants, irrespective of legal status, could help prevent the spread of contagious disease both among migrants and in society at large. Accordingly, some participants argued that all migrants should have access to health, education and other basic social services on the same basis as citizens.

### *10. Migrant women*

It was observed that about half of all international migrants were female and that women increasingly migrated as breadwinners. Women, just as men, migrated in order to improve their livelihoods. Furthermore, for many women migration was a means of empowerment. However, migration also entailed risks that were often more serious for women than for men, especially when women were relegated to undesirable low-paying jobs. It was important, therefore, to adopt policies that addressed the particular circumstances and experiences of female migrants and reduced their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Women and girls who were victims of trafficking were entitled to special protection.



The entrepreneurial potential of female migrants deserved support and the contribution of migrant women to development in both countries of origin and those of destination had to be recognized. For instance, female migrants often remitted a larger proportion of their income than male migrants. Responding to women's economic needs, particularly by ensuring their equitable treatment in financial and business matters, was considered crucial.

### *11. Irregular migration*

Participants noted with concern the rise of irregular migration, both in countries of destination and in countries of transit. It was thought that a holistic approach was needed to address irregular migration. To the extent that irregular movements resulted from the lack of legal channels for admission where there was an unsatisfied labour demand, part of the response was to permit the legal entry or the regularization of the migrants involved. Several countries reported that they had opted for regularization and some noted that its economic impact had been positive. Yet others reported that a policy of zero tolerance for irregular migration accompanied by realistic admission policies had been successful in maintaining irregular flows under control.

In accordance with a holistic approach, other measures that had to be considered to reduce irregular migration related to the return, re-admission and re-integration of migrants in their countries of origin. A number of participants noted that readmission agreements had been useful in reducing irregular migration, but some countries, particularly those used as transit points, were facing obstacles in ensuring the safe return of migrants in an irregular situation.

Several participants reported that their Governments had been improving the efficiency and effectiveness of border management, which included ensuring that officials in charge of border control were mindful of their duty to safeguard the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons involved, including the right to seek protection from persecution. Some participants expressed concern that the recent emphasis on national security was focusing on border control at the expense of the obligation of States to protect vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors and persons seeking asylum. Participants also stressed that migrants in an irregular situation were particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, and that in combating those crimes it was important not to criminalize the migrant. Some participants argued that national security would be enhanced by regularizing migrants since it was not possible to stop all irregular migration. Others noted that measures to improve border control, particularly the surveillance of maritime borders, were bearing fruit, although migrants were still taking inordinate risks to reach countries that were not prepared to admit them. Some participants noted that campaigns alerting potential migrants of the risks involved could help reduce the flows.

Participants also remarked that migrants in an irregular situation imposed a burden on the social, health and educational services in countries of destination, particularly developing countries which were ill prepared to host them. Others noted that irregular migration, if uncontrolled, could make citizens feel threatened and see their economic, social and cultural interests at risk, thus fuelling social tensions. Concern was also expressed about the possibility that, if migrants in irregular situations could not access regular employment, they might engage instead in illicit activities.

### *12. Trafficking in persons*

Participants agreed that it was urgent to take strong and concerted action in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and prosecuting those who perpetrated this crime. They concurred that victims deserved support and protection. Most participants described the specific measures that their respective Governments had taken to prevent or combat trafficking and to protect or assist its victims, particularly women and children. Several participants reported that their Governments were parties to the

relevant international instruments<sup>2</sup> and urged those who were not yet parties, to sign, ratify and implement them.

A number of participants remarked that trafficking in persons would not be eradicated as long as there was demand for the services its victims provided. It was therefore important to combat all types of bonded labour. Participants also noted that poverty, social alienation and exclusion, entrenched discrimination against women and children, and lack of equal opportunities were important underlying causes of trafficking. The growth of transnational criminal networks benefiting from such activities was a major concern.

Participants stressed that a coordinated and consensual approach was necessary to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Mention was made of consultative processes in different parts of the world that were promoting intra-regional coordination and the sharing of information to trace and apprehend traffickers. Important advances had been made in criminalizing the exploitation of migrants through trafficking or smuggling in the domestic law of many countries.

### *13. The centrality of human rights*

Noting that migrants were at the core of the migration debate, participants emphasized the human dimension of international migration. The obligation of all States to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of all migrants, regardless of legal status, was considered an essential prerequisite to realize the full benefits of international migration. Countries of destination and countries of origin had a shared responsibility to uphold the human rights of all migrants. The importance of ratifying and implementing the core human rights conventions and other relevant international instruments was emphasized and, in particular, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Mention was also made of the relevant ILO Conventions. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants had a vital role to play in raising awareness about the detrimental effects of human rights violations affecting migrants, especially for women and children.

Participants underscored that the protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families was a core component of a comprehensive and balanced system to manage migration. Neither the facilitation of international migration nor the enforcement of migration laws should compromise the rights and dignity of migrants. The economic, social and cultural rights of migrants were recognized as crucial for the benefits of international migration to accrue. In particular, some participants indicated that migrants should have access to basic services, including health care and education.

The need to combat racism, xenophobia, discrimination and the social exclusion of international migrants was emphasized. Intolerance in all its forms should be eradicated. Any exploitative, inhuman or degrading treatment of international migrants should not be tolerated. Some participants suggested that, by emphasizing the need to ensure human security, the focus of debates on irregular migration might shift from national security, that is, the protection of a State's territory, to the protection of all people in that territory, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity or citizenship. Some participants argued that legal migrants should be granted the same rights and enjoined to have the same obligations as citizens.

There was widespread recognition that irregular migration posed a challenge for the effective protection of international migrants given that migrants in an irregular situation, because of the fear of being deported, were particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Participants also cautioned that measures to curb irregular migration might prevent people in need of protection to seek it. It was important, therefore, to uphold the right to seek asylum and to allow refugees to integrate into host societies.

#### *14. International migration policies*

Participants noted that migration trends could change quickly and that countries should review their migration laws and regulations to ensure that they were adequate to manage existing flows. A number of participants reported that their Governments had adopted new legislation in recent years and that some were establishing new national machinery to formulate, implement and evaluate policies on international migration.

Participants recognized that governing migration fairly and efficiently while maximizing its benefits for all stakeholders posed a challenge. They noted that effective migration management implied easing legal migration, enforcing border control fairly, safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of the persons involved, and having adequate administrative capacity to enforce laws efficiently. They stressed that migration policies should cover admission, support upon arrival, integration and, when appropriate, reintegration upon return to the country of origin.

In formulating migration policy, Governments had to take account of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its interrelations to development. To be effective migration policy and management had to be coherent with policies in other spheres, especially those relating to development, labour and trade. The involvement of key stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, at all stages of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation was suggested. Adopting a “whole of government” approach was thought necessary to ensure coherence.

Some participants considered that temporary and circular migration could produce beneficial synergies for migrants, countries of origin and countries of destination. To be beneficial, temporary migration should be safe and legal, and occur as a result of informed choice. Participants stressed the need to provide migrants with clear and unbiased information about the procedures involved in being admitted legally and underscored the importance of applying regulations strictly to ensure that migrants did not overstay in violation of the terms of admission.

There was recognition that the benefits of international migration were more likely to accrue if it was managed properly. Cooperation between countries of origin, destination and transit could contribute to improve migration’s benefits and reduce its negative impacts. Several participants noted the beneficial aspects of freer movement of people in the context of efforts to achieve economic and labour market integration at the regional or sub-regional level. They also underscored that current demographic and labour force imbalances provided an opportunity to promote legal migration that would be beneficial to all.

Participants remarked that, in some contexts, receiving countries were ill prepared to manage international migration and its consequences appropriately. Countries with longer experiences as destinations of international migrants were ready to share their experiences with others and provide guidance in policy formulation, although they recognized that policy responses ought to be tailored to each context.

#### *15. Partnerships and capacity-building*

There was widespread support for capacity-building initiatives and those aimed at improving the development impact of international migration, both bilaterally and through multilateral cooperation. Participants stressed that such initiatives ought to be developed and implemented in partnership with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Participants cited specific programmes to improve the institutional capacity to formulate and implement migration policies and to strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups. Partnerships to strengthen ties between countries of origin

and their citizens abroad, especially with highly skilled migrants, were thought useful. Participants felt that more resources were needed to bring together Member States and experts to discuss how partnerships could contribute to enhance the benefits of international migration, improve the management of migration, increase the efficiency of border controls or disseminate information among migrants and potential migrants. Civil society organizations could be invaluable partners in raising awareness, promoting integration, preventing discrimination and assisting victims of abuse.

Governments and the private sector recognized the urgency of addressing labour market asymmetries given that the gap between the demand for workers outstripped the supply of labour in ageing populations while the reverse was happening in the populations of most developing countries. The increasing demand for migrant workers to fill those gaps called for a growing involvement of the business community in the discourse on international migration and development. Some participants suggested that Governments cooperate with the private sector in developing reintegration programmes and promoting employment and investment opportunities for returning migrants. In some countries, the private sector had played a key role in encouraging highly-skilled migrants to return. Both civil society and the private sector could cooperate in facilitating the transfer of remittances and promoting access to and the use of financial institutions.

Participants welcomed the creation of the Global Migration Group, stressing that it was important to strengthen coordination and collaboration both among the entities of the United Nations system working on international migration and with the IOM. Participants recognized that the United Nations system played an important role in building partnerships and in supporting capacity building. They also acknowledged the key role IOM was playing in building capacity at the national and regional level. It was suggested that the regional commissions could do more in this regard.

Participants stressed the need to improve the evidence-base on the interrelations between international migration and development by supporting research and taking measures to improve the availability and quality of data on international migration and remittances. Participants recognized that sound policy could only result from sound evidence. They supported the improvement of data collection and its timely dissemination. They thought that developing a compendium of legislation on international migration and promoting the exchange of information among Member States would be useful. A few issues were highlighted as needing immediate attention by the research community, including how best to integrate international migration issues into development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, and how donors could best assist in achieving desirable outcomes; the role of transnational communities in fostering development; ways to enhance the developmental impact of remittances, and the relationship between international migration and health. The need for information on likely levels and trends of irregular migration and its economic impact was also expressed.

#### *16. Intergovernmental cooperation*

Participants thought that national endeavours to address international migration and development should be complemented by strengthened bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration. Such cooperation was needed to promote legal, safe and orderly international migration, reduce irregular migration, and improve the chances of reaping the full benefits of international migration.

Participants considered that the best way to promote understanding and cooperation was to focus on shared goals and practical cooperative activities. Cooperation among Governments should proceed on the basis of mutual respect, equality and the search for shared benefits. Several countries, noting the relevance of attaining the internationally agreed development goals to ensure that international migration resulted from choice and not from necessity, reported on their efforts to increase official development assistance.

The proliferation of regional consultative processes proved that cooperation was particularly effective at the regional level. Most participants reported that their countries were active in at least one and often in several consultative processes. Regional integration processes were also mentioned. The issues considered by regional processes ranged from the promotion of free movement between Member States of regional integration groups to combating human trafficking. Some regional initiatives had promoted the sharing of data, information and best practices in migration policy and management. In the run up to the High-level Dialogue, a number of international meetings, some of a regional or inter-regional nature, had been convened to prepare positions for the Dialogue (see Annex). The declarations or conclusions from these meetings were mentioned by speakers as relevant documents complementing the Dialogue's discussion.

Many participants reported on the bilateral migration agreements that their countries had concluded. Bilateral agreements covered a wide range of issues, including labour migration, readmission of nationals, the fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, pension portability, or cooperation programmes.

Participants considered that bilateral and regional cooperation had to be complemented by initiatives at the global level, noting that the United Nations was a natural venue for such initiatives, as the High-level Dialogue showed. Participants also mentioned the work of the Global Commission on International Migration whose report provided useful guidance; the Agenda for International Management produced by the Berne Initiative, and the annual dialogue on migration policy sponsored by IOM.

#### *17. Follow-up to the High-level Dialogue*

Nearly all Member States expressed an interest in continuing the multilateral dialogue on international migration and development which had started with the High-level Dialogue. There was widespread support for the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a Global Forum as a venue to discuss issues related to international migration and development in a systematic and comprehensive way. Participants felt that a Forum could be a useful arrangement in achieving greater coherence and in promoting coordination among the various United Nations entities working on international migration, the IOM, other international organizations and regional initiatives.

Participants stressed that, if established, the Forum should foster practical, evidence-based measures to enhance the benefits of international migration and minimize its negative impacts. The Forum should be informal, voluntary, and led by Member States operating in a transparent and open manner. It would not produce negotiated outcomes or normative decisions, but it would promote closer cooperation among Governments.

The Government of Belgium offered to host the first meeting of the Forum in 2007.

### C. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

On 19 October 2006, the Second Committee of the General Assembly considered item 55(b) of its agenda, which focused on international migration and development. The Chair's summary of the High-level Dialogue had been issued prior to that meeting. On the whole, speakers at the meetings of the Second Committee reiterated the usefulness of the Dialogue and called for focusing attention on the way forward.

On 25 October 2006, a draft resolution on international migration and development was presented for consideration of the Second Committee (A/C.2/61/L.12). According to the draft resolution, the General Assembly took note of the offer of the Government of Belgium to convene a global consultative forum and decided to consider in 2008 (at the sixty-third session) possible options for an appropriate follow-up to the Dialogue within the United Nations. At the time of writing, the draft resolution was being discussed through the normal intergovernmental process.

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup>The Geneva Migration Group had been started in April 2003 as a periodic meeting of the heads of ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNHCR and UNODC.

<sup>2</sup>The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

## ANNEX

### List of intergovernmental conferences organized to provide input to the High-level Dialogue

#### **Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Migrants' Remittances**

Date: 9-10 February 2006

Venue: Cotonou, Benin

Organizers: the United Nations Office for the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Developing Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States; International Organization for Migration (IOM); Government of Benin

#### **Outcome Document: Ministerial Declaration**

Letter dated 31 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/230)

#### **Conference on Migration and Development**

Date: 15-16 March 2006

Venue: Brussels, Belgium

Organizers: Government of Belgium; International Organization for Migration; European Commission; World Bank

#### **Outcome Document: Conference Conclusions**

Letter dated 13 April 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/73)

#### **South American Conference on Migration**

Date: 4 - 5 May 2006

Venue: Asunción, Paraguay

Organizers: Government of Paraguay

#### **Outcome Document: Asunción Declaration**

Letter dated 18 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/86)

#### **Special International Conference at Ministerial Level of Developing Countries with Substantial International Migrant Flows**

Date: 15-16 May 2006

Venue: Lima, Peru

Organizers: Government of Peru; International Organization for Migration (IOM)

#### **Outcome Document: Lima Declaration**

Letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/61/91)

#### **Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development**

Date: 10-11 July 2006

Venue: Rabat, Morocco

Organizers: Governments of Morocco, Spain and France; European Commission

#### **Outcome Document: Plan of Action, Rabat Declaration**

Letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/170)

**Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector**

Date: 12 July 2006

Venue: New York, United States of America

Organizers: President of the General Assembly

**Outcome document: Summary of the Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector**

Note dated 27 July 2006 by the President of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (A/61/187)

**Iberoamerican Conference on Migration**

Date: 18-19 July 2006

Venue: Madrid, Spain

Organizers: Iberoamerican Secretariat; International Organization for Migration (IOM); Latin American Demographics Study Centre (CELADE); Carolina Foundation of Spain

**Outcome Document: Conclusions**

**Helsinki Process Meeting on International Migration**

Date: 25-26 July 2006

Venue: Mexico City, Mexico

Organizers: Government of Mexico

**Outcome document: Report of the Helsinki Process meeting on international migration**

Letter dated 5 October 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/506)

**Executive Council of the African Union**

Date: 25-29 July 2006

Venue: Banjul, the Gambia

Organizer: African Union

**Outcome documents: The Migration Policy Framework for Africa; African Common Position on Migration and Development**

Letter dated 7 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General-Assembly (A/61/345)

**Regional Consultation on Migration, Remittances and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Date: 27-28 July 2006

Venue: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Organizers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Government of the Dominican Republic; the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development; the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

**Outcome Document: Declaration**

Letter dated 30 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/61/343)



**Discussion of the Issue of Migration at the meeting of Ministers of the Interior of MERCOSUR and the Associated States, prepared by the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Specialized Forum on Migration of the meeting of Ministers of the Interior of Mercosur and associated States**

Date: 22-24 August 2006

Venue: Fortaleza, Brazil

Organizers: Government of Brazil

**Outcome document: Discussion of the Issue of Migration at the meeting of Ministers of the Interior of MERCOSUR and the Associated States**

Letter dated 5 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/321)



## UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL SUBGROUP ON THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS—MODE 4: DEFINITIONS OF REMITTANCES

*Statistics Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations*

The United Nations Technical Subgroup on the Movement of Persons—Mode 4 (TSG) at its meeting in New York (22-24 February 2006) agreed on the conceptual definition of remittances based on the issue paper *Definitions of Remittances*. The issue paper was prepared with the objective of reconciling the recommendations by the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) at their meetings in June and July 2005 respectively. This version of the outcome paper reflects the views of the TSG and comments received from BOPCOM members as a result of an electronic consultation. It also reflects the conclusion of the BOPCOM meeting in Frankfurt (23-27 October 2006). It will be submitted to the AEG and BOPCOM for information.

The proposed definitions on remittances are built on the Balance of Payments (BOP) components in the *Annotated Outline for the Revision of the Balance of Payments Manual*, fifth edition (AO) related to services, primary and secondary distribution of income. Those components are aligned with the 1993 *System of National Accounts* (1993 SNA) transactions. The definitions of remittances presented in this paper are obtained by further disaggregating the relevant Balance of Payments (BOP) standard components by sectors (e.g. households, government and non-profit institutions serving households). Moreover, due consideration is given to practical aspects of data collection, including symmetry of reporting.

The TSG recommended presenting the BOP flows related to remittances in a supplementary table (Annex I). Annex II presents a fictitious numerical example which illustrates how to calculate the various concepts of remittances from the sending and receiving country. It also illustrates the issue of asymmetry of reporting between the sending and receiving countries that arise in the case of “total remittances” and “total remittances and transfers to non-profit institutions serving households”. The tables in Annex I and example in Annexes II take into account the conclusions of the TSG and BOPCOM.

The TSG recognized the importance of compiling BOP flows related to remittances by partner countries. It recommended that flows to and from the major partner countries be separately identified, whenever possible. It noted, however, that for some countries, it may be difficult to collect information disaggregated by partner countries or, even if the information is collected, to disseminate it because of issues of confidentiality and data quality.

The TSG agreed on the following four definitions of remittances:

1. Personal transfers;
2. Personal remittances;
3. Total remittances;
4. Total remittances and transfers to non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs).

## 1. Personal transfers

The TSG agreed to introduce a new item *personal transfers* as a standard item of the revised *Balance of Payments Manual—Fifth Edition* (BPM5) to bring it in line with the 1993 SNA definition of current transfers between households. “Personal transfers” replaces the BPM5 component *workers’ remittances*, which has been retained as an “of which” item of *personal transfers* to maintain continuity of the time series.

*Personal transfers* will be part of the BOP standard presentation and is defined as follows:

*Personal transfers consist of all current transfers in cash or in kind made or received by resident households to or from other non-resident households.*

*Personal transfers* thus include all current transfers from resident to non-resident households, independently of (a) the source of income of the sender (be it wages and salaries, social benefits or any other type of transfers, including transfers from a person receiving no income and running down his/her assets); (b) the relationship between the households (be it between related or unrelated persons); and (c) the purpose for which the transfer is made (be it inheritance, alimony, lottery<sup>1</sup>, etc.).

The TSG noted that although *personal transfers* are conceptually current transfers between resident and non-resident households, in practice it may be difficult to separately identify household-to-household capital transfers from the current transfers. In practice, capital transfers tend to be large, infrequent and irregular, whereas current transfers tend to be comparatively small and are often made frequently and regularly. However, while size, frequency and regularity help to distinguish current from capital transfers they do not provide satisfactory criteria for defining the two types of transfer (1993 SNA para 8.32).

The TSG further noted that some cash transfers may be regarded as capital by one party to the transaction and as current by the other. In an integrated system of accounts such as the 1993 SNA and BPM5, however, it is not feasible to have the same transaction classified differently in different parts of the system. To distinguish current transfers from capital transfers, it is preferable to focus on the special characteristics of capital transfers. A transfer in cash is a capital transfer when it consists of the transfer of ownership of a fixed asset and non-produced non-financial assets. A transfer of cash is a capital transfer when it is linked to, or conditional on, the acquisition or disposal of a fixed asset by one or both parties to the transaction. A capital transfer should result in a commensurate change in the stocks of assets of both parties to the transaction (based on 1993 SNA, para 10.132). When in doubt, the TSG recommended classifying the transfer as current.

The TSG recommended separately identifying capital household-to-household transfers as a supplementary item<sup>2</sup> in the table on remittances presented in Annex I but not to include them in the definition of *personal transfers*.

## 2. Personal remittances

The TSG agreed to define *personal remittances*, taking the perspective of the receiving country, as follows:

*Personal remittances = personal transfers + compensation of employees (excluding social contributions, taxes on income and wealth, travel expenditure and passenger transportation related to employment of non-residents) + capital transfers between households.*

Annex II presents a numerical example which illustrates how to calculate *personal remittances*. *Personal remittances* include *personal transfers*, compensation of employees of non-resident persons less social contributions<sup>3</sup>, taxes on income and wealth<sup>4</sup>, travel and passenger transportation related to employment of non-residents and capital transfers between households. Investment income is not included for practical reasons as it is difficult to identify that part related to the movement of persons.

*Personal remittances* reflect the inflows to a household either from another household or from a member of a household working abroad.

The TSG recommended that capital household-to-household transfer should be included in the definition of *personal remittances*. Including capital transfers in the definition of *personal remittances* would offset differences in country practices in recording household to household transfers—current versus capital transfers.

*Personal remittances* will be a supplementary item in the revised BPM5 as its calculation involves the sum of several supplementary items, namely taxes on income and travel and passenger transportation related to employment of non-residents and capital transfers between households. The components of *personal remittances* are shown in the supplementary table in Annex I.

### 3. Total remittances

The TSG agreed to define total remittances taking the perspective of the receiving country, using a formula instead of lengthy text, as follows:

$$\text{Total remittances} = \text{personal remittances} + \text{social benefits}^5.$$

*Total remittances* include *personal remittances* and social benefits directly to households from other institutional sectors, namely corporations, government and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs). The TSG considered this concept as policy relevant and agreed to include it in the supplementary table on remittances in Annex I. It noted that the concept of *total remittances* entails asymmetry of reporting as social benefits are sent from corporations, the Government and NPISHs, and received by households.

Although in principle other current transfers to households (e.g. direct transfers other than social benefits to households from the Government or NPISHs) could be included in the definitions of total remittances, the TSG agreed to omit them for ease of compilation and because they are likely to be small in size and/or infrequent. *Total remittances* also exclude net non-life insurance premiums and non-life insurance claims<sup>6</sup> paid or received by resident households.

### 4. Total remittances and transfers to non-profit institutions serving households

The TSG agreed to adopt the concept of *total remittances and transfers to NPISHs* and to define it, using a formula instead of a lengthy text, taking the perspective of the receiving country as follows:

$$\text{Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs} = \text{Total remittances} + \text{Current transfers to NPISHs} + \text{Capital transfers to NPISHs}.$$

The TSG found the concept of *total remittances and transfers to NPISHs* policy relevant. As credit entries, *total remittances and transfers to NPISHs* would thus cover all flows from abroad which are either receivable by households directly or indirectly through NPISHs in the home countries for the benefit of households.

Similarly to *total remittances*, the TSG noted that the concept of *total remittances and transfers to NPISHs* entails asymmetry of reporting as transfers received by NPISHs can originate from any sector of the economy. The example provided in Annex II shows how *total remittances and transfers to NPISHs* are calculated.

As in the case of household-to-household transfers, distinguishing capital transfers from current transfers to NPISHs may be difficult in practice. The same arguments presented for personal transfers and personal remittances paper hold also in this case.

The TSG agreed to separately identify current and capital transfers to NPISHs, as supplementary items in the supplementary table presenting information on remittances shown in Annex I.

## ANNEX I

TABLE A1. SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE FOR REMITTANCES AND TRANSFERS TO NPISHS

Based on the tables in the Annotated Outline (AO)

	Credit	Debit
Services (AO Table 9.1)		
1. Travel		
<i>Of which:</i>		
1a. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Related to employment of non-residents</span>		
2. Transportation		
<i>Of which:</i>		
2a. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Related to employment of non-residents</span>		
Primary distribution of income (AO Table 10.1)		
3. Compensation of employees		
Secondary distribution of income (AO Table 11.1)		
4. Current taxes on income and wealth		
<i>Of which:</i>		
<span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Related to employment of non-residents</span>		
4a. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">General government</span>		
4b. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Households</span>		
5. Social contributions		
5a. General government (Related to employment of non-residents)		
5b. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Households</span>		
5c. Other (Related to employment of non-residents)		
6. Social benefits		
6a. General government		
6b. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Households</span>		
6c. Other		
7. Personal transfers		
<i>Of which:</i>		
7a. Workers' remittances		
8. Other current transfers <sup>(i)</sup>		
8a. General government		
8b. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Non-profit institutions serving households</span>		
9. Capital transfers (AO Table 12.1)		
9a. General government [Refers only to transfers to NPISHS]		
9b. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Households</span> [Refers to personal remittances]		
9c. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Non-profit institutions serving households</span>		
9d. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Other</span> [Refers only to transfers to NPISHS]		

Definitions of remittances	Credit/Receivable	Debit/Payable
Personal transfers	7.	7.
Personal remittances	Personal transfers + 3. – 1a.(debits) – 2a.(debits) – 4b.(debits)– 5b.(debits) + 9b.	Personal transfers + 3. – 1a.(credits) – 2a.(credits) – 4a.(credits) – 5a.(credits) –5c.(credits) + 9b.
Total remittances	Personal remittances + 6b.	Personal remittances + 6a. + 6c.
Total remittance and transfers to NPISHs	Total remittances + 8b .+ 9c.	Total remittances +8a .+ 8c .+ 9a. + 9c. + 9d.

NOTE: (i) Other current transfers is negligible and therefore is not included in the table. Shaded items are not presented in the Annotated Outline. It is recommended that they be included as supplementary items.

## ANNEX II

### EXAMPLE

*Calculation of personal transfers, personal remittances,  
total remittances and transfers to NPISHs*

Suppose a resident of country A sends to a household in country B a transfer of US dollar 100. During the same period he/she sends a transfer of US Dollar 30 to a family member resident in country B to help in the purchase of a house in country B.

Suppose that another individual, resident of country B, works for three months in country A and earns US Dollar 600 in cash before tax. Income tax of US Dollar 120 is paid to the Government of country A. Social contributions of US Dollar 50 is paid by the individual to the Government of country A. The individual has travel expenditures of US Dollar 300 (including US Dollar 175 for food and US Dollar 125 for accommodation) related to short-term employment.

Suppose that a resident of country B receives a pension of US Dollar 200 from country A.

Suppose also that an organized diaspora group (NPISH) in country B receives US dollar 1,000 from a charity organization in country A. The diaspora group also receives US dollar 10,000 from the charity organization to buy a plot of land.

The following entries would appear in the BOP of country A and in the BOP of country B.

Country A			Country B		
	Credit	Debit		Credit	Debit
1. Travel	<b>300</b>		1. Travel		<b>300</b>
1a. Food	175	...	1a. Food	...	175
1b. Accommodation	125	...	1b. Accommodation	...	125
3. Gross compensation of employees		<b>600</b>	3. Gross compensation of employees	<b>600</b>	
4. Current taxes on income	<b>120</b> <sup>7</sup>		4. Current taxes on income		<b>120</b>
4a. General government	120	...	4a. General government	...	...
4b. Households	...	...	4b. Households	...	120
5. Social contributions	<b>50</b> <sup>8</sup>		5. Social contributions		<b>50</b>
5a. General government	50	...	5a. General government	...	...
5b. Households	...	...	5b. Households	...	50
6. Social benefits	...	<b>200</b>	6. Social benefits	<b>200</b>	
6a. General government	...	200	6a. General government	...	...
6b. Household	...	...	6b. Households	200	...
7. Personal transfers		<b>100</b>	7. Personal transfers	<b>100</b>	
8. Other current transfers		<b>1,000</b>	8. Other current transfers	<b>1,000</b>	
8b. NPISHs	...	1,000	8b. NPISHs	1,000	...
9. Capital transfers		<b>10,030</b>	9. Capital transfers	<b>10,030</b>	
9b. Households	...	30	9b. Households	30	...
9c. NPISHs	...	10,000	9c. NPISHs	10,000	...
Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs	11,460	...	Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs	...	11,460



Country A/ payable		Country B/ receivable	
<b>Personal transfers</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>Personal transfers</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Personal remittances</b>	<b>-260</b>	<b>Personal remittances</b>	<b>260</b>
<i>Personal remittances = Personal transfers + compensation of employees - social contributions - taxes on income and wealth - travel related to employment of non-residents - passenger transportation related to employment of non-residents + capital transfers between households. = - Personal transfers - (3. - 1a. - 1b. - 4a. - 5a.) + 9b. = - 100 - (600-300-120 - 50) - 30 = - 260</i>		<i>Personal remittances = Personal transfers + compensation of employees - social contributions - taxes on income and wealth - travel related to employment of non-residents - passenger transportation related to employment of non-residents + capital transfers between households. = Personal transfers + (3. - 1a. - 1b - 4b. - 5a. -5c.) + 9b. = 100 + (600-300-120 - 50) + 30 = 260</i>	
<b>Total remittances</b>	<b>-260</b>	<b>Total remittances</b>	<b>460</b>
<i>Total remittances = Personal remittances + social benefits = - Personal remittances - 6a. = - 260 - 200= - 460</i>		<i>Total remittances = Personal remittances + social benefits = Personal remittances + 6b. = 260 + 300= 460</i>	
<b>Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs</b>	<b>-11,460</b>	<b>Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs</b>	<b>11,460</b>
<i>Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs = Total remittances + current transfers to NPISHs + capital transfers to NPISHs = - Total remittances - 8b. - 9c.= -460 - 1,000 - 10,000=-11,460</i>		<i>Total remittances and transfers to NPISHs = Total remittances + current transfers to NPISHs + capital transfers to NPISHs = Total remittances + 8b. + 9c. = 460 + 1,000 + 10,000 = 11,460</i>	

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Although lotteries could also be considered as transfers from any sectors to households, in this context, lotteries are considered household-to-household transfers by convention. This is in line with the recommendations of the 1993 SNA: “the net transfers paid out to winners of lotteries and gambling, that is the residual transfers excluding service charges, are considered household-to-household transfers” (1993 SNA, para 8.97).

<sup>2</sup>A supplementary item is an item that should be considered by countries in circumstances that the information would, in their particular cases, be of interest to analysts and policymakers.

<sup>3</sup>Social contributions are actual or imputed payments to social insurance schemes to make provision for social insurance benefits to be paid (1993 SNA, para 8.8).

<sup>4</sup>Current taxes on income, wealth, etc. consist of taxes on the incomes of households or profits of corporations and taxes on wealth that are payable regularly every accounting period (as distinct from capital taxes levied infrequently) (1993 SNA, para 8.6).

<sup>5</sup>Social benefits include social insurance benefits and social assistance benefits. They are current transfers received by households intended to provide for the needs that arise from certain events or circumstances, for example, sickness, unemployment, retirement, housing, education or family circumstances (1993 SNA, para 8.7). They include pensions received by households. For more details, refer to 1993 SNA, paras 8.75 to 8.83.

<sup>6</sup>Net non-life insurance premiums and non-life insurance claims could conceptually be included in the definition of personal remittances since they are essentially redistributive flows between households. However, because it may be difficult to collect data separately for the transfers received by households, they have been left out of the definition.

<sup>7</sup>Income tax payable to Government of country A.

<sup>8</sup>Social contribution payable to Government of country A.

## **ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF REMITTANCES IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

*United Nations Office of the High Representative for  
the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing  
Countries and Small Island Developing States*

The Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the decade 2001-2010 emphasizes the crucial importance of mobilizing domestic and external financial resources for achieving its objectives, goals and targets. Although the Programme recognizes that the Official Development assistance (ODA) will remain critical for the development of LDCs, it encourages them to promote innovative financial mechanisms and improve access of the poor to financial services.

The 2004 High-Level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on “Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme for the Decade 2001-2010” concluded that microfinance intermediation (savings, credits and remittances) could have a significant impact on poverty eradication and stimulate growth in LDCs. Furthermore, the Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable “Towards Enhancing the Development Impact of Migrant Remittances in the Least Developed Countries”, held within the framework of the High-Level segment, identified several priority areas for action by Governments and other actors that could enhance the development impact of remittances in LDCs and improve remittance services.

As a follow-up to the 2004 ECOSOC High-Level segment and upon the request of Benin, Chair of the LDC Group, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on 8 and 9 February 2006 in Cotonou. The two-day conference examined current flows, patterns and trends of the migrant remittances as well as policies and practices governing remittances in the LDCs. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration<sup>1</sup> which proposed concrete and practical recommendations to all stakeholders, both in sending and receiving countries, on how to enhance the development impact of workers remittances in LDCs. The Conference provided an important impetus both to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the global mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

As a follow-up to the conference, the UN-OHRLLS and IOM prepared a joint publication which provided an overview of remittances in LDCs and a compendium of remittance practices in LDCs and included presentations of the participants. It also included the Ministerial Declaration of LDCs, the outcome document of the conference. The publication has been disseminated among all United Nations Member States and Observers.

In July 2006, the UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, organized a Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable: Migrant workers remittances in Africa and LDCs and held a press conference during the 2006 ECOSOC substantive session. In collaboration with the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and OSAA, it also organized a roundtable on labour migration during the same period.

Following the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, is organizing a regional consultation

with diaspora on the remittances and development in Africa. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2007 in Ghana. The main objectives of the meeting is to promote an inter-African dialogue on migration and remittances, develop practical recommendations for all stakeholders and assist United Nations Development Programme in integrating migration policies in its country programmes.

Pursuant to the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference of the LDCs on Migrants' Remittances and within its mandate for the implementation of the Brussels Programme, the UN-OHRLLS will assist the Government of Benin in the establishment of the International Migrant Remittances Observatory for LDCs which will serve the purpose of collecting remittance data, sharing information on remittances flows, trends and patterns, transfer mechanisms and service providers, lessons learned and best practices, as well as assist LDCs in remittance-related capacity building, research, analysis, and policymaking, with a view to improving their remittance services and facilitating access of the poor.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup>Circulated by Benin as document A/61/230 under item 54 (b) of the provisional list of agenda of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly.

## **ECA ACTIVITIES IN 2006 AND THOSE PLANNED FOR 2007-2009**

*Economic Commission for Africa  
United Nations*

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was an active participant in the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as well as in a number of preparatory activities, the International Symposium of International Migration and Development which took place in Turin in June 2006. In addition, reform of the ECA resulted in placing a greater emphasis on international migration. Testimony to this is the Report on International Migration which was published in 2006, and the effective participation of the ECA in the High-level Dialogue. The reform emphasized regional integration in which international migration is an important factor; and resulted in tasking ECA with the responsibility of international migration, providing a programmatic focus on the subject within the Commission. Furthermore, the ECA reform emphasized coordination and harmonization of activities on human and social development with the African Union and the African Development Bank. The three regional entities share the same concerns and will work together more closely on international migration issues in Africa.

ECA plans to undertake the following activities as a follow-up to the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development:

1. Produce a Report on International Migration in 2008 as a follow-up to the report in 2006;
2. Seek funding for holding a High-level Dialogue African Follow-up Conference in Cape Town, South Africa;
3. Highlight international migration during the ICPD+15 Regional Review process.



## **REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: AN ESCAP PERSPECTIVE**

*Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations*

In recognition of the growing importance of international migration issues and the need to better understand its relationship to development, the General Assembly convened a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York from 14 to 15 September 2006. This note summarizes: (1) the activities that ESCAP carried out to prepare for the High-level Dialogue; (2) its participation in the event; and (3) the follow-up actions to the High-level Dialogue that ESCAP would pursue.

### **A. ACTIVITIES OF ESCAP IN ADVANCE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE**

In its resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005, the General Assembly invited the Regional Commissions of the United Nations to contribute to and coordinate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue, and also invited appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration.

Complementing international deliberations, ESCAP has conducted several activities dealing with international migration, taking into account the regional specificities of migration issues. These activities were undertaken as part of its programme of work in the area of emerging social issues and in anticipation of the High-level Dialogue, with a view to contributing to regional preparations.

In August 2005, ESCAP, jointly with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, convened the Regional Seminar on the Social Implications of International Migration. Participants in the Seminar agreed that migration should be viewed as an important, positive, contributing factor to development and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Regional Seminar adopted recommendations that called for, inter alia, the establishment of a regional consultative process on labour migration and development, coherence of national migration policies with broader development goals and systematic regional studies and research on international migration and development.

In September 2005, in recognition of the growing importance of regional cooperation in managing international migration, ESCAP, together with 14 other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations working in the Asia and the Pacific Region established the Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, which is aimed at contributing to a better understanding of and developing a common approach to the migration phenomena in the region by strengthening the mechanism of coordination and information sharing among concerned agencies. The Group is currently co-chaired by ESCAP and the IOM Regional Office in Bangkok.

The Committee on Emerging Social Issues (CESI) of ESCAP, at its second session held in Bangkok in November 2005, considered the issue of international migration under the agenda item on socially vulnerable groups. The secretariat of the Committee prepared and presented a report, examining the nexus between international migration and development and, in particular, the social implications of migration in the region. The Committee invited Mr. Rolf Jenny, Executive Director of

the Global Commission for International Migration (GCIM) to present the report of the GCIM Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action which became an official input to the High-level Dialogue.

During the sixty-second session of the Commission, held in Jakarta in April 2006, ESCAP, jointly with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment of Indonesia, organized a side event entitled "Gender Dimensions of International Migration and Regional Preparations for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development". The event provided an opportunity for discussing various aspects of migration, and reaffirmed the relevance of a regional approach in enhancing the developmental impacts of migration. The positive and negative experiences of women in the migration process, as well as strategic interventions to reduce gender-based rights violations, received significant attention. The perspectives of both origin and destination countries, as well as those of IOM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), was discussed.

In June 2006, ESCAP participated in the International Symposium on International Migration and Development, held in Turin, Italy. The Symposium was convened within the framework of the preparatory work of the United Nations Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue. The Symposium debated, at the substantive level, key issues which Governments, international organizations and civil society face in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by international migration. During the Symposium, ESCAP chaired a session on international migration in the Asia and the Pacific region, focusing on the key migration issues and challenges in the region, the role of remittances in contributing to development, and regional policy developments.

## B. PARTICIPATION OF ESCAP IN THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP attended the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and participated in one of the round tables on "The effects of international migration on economic and social development".

In addition, ESCAP participated in two side events focusing on regional perspectives of international migration and development, namely, (a) a round table, entitled "Regional Dimension of International Migration and Development", co-hosted by the Regional Commissions New York Office and IOM, on 13 September 2006; and (b) a panel discussion, entitled "Seizing the Opportunities that International Migration Brings: A Regional Perspective", organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Regional Commissions New York Office on 15 September 2006. On both occasions, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP presented the Asian and Pacific perspectives.

The side events helped to elucidate the regional specificities of migration and their different developmental impacts. Hence, while international migration can be characterized by its global dimension, the regional perspectives of migration also warrant attention. For instance, intraregional migratory patterns, some of which are long-standing while others more recent, vary from region to region. Panelists frequently stressed the need for the sound management of international migration, which required greater collaboration between countries and regions. To this end, the value of the regional consultative processes was reaffirmed.



### C. REGIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

ESCAP has recognized that international migration is one of the key emerging issues which will challenge the region for the coming decades, economically, socially and culturally. Thus, following the deliberations at the High-level Dialogue, ESCAP will continue to emphasize the migration issue in planning its future activities and programmes.

In November 2006, ESCAP organized a regional seminar on “Strengthening the Capacity of National Machineries for Gender Equality to Shape Migration Policies and Protect Migrant Women”. The seminar enabled participants to better understand the gender dimensions of both regular and irregular migration, international and internal migration, including migration triggered by conflicts. In the same month, an Expert Group Meeting on ESCAP’s Regional Census Programme identified international migration statistics as one of the priority areas for enhanced collaboration in preparing the 2010 round of population censuses. The meeting focused on the measurement, dissemination, data sharing on international migration statistics. In May 2007, the ESCAP’s Special Body Meeting on Least Developed and Land Locked Developing Countries will discuss the issue of international migration and its impacts on development in those countries.

ESCAP will also work to strengthen mechanisms of collaboration among concerned institutions and synergize their activities at the regional level, primarily through the Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking. Members of the Group decided to jointly publish a report on international migration in Eastern and South-eastern Asia in 2007, with a view to producing comprehensive reference material, enhancing understanding of migration issues, identifying knowledge gaps and generating policy recommendations.

ESCAP will convene the third session of the Committee for Emerging Social Issues in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 14 December 2006. The regional follow-up to the High-level Dialogue will be one of the agenda items that this intergovernmental body will consider.

ESCAP, based on its decades-long experience of leading the development of economic and social policies in the region, will continue to strengthen its policy-oriented analyses of key trends and emerging issues on international migration in the Asia-Pacific region. It will also provide support, upon the request of members and associate members of ESCAP, in capacity-building through, inter alia, organizing training workshop and disseminating best practices on migration management.

ESCAP is well suited to promote the exchange of information, experiences, best practices and policies among its members and associate members in the region on the issue of migration. ESCAP will seek, in collaboration with relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, to provide a forum for regional dialogue to facilitate the discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its linkages with development. ESCAP is planning to organize a regional meeting on international migration and development during the first half of 2007, so that the outcome of the meeting can contribute to the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, scheduled to be held in Belgium in July 2007.



## **ESCWA'S ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: 2007 AND BEYOND**

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
United Nations*

### **A. OVERVIEW**

ESCWA's interest in international migration, prior to the High-level Dialogue, kept pace with the growing importance of this issue at both the regional and international levels. A number of activities have already taken place since 2000 including Expert Group Meetings, focused studies, specialized publications, and others. In all these activities, ESCWA increasingly worked to mainstream the developmental aspects of international migration.

Against this background, ESCWA, in collaboration with UNFPA, assisted the countries in the region by organizing workshops and Expert Group Meetings for policymakers and technical staff of Governments and civil society on different aspects of global and regional international migration. Other partners have been the League of Arab States, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Of particular importance was ESCWA's paper on Demographic Transition in the Arab Region and Its Implications on Employment and International Migration, which sought to identify regional issues for discussion during the General Assembly's High-level Dialogue.

Recently, and in collaboration with the Population Division of UN/DESA, ESCWA organized an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities. The meeting provided a forum for the substantive examination of the key issues faced by Governments, international organizations and civil society in addressing the challenges and opportunities of international migration and development in the Arab region. In addition, ESCWA organised a Round Table on Labour Migration in the Arab Countries at the International Symposium on International Migration and Development, which was held in Turin, Italy from 28 to 30 June 2006. At this meeting, the development impact of international migration in the region was discussed and the role of remittances and transnational communities in fostering development in sending countries was examined.

ESCWA made also a prominent contribution to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and made a presentation on the Regional Dimension to International Migration and Development during a side event organized on 13 September 2006.

### **B. PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

During 2007, ESCWA will continue to sustain its efforts in the area of international migration and development. A wallchart on International Migration and Development in the Arab countries is currently under preparation. In addition to depicting viable opportunities that migration offers, such as the positive impact of remittances, the transfer of knowledge and skills and the reduction of unemployment, the wallchart also reviews current migration policies in the Arab region. It also depicts issues such as the coexistence of labour migration and youth unemployment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States, the potential trade-off between the demographic bonus and the pressure to migrate, brain drain versus brain gain, non-financial and social remittances, return migration and the integration of migrants.

As part of thematic documentation planned for the Sixth Committee on Social Development, which will be held in Beirut from 20 to 22 February 2007, ESCWA is preparing a policy brief on international migration levels and patterns and its impact on development in the Arab countries together with a situation analysis report on labour migration in the Arab region. The aim of the report is to construct a regional profile of the current phase of international labour migration in the Arab region within the context of globalization and the evolving demographic and socio-economic situation.

Similarly, ESCWA will publish in 2007 the Third Population and Development Report on Trends, Policies and Impact of International Migration in the Arab region. A series of activities to strengthen national capacities in formulating coherent international migration and development policies is also planned and a fund-raising process to support capacity-building workshops has already been initiated. In this respect, ESCWA formulated a capacity-building project on Population Dynamics and International Migration: A Regional Framework for Integrated Population Policies. The project aims at strengthening national policies on international migration and development and enabling member countries to integrate population dynamics, including migration, in the process of development.

International migration will also feature in the 2008-2009 work programme of ESCWA. A number of activities have been planned in order to increase the capacity of member countries to develop and operationalize intersectoral social development plans, programmes or projects with a focus on youth, migrant workers, persons with disabilities and the rural and urban poor. These activities include a social policy brief on migrants, a bulletin with demographic profiles of the Arab countries, advisory missions to enhance the capacity of Member States in formulating social policies and monitoring their implementation, information kits on issues of equity, social development, sustainable growth and the Millennium Development Goals, an input for the 41st session of the Commission on Population and Development on Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, and finally a joint project with ECLAC on International migration in the Middle East: Comparative analyses and proposals for the creation of a network for exchanging common strategies.

## **FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and  
Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre  
United Nations*

ECLAC, through the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) is closely following up the agreements adopted at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The activities already begun and those planned for 2007 concern mainly:

1. Follow-up to resolution 615 (XXXI) on international migration adopted at the thirty-first session of ECLAC, held in Uruguay in March 2006;
2. Follow-up to the mandates handed down at the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Uruguay in November 2006;
3. Preparation of a project on migration and development for the Development Account (2008-2009), jointly with the other Regional Commissions and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations. The proposal was accepted in the first instance and, following the suggestions made by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a revised concept paper was prepared.

Further to the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a Global Forum as a venue for discussing issues related to international migration and development in a systematic and comprehensive way, ECLAC will actively support the organization of the first meeting of the Forum in Belgium in 2007. (United Nations, A/61/515).

The activities planned, which are set out below, aim to help bring the meeting to a successful conclusion by contributing a Latin American and Caribbean regional vision to complement the broader Ibero-American perspective. CELADE will also continue to analyze migratory data, looking at different ways of capturing information on international migration (for example, by examining responses to survey questions on household members residing abroad) and will update the data bank of the project Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA). All of these efforts form a common denominator for the activities discussed below.

### **A. THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF ECLAC**

Further to the recommendation made by the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development during the thirtieth session of the Commission held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2004, CELADE presented documentation on international migration for the representatives of the countries to consider at the Committee's meeting during the thirty-first session of the Commission held in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The documentation presented, entitled *International Migration, Human Rights and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Summary and Conclusions*,<sup>1</sup> was based mainly on work carried out by CELADE in recent years. This text offered guidance to the region's Governments in facing the most important challenges and opportunities that migration raises with respect to development, from a cross-

cutting perspective of the human rights of migrants and their families. The prior work benefited from the participation of CELADE in numerous meetings, workshops and seminars involving Government officials, academics, civil society and experts and from the conclusions reached at those gatherings. It also drew on many studies published by CELADE, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Division and other agencies within the system, and the contributions of experts and academics in the region.

The central message of the above document was that international migration should be acknowledged as a question of development and of rights. This required the promotion of comprehensive measures that would ensure the governance of international migration from a Latin American and Caribbean perspective, enhance free mobility, strengthen positive externalities and protect the human rights of all migrants.

The approach taken in this document led to the adoption of a specific resolution at the thirty-first session of ECLAC. The resolution, which is reproduced on the Committee's web site, welcomed the report and mentioned important long-term repercussions and projections. Among other matters, it called for the ratification of international instruments on migration and welcomed the organization of an Ibero-American meeting on migration, to be organized by the Ibero-American Secretariat with the support of ECLAC and IOM. This meeting was held in July 2006 in Madrid.

The resolution also requested the formation of an inter-agency group on migration issues, to be coordinated by ECLAC. This mandate will be implemented in 2007. ECLAC hopes that this initiative will provide a platform for the convergence of work carried out in this area by international and inter-governmental organizations, as well as networks of experts, civil society agencies and inter-governmental fora.

CELADE has taken part in meetings organized jointly with other United Nations agencies and IOM, such as the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico at the end of 2005 and organized together with the National Population Council of Mexico, the United Nations Population Division, the United Nations Population Fund and CELADE. As in 2006, CELADE will continue to participate as an observer in the two regional consultative fora on migration: the Regional Conference on Migration and the South American Conference on Migration.

#### B. SIXTEENTH IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

The central theme of the sixteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Uruguay in November 2006, was Migration and Shared Development, further to the commitments undertaken at the Iberoamerican Encounter on International Migration and Development, which took place in Madrid, in July 2006.

The Ibero-American Summit was attended by some 700 people, including government representatives from the 22 Ibero-American States and guest countries, experts, and representatives of civil society, agencies and international organizations.

The report of the Ibero-American Encounter on International Migration and Development was presented at the Ibero-American Summit in November 2006. On that occasion, a number of conclusions were set out in the document entitled Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development (Spanish only). These conclusions concerned the strengthening of Ibero-American cooperation on a wide range of migration and development issues, as well as a commitment to establish and convene, in 2008, an Ibero-

American Forum on Migration and Development, which will provide a venue for the sharing of best practices and for the articulation of consensuses and joint action by the Ibero-American States in these matters. The first meeting is to be held in Cuenca, Ecuador.

ECLAC will collaborate with the Ibero-American Secretariat by conducting a study on migration and development, with inputs from IOM, the Migratory Forum of MERCOSUR, the South American Conference on Migration and the Regional Conference on Migration. In consultation with the Member States, ECLAC will make proposals to assist with the establishment of the above-mentioned forum.

C. DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT: STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO DEAL WITH  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FOR MAXIMIZING DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS  
AND MINIMIZING NEGATIVE IMPACT (2008-2009)

This project was prepared by ECLAC together with the other Regional Commissions and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations. The proposal was approved in the first instance and, following suggestions put forward by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a revised concept paper was prepared.

The project provides for the strengthening of existing networks and the development of new ones where they do not yet exist. It will be implemented jointly by the five Regional Commissions and DESA and will seek the collaboration of other partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), regional development institutions (development banks, regional bodies), regional and international NGOs working in the field of migration and national and regional research centres. In each region, a research centre will be designated to carry out specific research activities. ECLAC will be responsible for the project's coordination.

The project will benefit from existing initiatives on migration information systems, as well as recent studies conducted by the respective regional commissions with the purpose of strengthening and creating networks of information on migration.

The objective is to strengthen national capacities to build international migration issues into national development strategies, in order to maximize the contribution of international migration to development while minimizing its negative impact. This is to be achieved by improving data quality and availability on international migration, highlighting female migration, increasing institutional and human capacities to design and implement policies and programmes, and promoting cooperation through an effective intra- and inter-regional network for the exchange of information, studies, policies, experiences and good practices among countries and regions.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> LC/G.2303(SES.31/11), March 2006.





## **INITIATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION: THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE**

*International Labour Office*

The recently convened High-level Dialogue (High-level Dialogue) on International Migration and Development reiterated and endorsed the initiatives of the various actors—Member States, United Nations organisations, non-governmental organisations, the civil society and the private sector in examining the relationship and synergies between international migration and development. The High-level Dialogue also underlined the need for embarking on a comprehensive and coherent approach in the overall institutional response to international migration and development and in this regard welcomed the establishment of the Global Migration Group (GMG). It further garnered support for the Secretary-General's proposal for the creation of a Global Forum on Migration and Development, which was to work closely with the GMG, to discuss the issues in a systematic and comprehensive manner.

The recommendations made at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly are affirmed in the ILO's Plan of Action whose main objective is to work towards maximising the benefits and minimising the negative impacts of international labour migration. This goal was also stated in the Secretary-General's report on International Migration and Development, prepared for the High-level Dialogue and confirmed by consensus at the High-level Dialogue in September 2006. It should be pointed out that the ILO's Plan of Action is an operational mandate endorsed by the Ministers of Labour of the ILO Member States and the executive heads of the workers' and employers' organisations. As such it is an explicitly delineated course.

### **A. SALIENT ASPECTS OF THE PLAN OF ACTION**

Under the aegis of the Plan of Action, the work of the ILO will be directed at issues which cut across all ILO technical sectors: standards, employment social protection and social dialogue. As a result, the organisation is uniquely positioned to adopt an integrated approach to tackling challenges of international labour migration, and to follow up on the recommendations of the High-level Dialogue.

#### *1. Multilateral framework on international migration*

The basis of the ILO's work is the draft Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, including a compilation of best practices. There is a substantial degree of convergence in recent international initiatives on policies for maximising positive effects and minimising the negative effects of labour migration. The ILO Multilateral Framework addresses many of these concerns and highlights principles and guidelines to deal with them. While recognising the sovereign right of states to determine their own migration policies, the objectives of the Framework are to assist Member States to develop more effective labour migration policies.

The Multilateral Framework deals with a wide range of issues. These include, above all, the promotion of decent work, promotion of managed migration for employment through bilateral and multilateral agreements, promotion of ethical recruitment procedures, prevention of abusive practices through the strengthening and creation of institutional capacities, making remittance transfers efficient and more productive in sending countries, promoting social integration of migrants in host societies, development of social security and other social protection entitlements through innovative schemes and finally, the promotion of migrant workers' rights.

## *2. International labour standards*

Where international labour standards are concerned, ILO will continue to promote the ratification of Conventions Nos. 97 and 143 and the application of their principles relating to the protection of migrant workers, with a view to adopting a coherent approach to improving the situation of men and women migrant workers.

It will also promote the two fundamental Conventions on forced labour, C.29 and C.105, and assist in their implementation to combat trafficking and forced labour situations. It will provide technical assistance to Member States revising their national legislation to effectively criminalize trafficking in persons and forced labour as well as to improve the protection of victims and compensation mechanisms.

Finally, in this regard, the ILO's work will address linkages between child labour and trafficking and assist in the implementation of relevant Conventions. It will do so through the implementation of a number of regional programmes to combat child trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation.

## *3. Employment promotion*

On the employment side, it is recognized that labour migration is a manifestation of the new employment challenges emanating in a globalizing world. The ILO will work at the national level and supports Member States in mitigating the circumstances driving migration in source countries through the generation of decent, that is adequate and rewarding work opportunities, which will reduce pressures to emigrate. Moreover, the ILO will conduct labour market analyses to study the relationship between trade and international labour mobility. Specifically, such analyses also bring out the links between youth employment, women's employment, and sectoral employment and international labour migration.

The ILO will also use its technical cooperation facility to undertake pilot activities in migration and development. The overall objective of these activities will be to elaborate and promote adoption of new policy frameworks, strategies, systems and mechanisms for managing labour migration as an instrument for development, particularly by elaborating institutional mechanisms within and between formal regional economic and social integration initiatives, as well as within countries. As such, the call for strengthening bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation expressed during the High-level Dialogue, will be followed up.

The rapid growth in migrant remittances, the most tangible benefit of international migration to countries of origin, has served to highlight the positive contribution of labour migration to source countries. The ILO already participates in the Inter-Agency Task Force on remittances, chaired by the World Bank and DFID. With a view to better linking remittances to domestic financial sectors, it is reviewing regulatory and policy frameworks in a number of countries. Given that remittances hold great possibilities for the employment of migrants upon return to their home countries, the ILO has prioritized work on the interface of remittances and their potential productive use in the economy, an issue underscored by the High-level Dialogue.

## *4. Enhancing social protection*

Enhancing social protection is a crucial intervention on ILO's part. The level and pattern of insecurity faced by persons from particular groups in society differ, and migrants usually tend to be most vulnerable to contingency risks and are generally not covered by conventional forms of social protection in destination countries. In responding to the widespread lack of entitlements to benefits, the ILO will work towards the development of methodologies and, taking account of national norms, the level of development and quality of institutional structures, identify promising ways through which adequate social protection can be provided to migrants.

In matters of social security, the ILO will continue to address equality of treatment of migrant workers with national workers in coverage and entitlement. Policy advice will be provided to Member States and to regional and sub-regional institutions in drafting bilateral and multilateral agreements for the maintenance of migrant workers' social security rights. Legal advice will also be provided for the implementation of social security conventions. In studying the sustenance of social security systems in conditions of dwindling national labour forces, the Office will undertake studies in countries assessing the need for replacement labour migration, under various demographic and economic scenarios.

A major area of concern is the discrimination encountered by migrants in host countries. In ensuring their protection, the ILO has already conducted many programmes combating discriminatory practices against migrant workers through the promotion of diversity and integration in society and at the workplace, particularly in the European Union. Combating trafficking will be undertaken by assisting partners in implementing support programmes to victims, improving labour inspection processes, monitoring private recruitment agencies, setting up national tripartite forums and developing action plans on labour migration to support social integration.

Another concern is the working conditions of most migrant workers. The ILO has a long history in advocacy to improve of working conditions. The ILO will continue to address the safety and health of migrant workers through strengthening labour inspection bodies and training labour inspectors in receiving countries. Studies on safety and health in particularly dangerous sectors where migrant workers are often employed, such as construction, will be conducted to highlight areas which need policy attention. International debates will also be organized to raise awareness and develop practical approaches towards solving safety and health problems faced by migrant workers.

To combat HIV/AIDS in the workplace, the ILO's work will focus on the movement of people as a factor in the transmission of HIV as well as on the causes of such movements. Through technical projects, programmes and research, the use of labour migration policy and legislation as tools to limit and control HIV/AIDS propagation will be assessed.

### *5. Promoting social dialogue*

Social dialogue is promoted in all activities related to labour migration undertaken by the ILO. As such, social dialogue will be used in the design and implementation of all activities reported under the Plan of Action for migrant workers. The direct involvement of social partners will greatly contribute to enhancing social dialogue on labour migration issues as well as to implementing the recommendations of the High-level Dialogue.

In the governance of social policy, particularly in schemes of social protection, the voice of migrants is often not heard or taken into account. Until that has changed, the social and economic position of migrants will always be fragile or ignored. Migrant workers in most countries lack unions, organizations and institutions to give them an effective voice in labour markets and in the development, implementation and evaluation of social policy. Often, trade unions have considerable difficulty in organizing and representing such workers, and it is increasingly recognized that innovative mechanisms are required to help unions to enhance their bargaining position and provide all workers and working communities with stronger representation. Bringing reputable and representative interest groups into the mainstream of policymaking is crucial if the voice of vulnerable social groups is to be taken into account. Assisting unions and other bodies to come together in productive ways is a challenge for the ILO, and must be part of the longer-term agenda of strengthening worker rights and security. It is also important to enable these new organizations to have their rights, representation and opportunities respected. In many of its programmes, the ILO considers which form of representation offers the highest degree of social and economic support. In doing so, the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of representation for workers, employers and Governments are considered.

## *6. Improving institutional capacity*

The ILO accords high priority to capacity building and technical assistance for carrying out the Plan of Action. Capacity building, awareness raising and technical assistance are the means of action that the Office applies in all areas of activity. Tripartite meetings and seminars, under technical cooperation projects, are essential opportunities for raising awareness of participants to issues of concern in labour migration and for building their capacities to address these issues. This approach has already been implemented in Africa, Asia and Europe where technical assistance takes the form of policy advice and setting up institutions responsible for the implementation of policies and programmes.

Tools for capacity building are also being developed. The Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration is a major tool kit at the disposal of Member States in this respect. To assist countries in the Asia Pacific region, which have recently experienced rapid growth in labour migration, the Office has produced a training manual for the management of labour migration. The ILO intends to adapt the manual and use it in capacity building in other regions. The Office has also published a set of national studies and a training manual on working with women migrant workers. More recently, a handbook on labour migration was developed jointly with IOM and OSCE. The handbook aims to develop new policy approaches, solutions and practical measures for better managing labour migration in countries of origin and of destination.

The International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin has also contributed to capacity building by organizing special courses on labour migration issues at the specific request of Member States. Moreover, courses on international labour standards, social protection, and social dialogue often include components on labour migration.

## *7. Developing an information and knowledge base*

Finally, the development of a sophisticated and sound information and knowledge base on labour migration as an intrinsic aspect of social and economic policy formulation should be mentioned. The ILO is working towards improving the knowledge base on labour migration by collecting and sharing statistics on labour migration, and provides technical assistance to many countries in this area. It will develop an active research and dissemination programme which, among others, will include the impact of globalization on labour migration, the impact of skilled migration on sending countries, analysis of irregular migration, the assessment of emigration pressures, patterns of labour market discrimination against migrant workers, gender issues and the productive use of remittances.

The ILO has established into with other international bodies such as the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the Statistical Office of the European Community (EUROSTAT), as well as academic and research institutions, in advancing the work programme on a comprehensive information system on international labour migration.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the work of the ILO is multi-tiered. It utilises a large number of measures ranging from policy advice, technical assistance, legal support, awareness raising, capacity enhancement, articulation of innovative methodologies, policy research and the development of an information and knowledge base. A Multilateral Framework goes beyond the traditional mandate of the organisation, the ILO recognises the importance of work being carried out by other actors in the field of migration and development. Accordingly, the ILO welcomes the establishment of a Global Forum on migration and development to establish increased policy coherence and a more constructive and useful dialogue on international migration and development.

**GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP:  
POLICY RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATIONS**

*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

This information note provides an overview of the activities of Global Migration Group (GMG) members in the fields of migration- and development-related policy research, data collection and publications. The GMG is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies which seeks to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned to improve the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalizing upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration.

The GMG consists of 10 organizations that are actively involved in international migration and related issues:

International Labour Organization (ILO);  
International Organization for Migration (IOM);  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA);  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);  
World Bank.

**A. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

Given the multidisciplinary nature of migration, the ILO research and information programme on international labour migration is a collaborative effort drawing on the activities of all four ILO sectors—Standards, Employment, Social Protection and Social Dialogue.

The work of the mainstream ILO International Migration Programme (MIGRANT) is supplemented by the work carried out by other units on migration-related issues, particularly the International Labour Standards Department, the Bureau of Statistics, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), the Programme for Promotion of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Social Security Department, the Employment Sector, the International Institute for Labour Studies, the Sectoral Activities Programme, the ILO-AIDS Programme, the Conditions of Work and Employment Programme, the Bureau for Workers' Activities, the Social Finance Programme, and ILO International Training Centre, Turin.

## *1. Research*

The ILO has been carrying out a major research programme on international labour migration for several decades to support its technical assistance and advisory services. Only the main focus areas of research and expertise have been listed below:

- Globalization, demographic trends, and implications for international labour migration.
- Review of migration policies, laws and practice in member states and areas for improvement.
- Discrimination testing and integration of ethnic and migrant workers in host societies, especially in Europe and Northern America, and development of integration indicators.
- Rights-based approaches to managing labour migration. The ILO Multilateral Framework is a comprehensive tool-kit which elaborates principles, guidelines and best practices aimed at assisting constituents in designing and improving their migration policies and practices.
- Migration and development. Research in this area has focused on the relationships between cross border mobility and international labour markets, decent work and development; skilled labour migration, the impact of brain drain on source countries and policy responses to mitigate the negative impacts; the role of temporary labour migration programmes and policies and circulation of skills; research and action programme on the international migration of health-care workers; migrant remittances, social finance, productive investments and enterprise development; and labour mobility and free circulation in economic integration areas, especially in Africa.
- Irregular labour migration. Research in this area has focused on conceptual issues, patterns, causes, impact and policy responses, covering the Maghreb, Southern Europe, Africa and Asia.
- Protection of migrant workers, especially vulnerable workers—low skilled persons, workers with irregular status, women domestic workers, and trafficked persons. Activities on social protection of migrant workers include research into the portability of social security entitlements and regulation of private recruitment agencies.
- Gender and migration, including the situation of female domestic migrant workers in receiving countries, and trafficked women.
- The interface between refugee populations, the labour market and migrant labour. This is based on continuing work with the UNHCR on Afghan nationals.
- Labour migration statistics focussing on research on methodologies and country practices.

## *2. Data collection and statistics*

Collection of data and statistics on the international migration of workers forms part of a comprehensive body of labour and employment information compiled by the Office. This makes it possible to relate migration information to broader employment and labour market issues facing countries. ILO's work is divided into several areas:

- Contribution to methodology and guidelines for developing migration statistics. The *ILO* has developed comprehensive manuals and guidelines for collecting migration statistics. The manual by

Bilsborrow *et al.*, and the paper by Hoffmann and Lawrence are major contributions in this respect.<sup>1</sup> The ILO serves on inter-agency and expert committees on improving migration and related statistics. It has developed a migration module to be attached to existing household surveys on the labour force. Particular attention is paid to the measurement of migrant remittances. The goal is to create questions which effectively measure various dimensions of labour migration in both source countries and destination countries, and can be added to household surveys. The module is currently being tested in both Armenia and Thailand.

- Global estimates on labour migration and trafficking. ILO made an estimate of the number of migrant workers globally and regionally based on United Nations estimates of migrant stocks for the year 2000. This will be updated. The ILO Programme for Promotion of the Declaration has made a minimum estimate of the incidence of forced labour at the global and regional levels, including those trafficked.<sup>2</sup>
- Databases on labour migration information and statistics. The online International Labour Migration Database, which has been operational since 1999, consists of statistics on labour migration for 86 Member States, compiled in cooperation with EUROSTAT for Europe and through a questionnaire sent to other countries. The Internet address is: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/Ilmdb/index.htm>.
- The ILO NATLEX database contains national laws on labour, migration and migrant workers, social security and related human rights. The Internet address is: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/>.
- Country profiles on migration law and practice. Legislative profiles have been compiled for 43 countries based on the ILO General Survey on Migration Law and Practice (2003). They provide a snapshot of the similarities and differences between principles contained in ILO migrant worker conventions and the national legislation. They serve to identify the main obstacles to the implementation and ratification of ILO conventions and can thus be used as a promotional tool for international labour standards. The profiles will be posted on the web shortly.
- Database on anti-discrimination profiles. The anti-discrimination action profiles, available on the Internet, are the output of the project Promoting Equality in Diversity: Integration in Europe, which is aimed at facilitating integration of, and combating discrimination against, migrants in EU Member States. A total of 150 profiles covering 34 countries, including the EU and other European countries, are available from the ILO Website.
- Database on best practices on labour migration. Initially this formed part of the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration. The compilation is being expanded through new research. It will be posted on the web and updated regularly.
- Advisory services and training of constituents in collection and analysis of statistics on international labour migration. The ILO has organized intercountry consultations and training workshops in Asia, Central and Eastern Europe<sup>3</sup>, and West Africa aimed at identifying areas for harmonizing concepts and definitions, agreeing on modalities for exchanging information, and exchanging experiences on how improvements in statistics feed into better policymaking.
- Other information on international labour migration collected through ongoing research, operational programmes and technical cooperation activities. Technical cooperation projects, especially in Africa, have undertaken reviews of existing labour migration statistics and identified areas for improvement.

The information collected and research outputs are disseminated through special publications and reports, working papers (mainly the series on International Migration Papers and Perspectives in Labour Migration), presentations at various conferences and workshops, newsletters and the ILO web. Most studies and publications can be accessed and freely downloaded from the MIGRANT website.<sup>4</sup> The Office report for the General Discussion on Migrant Workers at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference entitled A Fair Deal for Migrant Workers in a Global Economy<sup>5</sup> summarises much of the ILO research. The work carried out by other ILO units on labour migration and migrant workers are also available from the ILO website.

## B. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

IOM conducts and supports research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice. IOM research is conducted in order to enable the Organization to take more effective action to respond to migration challenges and to provide policy guidance to Governments based on sound evidence.

The Migration Policy, Research and Communications Department, based at IOM in Geneva, is responsible for developing and coordinating IOM's overall research and publishing policy, organizing training events and producing research tools and guidance for IOM missions. In addition, the International Migration Law and Legal Affairs Department conducts research on migration law to analyze and evaluate the various facets and interplay of international, regional and national migration laws and practices.

IOM's Migration Policy and Research Programme for 2007 is focused, in broad terms, on how migration—and labour migration in particular—can be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and in countries of destination. IOM is guided by this theme given the high level of interest generated by this subject during the 2006 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

### *1. Research and data collection*

The bulk of IOM research is conducted by its field missions. A detailed list of IOM research projects is contained in IOM's Research Compendium and provides information about over a 100 different recent research projects. The Research Compendium is being updated and a new version will be available in November 2007. These projects cover a broad range of themes, including research on labour migration, migration and health, migration and the environment, human trafficking, migration and development, and return migration. Several recent projects, in countries such as Albania, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Republic of Moldova involve the collection of data on remittances from household surveys.

IOM routinely collects statistics relating to its operational programmes and projects. These cover a range of different migratory movements including repatriation and resettlement of refugees, and the returns of highly qualified persons, victims of trafficking, stranded transit migrants, internally displaced persons, unsuccessful asylum-seekers, and soldiers as part of demobilization programmes. All quantitative information regarding the movement of persons assisted by IOM is stored in a database, Mosaic. Mosaic contains statistics for IOM movements dating back to January 1992.

The IOM database on trafficking is unique as it is based on data collected directly from trafficked persons. The database collects information about victims of trafficking who have received assistance



from IOM. The database, which was established in 1999, currently includes detailed information about 9,376 trafficked persons.

## *2. Publications*

The 2006 Publications Catalogue lists over 300 reports prepared by IOM. Examples of key publications include the following:

- The World Migration Report is IOM's flagship biennial publication. The 2007 report will be the fourth in IOM's series. The new report will focus primarily on the labour mobility of people in today's evolving global economy, providing policy findings and practical options with a view to making labour migration more effective and equitable and to maximize the benefits of labour migration for all stakeholders concerned.
- The International Dialogue on Migration Series (IDM) documents the migration policy dialogue since 2001 from each IOM Council meeting and intersessional workshop. The collection includes, among others, the following titles Mainstreaming Migration into Development Policy Agendas (IDM 8), Managing the Movement of People, what have we learnt from GATS MODE 4? (IDM 7), and Health and Migration, Bridging the Gap (IDM 6).
- The Migration Research Series (MRS) was launched in 2001, with the objective of rendering research findings more accessible to policymakers worldwide. Recent MRS reports include Domestic Migrant Remittances in China (MRS 24), Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking from Nigeria to Europe (MRS 23), Migration and Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Policy Makers (MRS 22), Migration and Development: the cases of Angola and Zambia (MRS 21) and The Millennium Development Goals and Migration (MRS 20).
- The International Migration Law Series (IML) gathers various research findings and the compilation of migration laws at the international, regional and national levels, including such titles as Migrations and the Protection of Human Rights, Biometrics and International Migration and the Glossary on Migration, which is available in five languages.
- International Migration is a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal, seeking broad geographic coverage of international migration throughout the world, with an emphasis on discussion and analysis of contemporary policies and practices by Governments and civil society that shape the determinants and consequences of international migration. The journal is published five times a year in cooperation with Blackwell Publishing and is edited by the Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) at Georgetown University.
- IOM also produces a number of thematic publications, based on reports from diverse events and research studies, the most recent publications being Migration for Development: Within and Beyond Borders, Migration and Religion, the Final Report on the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Enhancing the Development Impact of Remittances and The Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination. IOM has also recently prepared a report on behalf of the National Economic and Social Council of Ireland entitled Managing Migration in Ireland: A Social and Economic Analysis.

For further details of IOM's ongoing research projects and publications, please contact [res@iom.int](mailto:res@iom.int) or [pub@iom.int](mailto:pub@iom.int).

### C. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD is the United Nations' focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development. It examines international migration and development through its three pillars of work, namely, research and policy analysis, technical assistance and consensus building at the international level. Reinforcing the 2000 Bangkok Plan of Action's (UNCTAD X) mandate for UNCTAD to work on services trade, the 2004 Sao Paulo Consensus (UNCTAD XI) called upon UNCTAD to "examine all issues related to liberalization of trade in services, including Mode 4, and apply the insights gained through its analytical work." UNCTAD's migration-related work also includes research on globalization, investment, technology, and enterprise development. By offering balanced and evidence-based analysis, UNCTAD assists policymakers in identifying pro-development policy choices related to migration.

UNCTAD has undertaken in-depth work on migration and development, including on:

- Globalization and the correction of asymmetries between international markets for labour and capital.
- The role of services in development;
- Employment-creation and the movement of people to supply services;
- Trade in labour-intensive services, particularly through highly skilled labour migration;
- Migration policies, frameworks and laws;
- Multilateral and regional trade agreements facilitating the movement of service providers;
- Impact of brain drain and brain circulation; and
- The use of remittances as a pro-development tool.

At the time of the drafting of the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), UNCTAD assisted developing countries to ensure that Mode 4 (temporary migration) was included in the agreement as one of the four modes of trading services internationally. Today, UNCTAD continues its work on ensuring and maximizing development gains from temporary migration, and on the contribution of migration to poverty reduction, gender empowerment and the achievement of other MDGs. UNCTAD does so by analyzing and monitoring the negotiations at the WTO and providing policy and negotiating advice to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To strengthen the ability of countries to identify and promote their national interests and capabilities, UNCTAD conducts training at the national and regional levels.

Along these lines, examples of UNCTAD's more recent work include the following:

Expert Meetings on Themes of Relevance to Migration, where experts are asked to share specific experiences, including constraints and challenges and best-practices, in order to contribute to maximizing developing countries' gains from migration. Experts also present results from studies conducted, providing data, statistics and analysis of their research. The expert meetings serve as a venue for experts (including from academia), policymakers, stakeholders (including business groups, consumers, representatives of the civil society), and negotiators to exchange views on matters relating to services and

development. Some examples of expert meetings which UNCTAD has organized since 2003 include the following:

- Market Access Issues in Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons to Supply Services) and Effective Implementation of Article IV on Increasing Participation of Developing Countries, held from 29 to 31 July 2003. For this meeting, the UNCTAD secretariat prepared a background note entitled Increasing the Participation of Developing Countries through Liberalization of Market Access in GATS Mode 4 for Movement of Natural Persons Supplying Services.<sup>6</sup>
- Trade and Development Aspects of Professional Services and Regulatory Frameworks, held from 17 to 19 January 2005. This expert meeting focused on how Governments of developed and developing countries can play an active role in promoting trade in professional services. In this context, the UNCTAD secretariat prepared a background note on Trade and Development Aspects of Professional Services and Regulatory Frameworks.<sup>7</sup>
- New and Dynamic Sectors of World Trade, held from 7 to 9 February 2005. The focus was on, inter alia, IT-enabled outsourcing of services. UNCTAD not only convened the meeting, but also made available a series of papers, prepared by UNCTAD and experts (e.g. Outsourcing and Development).

Other expert meetings on issues such as logistics, insurance, distribution, construction, audiovisual, energy or tourism services, addressed Mode 4 temporary movement as one of the key cross-cutting issues of trade in services.

The annual UNCTAD Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, meeting under the agenda item, Trade in Services and Development includes a section on Mode 4 temporary migration related issues. The discussions and analysis undertaken contribute to a better understanding of temporary movement of natural persons Mode 4 and how to maximize its contribution to development.

UNCTAD contributes its expertise through writing scholarly research and analysis on issues related to migration and development in most of its publications. Chapter III of the Trade and Development Report 2006, for example, contains a section on migrant's remittances, highlighting that developing countries should aim at integrating migration and migrants' remittances into a broad development strategy. Chapter 4 of the UNCTAD Least Developed Countries' Report 2006, entitled Labour Supply and the Lack of Productive Employment, reveals the fact that the labour force in most LDCs is growing outside agriculture but that this excess is not being productively employed. The key question posed is whether current policies can rectify this trend and, if not, what is the alternative? UNCTAD's 2004 publication on Trade and Gender gives useful insights on the prominent role of women in the services sector of developing countries, particularly in retail and distribution services, hospitality, health, education, professional, business and social services. Its recommendations include the liberalization of commitments in the GATS, including on Mode 4 as a way of providing equal opportunities for women both in terms of employment and improving their earning power. UNCTAD has also contributed Chapter V on Temporary Migration and its Relation to Trade in Services of the 2004 World Economic and Social Survey on International Migration where it presented, among others, a global picture of migration and its benefits and costs and provided an analysis of how the negotiations at the WTO on Mode 4 may enhance developing country interests.

Upon request, UNCTAD provides individual or group assistance to developing countries in relation to the Mode 4 temporary movement of natural persons negotiations under the GATS in the WTO. This includes assistance to developing and Least Developed Countries in formulating specific communications and possible options for liberalization of Mode 4 trade; for issues relating to domestic regulation, inter

alia, impact of any discipline adopted on Mode 4 trade; and recognition of qualifications and licensing requirements.

UNCTAD assists developing countries with their assessments of services trade at the national or regional levels by identifying and collecting relevant data on barriers to and regulations on Mode 4 trade, analyzing interlinkages among different modes of supply such as cross-border, consumption abroad, commercial presence, presence of natural persons and proposing policy frameworks aimed at enhancing the benefits of temporary migration. UNCTAD monitors and analyzes the development impact of GATS and regional integration initiatives in respect of the movement of services suppliers, including South-South migration. Assistance in this context addresses domestic regulatory frameworks, cooperative mechanism for human resource development and the upgrading of skills or the recognition of qualifications.

As a member of the Task Force on Statistics on Trade in Services, UNCTAD provided inputs for the Manual for Statistics for International Trade in Services and continues to help ensure that issues related to temporary migration are adequately reflected in individual countries' efforts to collect data. UNCTAD is a member of the Electronic Discussion Group on Mode 4, a group tasked to discuss further issues relating to the measurement of Mode 4. Discussions in this group will feed into the revision of the manual on measuring trade in services.

UNCTAD maintains statistical database on socio-economic data, including on remittances, compensation of employees and migrants transfers, as well as net number of migrants and net migration rate. It maintains a database called MAST (Measures Affecting Trade in Services), which contains cross-sector and cross-country comparisons on regulatory measures affecting trade in services.

#### D. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

UNDP's activities in the area of migration and development relate to three main areas: national policies for managing migration; interventions to encourage temporary return migration; and use of remitted funds for development financing. The following is an indicative summary of specific UNDP country programmes and projects on migration and development, together with general activities. UNDP is in the process of reviewing its migration-related activities with its regional bureaus in order to identify additional activities. The summary includes recent, ongoing and upcoming activities, which will assist in identifying where research and data collection would have taken place.

##### *1. Managing migration*

UNDP is formulating a project in Ghana focusing on management of migration, return migration interventions, and optimal use of remittances for development financing. In El Salvador, a Human Development and Migration Programme is being planned aimed at strengthening the national capabilities to promote an integrated response to migration in the country. The programme also aims to increase the ability among key institutions to analyze the flows and impacts of international migration by incorporating migration in research projects and university curriculum. In Moldova, UNDP is working with UNICEF to examine household and community level impacts of migration with the context of brain drain.

## *2. Return migration*

In Albania, UNDP is engaging the Albanian diaspora to develop and implement a comprehensive programme to facilitate a contribution to Albania's socio-economic development and, specifically, to achieving nationally established development goals. Activities include providing support to the Government by building a database and a website. In El Salvador, UNDP is in the process of establishing internship opportunities for young members of the diaspora, born or raised outside the country. The internship programme will be linked with UNDP programmatic areas, including migration, human development, HIV/AIDS prevention, local development, environmental issues, gender, and violence. The initiative will target students at high schools and universities in the United States of America. Under the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals programme, nationals who have migrated to other countries and achieved professional success mobilize to undertake short-term consultancies under the aegis of the United Nations in their countries of origin, such as Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sudan, Syria and Palestine. UNDP intends to increase its work on the issue of the temporary movement of workers under the WTO's GATS Mode IV Services Negotiations.

## *3. Remittances*

UNDP Albania prepared a report on remittances in 2003. In El Salvador, UNDP has launched an initiative on developing tools for local development that offer opportunities for the participation of Salvadorians abroad, but benefit not only those families with migrants abroad. In Somalia, UNDP assisted in establishing the Somalia Financial Services Association, in order to channel remittances and create a stronger financial system. A research project with IOM is being conducted in Tajikistan to assess the scope of remittances and formulate development strategies to channel them. More generally, UNDP is working with INSTRAW to explore the linkages between gender and remittances. UNDP's Capacity Development Group is developing a strategy on remittances and MDGs. It also published Human Development Viewpoint 2004.

Remittances have also been the subject of meetings. A meeting in Santo Domingo on migration, remittances and development for the Latin American and Caribbean region was facilitated in July 2006. In the run up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, UNDP organised a meeting on remittances with private sector stakeholders.

## *4. General activities*

Albania's National Human Development Report 2000 provided an analysis of migration issues within the national context. El Salvador's National Human Development Report 2005 assessed the dynamics of migration from El Salvador, its impact on the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of those who emigrated and those who remained in the country, and provided policy recommendations.

## E. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN/DESA)

### United Nations Population Division

The Population Division monitors global international migration trends and policies. It carries out research and publishes reports on international migration and development, and maintains various databases. In the context of preparing the estimates and projections of the world population, it produces estimates of net migration flows.

#### *1. International migration data*

The Population Division compiles and disseminates estimates and other data on international migration. The compilations currently available include:

- International migrant stock. This database contains estimates of the number of international migrants by sex in each country or area of the world as of 1 July 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005. The estimates are derived mostly from data on the number of foreign-born persons enumerated by censuses. Estimates of the number of female migrants and refugees are also included. The latest version is *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*.
- International migration flows. Statistics on the annual inflows and, where available, the annual outflows, of international migrants as recorded by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States by country of origin, generally covering the period 1960-2004. This information is published under the title *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision*.
- Data on migration for economies in transition. This compilation contains statistics on flows and stocks of international migrants from countries with economies in transition, covering the period from 1980 to 2000. It has been issued under the title *International Migration from Countries with Economies in Transition: 1980-2000*.
- Census data on foreign-born or foreign persons by origin. This is a compilation of census data on the number of foreign-born or foreign persons by sex and age group for the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and was last updated in 1996.
- Net migration estimates. Estimates and projections of net international migration for each country of the world and for each five-year period from 1950 to 2050 are available as part of the set of population estimates and projections released under biennial revisions of *World Population Prospects*. The most recent is the *2004 Revision*.

#### *2. Reports on international migration*

The Population Division issues reports on various aspects of international migration and development. It publishes the *International Migration Report* on a periodic basis. The report presents relevant data on international migration trends and policies for each country of the world.

The Population Division monitors Government views and policies on international migration as part of its overall monitoring of population policies. It maintains a Population Policy Data Bank which contains: (a) official responses to the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development, which has been carried out nine times between 1963 and 2003; (b) publications, documents, speeches and other materials issued by Governments, including development plans, laws, regulations and proclamations, reflecting the official positions taken by Governments on different aspects of population; (c) materials issued by international organizations, such as the Regional Commissions, funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other regional intergovernmental organizations; and (d) articles from the world press, academic journals, proceedings of conferences and seminars, reports and studies prepared by research centres and non-governmental organizations, as well as correspondence and personal communications with experts.

The Population Division issues biennially a report on World Population Policies providing an overview of Government views and policies on population, including those relative to international migration. The 2005 edition is the most recent one. It covers the period from 1976 to 2005. It can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPP2005/wpp2005.htm>.

The Population Division carries out research on the various aspects of international migration, including its demographic implications. The report entitled Replacement Migration, for instance, explored the potential impact of international migration in countering population ageing.

#### United Nations Statistics Division

The United Nations Statistics Division collects and disseminates statistics on stocks and flows of international migrants.

**Migrant stock.** The Statistics Division uses the Population Census Questionnaire to compile census data on the number and characteristics of foreign-born and foreign persons enumerated by censuses. The data collected are disseminated via the Demographic Yearbook. As of early October 2006, 71 countries had reported data on the native and foreign-born population by age, sex and urban/rural residence for censuses taking place from 1985 to 1994 and 62 countries had done so for censuses carried out from 1995 to 2004. The population by country of citizenship and sex had been reported by 71 countries for censuses occurring from 1985 to 1994 and by 53 countries for censuses whose dates ranged from 1995 to 2004. The foreign-born population by country of birth, age and sex had been reported by 61 countries with censuses taking place during 1985-1994 and by 47 countries with censuses occurring during 1995-2004. The foreign-born population enumerated in a country who had lived abroad five years before the census, classified by country of birth, age and sex was reported by 17 countries, each for the periods 1985-1994 and 1995-2004. The economically active foreign-born population by occupation, age, sex and urban/rural residence was reported by 29 countries with censuses dating from 1985 to 1994 and by 24 countries with censuses dating from 1995 to 2004.

**Migration flows.** The Statistics Division used to compile data on flows of international migrants and travelers from administrative records, border-crossings or other recording systems established by Governments using a questionnaire based on the 1976 Recommendations on International Migration Statistics. With the issuance of a new Revision of those Recommendations in 1996, the questionnaire had to be revised. The Division is in the process of testing the revised questionnaire and improving reporting compliance by countries.

## F. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

UNFPA seeks to facilitate policy dialogue, cooperation and collaboration among Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs and civil society to increase understanding of migration issues and to promote policies that address the challenges of migration, including for women migrants. The Fund supports institutional capacity building for formulating, implementing and monitoring gender-sensitive migration policies and programmes, and for integrating migration issues into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies.

UNFPA supports collection, analysis and dissemination of good quality and timely age and sex-disaggregated migration data for evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation. UNFPA supports operational research that fosters increased understanding of the migration process and addresses the needs of migrants, especially female migrants.

UNFPA seeks to increase awareness of the gender dimensions of migration because the migration experience is very different for men and women and requires appropriate action to address the different needs of male and female migrants.

UNFPA advocates for the human rights of migrants and their families and for combating trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. UNFPA advocates for a comprehensive approach to anti-trafficking which is based on a human rights framework and consists of both repressive strategies targeting the perpetrators as well as empowerment strategies helping the victims.

UNFPA is engaged in a number of migration-related activities at global, regional and country levels. The Fund plays a major role in providing assistance to meet the reproductive health needs of women in emergency and refugee situations through the UNFPA Emergency Relief Operations. UNFPA supports initiatives to, inter alia, help prevent trafficking in girls and young women and to help trafficked victims; partners with other organizations to reach out to young migrants with messages about HIV prevention; supports maternal and child health and family planning services, reproductive health information, counselling and services, and works to prevent HIV/AIDS among refugee and migrant communities.

### *1. Expert meetings and round tables*

- In April 2006, UNFPA co-organized with its United Nations sister agencies a Round Table on The Challenge of Globalization—Labour Migration as part of the Informal Preparatory Meeting on the Theme of the 2006 High-level Segment of ECOSOC.
- In May 2005, UNFPA convened an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals to explore migration as both a facilitating and constraining factor in the achievement of the MDGs, including the goals pertaining to poverty reduction; gender equality and the empowerment of women; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development.
- In May 2006, UNFPA convened an Expert Group Meeting on Female Migrants: Bridging the Gaps throughout the Life Cycle which identified the challenges women migrants face from the time they decide to move, while in the process of migrating, living in the host country, and upon returning to the country of origin.



- In July 2006, UNFPA organized a session entitled Policy Framework and Health Services: Issues of Female Migrants at the International Symposium on International Migration and Development convened by the Population division of UN/DESA within the framework of the preparations for the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.
- UNFPA collaborates with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on a series of workshops on key migration issues for delegates of United Nations Permanent Missions in New York on such topics as trafficking, labour migration, diaspora contributions, HIV/AIDS and migration, migration and human rights, and irregular migration.

## *2. Publications*

- UNFPA prepared the Report of the Secretary-General on Monitoring of Population Programmes, Focusing on International Migration and Development, submitted to the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development.
- UNFPA updated its Policy Guidance Note on International Migration to position the organization for maximum impact and greatest value-added in helping countries address issues related to international migration. With its country presence, UNFPA can make a significant contribution to enhancing awareness of the challenges of migration in order to enhance the benefits and minimize the negative consequences of migration to countries of origin, transit and destination and to the migrants themselves.
- Female Migrants: Bridging the Gaps throughout the Life Cycle: Selected Papers of the UNFPA-IOM Expert Group Meeting, New York, 2 and 3 May 2006, UNFPA and IOM (2006).
- Women on the Move, UNFPA, IOM (2006).
- State of World Population 2006: A Passage to Hope: Women and International Migration, UNFPA (2006). Brief country profiles on migration in Western European countries were prepared by Joline Koller and Patrycja Zawierucha for the report.
- State of World Population Youth Supplement, Moving Young, UNFPA (2006).
- International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals: Selected Papers of the UNFPA *Expert Group Meeting*, Marrakech, Morocco, 11 and 12 May 2005, UNFPA (2005).
- Meeting the Challenges of Migration, Progress since the ICPD, UNFPA, International Migration Policy Programme (2004).
- International Migration and Development, a Round Table Presentation, United Nations Headquarters, 12 October 2004, UNFPA (2005).
- Panel on International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals, 27 September 2005, UNFPA (forthcoming).

## G. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)

OHCHR supports the work of human rights treaty bodies and special procedures in the field of migration and human rights. OHCHR also has specific programmes and projects dealing with migration-related issues and their human rights dimension. OHCHR promotes a human rights-based approach to migration<sup>8</sup> in both its research, training and operational activities.

### *1. Research*

OHCHR supports the research activities of the relevant special procedures and treaty bodies. In 2003, Mr. David Weissbrodt, an expert of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, presented his final study on the rights of non-citizens (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/23).

“Special procedures” is the general name given to the mechanisms established by the Commission on Human Rights—and assumed by the Human Rights Council—to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. OHCHR provides these mechanisms with personnel and logistical assistance to aid them in the discharge of their mandates. Various activities can be undertaken by special procedures, including responding to individual complaints, conducting studies, providing advice on technical cooperation, and engaging in general promotional activities. The Special Rapporteur on migrants, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, just to mention a few, have given close attention in their research activities to migration-related issues and their human rights dimension. More generally, migration is a cross-cutting theme addressed by all special procedures mandate-holders, be they dealing with civil and political rights or with economic, social and cultural rights.

Specific examples of research activities undertaken by special procedures include the following.

The report of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on his visit to Greece (E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.3) addressed at length the question of unaccompanied children. His 2006 annual report (E/CN.4/2006/67) focused on the demand factor in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The 2006 report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking (E/CN.4/2006/62) also focused on the demand factor in the commercial sexual exploitation of children, while in her report on her mission to Lebanon (E/CN.4/2006/62/Add.3), the Special Rapporteur further addressed the issue of trafficking in the context of migration, and, in particular, the situation of migrant domestic workers. The 2007 report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking will be looking at the issue of trafficking in the context of forced marriages.

The human rights treaty bodies are committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties. They are created in accordance with the provisions of the treaty that they monitor. There are seven human rights treaty bodies: the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 and its optional protocols), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1965), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979), the Committee Against Torture (CAT) (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and its optional protocols), and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families of 1990). OHCHR provides

secretariat support to all treaty bodies except CEDAW, which is supported by the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of DESA, United Nations.

Migration is a cross-cutting issue for all human rights treaty bodies, and its human rights concerns are not limited to the CMW. During the examination of reports from States parties, members of treaty monitoring bodies regularly raise concerns about issues related to migrant workers that fall within the framework of their specific treaty. The treaty bodies have raised the issue of migrant workers also in their general comments on thematic issues. Of particular relevance is general comment No. 15 of the Human Rights Committee (The Position of Aliens under the Covenant), adopted in April 1986, in which the Committee made clear that there shall be no discrimination between aliens and citizens in the application of the human rights contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In August 2004, the CERD adopted its general recommendation No. 30 (Discrimination against Non-Citizens), in which it made specific recommendations to States parties in order to eliminate discrimination against non-citizens. And in 2005, the CRC adopted a general comment on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin (CRC/GC/2005/6).

OHCHR also undertakes independent research on migration-related issues. An inter-branch Task Force on migration has assisted in the preparation of the High Commissioner's contribution to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The Task Force is producing discussion papers on policy guidelines for a human rights approach to migration.<sup>9</sup> These papers address issues such as the human rights of migrants in administrative detention, family reunification, migrant domestic workers, expulsions, etc.

Concerning trafficking, the OHCHR has issued Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking<sup>10</sup> in order to provide practical, rights-based policy guidance on the prevention of trafficking and the protection of victims of trafficking. Their purpose is to promote and facilitate the integration of a human rights perspective into national, regional and international anti-trafficking laws, policies and interventions. OHCHR has also undertaken a project on human rights analysis of anti-trafficking interventions in Europe and Asia. Methodologies for research and assessment of impact, as well as practical tools to integrate human rights into human anti-trafficking, are being developed and fine-tuned, in cooperation with UNICEF. Analyses are being developed on linkages between trafficking, migration by gender and age from a rights perspective.

In the field, OHCHR is also involved in a number of research and other activities aimed at promoting a human rights-based approach to migration. Through the field office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a two-phased ten-country study on trafficking in Eastern Europe was published, in cooperation with UNICEF and OSCE/ODIHR. The National Institutions Unit of OHCHR organized round tables and panels in cooperation with national human rights institutions, such as the Conference of National Human Rights Institutions on the role of NHRIs in relation to issues of migration in Bolivia from 24 to 26 October 2006. Examples of other activities are dissemination of the Migrant Workers Convention through publications and leaflets; human rights training of immigration officers; assessment of the compliance of migration laws with international and human rights standards; and participation in United Nations Trafficking Working Groups at country level. Other OHCHR programmes and activities have dealt with the human rights dimension of migration such as the Durban Follow-up Programme and the Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism Programme.

## *2. Statistics and data collection*

OHCHR is not engaged in comprehensive statistics and data collection activities. However, the quantitative and qualitative analysis of trends in communications on allegations of human rights violations sent by special procedures<sup>11</sup>, in particular the special rapporteurs on migrants, trafficking, sale of children, discrimination and others, provides information that can serve as indicators on migration and human rights. OHCHR provides qualitative analysis on communications in three areas: country-based, thematic, and positive outcomes documented as follow-up to communications. States also report to the supervisory bodies of treaties to which they are a party and often provide statistical data. For instance, the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee on Migrant Workers request States parties to provide “quantitative and qualitative information, as disaggregated as possible, on the characteristics and nature of the migration flows” in which the State party is involved.

### H. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

UNHCR is the United Nations agency with a mandate to provide international protection to refugees and find durable solutions for their situation. Beyond refugees, UNHCR also works with other “persons of concern”, including asylum-seekers, returnees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons. This chapter provides a selective overview of UNHCR’s activities in the areas of research, data collection and statistics, and publications.

#### *1. Research*

In its efforts to stimulate a critical debate on refugee-related issues and to develop a better understanding of its operational environment, UNHCR actively engages with the academic, research and policy communities.

Examples include empirical research done in cooperation with IOM on examining broader population movements and the factors behind them, for example, on Population Movements and Border Management between Afghanistan and Pakistan: A Cross-Border Survey (2005). As part of UNHCR-ILO’s Cooperation toward Comprehensive Solutions for Afghan Displacement project, launched in May 2004, UNHCR has published a study of Afghan Households in Iran: Profile and Impact (October 2006) which provides greater insights into the dynamics of the Afghan population and their impact in Iran, especially in the local labour market. A similar study is being completed on the Afghan population in Pakistan. In association with ILO, UNHCR also commissioned an empirical study on Integration of Refugees in the Afghan Labour Market (October 2006).

Research has also been done on the living conditions of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons, viewed from the perspective of attainment of the MDGs. A report prepared in 2006, the living conditions of these populations in Armenia, Ecuador, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. These country studies were undertaken by the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI).

#### *2. Data collection and statistics*

UNHCR seeks to contribute to informed decision-making and public debate by providing accurate, relevant and up-to-date statistics on populations “of concern”, meaning refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, internally displaced persons and other groups, such as stateless persons. Data is available on more than 150 countries. This information is made available in a number of periodic or annual publications.

The UNHCR Statistical Yearbook, published annually, contains data and analysis on, for example, population levels and trends; demographic characteristics and locations of populations of concern; asylum and refugee status determination; and durable solutions and new displacement.

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day in June, UNHCR publishes its Global Refugee Trends, which summarizes recent statistical data and trends, and provides a comprehensive overview of populations of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, and other persons of concern. The Office also publishes Quarterly Trends analyzing asylum applications lodged and refugee status determination (RSD) trends in some 36 industrialized countries (Europe, Northern America, and Australia/Oceania).

In 2005, Camp Indicator Reports (CIR) were replaced by the Standards and Indicators Report (SIR), in order to further the implementation of results-based management and facilitate multi-year planning based on measurable indicators that illustrate the well-being of populations of concern. Furthermore, UNHCR has completed a new publication called Measuring Protection by Numbers. While acknowledging that protection is a multifaceted concept, one which is not always easily measurable by numbers, the document, nevertheless, succeeds in illustrating its quantitative aspects.

The Registration Handbook provides guidance on registration, documentation and population data management in various operational contexts. It defines new standards and processes for refugee registration, which is an important tool for the legal and physical protection of refugees and others of concern. One of the key standards is individual registration and UNHCR has created proGres database as a case management and registration tool.

The location and movements of the population of concern are analyzed and mapped through the development of geographic information systems (GIS) by the Field Information and Coordination Support Section. GIS also help to better understand the relationships between these populations and their natural and socio-economic environments. This spatial or geographic perspective is important to UNHCR's own operational planning and is also important to Governments, other humanitarian agencies and for briefings with donors and the media. Camp mapping is being developed as a tool in support of camp management and the protection of populations living in camps and other temporary settlements.

### *3. Publications*

The organization's publications include an occasional paper series, New Issues in Refugee Research, and a journal, Refugee Survey Quarterly, published in association with Oxford University Press. UNHCR's flagship publication, The State of the World's Refugees, draws upon research and policy analysis activities undertaken within and outside the organization. UNHCR also publishes, co-sponsors and contributes to occasional studies or publications on issues of concern to the organization, such as a 2006 survey entitled The Path of Somali Refugees into Exile: A Comparative Analysis of Secondary Movements and Policy Responses<sup>12</sup>, a volume of essays on the linkages between international migration, poverty and asylum, and a study of refugee education in developing countries.

To address the phenomenon of mixed movements of migrants and refugees, UNHCR published a 10-Point Plan of Action to Address Mixed Migratory Movements, which was presented by the High Commissioner during the July 2006 Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Rabat. The 10-Point Plan shows how UNHCR's mandate, competencies and resources might be used to assist States in their efforts to address mixed movements in a manner that is effective, equitable and sensitive to the protection needs of asylum-seekers and refugees.

With the aim of encouraging States and development partners to include refugee-hosting areas as part of national development priorities, UNHCR has published a Handbook for Planning and Implementing Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) Programmes. UNHCR has also published a Handbook for Self-Reliance, which is an invaluable operational tool for formulating and implementing self-reliance strategies.

All of the above information can be accessed on UNHCR website at: <http://www.unhcr.org>.

## H. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

### *1. Trafficking database*

In 2002, UNODC's Global Programme Against Trafficking in Person (GPAT) established a trafficking database on flows of trafficking in human beings. The objective of this trafficking database is to systematically collect and collate open-source information on trafficking in persons in order to publicize reported information that identifies international human trafficking routes, origin, transit and destination countries, and to shed light on the demographics of trafficked victims and offenders. The database is an attempt to establish a comparative analysis of global human trafficking patterns based upon the systematic collection and processing of human trafficking activities as reported by selected institutions during the period from 1996 to 2003.

The trafficking database includes publicly available information on human trafficking from 113 different individual source institutions, involving 161 countries and special administrative territories. These institutions, with international, regional and national affiliations, have produced reports, books, journal articles and newspaper reports on trafficking cases and patterns, detailing thousands of episodes of human trafficking worldwide. From the open source information, a total of 4,950 accounts of trafficking in persons were entered into the trafficking database. Most of the information collected was reported by international organizations (32 per cent) and governmental institutions (27 per cent). Eighteen per cent of the information was reported by non-governmental organizations, and eighteen per cent by research institutes. Five per cent of the information can be classified as coming from periodicals, newspaper articles and, more generally, the media.

In order to establish global data collection, an effort was made to ensure a broad geographical coverage from the sources used. Almost a quarter, 22 per cent, of the institutions providing information inserted in the trafficking database are international; 29 per cent are affiliated with Western European countries; 18 per cent with Northern America; and 11 per cent are affiliated with Asian countries. The methodology applied during the data collection phase was content analysis, an unobtrusive method frequently used for research in social sciences. Content analysis involves the systematic study, analysis and selective classification of the content of open source publications.

The data entry phase consisted of a continuous screening of the principal sources, that provide information on human trafficking cases. This phase began in March 2002 and continued until February 2004, with researchers recording open-source data from 1996 to 2003. The categories selected, in terms of fields to be filled by the researcher, included the route of the human trafficking in terms of countries or areas or regions involved; the number of stages of each route; the country, area or region of origin, of transit and of destination of the victims; whether it concerned sexual exploitation or forced labour; whether the victims were men, women, boys, girls or children; and the nationality and gender of the offenders.

## *2. Report on global trafficking patterns*

Based upon the analysis of this data, UNODC published in April 2006 a report on Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns. Mapping out the flows of human trafficking, the report identified the main patterns of the trafficking in persons at the national, regional and global levels, including the relationship between origin, transit and destination countries, regions and sub-regions. The report showed that human trafficking occurred to some extent in most countries, and, in some cases, to a very significant degree. The methodology and findings of the trafficking database used to generate this report were neither comprehensive nor conclusive on any aspect of human trafficking. The limitations of the trafficking database and thus the report must be acknowledged.

The purpose of the report, however, was straight-forward, namely to highlight the need for improved data collection on human trafficking, not by international organizations, but by all those States that seek to fully address this phenomenon. The report neither sought to create information nor to estimate the scale of human trafficking to and from countries. From collecting information that was publicly available, it reflected what was actually reported.

There are a number of limitations with respect to the data contained in the trafficking database which are reflected in the report. First and foremost, the trafficking database is limited to information that could be found or were brought to the attention of UNODC. The quality and the scope of the data entered into the trafficking database and subsequently reflected in this report were limited by the detail contained in the original report. The importance of reporting on human trafficking cannot be stressed enough. The political attention, the institutional organization and the resources available affect what information is collected and reported, and, therefore, the ability of organizations such as UNODC to analyse the information. At an institutional level, the official number of victims depends highly on the availability and quality of national structures for victim identification, referral, assistance and repatriation.

As with many other types of crime, more data is generally available in developed countries than in developing nations. Organizations with a focus on Northern America and Western Europe comprise 40 per cent of the source institutions in the trafficking database. As the report depicted the situation of trafficking in persons based on data from 1996 to 2003, routes or human trafficking patterns that have changed since are therefore not reflected.

### I. WORLD BANK

The World Bank is developing its research and statistical activities with a focus on enhancing the quality of the policy debate on migration and development. These efforts include activities on data collection, processing and reporting on migration and remittances. The analytical work is exploring in detail issues related to gender, sub-regional migration, poverty, social security, and trade, among other topics. These activities are systematically shared through publications and events.

#### *1. Research*

Exploring the development linkages of gender dimensions of international migration. The composition of international migration flows, and the gendered determinants and impacts of migration, are an important element of the Bank's research agenda. Overall migration flows have become increasingly female over time, and research will attempt to determine whether this is due to family reunification or the increasing participation of women in labour markets. Work will also examine how the process of labour market insertion differs for male and female migrants, and the consequences this has for the formulation of public policy. Motivations to remit and the use to which remittances are put are

strongly gendered. Research will examine the impact of these gender differences for household expenditure patterns and other household-level outcomes.

**Providing a Snapshot of South-South Migration Flows and Summary of Impacts.** More than half of the international migrants from the South may be in the South, and nearly one third of the remittances received by the developing countries originate in other developing countries. However, the lack of data, as well as perhaps the diverse issues involved, has limited systematic research on South-South migration. This activity will provide a snapshot of South-South migration by building on existing efforts to construct bilateral data on migration stocks and remittances, and analyze the determinants, prospects, and economic impact of South-South migration, based on a review of the literature and results from a CGE model simulation.

**Examining Labour Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.** A recently published report on the socio-economic impact of migration on both sending and receiving countries in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand will be followed by a more detailed analysis on the impact of migration on local labour markets. The research and analytical side of the project will be followed by strategies to raise awareness of policymakers and improve Governments' capacity to implement a regional system to facilitate and regulate labour migration.

**Examining the Links Between Migration, Trade, FDI and Productivity.** A first project will explore migration incentives in the context of regional trade/FDI agreements, especially between rich and poor countries. The project will examine the implications of restricting labour movements while allowing free movement of goods and capital. The impact on relative wages, and hence on incentives for illegal migration, will also be highlighted as part of this exercise. A second project will explore the impact of restrictions on services on migration.

**Analyzing the impact of Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade and Services** that deals with the temporary movement of persons for the delivery of services. While this mechanism has been used mostly for business visits, developing countries are interested in greater openness for independent professional and less-skilled workers. The Bank is beginning to examine different national institutions for labour mobility, such as "manpower agencies", and their role in national development strategies.

**Examining the Linkages Between Migration and Poverty by Researching the Heterogeneity of Migrants and their Destinations.** Migrants from the same country are not alike, and their household and socioeconomic backgrounds have important effects on the choice of migration destinations and the impact on the sending household. Detailed case studies, including from, Colombia, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru will examine the impact of the heterogeneity of migrants on household well-being. Using household survey and census data, the project will identify the different types of migration according to migrant characteristics, including gender, skills, occupation, and migration destination; examine how different types of migration impact household welfare; and assess programmes and regularization strategies addressing this heterogeneous picture of migration.

## *2. Data collection and statistics*

**Improving the Quality and Coverage of Data on Migration through Household Surveys.** As part of its research programme the Bank is piloting different instruments for collection of information on migrants and their behaviour. These include:

- separate migration modules in household surveys, such as those already implemented in Morocco, Guatemala and Ghana; and



- sampling design for migrants surveys, exploring alternative field experiments to capture the migrant population, which are usually carried out in coordination between country of origin and destination (Brazil-Japan, Albania-Italy).

Supporting the development of an expanded and more detailed database on the brain drain. The database was recently expanded to include information on the age of migrants and the location of their education. A specific focus on the health sector includes data on the bilateral migration of medical personnel between developing countries and OECD countries. Specific country analysis is also being conducted on the links between the spread of HIV and the migration of doctors. Additional information on the different brain drain datasets can be found at: <http://econ.worldbank.org/programs/migration/>

Supporting the development of accounting and payment systems to identify and monitor remittances flows. Alongside the Bank for International Settlements' Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems, the World Bank co-chairs a Task Force to improve international coordination for remittance payment systems. The Task Force has recently released a consultation document on General Principles for International Remittance Services which is designed to assist countries in improving the market for remittances services.<sup>13</sup>

### 3. Publications and events

The World Bank and the United Kingdom Department for International Development jointly organized the Second International Conference on Migrant Remittances: Remittances and Access to Finance (November 2006). The conference aimed to enable participants, who included policymakers and representatives of financial institutions, to analyze key trends and developments in the remittances market and apply the recently developed General Principles for International Remittance Services to reform efforts.

A new book *International Migration Policy and Economic Development: Studies Across the Globe*, will address, among other topics the quantification of international migration; the impact of remittances on poverty and inequality in Latin America; the potential demographic benefits of migration; the effects of host country policies; and incentives for, and impacts of, return migration.

For more information on past and ongoing research and analysis please visit the website [www.worldbank.org/migration](http://www.worldbank.org/migration).

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Bilsborrow, R.E., Graeme Hugo, A.S. Oberai, Hania Zlotnik (1997). *International Migration Statistics, Guidelines for Improving Data Collection Systems*. Geneva: International Labour Office. Hoffmann, Eivind and Sophia Lawrence (1996). *Statistics on International Labour Migration, a Review of Sources and Methodological Issues*, Interdepartmental project on Migrant Workers. Geneva: International Labour Office.

<sup>2</sup>International Labour Office (2005). *ILO Minimum estimate of forced labour in the world*. Geneva: International Labour Office.

<sup>3</sup>ILO Informal Network on Foreign Labour in Central and Eastern Europe (2000). *Improving Methods of Collecting Migration Statistics in Central and Eastern Europe*. Report of the Regional Training Seminar on Migration Statistics, Warsaw, 1999. Geneva: International Labour Office.

<sup>4</sup><http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/migrant/publ/index.htm>.

<sup>5</sup>International Labour Office (2004). *A fair deal for migrant workers in the global economy*. Report VI, International Labour Conference 2004, 92nd Session. Geneva: International Labour Office. Available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc92/pdf/rep-vi.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup>Contributions by experts as well as other papers which were made available for this meeting and subsequently included: *the UNCTAD Background note* TD/B/COM.1/EM.22/2 and *report of the meeting* TD/B/COM.1/EM.22/3; *country experiences* (e.g., Uganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Trinidad and Tobago, or the UK); *specific UNCTAD country case studies* (e.g., Sri Lanka or Viet Nam); *regional experiences* (e.g., MERCOSUR); *negotiating documents* (e.g., those focussing on suggestions for Mode 4 liberalization); and *specific data sources* (e.g., UNCTAD's Statistical Tables on Remittances).

<sup>7</sup>Contributions by experts as well as other papers which were made available for this meeting and subsequently included: *the UNCTAD Background note* TD/B/COM.1/EM.25/2 and *report of the meeting* TD/B/COM.1/EM.25/3; *country experiences* (e.g., Kenya, India, Mauritius, Rwanda, Colombia, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Bhutan); *regional experiences* (e.g., APEC, NAFTA, MERCOSUR, ANDEAN Community, CARICOM, East Africa); *specific sectoral contributions* (e.g., by the International Council of Nurses); background papers and documents focusing on *particular issues related to Mode 4/professional services* (e.g., on Qualification Requirements and Procedures or on MRAs (e.g. *Moving Professionals beyond National Borders: Mutual Recognition Agreements and the GATS: Contribution by the UNCTAD Secretariat*, UNCTAD/DITC/TNCD/2005/2)) and documents providing information on *international standards* (e.g., UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice).

<sup>8</sup>See the paper prepared by OHCHR for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, *Migration and Development, a Human Rights Approach*, available from <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/docs/HLMigration/MigrationDevelopmentHC%27paper.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup>See <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/migration/taskforce/index.htm>.

<sup>10</sup>See <http://www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/papers.htm>.

<sup>11</sup>Communications sent to Governments and responses thereto are contained in annual reports issued by thematic mandate-holders. As a way of example, please see the last reports on communications by: the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (E/CN.4/2006/73/Add.1); the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (E/CN.4/2006/Add.1) and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children (E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.1). For more information on special procedures' communications see: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/complaints.htm>.

<sup>12</sup>Carried out by the Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, SFM studies 46.

<sup>13</sup>Bank for International Settlements and The World Bank (2006). *General principles for international remittance services*. Consultative report. March 2006. Document prepared by the Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems available from <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/FINANCIALSECTOR/Resources/060313CPSSWBfinal.pdf>.

## HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE FOLLOW-UP AND ACTIVITIES RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*International Organization for Migration*

Migration is one of the defining phenomena of our time. The very convening of the High-level Dialogue made a major contribution to concentrating global attention at the political level specifically on the link between international migration and development.

The importance of preparing for the High-level Dialogue was widely recognized and generated a host of activities at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. Throughout 2006, IOM worked with a broad range of partners at each of these levels—including national authorities, regional consultative processes on migration, other regional and sub-regional groups and intergovernmental organizations, in particular constituent bodies of the United Nations—to promote awareness of and stimulate debate on the themes of the High-level Dialogue. IOM committed early to actively supporting preparations for the High-level Dialogue in order to help ensure its success and made an unprecedented organization-wide effort with that objective in mind.

The High-level Dialogue succeeded in attracting broad and high-level participation. Statements reflected a solid understanding of the issues, round table discussions often went beyond speeches to thoughtfully address the core issues, and the overall tone of the discourse was constructive. Many of the themes which emerged at the High-level Dialogue validated the key messages which IOM had identified and strongly advocated in favour of throughout the lead-up period. IOM now looks forward to contributing to making the follow-up a success.

### A. HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Given that little time has passed since the High-level Dialogue, IOM is still in the process of consulting and considering government preferences regarding potential areas for follow-up, and evaluating the Organization's strengths and capacities to respond in each of these areas as they take shape. Based on preliminary planning, IOM expects that its follow-up activities will focus on three broad priority categories:

#### *1. Stepped-up practical measures to make migration work for development*

A number of delegations at the High-level Dialogue addressed this matter with genuine interest. Among the many suggestions for implementing concrete measures which can make migration work for development, two are most prominent:

- Mainstreaming migration into development planning agendas of developing countries and donors, as well as international-level development planning agendas; and
- Building capacities to deal more effectively with the global labour market in order to maximize the positive development potential of labour migration.

IOM has begun pursuing the first approach in a few pilot countries by specifically assisting Governments to reflect migration issues in their national development strategies. The process involves working with countries as they craft policies and actions to better link migration and development; providing technical assistance to support the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) process and other development planning processes with respect to migration linkages; and helping Governments establish

and measure the indicators of success. IOM is currently working to develop partnerships with other development cooperation partners to integrate migration issues in poverty reduction strategies.

With regard to the second approach, building capacity in the area of international labour mobility, IOM first presented a proposal for an “International Migration and Development Initiative” (IMDI) to the Global Migration Group (GMG)<sup>1</sup> in July 2006 and subsequently introduced it to delegations to the High-level Dialogue at a side-event in New York. IMDI is intended to be a mechanism to build capacity for safe, legal and orderly participation in the global labour market, drawing on interagency, governmental and private sector collaboration. IOM is working with the World Bank, UNHCR (both in its individual capacity and as current Chair of the GMG), ILO and UNCTAD to define this concept further, a process in which UNDP and UNFPA are participating as observers. IMDI will be further discussed with IOM’s Member States and Observers at the IOM Council session at the end of November.

IOM is also exploring ways it can partner with others in the international community to fill information gaps on the complex relationship between migration and development. For instance, IOM has developed a proposal for a global migration and development research initiative, which would engage existing research networks, government ministries, NGOs and international organizations to collaborate on migration and development research and build capacities in developing countries to conduct and manage policy-relevant research and evaluation on migration and development issues. All GMG members have been invited to participate, and IOM is currently working with ILO to further refine the concept.

Meanwhile, IOM’s longstanding research efforts in the area of migration and development<sup>1</sup> will continue. The Organization’s migration policy and research programme of work for 2007 will be focused, in broad terms, on how migration—and labour migration in particular—can be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and destination. The decision to concentrate on this theme was largely a consequence of the high level of interest generated by the High-level Dialogue.

Of particular note is an upcoming IOM publication entitled *Engaging Diasporas as Development Partners for Home and Destination Countries: Challenges for Policy Makers*, which will be available at the end of November. This publication surveys existing practices aimed at engaging diasporas as active partners for development, and provides a guide for policy formulation in this field. Recognizing that most available studies focus on remittances and remittance policies, this publication places particular emphasis on ways to enhance non-financial contributions by diasporas.

In addition, IOM partnered with the World Bank to produce a study aimed at increasing understanding of how migration policies affect development. Provisionally-entitled *Migration Policies and their Development Relevance: A Study of Policies and Practices in Selected Countries of Origin and Destination*, the study examines and reviews data on current immigration and emigration policies relevant to development and poverty reduction. Its objective is to better inform efforts to ensure that migration policies are development-friendly and incorporate a stronger development perspective.

## *2. Enhanced inter-agency coordination*

While IOM may be the sole intergovernmental organization with an across-the-board migration mandate, IOM recognizes that partnership is needed among many agencies and entities involved in various aspects of migration, according to their areas of expertise. With this objective in mind, IOM was among the co-founders of the Geneva Migration Group in 2003, which included six agencies with an interest in migration issues. In early 2006, the United Nations Secretary-General created the Global Migration Group including ten agencies, namely ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UN/DESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC and the World Bank.

IOM views the GMG as an excellent framework for facilitating enhanced inter-agency coordination. As mentioned above, IOM has presented two of its proposals for High-level Dialogue follow-up activities to its GMG partners—IMDI and the global migration and development research initiative—and consultations with interested agencies to further develop these proposals are ongoing. The GMG also provides a framework for gathering information on the migration-related activities of its members. For instance, in its role as current GMG chair, UNHCR recently compiled an information note describing the activities of GMG members in the fields of migration- and development-related policy research, data-collection and publications. It is anticipated that further compilation of migration and development related information will be undertaken later this year.

IOM continues to engage with agencies both within and outside the GMG which have objectives and areas of work relating to migration issues. For example, the action programme launched by ILO together with IOM and WHO, on “The International Migration of Health Service Workers: The Supply Side”, seeks to develop and disseminate strategies and good practices for the management of the movement of health service providers from the perspective of countries of origin. Another example is a handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination, jointly written and published by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), IOM and ILO. To implement the handbook, a series of capacity building workshops are being considered.

### *3. Enhanced intergovernmental cooperation*

The High-level Dialogue has underlined the need for strengthening cooperation among Governments at all levels. Regional organizations and consultative processes were recognized as very useful as platforms for sustained dialogue on migration. IOM will continue to actively promote, support and participate in regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) around the globe. IOM is currently reviewing the schedules and agendas of future RCP meetings in order to help facilitate discussion on migration and development and promote HLD follow-up, where desired by the participating States. The first such opportunity will occur in late November in Xiamen, China where IOM has been invited to address the annual plenary meeting of the Inter-governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations (APC) on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants on the topic of the High-level Dialogue. IOM is also developing a section of its website dedicated to RCPs with the goal of, among other things, encouraging synergies and cross-fertilization among them.

The International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), created in the IOM Council in 2001, was acknowledged by many at the High-level Dialogue as a valuable venue for dialogue on migration matters. The IDM brings together Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector for informal and non-binding consultations on migration with a view to sharing experiences and identifying effective practices and practical solutions. The IDM is grounded in IOM’s constitutional mandate “to provide a forum to States as well as international and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues, including studies on such issues to develop practical solutions.” IOM has invited GMG members for a special interactive discussion with the IOM membership during the IDM at the November IOM Council session.<sup>2</sup> Other IDM sessions will include Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society; the IMDI proposal; and the Year in Review (during which, for example, the Government of Belgium will present its plans for the first meeting of the Global Forum on International Migration and Development). IOM’s Member States and Observers have selected as an overarching theme for the IDM in 2007 Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy and the following three topics for intersessional workshops to be held during the course of 2007 (pending funding): Making Global Labour Mobility a Catalyst for Development; Free Movement of Persons in Regional Integration Processes; and The Environment and Migration.

At the High-level Dialogue, the Secretary-General made a proposal to create a consultative, non-binding Global Forum on International Migration and Development, which attracted significant interest from Governments around the world. The Government of Belgium has offered to host the first meeting of the Forum and is currently refining its own thinking on the subject in collaboration with a range of partners. As several Member States acknowledged at the High-level Dialogue, it would be useful to associate the GMG agencies collectively and individually to this global endeavour. In this context, IOM has already contacted the Belgian Government and offered its support in making the Forum a success. As the planning for the first meeting of the Forum moves forward, including the selection of topics, it will become more apparent what shape that support may take.

#### B. IOM'S ACTIVITIES WHICH IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OR ADDRESS KEY ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The link between migration and development was already underlined in IOM's 1951 founding document. IOM's activities relating to migration and development are described in the document entitled *International Migration and Development: Perspectives and Experiences of the International Organization for Migration*,<sup>3</sup> which was prepared by IOM as a contribution to High-level Dialogue preparations. Because of the range of IOM activities relating to migration and development, they cannot be described in detail here. The document does, however, provide illustrative examples of IOM activities in the following areas:

- **Improving the understanding of migration's impact on development**
  - Undertaking pilot projects on the topic of mainstreaming migration into development agendas, to better understand the linkages between migration and development (p. 5).
  - Conducting and supporting research designed to guide and inform migration policy and practice, often in partnership with other stakeholders (p. 6; see also brochure on IOM's Migration and Development Publications)<sup>2</sup>.
- **Filling gaps in the knowledge and implementation of international migration law, including the human rights of migrants**
  - Taking measures to enhance the dissemination, understanding and implementation of the body of international instruments and norms relevant to migration, including training, capacity building, and technical assistance for developing national migration legislation (pp. 7-8).
  - Disseminating objective information to migrants on their rights and duties, both before departure and during the migration process (pp. 8, 14).
- **Preventing and combating smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and providing assistance to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants**
  - Building the capacity of States to prevent trafficking and smuggling and to apprehend and prosecute perpetrators (pp. 9-10).
  - Developing and maintaining a comprehensive counter-trafficking database with data on trafficking victims (p. 10).
  - Providing information to potential migrants and trafficking victims in countries of origin on the dangers of irregular migration and trafficking (pp. 10, 14).
  - Addressing root causes of irregular migration and trafficking (p. 10).
  - Providing direct assistance to trafficking victims and vulnerable migrants (pp. 10-11).

- **Facilitating labour migration**
  - Assisting Governments seeking to promote the employment of their nationals in foreign countries to develop effective mechanisms for managing labour migration and skills utilization—taking into consideration the needs of national and foreign labour markets, safeguards to protect migrant workers, and complementary strategies to alleviate the risk of brain drain (p. 11).
  - Supporting countries of destination with the selection of workers needed in particular sectors, and with their pre-departure orientation and passage (p. 11).
- **Increasing the potential of remittances**
  - Taking innovative measures to improve remittance transfer services (pp. 14-15).
  - Working to enhance the development impact of remittances (pp. 15-16).
- **Encouraging skill and knowledge retention and circulation**
  - Promoting skill and knowledge retention, addressing both pull and push factors (pp. 16-17).
  - Facilitating temporary, permanent and virtual return of migrants (p. 17).
- **Engaging migrants and diasporas for the development of countries of origin**
  - Helping governments build relationships with diasporas and provide incentives and opportunities for diasporas to contribute to development (pp. 18-19).
- **Improving economic and social conditions in areas of high migration pressure**
  - Working to improve local conditions in developing regions with high levels of employment and outbound migration (p. 19).
- **Capacity building**
  - Assisting Governments to develop their capacity to manage the multifaceted aspects of migration (a substantial part of IOM’s US\$ 1.1 billion operational budget in 2005 was devoted to capacity building programmes) (p. 20).
- **Facilitating inter-State consultation and cooperation**
  - At the regional level, actively promoting, supporting and participating in several regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs), and supporting cross-fertilization among RCPs (pp. 12, 20-21).
  - At the global level, supporting inter-State dialogue on migration (p. 22).
- **Developing multi-stakeholder dialogue on migration issues**
  - Bringing together States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector for informal and non-binding consultations on migration through the *International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)* (pp. 22-23).
- **Enhancing inter-agency consultation and cooperation**
  - Actively engaging with other agencies on migration issues at the regional and global levels, including through the Global Migration Group (pp. 22-23).

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup>The Global Migration Group is discussed in more detail in the next section of this paper.

<sup>2</sup>Intersessional workshops on the topics of Migration and Human Resources for Health and Migrants and the Host Society took place earlier this year.

<sup>3</sup>This document is also available from <http://www.un.int/iom/IOM%20Perspectives%20and%20Experiences.pdf>.





## ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### *United Nations Development Programme*

UNDP is the United Nations global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), held by the General Assembly on 14 and 15 September 2006 was an important step forward in bringing migration firmly into the policy dialogue on development and poverty reduction. The discussion at the High-level Dialogue emphasized the importance of maximizing the positive benefits that migration can have on development in origin countries, while minimizing the negative impacts.

#### A. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNDP works on migration because of the many impacts it can have on poor people and poor countries. Some of these impacts are easier to assess and understand than others. Remittances, for example, have a monetary value. Assuming that banking flows accurately reflect the location of the sender and receiver, it is possible to estimate the *potential* contribution of remittances to development in the origin country of the migrant. The *actual* contribution will be very context specific however, depending on many factors including household preferences, the extent of gender equality, and cultural and societal norms. Other impacts—such as loss of skilled workers, the impact of migration on families, or the effect on governance or service delivery structures in the origin country—are more difficult to assess.

Because of the context specificity, UNDP's approach is to work with countries to integrate migration into their own plans for development, and to develop public policy that maximizes the potential of migration to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). If countries request our assistance, UNDP helps place pro-poor, pro-development rights-based migration policies at the heart of national development strategies—prioritizing skills, retention, capacity development, remittances and further research. We do this by facilitating meetings of the key stakeholders, and by linking into experiences from other countries through our global network of practitioners.

To underpin national strategies and understand the multi-faceted impacts of migration, we need to understand who is migrating and why. This includes their gender, level and type of skills, and whether they are likely to take resources back to their country of origin—their own skills or through investment. It will also be important to assess whether 'cultural remittances' such as attitudes or ideas are likely to play a role, without assuming these will be positive or negative.

## B. ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

UNDP's activities in the area of migration and development relate to three main areas: national policies for managing migration; interventions to encourage temporary return migration; and use of remitted funds for development financing. The following provides a glimpse of specific UNDP country programmes and projects on migration and development, together with general activities.

### *1. Managing migration*

UNDP is formulating a project in Ghana focusing on management of migration, return migration interventions, and optimal use of remittances for development financing. In El Salvador, a Human Development and Migration Programme is being planned aimed at strengthening national capabilities to promote an integrated response to migration in the country. The programme also aims to increase the understanding and ability of key institutions to analyze the flows and impacts of international migration by incorporating migration in research projects and university curriculum. In Moldova, UNDP is working with UNICEF to examine household and community level impacts of migration within the context of 'brain drain'.

### *2. Return migration*

In Albania, UNDP is engaging the Albanian diaspora to develop and implement a comprehensive programme to facilitate a contribution to Albania's socio-economic development and, specifically, to achieving nationally established development goals. Activities include providing support to the Government by building a database and a website. In El Salvador, UNDP is in the process of establishing internship opportunities for young members of the diaspora, born or raised outside the country. The internship programme will be linked with UNDP programmatic areas, including migration, human development, HIV/AIDS prevention, local development, environmental issues, gender, and violence. The initiative will target students at high schools and universities in the United States of America. Under the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals programme, nationals who have migrated to other countries and achieved professional success mobilize to undertake short-term consultancies under the aegis of the United Nations in their countries of origin, such as Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sudan, Syria and Palestine. UNDP intends to increase its work on the issue of the temporary movement of workers under the WTO's GATS Mode IV Services Negotiations.

### *3. Remittances*

UNDP Albania prepared a report on remittances in 2003. In El Salvador, UNDP has launched an initiative on developing tools for local development that offer opportunities for the participation of Salvadorians abroad, but benefit not only those families with migrants abroad. In Somalia, UNDP assisted in establishing the Somalia Financial Services Association, in order to channel remittances and create a stronger financial system. A research project with IOM is being conducted in Tajikistan to assess the scope of remittances and formulate development strategies to channel them. More generally, UNDP is working with INSTRAW to explore the linkages between gender and remittances. UNDP's Capacity Development Group is developing a more comprehensive strategy on remittances and MDGs.

UNDP is also in the process of conducting a series of consultative meetings on remittances. A meeting in Santo Domingo on migration, remittances and development for the Latin American and Caribbean region was facilitated in July 2006. A regional consultation on African

remittances is planned for January 2007. In September 2006, UNDP organized a meeting on remittances with private sector stakeholders, as a follow-up to an earlier meeting organized with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

#### *4. General activities*

Previous National Human Development Reports have analyzed migration issues within the national context, for instance, the Albania National Human Development Report, 2000. El Salvador's National Human Development Report 2005 assessed the dynamics of migration from El Salvador, its impact on the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of those who emigrated and those who remained in the country, and provided policy recommendations. The National Human Development Report for Mexico will cover migration and development issues.

#### C. PARTNERSHIPS

UNDP will continue to work actively with the full range of stakeholders on migration and development issues—national Governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, other United Nations agencies, the IOM, the private sector and civil society. As a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), UNDP will also continue to coordinate its activities with other United Nations agencies so as to avoid duplication and maximize the synergies of joint working.



## UNESCO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

### A. PROMOTING THE HUMAN FACE OF MIGRATION

In his report for the High-level Dialogue on international migration and development<sup>1</sup>, the United Nations Secretary-General proposed to create a global consultative Forum on international migration and development within the United Nations. This open-ended body, involving Government officials working in the field of international migration, would enable the elaboration of constructive approaches towards international migration and ensure fruitful cooperation between Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, most notably the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This major initiative indicated a growing awareness of the policy dimensions of international migration among States and within the international community. This document outlines UNESCO's proposed contribution to the proposed forum.

UNESCO's mandate to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science, culture and communication is highly relevant to the issue of international migration and development. UNESCO could contribute to the consultative process on international migration and development by addressing:

- the migration-education nexus, for example by addressing the issue of “brain-drain” in developing countries, or by coordinating the ethical, normative and intellectual issues related to recognition of qualifications in the context of mobility;
- the migration-development nexus, for example by developing knowledge networks among transnational communities through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- the impact of the environment on international migration, including the impact of climate change and natural disasters on the movement of people;
- the balance between, on the one hand, social cohesion and the integration of migrants in host societies and, on the other hand, the respect for cultural diversity in multi-ethnic and multicultural societies;
- the research-policy nexus, including ways in which social scientists and policymakers can address crucial social transformations brought by international migration.

The main functions that UNESCO could offer to the newly proposed Forum include:

- **laboratory of ideas**, addressing migration issues linked to education, science, communication and culture, and identifying appropriate strategies and policies to deal with these linkages;
- as a **clearing house**, by gathering, sharing and disseminating available information, and best practices in international migration and development, and identifying innovative solutions and policies;

- as a **standard-setter**, through its conventions on the recognition of qualifications and through its major normative instruments that provide standards in terms of respect for cultural diversity and in approaching cultural diversity from a human rights perspective;
- as a **capacity builder** and initiator of **international cooperation** for researchers and policymakers in the area of international migration and development.

### *1. International migration and education*

International migration and education are deeply intertwined processes. Education is certainly a key factor among the complex forces that drive today's migration. People may migrate because they have acquired skills that can be used in foreign labour markets, or because they wish to study and acquire training abroad to enhance their professional opportunities. Likewise, the lack of developed training opportunities may undermine people's socio-economic perspective, thereby encouraging them to seek opportunities abroad.

The recognition of qualifications and of technical training constitutes a central issue in the international mobility of workers. Migrants with diplomas which are not required in the destination country may see their socio-economic perspectives jeopardised. This may generate frustration among migrants and reduce their integration perspectives while decreasing their positive impact on the economy. It is therefore in the interest of both Governments and migrants to ensure the recognition of skills acquired in different countries, especially in the contemporary context of internationalisation of higher education. Since the 1960s, UNESCO has been functioning as a standard-setter to develop normative instruments in the field of academic mobility and the recognition of qualifications. Regional conventions exist in all regions (Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Arab world, the Asia Pacific); in addition, a Mediterranean Convention represents a unique instrument of interregional cooperation. These treaties constitute a base for further developments in the field of international cooperation in training recognition, which is an important component in the fostering of smoother migration processes.

A central feature of contemporary migration flows is skilled migration. While this corresponds to the current context of economic globalisation, it also raises major concerns for sending countries in terms of brain drain. States that invest in education resent their citizens' departure to developed countries and the loss of skills this generates. Migration policies need to fully incorporate this element in order to maximise the impact of migration on development and to avoid tensions between sending and receiving regions. In addition, migration policies should be related to economic policies, especially those that entail the privatisation of public services such as education, as they may lead to the deterioration of people's access to education and to outmigration.

### *2. Knowledge diasporas and the use of ICTs*

A possible answer to brain drain challenges lies in what is usually referred to as brain gain or brain circulation, i.e. the advantages for sending countries represented by the existence of skilled citizens abroad. States may indeed benefit from a diaspora network of expatriates with international work experience, either to provide know-how and human capital to workers in the country of origin or to invest in private sector initiatives. By reducing the obstacles stemming from distance and communication, ICTs constitute an enabling factor that should be strengthened, notably through the use of on-line interactive media (internet radio, internet television and media organizations' interactive websites).

UNESCO's expertise in forging scientific cooperation and partnerships and in promoting the use of ICTs represents a base to address the challenges raised by skilled migration and their impact on development. In this respect, UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (UIS) is the main source of internationally comparable data on issues such as students' mobility thus providing data to support

adequate policy development. In addition, in the 2006 Abuja Declaration on the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples, UNESCO and other participants called for the adoption of immigration and visa regulations that facilitate the exchange and free movement of scientists, a crucial aspect of brain circulation. Higher education could thus be a platform for the conversion of brain drain to brain gain, regulated by conventions and using networks for joint activities, student and faculty exchanges, and e-training by expatriate scholars.

### *3. Migration and environmental issues*

A largely unrecognised but growingly important category of migrants includes so-called 'environmental refugees', i.e. people who left their homes following natural and man-made disasters. Key environmental factors include desertification, cyclones, floods, landslides, droughts and extremes of temperature. Such natural disasters are partly the product of human behaviours incompatible with sustainable development and generate major social problems, including hunger and poverty. People living in areas threatened by such phenomena are forced to move to find alternative livelihoods. It is for example estimated that, by 2020, some 60 million people will migrate from the desertified areas in sub-Saharan Africa towards Northern Africa and Europe. The 2004 Asian tsunami provides a recent illustration of environmental migration, as it forced tens of thousands of people to leave their region of origin.

Some of these environmental refugees remain internally displaced people and usually migrate towards urban areas, thus fuelling urbanisation processes and raising challenges in urban governance. Others go abroad, becoming international migrants. Given that environmental reasons are not considered within the asylum regime, their status is likely to be problematic, which may raise issues surrounding their access to rights. UNESCO has substantial experience in water-related issues, as well as in natural disaster reduction and early warning systems (including the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System). It is thus in an appropriate position to foster research and policy developments in the emerging environment-migration nexus.

### *4. Migration and cultural diversity*

Migration is a major source of cultural diversity. Throughout the world, migrants have brought with them their culture of origin, leading to increasingly multicultural environments, especially in urban settings. Cultural diversity is widely recognised as an asset in a globalising world and as a stimulating source of sociocultural change. It is also a challenge, however, as the coexistence of people of different cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds may threaten social cohesion and lead to fragmented societies. In most receiving societies, the integration of migrants is now understood as an urgent policy issue.

UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) are major normative instruments that provide standards in terms of respect for cultural diversity and in approaching cultural diversity from a human rights perspective. In addition, the recognition of migrants' cultural diversity within a human rights framework is a useful complement to the dominantly economic dimension of labour migration: migrants are not only workers, they are also human beings endowed with rights, identities and cultural belongings.

UNESCO will therefore work on improving the necessary balance between social cohesion and cultural diversity, through the development of best practices and successful policies conducive to pluralism. In addition, the development of indicators to measure cultural development, along with the strengthening of migration community media in the respect of independence and pluralism, may contribute to assess how migrants both integrate in the host society and contribute to the diversity of cultural expressions by engaging in intercultural dialogues.

## 5. *The research-policy nexus*

Migration is a complex and fast-moving process that is currently attracting a high level of scholarly analysis. In the meantime, it is a pressing policy issue that calls for the elaboration of appropriate policies. The challenge is therefore to bridge the gap between social science research and policymaking. Policymakers should be able to benefit from the findings of social scientists while researchers should make their findings better available and more accessible to policymakers. Issues of interest to UNESCO include linkages with gender and the empowerment of women, HIV/AIDS, poverty, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery, conflict and human security, democracy, xenophobia, racism and discrimination, the role of remittances in development, urban cohesion and governance, transnational social spaces, tolerance and intercultural exchanges within a globalizing world.

UNESCO has experience in the research-policy nexus, which includes the organisation of the International Forum on the Social Science—Policy Nexus in Argentina and Uruguay (2006), within which one of the five themes was ‘Population and Migration’. It will continue to promote social science research to contribute to innovative migration policies. In the past, the organization has established a number of regional research networks on migration, bringing together experts from countries of origin and countries of destination.

Through these networks, and through cooperation with its Member States and other partners, the Organization has the possibility to play an important role in gathering, transferring, disseminating and sharing available information, knowledge and best practices in international migration and development, and to identify innovative solutions and policies.

### B. EXAMPLES OF UNESCO’S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

- **Promoting the human rights of migrants.** UNESCO has been engaged in the promotion of migrants’ human rights, notably through its research on the obstacles for Governments to accede to the United Nations Convention on Migrant Workers’ Rights. Research was commissioned in order to better understand the low rate of ratification of this treaty in Western and Southern Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, Northern Africa, the Asia Pacific, Canada, etc. As a result, Governments, NGOs and other stake-holders are able to ground their actions and decisions in accurate and up-to-date knowledge on the situation of migrants’ human rights in different regions of the world and on the challenges to ratify and implement the Convention.
- **Supporting regional research networks on migration.** UNESCO has created and supported regional networks of policymakers and researchers to foster evidence based policy relevant research of national and regional migration policies. A major example includes the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN), comprising 15 countries;
- **Implementing Counter-trafficking projects.** UNESCO is implementing projects to fight human trafficking. In Western and Southern Africa, this includes carrying out policy-relevant research, collecting best practices in combating the root causes of trafficking and organizing training workshops for government officials, NGOs, community leaders and the media;
- **Establishing migration history museums.** UNESCO is engaged, jointly with IOM, in a project to foster the exchange of information and experiences on migration history museums, which are becoming increasingly popular in many receiving countries. By acknowledging the role of migration in shaping the societies and cultures of receiving states, such institutions play a key role in promoting the integration of today’s migrants. A special emphasis is placed on the role of schools, as education is essential in raising awareness on the role of migration in the past and present;



- **Elaboration of policy-relevant research projects.** UNESCO has launched research projects to investigate the place of migration in tomorrow's world. One project examines the potential for regional or international agreements on free human movement such as within the EU;
- **Addressing the challenges of African migration.** At its 175<sup>th</sup> session held in September 2006, UNESCO's Executive Board requested UNESCO to define a strategy to address the challenges posed by contemporary forms of African migration for development as follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development. The strategy should be firmly grounded in international human rights law and take into account the outcome of the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development as well as prepare for the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. UNESCO will make practical proposals in the spring of 2007;
- **Publication of an on-line journal on multicultural societies.** In 1999, UNESCO founded the International Journal on Multicultural Societies, which constitutes a platform for international, interdisciplinary and policy-related social science research in the fields of migration, multiculturalism, and minority rights. As an open-access and peer-reviewed electronic journal, it deals with key issues in the field of migration and multiculturalism, including the governance of religious diversity, the rights of linguistic minorities, the protection of endangered languages, territorially based ethnic movements, multicultural policies in industrial and post-colonial countries, as well as multilingualism and integration;
- **Recognition of higher education diplomas and qualifications.** UNESCO initiated conventions on the recognition of higher education diplomas and qualifications in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Conventions now exist in all regions of the world. The European Convention was recently revised to respond to new trends in higher education in Europe, leading to the 1997 joint Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in the European Region the so called Lisbon Recognition Convention. This unique standard-setting activity is of great importance to ensure the mobility of students and workers across international boundaries.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> United Nations (2006). *International migration and development*. Report of the Secretary-General (A/60/871). New York: United Nations.



## UNITAR'S ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

### *United Nations Institute for Training and Research*

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), reflects 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 and 15 September 2006, UNITAR, 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 in New York, and to stimulate critical thinking about migration and its various 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 covered seven events on the following topics: international human trafficking; labour migration; diaspora contributions; HIV/AIDS and migration; human rights and migration; regional consultative processes; and irregular migration.

Each event gathered 50 to 100 participants, including international experts. The focus throughout all meetings was on practical approaches and existing good practices. Emphasis was placed on the contributions that all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society—migrant associations and other NGOs, academics, trade unions, employer associations—the United Nations and other 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, the Secretary-General proposed to establish a global consultative forum to continue State-led, open-ended and informal discussions on

international migration and development at the global level. The Government of Belgium offered to host the first meeting of the Global Forum, which will 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 meeting of the Global Forum 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 the United Nations Headquarters in 2006, 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, and providing an inter-active, skills-based learning experience for delegates.

## **GENDER, MIGRATION, REMITTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT**

*United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the  
Advancement of Women*

Women have remained for the most part invisible in the treatment of migration. While the issue of international migration is virtually absent from many of the key women's rights agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Women have always been present in migratory flows, traditionally as spouses, daughters, or dependents of male migrants. Nowadays, women are increasingly migrating as the main economic providers for their households—meaning that they migrate autonomously as breadwinners—a development that has served to increase their visibility within migratory flows. Women currently constitute 49.6 per cent of global migratory flows, though the proportion varies significantly by country and can be as high as 70 per cent to 80 per cent in some cases.

The feminization of migration has also produced specifically female forms of migration—such as the commercialized migration of domestic workers and care-givers, the migration and trafficking of women for the sex industry, and the organized migration of women for marriage. In migrating, women are often making a conscious decision to prioritize their families' well-being and their need to be with their loved ones.

The global demand for migrant labour now emphasizes women's specific skills and traditional roles, such that: (a) paid domestic work is increasingly performed by women who leave their own countries, communities and often their families; (b) domestic service draws not only women from poor socio-economic classes but also women of relatively high status in their own countries; and (c) the development of service-based economies in post-industrial nations favours the international migration of women workers. In the developed world, the combination of women's increased participation in the labour force and the failure to develop family-friendly labour policies and child, elderly, and disabled care options have led to a strong demand for migrant women workers. Migrant women are thus a central support system for women's freedom in the developed world—and they make a contribution that is under-recognized and under-valued.

Gender identities are characterized by fluidity, movement and transformation. Because of international migration, ideas about traditional and appropriate gender roles are rapidly shifting, and newly-defined masculine and feminine roles are evolving as a result of migration.

One of UN-INSTRAW's priority research areas is gender, migration and remittances, through which we aim to highlight the increasingly influential role that women migrants play in the maintenance of their households and the development of their families and communities—both in countries of origin and destination. We promote the inclusion of a gender perspective in research, analysis and policy-making in relation to migration and remittances.

Remittances have become the most important stabilizing economic force for many developing countries. According to World Bank estimates, in 2004 developing countries received US\$ 126 billion in remittances, twice the amount of official development assistance (ODA). This volume has increased consistently over the last decade, and projections show that it will continue to increase. Although remittances are private money, they contribute not only to the survival and well-being of households in

the developing world, but have also become an essential tool for poverty-reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Although there is a growing interest in the potential contribution of remittances to poverty-reduction and community development, reflected in the formulation of policies and programmes to maximize their potential, there is a significant gap in knowledge and action related to the gender dimensions of remittances. UN-INSTRAW considers that a critical review of research, policies and programmes on remittances from a gender perspective is essential to ensuring their effective contribution to development.

#### A. RESEARCH STUDIES

In response to this need, UN-INSTRAW initiated a series of case studies with the aim of analyzing the gender dimensions of the transfer, use and impact of remittances. Specifically, this research programme seeks to increase knowledge and understanding in three broad areas:

- The contribution of women migrants to the development of their countries and their communities of origin, and the relevance of that contribution to poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs;
- The impact of female migration on gender roles, power relations and decision-making processes in households and communities of origin; and
- Policies and programmes aimed at increasing the development potential of remittances that include gender perspectives and women's contribution, needs and priorities.

#### *Methodology*

UN-INSTRAW has developed a methodology for research on remittances and their development potential from a gender perspective. This methodology was tested through a case study conducted in the Dominican Republic, and is now being utilized in case studies in Albania, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, and Southern Africa. The methodology will be refined and enriched each time it is utilized in subsequent case studies.

The methodology focuses on qualitative research, and aims to capture attitudes, perceptions, and motivations. Techniques used include participatory observation as well as open interviews and group discussions. Specific tools have been developed in order to interview all those involved in transferring and utilizing remittances: migrants, recipients, migrant organizations, development organizations, local leaders, authorities, key informants etc.

A complimentary quantitative methodology is also being designed in order to supplement the qualitative research with concrete statistics on remittances (amounts, frequency, channels utilized etc.).

The result of the case study on the gender dimensions of remittances in the Dominican Republic was launched by INSTRAW in September 2006. The objective of this study was to contribute to efforts aimed at maximizing the potential of remittances in developing countries through the integration of a gender perspective in the study of the flows, uses and socio-economic impact of remittances within recipient households and communities. The study analyzed gender dynamics and the impact of remittances on households in Vicente Noble, a community in the south-west of the Dominican Republic. The major conclusions of this first study were that:

- Dominican migration to Spain is highly feminized—85 per cent of Dominicans with legal residence in Spain are women, and many of these women are heads of households as a result of single parenthood;
- This feminization of migration is a result of economic crisis, particularly of the agricultural sector, which has raised significant obstacles to men's ability to maintain employment and provide for their households;
- Male unemployment and high rates of female headship have forced women to seek alternative sources of income, of which migration has become the most lucrative and sustainable.

In terms of remittances, the study revealed specifically that:

- 54 per cent of remittances received in the Dominican Republic (through official channels) are sent by women;
- When a Dominican woman migrated to Spain, in 90 per cent of cases she left her household in the charge of another woman (in general a mother or a sister);
- In 80 per cent of cases, women migrants sent their remittances to other women—in order to be spent on household necessities and family well-being;
- Both productive and reproductive activities in the recipient community are almost exclusively carried out by women—there has been no participation of men in reproductive tasks, even when they are left in charge of the household;
- In adopting their new role as economic providers for the household, women have gained a certain autonomy and have increased their negotiating power within the household;
- In the hands of women, remittances tend to be channelled towards family well-being, including basic needs, household improvements, health and education;
- Remittances sent by women are contributing to increasing girls' access to higher education;
- Only a small percentage of recipient families—about 5 per cent—have used the income for productive activities, which have been limited to opening general stores, beauty salons, or small communications centres. In 70 per cent of cases, these businesses are run by women;
- One particularly significant finding of the study is that 100 per cent of the migrant women who returned from Spain set up their own business.

These conclusions helped to establish certain areas that require further research and analysis—with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the actors involved and maximizing the potential of remittances to contribute to household well-being and community development.

In addition to the initial Dominican case study, UN-INSTRAW is carrying out additional case studies in the following countries:

**Colombia.** This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and a number of organizations that have joined together to form Alianza País. UN-INSTRAW's participation consists in providing the methodology for the research, undertaking the field work in Madrid, and the analysis of data acquired from the research. The case study results will be released in early 2007.

**Philippines.** UN-INSTRAW has received funding from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to carry out a project on the gender dimensions of migration and remittances between the Philippines and Italy. The project began in September 2006, with the aim of: analyzing the impact of remittances sent by migrants (women or men) on the recipient households, supporting training activities with migrant organizations aimed at improving the living conditions of migrants in Italy;

increasing the participation of Filipino migrants in the rural development of their communities of origin, and increasing their knowledge on alternatives means for sending remittances.

**Guatemala.** UN-INSTRAW has received partial funding from UNFPA to carry out a case study in Guatemala, with the objective of expanding of information on the gender dimensions of the sending and utilization of remittances and their impact on gender roles within recipient households and communities. The project will also generate training workshops with migrant associations, NGOs, academics, international cooperation agencies, United Nations agencies and financial institutions, in order to strengthen the gender perspective in programmes focusing on remittances and development.

**Southern Africa.** UN-INSTRAW has also received partial funding from UNFPA to carry out a case study in the Southern African region in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). The objective of the project is to assess the impact of remittances sent by migrants from South Africa to their communities of origin, as well as migrants' access to financial and other services in South Africa.

**Albania, the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines, and Senegal.** In collaboration with UNDP, UN-INSTRAW will be carrying out case studies on the gender dimensions of remittances in these six countries with the aim of enhancing gender-responsive local development by promoting options in the utilization of remittances for sustainable livelihoods and building social capital.

Proposals for similar case studies on the gender dimensions of remittances in Ecuador, Ireland, and Norway have also been prepared and presented to various donors. Proposal for regional case studies on the gender dimension of remittances in the Caribbean and the Maghreb region are being developed, as is a proposal on Bolivian women migrants in Argentina.

## B. NEXT STEPS

Many questions still need to be answered:

- How are gender roles affected by the migration of women and their new role as economic providers?
- Are women empowered by migration?
- Are women acquiring new responsibilities in addition to their traditional roles?
- Are girls acquiring household responsibilities before coming of age?
- How do families and children cope with women's migration?
- How are transnational families and relationships evolving?
- Are diasporas participating in the development of their countries of origin?
- To what extent do remittances contribute to household poverty alleviation and/or community development?

The main objective of UN-INSTRAW's research on gender, remittances and development is to effect a change in policy, programmes and projects that seek to harness the development potential of remittances so that they take women's participation, contribution, needs and priorities into account. The results of UN-INSTRAW's initial research activities will thus be used to formulate policy recommendations and capacity-building materials on the gender dimensions of remittances that will enable policymakers and development practitioners to place women's and gender issues at the centre of the international migration agenda.



*A guide for public policy, programmes and projects*

INSTRAW's research on gender and remittances will produce specific guidelines, tools and other instruments that will address the integration of a gender perspective in policies and programmes that link remittances and development. Once a sufficient number of case studies have been completed, a comparative analysis will be prepared highlighting lessons learned and making concrete recommendations for strengthening projects, programmes and public policies.



## **UNFPA'S POLICY AND PROGRAMME OF WORK ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

*United Nations Population Fund*

The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development underscored the important role that properly managed movements across borders play in the development of countries of origin and destination. It demonstrated the strong commitment of Member States, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and civil society to examine the relationship between international migration and development. The High-level Dialogue also pointed to the need for collaboration and cooperation to promote orderly flows of migration and to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative consequences of migration for both countries of origin and destination as well as for the migrants themselves. It showed that international migration is a growing phenomenon that could no longer be addressed at the national level alone.

The High-level Dialogue affirmed that international migration could be a positive force for development if well channeled and supported by appropriate policies. International migration is an integral aspect of the global development process. It can no longer be considered peripheral to the mainstream of population and development policy. The formulation of sound migration policies as well as building national capacities to meet the challenges of international migration could significantly increase the benefits and reduce the risks for countries involved as well as for the migrants themselves. Policies must promote the orderly flow of migration and address such important issues as protecting the human rights of migrants, especially women; combating trafficking in human beings; stemming the brain drain, especially the outmigration of health-care workers in areas where they are most needed; and addressing irregular migration.

### **A. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES IN LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Migration was not included in the final document of the Millennium Declaration and it is not mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The relationship between migration and the MDGs has not been adequately explored despite the fact that the link between migration and development is increasingly recognized. Migration is still not adequately addressed in development frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). Yet migration can play an important role in the achievement of the MDGs. As pointed out in the publication of the UNFPA Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals, if properly managed, migration can contribute to the realization of the MDGs.

UNFPA's new Policy Guidance Note on the Fund's strategic direction in addressing international migration noted that the increasing focus on inter-linkages between migration, poverty reduction and development had important implications for UNFPA's programmatic work in a number of key areas, including the role of migration in socio-economic development, especially poverty reduction; the relationship between migration and women and between migration and young people; and the impact of migration on human rights. The Policy Guidance Note suggested a number of activities that UNFPA could undertake. With its network of country offices worldwide, UNFPA is well positioned to make a significant contribution to enhancing awareness and increasing national capacity to address the challenges

of international migration, and to support countries in their efforts to integrate migration issues into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies.

UNFPA plans to continue its collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in offering training workshops on key migration issues for government delegates of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. These workshops are intended to provide government officials with a better understanding of the relationship between migration and development and as a forum for discussion of issues of concern to countries of origin, transit and destination.

The 2006 edition of UNFPA's State of World Population focused on women and international migration and showed how women can both benefit from migration and be subject to discrimination and abuse when migrating. The report examined the impact of female labour migration on source and destination countries and addressed, inter alia, issues of empowerment and risks including trafficking; and the social and economic implications of women's migration, including disruption of families and the benefits of remittances.

Female migration was also the subject of an Expert Group Meeting convened by UNFPA to identify the challenges faced by female migrants and to make recommendations on how Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations can work together to ensure that the rights and needs of female migrants are adequately addressed.

## B. KEY ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

International migration has important implications for demographic dynamics. It also has potential for advancing development. Among the key issues of concern to UNFPA are the following.

Migration as a tool for development. Increasingly, efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals embrace migration as a development force, not a development failure. Research shows a positive correlation between remittances and poverty reduction in developing countries. Remittances sent by migrants to their families exceed official development assistance (ODA) and constitute the largest single source of financial flows to developing countries exceeding foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in many countries. Migrants are also important vehicles for transmitting social remittances including new ideas, products, information, and technology. However, while migration can aid development and reduce poverty, it can also broaden social inequity, particularly in sending countries. It becomes increasingly important to capitalize on the benefits of migration and to mitigate the negative effects of cross-border movements.

Female migrants. While the size and diversity of female migration are increasing, women tend to be more concentrated in traditionally female occupations and in the informal sector. Those in unregulated sectors of the economy are at greater risk of exploitation and abuse. The feminization of migration and the abuses often experienced by migrant women call for the recognition of gender equality as an integral part of the process of policymaking, planning, programme delivery and monitoring at all levels. The protection of human rights and access to legal and health services, including reproductive health services, are especially important when it comes to addressing the challenges faced by migrant women.

Human rights. Increasing migrant flows have resulted in growing international attention to such complex issues as xenophobia, discrimination, racism, human trafficking, human rights of migrants, and most recently, terrorism and national security. Women and young people are especially vulnerable to exploitation and human rights abuses and need special protection. The legal framework affecting

international migration should be strengthened and implemented more effectively to protect the human rights of all migrants.

**Human trafficking.** Trafficking in human beings is the third most lucrative illicit business in the world after arms and drug trafficking. Widespread discrimination and violence against women, and restrictive immigration policies that limit opportunities to migrate safely and legally fuel the trafficking trade. Trafficking is very closely tied to sexual exploitation and abuse, and many victims are forced into sex work against their will. Although awareness and action against trafficking is growing, there is an urgent need to do more to end this heinous crime. Greater cooperation between and within countries is essential in order to bring traffickers to justice and to provide services and human rights protection for victims. To be effective, a comprehensive policy response should be multi-pronged and should include prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution of perpetrators.

**Brain drain.** The outmigration of highly educated and highly skilled segments of the population drains developing countries of much-needed talent and hinders development efforts. The demand for skilled migrants in receiving countries, together with push factors in countries of origin, have driven increasing numbers of highly skilled workers abroad. A number of developing countries are experiencing serious deficits in the health-care system because of the emigration of doctors, nurses and other health personnel. A significant challenge is to provide decent work and decent working conditions in countries of origin to help stem the brain drain. Another challenge for development in countries of origin is to encourage return of skilled migrants.

### C. CONCLUSION

Addressing the challenges of international migration requires a high degree of coordination and intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration both regionally and at the international level. It requires awareness and understanding of the social and economic implications of migration, the political will to manage migration flows and to address the consequences of migration, institutional capacity and trained staff, and resources to manage migration flows.

Age and sex disaggregated migration data are essential for evidence-based policy dialogue, development planning and programme formulation. Research is essential in order to enhance understanding of the migration process, including in such areas as the root causes of migration; the relationship between migration and development; the impact of remittances; the impact of migration on gender equality and women's empowerment; labour migration in a globalized economy; the role of the diaspora; and the impact of migration on the environment.

The momentum generated by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development on 14 and 15 September 2006 should continue. The establishment of a Global Forum on Migration and Development, as proposed by the Secretary-General, will facilitate further constructive dialogue on this important issue by giving countries the opportunity to come together in an informal and voluntary setting to engage in non-binding consultations and to find ways of improving cooperation.

The inter-agency Global Migration Group (GMG) can play an important role in facilitating the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and in ensuring effective follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. The GMG can encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. It can be instrumental in providing direction and leadership in a system-wide context; contributing to greater consistency in policy formulation and programme implementation; identifying critical issues, challenges, gaps and best practices; and promoting interest and dialogue on migration-related issues.

UNFPA looks forward to working with its GMG partners, Member States, United Nations agencies, and other international organizations on the important challenges of international migration in the context of follow-up to the High-level Dialogue.

## **PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY MIGRATION: WORKING WITH UNITED NATIONS PARTNERS**

### *United Nations Children's Fund*

Key policy and thematic issues in the field of international migration include, but are not limited to, child migration and migrant children; migration and trafficking; the gendered nature and feminization of migration; irregular migration; and migration and remittances. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recognizes that migration is a multi-dimensional issue that presents both opportunities and challenges. Strong national and global partnerships are required to ensure children's rights in this context. UNICEF is committed to such partnerships.

UNICEF is currently engaged in migration activities and policy initiatives with several United Nations partners (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Programme Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Labour Office, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). In this work, UNICEF advocates for the increased visibility of children in the migration debate as well as gender and child-focused policy responses from the international community. UNICEF's research and operational policy work on migration for 2006-2007 prioritises issues related to the impact on children and adolescents left behind in countries of origin by remittance-sending parents when the parents migrate. Capacity building and knowledge exchange on migration issues affecting children, young people and women in countries of origin will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and can support good governance and the protection of human rights.

Detailed information on UNICEF's work is provided in the sections below, preceded by background information on key migration policy issues, and UNICEF's involvement in these. This background provides the context for UNICEF's current work and focus in the field of migration, particularly our commitment to bring to light the issues affecting children in migration, including the impact on children left behind.

#### **A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

UNICEF has been involved in the preparatory work leading up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. UNICEF Executive Director, Ms. Ann Veneman, participated in the High-level Dialogue Roundtable 2 on Measures to Ensure Respect for and Protection of the Human Rights of all Migrants, and to Prevent and Combat Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in persons.

The issue of children's rights has been overlooked in global migration discussions and policy implementation initiatives. The High-level Dialogue was seen as an opportunity to highlight children's welfare in international migration and development debates. Migration issues and challenges affecting children and youth must be seen in the broader context of widespread poverty and conflict. UNICEF has emphasized that discussions on how migration affects children need to consider the vulnerability as well as the resilience of children and young people.

In her closing statement for the High-level Dialogue, the President of the 61<sup>st</sup> United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Sheika Haya Rashed Al Khalifa mentioned that the social impacts of migration on children needed to be taken into account: "Many of you have noted that some vulnerable groups, such as migrant women and children, need special protection". Furthermore, the Chair of the Round Table 2

stressed the need to uphold the protection of human rights, including children's and women's rights. The Chair for the Round Table 2 noted that "of particular relevance was the protection of the rights and freedoms of groups that were more vulnerable to exploitation such as children, women and youth, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and migrants in irregular situations. Participating Member States reiterated that "human rights of migrants should be upheld", and they referred particularly to the primacy of social, economic and cultural rights.

In this context, UNICEF, together with United Nations partners, is working to gauge the specific economic and social impacts of migration on children left behind. Further, when children migrate with their parents, they often encounter difficulties accessing higher education and health services in their host countries. In addition, migrant children often face language and cultural barriers. UNICEF is actively involved in protecting the rights of migrant children. More research and comparable global data are needed on how children are affected by migration so that issues affecting them can play a greater role in migration debates and in the development of migration policies.

UNICEF is also involved in protecting and assisting child victims of trafficking and is a strong advocate of a human rights approach to the issue of child trafficking. It is noteworthy that the High-level Dialogue Round Table on the protection of human rights of migrants and prevention and combating of smuggling and trafficking advocated that Governments should ratify and implement international legal standards as well as develop bilateral agreements to facilitate cross-border cooperation in these areas<sup>1</sup>.

Gender should also be taken into account in the development of an international migration agenda. Several organisations and United Nations agencies have highlighted the increasing feminization of migration. In many ways, female migrants are more vulnerable than male migrants and face a greater risk of exploitation, and are therefore in need of special protection measures<sup>2</sup>. UNFPA has focused on mainstreaming female migrants' needs and rights into the migration and development agenda. UNICEF advocates the importance of having a "life cycle approach to female migration" in migration discussions.

UNICEF believes that improved cooperation among United Nations partner agencies and other stakeholders that are part of the Global Migration Group (GMG) will improve migration policies and ensure that children affected by migration are healthy, educated, safe and able to enjoy their rights. To this end, UNICEF is collaborating with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and UNDP offices in the field. By gathering evidence, analyzing and developing policies aimed at reaching families of migrants, and closely collaborating with Governments and other stakeholders, UNICEF is working to ensure that migrants and their families can access basic social services, irrespective of their location. This transnational approach can help foster development in countries of origin.

## B. KEY UNICEF CONCERNS

Children are affected by migration in different contexts. Children under 18 years of age are affected in their survival, well-being and/or development when they are:

- Left behind by one or both migrating parents;
- Migrating with their parents (children of migrants);
- Migrating alone;
- Living in a context affected by migration.



### *Children matter in migration policies and debates*

Migration generates development benefits. To maximize these benefits, the effects of migration on children—including the specific impacts of migration on children left behind—must be a core consideration in migration debates, where children have often been invisible. More research and comparable global data is needed on how children are affected by migration so that children can be more visible in the development of migration policies. Policies should be developed to maximise the development benefits of migration, minimise its negative impacts for children and promote children's well-being.

### *Children affected by migration are particularly vulnerable and should receive special protection*

Specifically, evidence-based policies should seek to promote a child's right to health, education and to be raised in a protective family environment and should protect children affected by migration from neglect and from falling into high-risk behaviour. This implies migration policies that will support additional investments in health, education and social protection to mitigate the risks of exclusion and discrimination faced by women and children left behind by migrating family members and to promote progress toward achieving the MDGs.

In some cases, children's health conditions and learning opportunities are improved by additional income from remittances. When remittances sent home by migrants are harnessed for development purposes, this should be done in a way that improves the well-being of children and communities at home. Remittances should complement Official Development Assistance (ODA), and strengthen, but not replace, government investment in domestic programmes for social protection and poverty reduction.

### *Women who stay behind as heads of households have special needs, as do the increasing numbers of women who migrate*

Gender sensitive migration policies are crucial. Indeed, children may be affected differently by an absent mother as compared to an absent father. Policies to promote children's best interests should consider the effect of migration on different types of households.

## C. RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Remittances, which are often cited as one of the significant positive development outcomes of migration, provide economic benefits for migrants and their families. Thus, current research in this area is focused on how to maximize these benefits. At the same time, it is recognized that migration also comes with social costs, particularly the impact of parents' migration on the families left behind, especially children. There is a dearth of available data and research on the social impact of migration on children left behind while the psycho-social impacts of migration are even less understood. UNICEF advocates for more research and comparable global data on how children are affected by migration, with an emphasis on social and psychological factors and how these are linked to the well-being of children and society.

Another area of interest to UNICEF is the analysis of the institutional capacity and policy frameworks including institutional support, in different countries and regions of high migration. This entails reviewing how these structures are addressing issues such as the protection of future migrants, the inclusion of diaspora organizations in the development and migration dialogue, incorporating the voices of migrants, including women and children, and providing access to social services for families left behind. The key questions driving this area of research consider the extent to which existing institutions

are including concerns about children affected by migration, and the institutional capacity needs of countries of origins.

#### D. GLOBAL STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES ON CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

Reliable national-level data about the incidence and magnitude of international migrant children, and specifically children left behind, are rare, in part because it is difficult to accurately collect migration information. The methodological challenges include data source problems and lack of comparable, reliable and valid survey instruments. In response to these challenges, UNICEF initiated a global study to explore the incidence, magnitude and impact of migration and remittances on children left behind.

The first phase of the study concentrated on developing a literature review on the impact of remittances on women and children<sup>2</sup>.

The second phase, which is currently under way, is focused on the following outputs:

- development of a survey instrument on migration to be incorporated into UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) as well as other household surveys;
- sampling recommendations for implementation of country-wide migration surveys; and
- a set of migration programme and policy guidelines for UNICEF country offices.

UNICEF will work with UN/DESA, UNDP, ILO and other stakeholders in migration as well as migration data experts during 2007 to address the impact of migration on children.

#### E. PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are crucial for influencing migration policy, and filling migration data and information gaps. Each United Nations partner has expertise that can contribute to achieving a global framework of the determinants of migration, and their economic, governance and social dimensions, with particular emphasis on children and women.

UNICEF's collaboration with UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation includes the funding of a global study on the financial and social impacts of remittances and migration on children. This partnership has given the impetus to initiate policy work on the social impact of migration on women, children and young people in a number of countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia, and enabled support for inter-agency consultations and capacity-building seminars. This fruitful collaboration will continue during 2007.

Similarly, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reflecting a shared commitment to children, and to develop a strengthened relationship in countries where both UNICEF and IOM have programmes. UNICEF is also currently exploring how to cooperate with UN/DESA to construct better quality data, disaggregated by age and gender. UNICEF is also investigating the feasibility of fostering regional research networks with United Nations partners and other interested organizations.

Policy work and partnerships will also seek to make children more visible within national development policies and poverty reduction programmes. More joint initiatives will be needed to ensure

that young people in high outmigration communities and households have access to training opportunities for their future integration in the domestic labour market. UNICEF will also work with United Nations partners and other stakeholders to ensure that vulnerable migrant children who may be prone to marginalization will indeed benefit from specific education and employment opportunities.

UNICEF is committed to working with others to foster desirable living and working conditions for young people in countries of origin so that migration is truly a choice and not a necessity. This should include highlighting the issue of children's rights in the forum provided by the Global Migration Group of which UNICEF is not yet a member. The GMG offers a unique opportunity for UNICEF to combine its resources and expertise with that of other agencies already involved in the promotion of the rights of migrants, thus bringing a strong and unified voice for children's rights into the migration debate.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF and United Nations partners including IOM, are working with Member States and civil society groups to implement key United Nations human rights instruments regarding trafficking. UNICEF is engaged with Member States and partners to address irregular migration, specifically looking into issues that make people more vulnerable to trafficking.

<sup>2</sup> See UNFPA/IOM publication titled "Women on the Move", 2006.



## **UN-HABITAT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

### *United Nations Human Settlements Programme*

UN-HABITAT has been working on migration and urbanization for a very long time. It is important to understand that the growth of cities is not just a phenomenon of migration from rural to urban areas. It also entails international migration—people seeking a better life in other countries both in the North and in the South. Whether they are fleeing conflict, disasters or simply seeking a better life somewhere else, the number of people on the move today is greater than ever before.

During the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, UN-HABITAT has worked on the following issues:

- Chapter 4 of one of UN-HABITAT's flagship reports—The State of World's Cities 2004/2005 on Globalization and Urban Culture, is International Migration: Socio-economic and Cultural Implications;
- UN-HABITAT, in cooperation with the Italian Technical Cooperation and the University of Venice, has published a book on “International Migrants and the City” (June 2005) covering Bangkok, Berlin, Dakar, Johannesburg, Karachi, , Naples, Sao Paulo, Tijuana, Vancouver and Vladivostok;
- UN-HABITAT, in cooperation with International Organization on Migration (IOM), organized a Ministerial Roundtable breakfast on The Millennium Development Goals and Migration during the High-level Segment of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 1 July 2005;
- In a preparatory meeting for the 2006 ECOSOC High Level segment, UN-HABITAT, in cooperation with International Labour Office, International Organization for Migration, the World Bank, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Population Fund and other organizations, organized a Roundtable on the Challenge of globalization—labour migration, brain drain and brain circulation on 5 April 2006;
- During the 2006 high-level segment of ECOSOC, UN-HABITAT in cooperation with ILO, UNCTAD, IOM and others, UN-HABITAT organized a meeting on Globalization and Labour Migration;
- Every year on the first Monday in October, UN-HABITAT uses the World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of the world's growing cities and the rapid and irreversible urbanization. The theme in 2006 was “Cities—magnets of hope”. UN-HABITAT has published its Habitat Debate on “Cities—magnets of hope, A look at Global Migration Problems” as a special issue after the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

International migrants move increasingly towards cities, particularly large cities, where they have more chances of finding income-earning opportunities. Often, in such conurbations, migrants strive to gain access to the large and expanding informal sector and to provide for the demand for low-paid service workers. A significant number of them, particularly those in developing countries, end up living in informal settlements that are generally devoid of adequate housing and basic services. It is also common for migrants in developed countries to settle in neighbourhoods with sub-standard facilities.

The spatial distribution of immigrant populations results from choice as well as a lack of choice. The cultural, social and religious traditions of migrants often differ from those of the host country or city. This makes their integration in the host society a difficult process. While many newly arrived migrants might

prefer settling among their own community to begin with, most have little choice and settle in other places.

The weakest aspect of any solution for the protection of immigrant rights and options to stem the tide of migration is at the local government level. In many instances, local authorities have very little say, if anything, over national migration policies. Similarly, they also have very little capacity to control transnational migration flows to their cities. However, the local Government is faced with the impact of those flows. This impact is of primary concern to three major spheres of public policy.

The first sphere of concern is the challenge of ensuring the protection of human rights for migrants. The most evident manifestation of this challenge lies in the area of adequate housing and access to basic services. Indeed, housing and basic services are the important problems that international migrants have to deal with when they arrive in their city of destination. The formal housing market tends to be out of bounds for many migrants. This situation results in the formation of inner city slums or “ethnic” ghettos. Recent events serve as a stark reminder that such ghettos can become the hotbeds of social unrest and civil strife. In seeking ways and means of protecting the basic rights of immigrants, it should not be forgotten that these rights can be rendered most meaningfully through the right to adequate housing and basic services. Translating these rights into reality requires explicit socially inclusive housing and urban policies at the local level.

A second sphere of concern is the challenge of decent employment and working conditions. Here again, local governments have a critical role to play in obviating the consequences of exploitative labour practices and human trafficking. Local-level decisions can help make informal activities part of a robust formal sector and provide more job and income opportunities, and protection.

It is well recognised that the presence of international migrants also makes cities more cosmopolitan, and therefore more attractive to the forces of globalization. However, the increasing ethnic diversity of cities all over the world, including in many countries with little or no multicultural tradition, often evoke anxiety and fear among local residents. If cities are to be a polis, the Greek word for a place where different people come together, cities must be considered as front-line actors in tackling social exclusion. Local authorities certainly need policies that raise urban productivity and foster economic growth; but they also need policies that manage diversity and promote integration. A cornerstone of any such strategy must be the participation of migrants’ representatives in municipal councils and local decision making.

Much of the current debate on migration is reminiscent of the three decades of debate since the creation of UN-HABITAT on the issue of urbanization. There are indeed several parallels and important lessons learned.

International migration, just like urbanization, cannot be controlled in any sustainable or humane manner. It has to be managed. Experience shows that proactive immigration policies can prevent negative impacts and maximize positive ones at the international, national and local levels. International migrants must be considered as development agents through the bridges they build between their home countries and their adoptive communities.

In many countries, international migrants constitute a growing group of urban residents that are victims of exclusion. They are often denied access to housing and urban services and have no voice in decision-making. To build inclusive societies, more attention must be paid to building inclusive cities. Including migrant populations in governance structures at the local level is essential to accomplish this task.

International migration can no longer be considered a national issue alone. Its implications at the urban level must be assessed and governed. While UN-HABITAT, within its mandate, assists local authorities to adopt more inclusive governance and management, there is an urgent need for a coordinated approach across all spheres of Government to overcome inconsistencies in policies and practices.

Finally, more attention should be given to research on the urban dimension of international migration, to better understand what works, why, and in which circumstances. Such an evidence-based approach will enable the development of the right policy options, and the implementation of more effective strategies. It will also enable the sharing of knowledge and experience in the common quest to uphold human rights, contribute to peace and security, and to celebrate the true sense of humanity—our cultural diversity.





## **MIGRATION, REMITTANCES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### *International Fund for Agricultural Development*

IFAD's mission is to enable rural poor people to overcome poverty. Seventy-five per cent of the world's poorest people—854 million women, men and children—live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihood.

IFAD's interest in migration issues derives from the fact that migration is intimately related to rural poverty. In recent decades, migration has changed the composition of families in many poor rural communities where IFAD operates. The primary income earners of these families can be working in another city in the country, or in a different country or continent. In addition, migration by men results in many households being headed by women. Furthermore, many communities are deprived of a significant part of their labour force within the communities themselves. Communities are extended beyond strict geographic boundaries, and their members abroad are playing an active role—sending remittances, bringing innovative ideas—in the well-being of the rural communities they left behind.

Working with rural poor people, Governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and other partners, IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions to increase rural poor peoples' access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources. Nevertheless, persistent poverty continues to push poor rural people elsewhere in an effort to improve their life and livelihood.

In this context, IFAD has broadened its rural development perspective to a transnational level by: (i) recognizing the existence of large migrant populations with strong ties to their communities of origin; and (ii) identifying and strengthening groups among the migrant communities, particularly in the United States and the European Union, who are interested in supporting development of their communities of origin.

In countries of high rural outmigration, the Fund's strives to enable rural poor people to offset the negative impacts of migration by:

- supporting initiatives that aim to reduce the cost of sending remittances and that promote the diversification of financial services in rural areas;
- encouraging families receiving remittances to participate in projects that generate productive employment and sustainable income; and
- promoting the active participation of migrants and their organizations in the design and implementation of IFAD projects and programmes.

#### **A. IFAD'S OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO MIGRATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

In an effort to extend awareness among its staff and Member States of the scope and impact of migration and remittances on rural development, IFAD has produced a number of informative documents during the past several years.

In 2003, IFAD's Latin American and Caribbean Division prepared a discussion paper on remittances and rural development. The paper identifies effective and innovative mechanisms for promoting remittances as a rural development tool, and was presented at a workshop at IFAD. In 2004, a round table on remittances and rural development was held during the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of IFAD's Governing

Council, with the participation of migrant representatives, international experts, NGOs and government representatives.

In 2005, IFAD prepared a draft document analysing remittances and rural development from a global perspective. This document analysed the continuous social and economic interaction of migrants with their communities of origin and the unique role many migrants play as agents of change in both their country of settlement and their country of origin. The document discussed the possibilities of enhancing the involvement of migrant communities in local development and their potential contribution to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The information provided by the document was further developed at regional and country levels in 'remittance regional profiles' and 'remittance country profiles'. These briefs were designed as quick-reference documents that identify major problems, opportunities and initiatives connected with migration and remittances within different regions and countries.

"Cash Flow Fever", a documentary on the uses of remittances in Salvadoran rural areas was issued in 2005 to sensitize a wide audience on the potential of this financial source to reduce poverty. The film, co-produced by IFAD and the Television Trust for the Environment, was broadcast as part of BBC World's documentary series "Life" in October 2005. The documentary tells the story of the Cortez family in the United States and El Salvador and explores the role development projects can play in spreading the beneficial impacts of remittance flows.

Concerned by the negative impacts of out-migration in rural areas, IFAD launched a project in 2005 on rural outmigration, trafficking and HIV/AIDS in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States in Central Asia. The goal of this project is to strengthen IFAD's capacity to respond to rural migration and trafficking issues and contribute to policy dialogue and advocacy initiatives in the region. Field studies were recently conducted in Armenia and Moldova, while a range of pilot initiatives has been proposed to strengthen some of the positive aspects and mitigate adverse impacts of outmigration in the region.

In 2006, IFAD financed a study on outmigration and migrant remittances in rural areas in Armenia. The study confirmed that significant amounts of migrant and household savings are not currently kept in the formal banking sector in Armenia and proposed the establishment of the Migrant Saving and Investment Trust (MSIT), a financial intermediation mechanism to attract migrant savings and investment. The core idea of the MSIT is to address the issue of limited employment and investment opportunities in rural areas of Armenia by mobilizing the migrants' savings and by investing in commercially viable projects within their own communities.

## B. INCORPORATING MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN IFAD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

During the last five years, IFAD has been engaged in a process to formally incorporate migrant associations in the design frameworks and financing of some of its projects and programmes. For example, the Sustainable Human Development Programme of the Union of the Comoros, financed by IFAD, will include a component on local development that will be co-financed by Comorian migrant associations in France. Contacts with expatriate groups have already been established to review their aspirations and identify how they could participate in the programme.

IFAD has been involved in sensitizing several Salvadoran migrant associations in the United States on the productive use of remittances and on the potential role that migrant communities can play in the social and economic development of their communities of origin. Several workshops have been organized with Salvadoran migrant associations in the United States to discuss the current situation of the rural population in El Salvador and to identify mechanisms for co-investment in income- and employment-generating activities in rural areas.

As a result of this collaboration, IFAD has involved migrant community representatives in the design and implementation of projects in El Salvador, and migrant associations are already co-financing activities with IFAD-financed projects in El Salvador. A partnership with various migrant associations was developed within the national Rural Reconstruction and Modernization Programme to facilitate the participation of migrant communities in rural development activities. This programme aims to support income-generating capacities of its target population through a technical assistance and investment fund that is allocated on a competitive and co-financing basis. Requests for technical or financial assistance are evaluated on the basis of: (i) market feasibility; (ii) income generation; (iii) productive/market innovation; (iv) job creation and women's participation; and v) internal/external co-financing. IFAD funds match local resources and/or collective remittances. In another IFAD programme that will soon be implemented in El Salvador, Salvadoran migrant associations will be represented in the programme's investment committee, with the aim to identify projects that the associations can support.

Recently, with the support of IFAD, representatives of Salvadoran female migrants working in different European countries have established direct links with groups of poor rural women in communities targeted by ongoing IFAD-financed projects in El Salvador. The aim is to identify productive activities to be co-financed with remittances.

In 2004, IFAD approved a grant to develop a partnership with migrant groups from Somalia to support rural poverty reduction in Somalia. The partnership is being developed by establishing a dialogue with migrant communities to assess their interest in investing in productive and job-creating activities in their community of origin so that their financial and technical support can have greater and longer-term returns.

### C. PROMOTING INNOVATIVE MIGRANT REMITTANCE SYSTEMS

In April 2004, IFAD and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched a joint programme<sup>1</sup> to help senders and recipients of remittances increase their access to financial services and invest in employment- and income-generating projects. In particular, this programme supports bi-national rural development projects in remittance-receiving communities and fosters alliances between migrant associations, savings and credit institutions and immigrant communities of origin.

The programme supports funding in the following three areas:

- Knowledge development for community-based organizations and rural development. This includes projects that help migrant and community-based organizations to manage, promote and carry out rural development projects in their home countries. The capacity building of migrant organizations and their integration as full partners in strategies for transnational development is crucial to the programme. Building on IFAD's experience of small-scale projects linking migrants from rural areas to their community of origin, the joint programme aims to work with migrant associations, encouraging them to play a leading role in local development, and facilitating access to investment resources, advanced technologies and new markets in their host countries.
- Development of rural financial services. This includes projects which support the development of banking systems that provide an array of services to the population not currently covered by commercial financial institutions, thus paving the way for their access to the formal financial sector. To this end, the programme is working with eligible financial institutions such as microfinance institutions, credit cooperatives and credit unions.

- Development of rural productive investment. This seeks to support migrant associations, NGOs, foundations and other non-profit organizations providing business development support in rural areas of the region.

Twelve projects, selected through a competitive process, are currently being implemented in eight Latin American countries (Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay). Eight of them are promoting efficient remittance transfer methods as well as other financial products, such as loans for housing and health insurance. For example, one of the projects involves a Paraguayan microfinance institution that offers remittance transfer services as one of the two authorized Western Union agents in the country. Besides a series of microcredit options ranging from microenterprise to credit cards and housing loans, this microfinance institution also offers a range of savings accounts. The IFAD/MIF technical assistance project aims at supporting the design of financial products that are attractive to remittance recipients in the communities where the institution operates.

Other initiatives are helping hometown associations to carry out rural development projects. For example, one programme is supporting a financial literacy project proposed by the Institute of Mexicans Abroad. This project plans to organize ten workshops benefiting 500 Mexican community leaders in the United States to inform them of various initiatives to reduce the cost of transferring remittances, promote their productive use, and improve access of migrant workers and their relatives to formal financial institutions. Another project proposed by a Haitian NGO aims to improve the effectiveness of Haitian American hometown associations and support them as agents of development for local communities. The grant will also allow the NGO to expand and improve its money transfer services in rural Haiti.

Other projects in Honduras and Mexico are providing support for investment in local employment- and income-generating activities by providing rural families and migrants with necessary information and skills for identifying, executing and managing productive investment projects.

With support from the European Union, the IFAD/MIF programme is currently being upscaled and replicated in other regions. To this end, IFAD has launched the initiative *Promoting innovative migrant remittances*, which seeks to alleviate poverty in rural areas by developing innovative remittance services that are cost-effective and easily accessible, and widening the economic opportunities of the rural poor. In particular, the initiative is: (i) creating a financing facility based in Europe to select and fund innovative remittance proposals in outmigration countries; and (ii) supporting the IFAD-IDB/MIF joint programme in Latin America by leveraging additional funds from the IDB for the second phase of the IFAD/MIF initiative while creating strong coordination mechanisms, synergies and cross-learning between the two facilities.

IFAD's pilot initiatives have created a new sense of energy and motivation among migrant associations to organize themselves and collaborate in cost-sharing arrangements in their country of origin. They are also promoting efficient remittance transfer methods and other financial services in rural areas. Nevertheless, further action is required if the human and financial resources of migrants are to be effectively channelled towards rural development and enhance employment- and income-generating opportunities in the rural areas.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup>Remittances and Rural Development Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean—Strengthening the Income-Generating Capacity of the Rural Poor in Remittance-Recipient Countries.

## **CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF IUSSP IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

*The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population*

The United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration concluded in September 2006 with Member States calling for continued international dialogue to identify how international migration could be better managed to “enhance the benefits of international migration and minimize its negative impacts.”<sup>1</sup> To achieve this goal in the years ahead, Member States decided to set up a Global Forum to discuss international migration and development relationships and to promote coordination within the United Nations system, and with the IOM and other international organizations working on international migration issues. The IUSSP will contribute to this dialogue through its new initiative on “International Migration and Co-Development” by developing new knowledge, data and policy recommendations that will be useful for policymakers in origin and destination countries concerned about their international migration trends and impacts.

In background proceedings for the United Nations High-level Dialogue and in a number of other activities carried out in recent years by several international, regional and national organizations, the argument has been advanced that international migration can be mutually beneficial to both sending and receiving countries. The Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly that “There is an emerging consensus that countries can cooperate to create triple wins, for migrants, for their countries of origin and for the societies that receive them”<sup>2</sup>. In October 2005, the Global Commission on International Migration released its report entitled *Migration in an Interconnected World* in which it concluded that migration could benefit both sending and receiving countries if countries took steps to develop “comprehensive, coherent and effective migration policies”<sup>3</sup>. While there is room for optimism regarding the positive impacts of international migration on sending and receiving countries, the empirical and theoretical basis for these contentions is weak. For instance, in a 2005 forum organized by the Center for Migration Studies, several scholars argued that there are winners and losers in international migration flows and expressed skepticism that flows could be coherently and effectively managed by Governments.<sup>4</sup>

The IUSSP will contribute to future discussions about the impacts of international migration on sending and receiving countries by producing empirical data and analyses that identify how the types, scale and composition of population movements between countries are changing. The following questions will be examined by the IUSSP in the years ahead. Why are international migration flows changing? What is the relationship between international migration and the force of globalization that tie the economies of developed and less developed countries closely together? What role do social and institutional networks play in facilitating migration and furthering transnational communities exchanges? Why and how has the skill composition of migrants changed and what are the implications of “flight capital” for sending countries? Do concepts regarding who belongs to the national population need reconsideration? How could measurement of national population membership, and residency be improved as the composition and usual residence of national populations become more fluid and undergo regular change? Which policy measures have been effective in sending and receiving countries for maximizing the positive effects of international migration and minimizing its negative outcomes? Are there any other promising policy measures that countries should consider?

As the international professional association of demographers, the IUSSP is well positioned to carry forward this agenda. The IUSSP has a membership of 2,100 members in 140 countries and works to develop scientific knowledge and data on demographic trends and their relationships to economic and social development and human welfare. The IUSSP does not have a political agenda but does seek to improve policy discussions by developing empirical data and analyses that will advance understanding of how policy measures and development contexts shape demographic outcomes. While many IUSSP members have served in policymaking positions in their homelands, when they participate in IUSSP activities they do so as professionals seeking to improve understanding of complex relationships. In addition, the IUSSP has a long history of working as a neutral expert body and is widely respected by demographic and development experts throughout the world.

Since the 1970s, the IUSSP has worked to advance understanding of international migration. Because of the poor quality of data on international migration compared to other demographic processes, the IUSSP has paid close attention to measurement and data gathering practices that would lead to improvements in the quality of data on international migration. In 1978, the IUSSP set up a working group on methodology for the study of international migration that examined the quality of data on international migration flows and concluded that it was essential for countries to include a question on a place of birth in their national population censuses. The working group also recommended alternative methodologies for estimating emigration based on questions that could be included in population censuses or household surveys.<sup>5</sup> These efforts contributed to efforts made by the United Nations Statistical Office to encourage countries to add a place of birth question to their national censuses.

In the 1980s, the IUSSP carried out an in-depth review of international migration in different world regions which concluded that international migration is not a random process that stems from differentials between countries in economic development and population growth, but that it is closely linked to other ties between countries. The IUSSP reported that distinctive international migration systems had evolved in different world regions between countries linked by historical ties, cultural affinities, transportation networks, and geographic proximity and that these systems were sustained by migrant social networks and institutional linkages.<sup>6</sup> Subsequent IUSSP work on international migration refined theoretical and empirical understanding of international migration determinants by examining how economic, social and political forces promote migration flows.<sup>7</sup> The same IUSSP review concluded that economically motivated emigration is more likely to occur in countries that have already reached a certain level of development and are advancing economically, rather than in countries that are low on the development scale and experiencing stagnation.<sup>8</sup> This pattern occurs because the development process itself is destabilizing and, over the short run, increases rather than decreases emigration pressures. Furthermore, free trade and investment flows can accelerate economic growth among trading partners, leading to alterations in relative prices, wages, incomes, and job opportunities. If migration networks already link groups of persons adversely affected by development changes to compatriots living in another country, increased outmigration is likely to result.

In 2006, the IUSSP elected a new Council headed by John Cleland. One of the Council's first decisions was to launch a new scientific initiative on international migration. A major component of that initiative will be to examine trends in South to North migration and to study the complex interrelationships between migration on the one hand and economic development and social change on the other. The South to North review would be directed by Graeme Hugo and draws on the expertise of international migration experts from different world regions. It is planned to organize three meetings to consider international migration and co-development linkages in order to identify policy measures that enhance the positive effects of migration and reduce its negative impact.

The first IUSSP activity carried out by the new panel will be a workshop on new definitions of national populations in a globalizing world to be held in 2007. In today's world characterized by increasing transnationalism, international population movements, and multiple national identities, the standard definition of national population based on a count of the number of people residing within national boundaries on the night of a census enumeration may no longer suffice. Increasing long-term and short-term population movements between countries and growing immigrant populations fuelling transnational communities have led some population experts to argue for a new conceptualization of national population membership. One suggestion is to develop and collect data on different conceptualizations of national populations that could be used for different population size estimates. Rethinking of national population membership is needed given that many countries have growing transnational communities, defined as persons born in a given country who reside on a long term or permanent basis elsewhere but retain close links with their homeland. The IUSSP will explore methods for using censuses to count transnational communities from a particular emigration country. To carry forward that agenda, the IUSSP will draw on its earlier work carried out in the 1970s which recommended using questions on "place of birth" and "relatives living elsewhere" in national population censuses as a means for improving data on international migrants.<sup>9</sup>

Another component of the South to North review will be to hold a "seminar on emerging dynamics of south to north migration" in 2008 subject to the availability of funding. The lack of understanding of the exact nature of south to north migration is an important barrier to the development of effective policy measures that would maximize the positive economic and social benefits of emigration. The Seminar will address the shifting scale, patterns and composition of international population movements. The changing role of permanent and circular forms of migration and transitions between permanent settlement and temporary movements will also be examined. The nexus between student migration and permanent settlement is one important example of such a transition. The second major component of the seminar will be to analyze the causes of new forms of south to north migration. This exercise will go beyond the differences in demography, development and democracy in order to understand how macro-level factors shape migration trends. The operation of forces at community, family and individual levels will also be investigated, particularly the role of migrant networks and transnational communities in sustaining migration. The gender dimension of migration will be examined in depth. The final element of the investigation will be the changing role of policy in shaping the nature of migration.

The third component of the South to North Review will be to organize a "Seminar on Policies to Facilitate the Role of Migration as a Positive Influence in Development of Origin Areas" in 2009. This Seminar will focus on how emigration can facilitate economic and social development in the South and be based on detailed case studies of contexts where migration has had positive impacts, including from a range of African, Asian and Latin American countries. That Seminar would also examine mechanisms that lead to positive emigration impacts, including financial remittances, social remittances, trade, return of permanent migrants, and retirement migration, as well as others. Contexts where emigration has had negative effects on development and well-being in origin areas will also be examined. Special attention will be given to the effects of the loss of highly skilled human capital and health and education personnel. The case studies will be conducted at different levels of analysis, including national, regional, community, household and individual. The second part of the Seminar will draw out the lessons from these studies for developing effective policy in both origin and destination areas that facilitate positive impacts and prevent or ameliorate negative consequences. Regional reports prepared for the meeting will identify promising experiences in different regions. The IUSSP organizers will then have the task of drawing out a set of general guidelines for the formulation of more "development friendly" migration policies in both origin and destination countries.

In addition to developing the initiative on South to North migration, the IUSSP is seeking funding that would allow it to examine the linkages between international migration and other trends. One activity being planned is to examine the integration of immigrants and second-generation descendants of immigrants in receiving countries. Countries receiving large numbers of immigrants differ considerably in their approaches to immigration, citizenship, and integration. Whereas some countries encourage immigrants to stay and give them the opportunity to become citizens within a few years of arrival, others take more restrictive approaches and do not want immigrants to settle permanently. It is important to examine the implications of different country approaches for migrant economic and social well-being. The IUSSP is also exploring the feasibility of carrying out two additional studies. The first study would evaluate how outmigration affects poverty reduction in sending countries. The second study would examine the consequences of different types of migration for adolescents, particularly how it affects their job opportunities, health, and education.

The IUSSP welcomes collaboration with other international organizations in carrying out its new initiative on international migration.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>United Nations (2006). *The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and Beyond*. Background paper for the United Nations Fifth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 20-21 November 2006, available from [http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/fifthcoord2006/Highlevel\\_Dialogue\\_and\\_Beyond.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/fifthcoord2006/Highlevel_Dialogue_and_Beyond.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>United Nations (2006). *International Migration and Development*. Report of the Secretary-General, 18 May 2006 (A/60/871), available from [http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/Text/Report%20of%20the%20SG%28June%2006%29\\_English.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration/Text/Report%20of%20the%20SG%28June%2006%29_English.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>Global Commission on International Migration (2005). *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action*, Report of the Global Commission on International Migration, available from <http://www.gcim.org/en/>.

<sup>4</sup>Chamie, Joseph and Mary G. Powers, eds. (2006). *International Migration and the Global Community: A Forum on the Report of the Global Commission on International Migration*. New York: Center for Migration Studies.

<sup>5</sup>Zaba, Basia (1986). *Measurement of Emigration Using Indirect Techniques In Manual for the Collection and Analysis of Data on Residence of Relatives*, Ordina Editions. (Also available in Spanish and French).

<sup>6</sup>Kritz, Mary M., Hania Zlotnik and Lin Lean Lim, eds. (1992). *International Migration Systems: A Global Approach*. IUSSP/OUP Series on International Studies in Population, Oxford University Press.

<sup>7</sup>Massey, Douglas S., Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Adela Pellegrino, and J. Edward Taylor, eds. (1998). *Worlds in Motion: Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millennium*. IUSSP/OUP Series on International Studies in Population, Oxford University Press.

<sup>8</sup>Massey, Douglas S. and J. Edward Taylor, eds. (2004). *International Migration: Prospects and Policies in a Global Market*. IUSSP/OUP Series on International Studies in Population, Oxford University Press.

<sup>9</sup>Zaba, Basia (1986). *Measurement of Emigration Using Indirect Techniques - Manual for the Collection and Analysis of Data on Residence of Relatives*, Ordina Editions. (Also available in Spanish and French). Also of interest is a collection of articles: Zlotnik, Hania, ed. (1987). *Measuring International Migration: Theory and Practice*. *International Migration Review*, vol. 21. This collection of articles was generated by a collaboration between two IUSSP scientific committees: The Committee on International Migration and the Committee on Data Collection and Processing in LDCs, and presented at a Workshop entitled "International Migration Statistics: Their Problems and Use" that took place in Ottawa, Canada, in November 1987 with support from Statistics Canada and the United States Census Bureau.



## **FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: A PROPOSAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

### *The International Metropolis Project*

#### A. A PROPOSAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The International Metropolis Project has long been interested in the extent to which migration-related phenomena can further the economic and social development of the migrants' countries of origin. Owing to the relative youth of the Metropolis Project, it has had less interest in an issue that dominated in earlier years, namely the extent to which economic development would reduce migration flows. Managing migration by managing development has over the past ten years given way to an interest in managing development in part through managing migration, specifically in ways that will further the development goals of the world's poorer migration source countries. This is a fascinating turnabout and one that has taken place rapidly and principally amongst those in the migration field. To a certain extent, this shift has been made possible by the growing acceptance of the utility of migration as populations age and labour forces begin to experience the stress of retirements accompanied by low birth rates. Attention has been able to move from means for reducing migration flows, including development, to managing these flows for the best societal outcomes, including countries of origin. The extent to which those in the development field think of migration management as an effective means for enhancing development appears to be less than among those in the migration arena. Of more concern is the relatively little attention that migration experts and commentators are giving to the basics of development theory and experience. The result has been an explosion of ideas of how migration can be a force for development with little hard evidence to support the individual ideas or to determine which of them would have the greatest benefit if put into practice.

No matter how well-meaning the advice, a free-wheeling approach to migration and development poses dangers. Not only might energy and resources be devoted to initiatives that hold little promise of success and that, therefore, would call into question the viability of managing migration for development benefits, but some results might actually prove to cause more harm than good if only from opportunity costs.

The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development has resulted in the creation of a State-led initiative to continue the discussions that took place in September 2006 in New York. Given that this is to be a State-led project, a central question is what the role of the United Nations will be in the new Global Forum on Migration and Development. What value could the United Nations add to the workings of the new Forum? The following is a proposal for one avenue that the United Nations could explore in its support of the Forum that would not violate the primacy of the States involved. This proposal would rectify the dangers of an inadequate scientific evidence base mentioned above.

The United Nations could manage a research programme designed to collect data and synthesize existing theoretical and empirical research on central elements of development and of migration in so far as the latter relate to development. More specifically, the United Nations could create an evidence base to guide those working on the development effects of migration beginning with:

- A contemporary evidence-based account of the conditions in countries of origin that are necessary for development to proceed;
- A contemporary evidence-based account of the conditions in countries of origin that are necessary for development to be sustained;
- An evidence-based assessment of which migration-related phenomena do or, if well managed, could contribute to the creation or enhancement of these necessary conditions in countries of origin;
- An evidence-based assessment of how migration-related phenomena could be managed in order for them to produce development benefits for countries of origin.

The proposal, in other words, is for the United Nations to produce research information about the fundamentals of development that would indicate clearly the directions through which the Global Forum could most fruitfully explore how to manage migration for development objectives. Without such a foundation, the enterprise risks floundering or proceeding in a way dominated by political imperatives.

The conditions of development examined in this research could be of an economic, political, administrative, social, educational, environmental, or other nature. How migration could contribute to their creation or their enhancement is the objective of the world's efforts to understand the relations between migration and development. Without a clear view of what is required to be in place for development to occur in a sustained way, we have no bearings for thinking about migration's possible contribution, let alone for how to manage migration for development effects. Work to help those in the migration field understand better what is required for successful development may as well open up new ideas or new possibilities for how migration can make a significant contribution, ideas that are quite simply not yet on the discussion table.

A timely product from the United Nations would help the Global Forum on Migration and Development focus its efforts and maximize its utility. Once the Forum has acquired this information and has carried out work on how to create and implement a migration-development plan, the United Nations' role could shift to studying the actual effects of migration-development initiatives, not for purposes of normative judgement but for acquiring empirical knowledge about the extent to which migration effects can be managed for development purposes.

#### B. ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS PROJECT WITH RESPECT TO MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Metropolis is an international policy-research network in the field of migration and its societal effects. Our goal is to inform policy making on migration management through the application of empirical academic research. The Project is directed by an International Steering Committee supported by a Secretariat in Ottawa with a European office in Amsterdam. Metropolis stimulates research worldwide on the dynamics of migration flows, on the societal impacts on countries of reception with a particular emphasis on the social and economic integration of migrants, and on the effects of emigration on countries of origin. Among the most visible outputs of the Metropolis Project are the annual conferences where upwards of 1,000 researchers, policy officials, representatives of international organizations and of non-governmental organizations from over 40 countries convene to discuss a full range of migration issues in plenary sessions and in numerous small workshops devoted to highly specific matters. Over the past five years, these conferences have included sessions devoted specifically to the instrumental relations between migration and development and this will continue in the 2007 event which takes place in Melbourne, from 8 to 12 October (<http://www.metropolis2007.org/>).

Some noteworthy discussions have taken place during Metropolis conferences in the past. In 2001, at the Metropolis conference in Rotterdam, the economist Oded Stark introduced his hypothesis that the brain drain, under certain conditions, will give rise to a subsequent brain gain within the country of origin. The now familiar argument is that the emigration of people with considerable human capital will, if they succeed reasonably well in their countries of destination, create incentives in the country of origin for people to emulate their success. This requires an upgrading of their human capital. If countries of destination control entry and thereby restrict migration flows, only a subset of those with increased human capital will actually leave. The net result will be an increase in the source country's human capital, a brain gain, that could be harnessed for internal economic and social development. Some empirical research is beginning to confirm the hypothesis, but this process of confirmation will, of necessity, take considerably more time.

At this same conference, Aderanti Adepoju warned the audience of the dangers posed by the brain drain to sub-Saharan African nations. This theme, one which has dominated the migration-development discussion, has recurred at a number of other Metropolis discussions, most recently during a conference in 2006 on the future of immigration. Kumi Naidoo of CIVICUS (South Africa), Dilip Ratha of the World Bank, and Bob Rowthorn of Cambridge University led the conference in an exploration of the ethics of immigrant selection systems among OECD countries that favour those with high skills. The situation requires nuancing and attention to detail, including the distinction between the actual effects of migration on source countries and the potential effects were migration managed in part from a development point of view.

Most recently, the 2006 International Metropolis Conference in Lisbon included a panel on migration and development during which we attempted to elicit new perspectives on a subject that, despite its youth, seems to be conceptually stalled. Remittances are a constant theme in the literature, almost universally cited as a highly significant instrument of development. However, we heard from Neil Ruiz of the Brookings Institute of the danger that remittances can become an alternative to development and hence a hindrance to attaining this goal. He cited the Philippines' long-standing national project of exporting talent and encouraging remittances and argued that it had allowed the country to forego its own development. Further, Ruiz argued that the skewing of the educational system for export had diminished the supply of agricultural workers and that the exodus of the middle class could have harmful effects on what is a fragile democracy. Richard Black articulated the basics of how diasporas can be engaged by their homelands to assist in development, emphasizing that this requires a long-term investment of effort on the part of the homeland to build trust with those who have left. Black argued that it is ultimately business relationships that will emerge as the most fruitful but that these can be founded upon more widespread relations of trust created by homeland outreach, even of celebration of their expatriates as illustrated by Mexico's regard for them as heroes. Temporary return programmes featured among the elements of a multi-dimensional approach with the private sector and Government sharing in the effort to engage the diaspora. Jonathan Crush of the Southern African Migration Project turned attention towards the urban dimension of development and of the potential development effects of South-South migration. Crush urged both national and local Governments in the South to attend to the integration of their immigrants in the local economy and society generally to best take advantage of the capacity of their immigrants to contribute to local wealth creation. The focus on cities as the locus of the development effects of migration brings an entirely new perspective on the debate.

The International Metropolis Project will continue to attend to this issue in future conferences. It remains willing to bring its network of experts to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations in this field. Should the United Nations take upon itself the task of preparing an evidence base for the Global Forum and other migration-development initiatives, Metropolis would be pleased to make a contribution.



**PART THREE**

**ANNEXES**





# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
7 April 2006

Sixtieth session  
Agenda item 54 (c)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/490/Add.3)]

### 60/227. International migration and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and also decides that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

2. *Invites* Member States to participate in the High-level Dialogue at the ministerial level or highest level possible;

3. *Decides* that the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Dialogue;

4. *Invites* those intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the High-level Dialogue;

5. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of, and participate in, the High-level Dialogue;

6. *Decides* that the participants in the High-level Dialogue will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> A/60/205.

7. *Also decides* that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables, within existing resources;

8. *Further decides* that the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General will make introductory statements at the opening of the High-level Dialogue;

9. *Decides* that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including its relevant special rapporteurs, and the International Organization for Migration, as well as to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decides that the round tables will be organized as follows:

(a) The first set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue;

(b) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day of the High-level Dialogue;

(c) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;

10. *Also decides* that the themes for each of the four round tables will be the following:

(a) Round table 1 will focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development;

(b) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(c) Round table 3 will focus on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances;

(d) Round table 4 will focus on promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike;

11. *Further decides* to hold, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in 2006 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue in September 2006;

12. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector;

13. *Also decides* that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping being selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of



the High-level Dialogue, and that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States;

14. *Further decides* that arrangements concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the High-level Dialogue will in no way create a precedent for other meetings of the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to address also in his comprehensive overview in consultation with relevant United Nations organizations, short-term and seasonal workers within the issue of labour movements;

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to contribute to and coordinate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue;

18. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions with a focus on its overall theme;

19. *Notes* that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women will have considered the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites their inputs through the Economic and Social Council;

20. *Also notes* that the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will have considered the issue of protecting the rights of all migrant workers as a tool to enhance development, within its mandate, by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites the Secretary-General to make available for the High-level Dialogue the summary of the discussion in the Committee;

21. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

22. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, and notes its contribution to the debate on international migration and development, and also takes note of the report as an input for consideration at the High-level Dialogue;

23. *Reiterates* that the outcome of the High-level Dialogue will be a Chairperson's summary, which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the High-level Dialogue;

25. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of resolution 59/241;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”.

*69th plenary meeting  
23 December 2005*

## **Resolution 2006/2**

### **International migration and development\***

*The Commission on Population and Development,*

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,<sup>1</sup> in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action,<sup>2</sup> in particular section II.C on international migration,

*Recognizing* that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation is integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action is consistent with and makes an essential contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recalling* the relevant provisions on international migration contained, inter alia, in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,<sup>3</sup> the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>4</sup> the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>5</sup> and their periodic reviews, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,<sup>6</sup>

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome of 16 September 2005,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling* all General Assembly resolutions relevant to international migration and development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004 and 60/227 of 23 December 2005, which are relevant

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\* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 11-14.

<sup>1</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-21/5/Rev.1)* and A/S-21/PV.9.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>6</sup> See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

<sup>7</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

to the setting up and organizing of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development which will be held during the sixty-first session of the Assembly and which will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize the development benefits and minimize the negative impacts,

*Reaffirming* the resolve expressed by the Heads of State and Government<sup>8</sup> to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>9</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>10</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>11</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>12</sup>

*Recalling also* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>13</sup> which entered into force in July 2003,

*Recalling further* the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementing protocols thereto, namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,<sup>14</sup>

*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

*Bearing in mind* that policies and initiatives on the issue of migration, including those that refer to the orderly management of migration, should promote holistic approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon, as well as the full respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants,

*Recognizing* that remittance flows constitute one of the important aspects of international migration,

*Noting* that the proportion of women and girls among international migrants amounted to nearly 50 per cent in 2005 and deeply concerned about the risks that women and girls, including women migrant workers, are exposed to in the context of migration, such as gender-based discrimination, multiple aggravated forms of discrimination, violence, including sexual violence, migrant smuggling, trafficking

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<sup>8</sup> See the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as contained in General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>13</sup> General Assembly resolution 45/158, annex.

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/25, annexes I to III.

in persons, commercial sexual exploitation and economic exploitation, sexual abuse and other forms of abuse,

*Recognizing* that the increasing feminization of international migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

*Recognizing also* the impact of migration on the effectiveness of public services, and the need to address, as appropriate, the shortages of workers, including health and education workers, giving appropriate attention to enhancing the capacity of developing countries in this regard,

*Noting* the efforts of Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes, and international and intergovernmental organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, in respect of convening events at the national, regional and international levels with a view to advancing the dialogue on the issue of international migration and development,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring<sup>15</sup> and on the monitoring of population programmes,<sup>16</sup> both focusing on international migration and development, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>17</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration entitled “Migration in an interconnected world: new directions for action”,<sup>18</sup> including its contribution to the debate on international migration and development, and taking note further of the report as an input for consideration at the High-level Dialogue,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>1</sup> and the key actions for its further implementation;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Acknowledges* the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination;
3. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to consider the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;
4. *Requests* States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their immigration status, especially those of women and children, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>9</sup> and the international instruments to which they are party;
5. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of Governments to safeguard and protect the rights of migrants against illegal or violent acts, in particular acts of racial

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<sup>15</sup> E/CN.9/2006/3.

<sup>16</sup> E/CN.9/2006/4.

<sup>17</sup> E/CN.9/2006/5.

<sup>18</sup> Geneva, Global Commission on International Migration, October 2005.

discrimination and crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups, and urges them to reinforce measures in this regard;

6. *Recognizes* that trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants continue to pose a serious challenge to humanity and require a concerted international response, and to that end urges all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labour, or sexual or commercial exploitation, violence or sexual abuse;

7. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

8. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to enact domestic legislation and to take further effective measures to combat and prosecute international trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;

9. *Reaffirms* the right of Governments to enforce their migration laws, consistent with their international obligations;

10. *Invites* Governments, with the assistance of the international community, where appropriate, to seek to make the option of remaining in one's own country viable for all people, in particular through efforts to achieve sustainable development, leading to a better economic balance between developed and developing countries;

11. *Calls upon* States to facilitate family reunification in an expeditious and effective manner, with due regard for applicable laws, as such reunification has a positive effect on the integration of migrants;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of public awareness of opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration;

13. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes on international migration in order to, inter alia, reinforce the positive contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries as well as to strengthen protection of women migrants from all forms of violence, discrimination, trafficking, exploitation and abuse, by promoting their rights and welfare, while recognizing in this regard the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels;

14. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education impacts the development efforts of developing countries;

15. *Acknowledges* the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary migration and return migration;

16. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and to promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented

investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to undertake such action;

17. *Invites* the countries of origin and destination, in accordance with domestic legislation, to undertake appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;

18. *Recalls* the commitments contained in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>19</sup> to develop and begin to implement national, regional and international strategies that would facilitate access to HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for migrants and mobile workers, including the provision of information on health and social services;<sup>20</sup>

19. *Invites* Governments to set up or, where they already exist and where necessary, to strengthen relevant institutions and mechanisms for, inter alia, data collection, analysis, the subsequent elaboration of policies, programmes and projects, and their monitoring and evaluation, including by improving skills and increasing resources, with a view to their providing timely, reliable and disaggregated information, including, inter alia, sex- and age-specific information, on international migration flows in countries of origin, transit and destination and their effects on development, and in this regard invites the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries;

20. *Invites* relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation on methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants;

21. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;

22. *Invites* Governments, where appropriate, to consider the linkages between international migration and development in policy formulation by, inter alia, promoting, through a comprehensive approach at the national level, collaboration and coordination among the governmental authorities in charge of international migration, and those focusing on development or development cooperation, and other relevant policy areas;

23. *Recognizes* the need to take concrete actions to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation and dialogue in the area of international migration and development and, where appropriate, to develop and implement national policies and cooperative strategies to ensure that migration contributes to the development of both countries of origin and countries of destination;

24. *Urges* the relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes, and other relevant intergovernmental organizations working on international migration, including the International Organization for Migration, to enhance within their respective mandates the coordination of their activities, and to strengthen cooperation and collaboration;

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<sup>19</sup> General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 50.

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on international migration and development and, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, funds and programmes, to continue assessing the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on international migration and development set out in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits;

26. *Looks forward* to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;

27. *Recommends* in this regard that the Economic and Social Council transmit the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session to the High-level Dialogue.

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\* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 15-16.