

## REPORT OF THE MEETING

The Eighth United Nations Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 to 17 November 2009. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat. The main objectives of the meeting were to assess the impact of the economic and financial crisis on international migration; to review initiatives to strengthen the evidence base on international migration and development, and to exchange information on current and planned activities in the area of international migration and development.

Some eighty participants attended the meeting, including representatives of 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 organizations (NGOs) active in the field of international migration. Also present were invited experts and representatives of United Nations Member States.

### I. OPENING

Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division of UN/DESA, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. She noted that the annual coordination meetings on international migration had become essential for promoting dialogue and coordination among United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. This was particularly important given the increasing number of events planned where international migration was the main topic of discussion. Among these events were the annual meetings of the Global Forum on Migration Development (GFMD) that were scheduled for 2010, 2011 and 2012, while the General Assembly would discuss international migration and development during a one-day informal thematic debate in 2011, and at a high-level dialogue in 2013.

She then outlined the agenda. First, the Director of the United Nations Human Development Report Office would make a special presentation on the 2009 Human Development Report entitled *Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development*. It was the first time since its inception in 1990 that the report had dealt with migration, acknowledging that migration was an integral part of development. The special presentation would be followed by three presentations on the impact of the economic and financial crisis on international migration. Preliminary research had shown that migrants were among the most vulnerable during economic downturns and there were calls for redoubling the efforts to protect migrant workers. This session would be followed by the coordination segment, during which all participants had the opportunity to present their recent activities on international migration. During the second day of the coordination meeting, the focus would shift to the latest developments in collecting migration data and analyzing migration trends. In the afternoon, the meeting would address the Global Forum on Migration and Development, with presentations by representatives of the Greek and Mexican chairs-in-office.

### II. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009

Ms. Jenny Klugman, Director of UNDP's Human Development Report Office presented the 2009 Human Development Report entitled *Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and*

*development*. The key message of this report was that migration could be beneficial to migrants, countries of destination and origin. However, the costs of movement, obstacles to obtain permits and other entry barriers remained high, reducing the potential gains from migration. Improving the admission and treatment of migrants, for which there was considerable scope, would significantly expand the potential gains for human development at home and abroad.

Most people in the world moved within, rather than across, their countries' borders. The report found that as of 2010 there were some 740 million internal migrants and 214 million international migrants. Three quarters of international migrants moved to a country with a Human Development Index (HDI) higher than that of their country of origin. In most cases, however, the destination countries were developing countries with higher standards of living rather than developed countries. Indeed, only 37 per cent of global migration was found to take place from developing to developed countries. The report differentiated between gains accruing to migrants and those accruing to countries of destination and origin. In general, gains were greatest for migrants originating in the poorest countries, but people from those countries were also the least likely to migrate. Most internal and international migrants obtained higher incomes than before their move and those income gains also increased over time. In addition to income gains, migration was likely to enhance educational achievement among migrant children. Although the relationship between migration and health was complex and dynamic, the presenter noted that moving to more developed countries could improve access to health as well as healthier living conditions. She cited studies reporting that migrant families had fewer and healthier children than families who had not moved. Migration could also improve migrants' well-being, such as bargaining power, self-respect and dignity, as well as enhance women empowerment.

Migration affected income and consumption, education, health, class and ethnic hierarchies in countries of origin and destination. In countries of origin, households with an absent migrant felt the greatest consequences, but migration also impacted communities, regions and even the country as a whole. Financial remittances improved household welfare through better food and nutrition, health, and overall living conditions. However, given the evidence that migrants were more likely to come from better-off classes it was questionable whether remittances always reached the poorest segments of society. In countries of destination, despite popular concerns, there were no significant adverse aggregate effects of migration on labour markets and the fiscal sector. Those potentially affected by immigrant labour included recent migrants and native workers whose skills closely matched those of the new immigrants. Overall, displacement effects tended to be relatively small and needed to be addressed through coherent national policies. The fiscal consequences of migration, either positive or negative, were found to be negligible. The global recession had severely affected migrant destination countries. However, long-term demographic trends continued to play out, such as ageing and shrinking populations in developed regions, and growing and youthful populations in developing countries. These divergent demographic trends would continue to exert pressure on countries of origin and destination to participate in global migration systems. Therefore, temporary migration restrictions should be averted in order to secure long-term gains.

In order to expand potential gains from migration, the 2009 Human Development Report proposed a set of reforms with medium- to long-term pay-offs for countries of origin, destination and individual migrants and their families. These reforms included liberalizing and simplifying migration channels, especially for seasonal and circular migration programmes and for unskilled people. This should be conditional on employer demand and allow for visa extensions and long-term stay. Basic migrants' rights had to be ensured, including equal remuneration for equal work, decent working conditions, protection of health and safety, collective bargaining, protection against forced labour, return to countries of origin without being subject to arbitrary

detention, and access to due process in deportation procedures. Transaction costs associated with migration should be reduced and destination countries should provide sufficient funds to provide services to migrants, especially schooling and health care. Government policies should also seek to facilitate internal movement by removing internal migration barriers, addressing the needs of internal migrants in destination areas and redistributing tax revenues to areas with high inward movement. Lastly, the presenter advocated for making migration an integral part of human development strategies. To ensure their political feasibility, policies addressing these recommendations should take account of popular views regarding migration. In conclusion, Ms. Klugman said that the report had been widely distributed and well received. It had been launched in over 60 countries. As of November 2009, the report website had had over three million visitors from 223 countries and territories, while the report had been downloaded 150,000 times in full or in part. Media coverage and government reactions to the report suggested that the time was ripe to advance the debate on migration and its contribution to development.

During the discussion, various participants expressed the opinion that some issues were not, or not sufficiently, addressed by the report, including the role of transnational communities, the distinction between labour, humanitarian and family migration, and the linkages between migration and climate change, human rights and gender. Questions were also raised about the presenter's views on circular migration and on immigrant quotas. One participant asked the presenter to elaborate on the apparent difference between public opinion polls, which showed that many people were concerned about migration levels, and the results of research, showing that migration was often beneficial to migrants, countries of origin and countries of destination. A participant asked whether the report signalled a greater engagement of the development community in the migration debate in the long run. Lastly the question was raised how the generally positive message of the report was received, given the climate of tightened immigration control triggered by the economic and financial crisis.

Ms. Klugman responded that her presentation was a summary of key findings from the report and that the report itself offered a more detailed and nuanced analysis. Although the 2009 report did not cover transnational communities in great detail, the beneficial effects of "social remittances" on countries of origin were mentioned. The majority of the recommendations were relevant regardless of the economic situation; only the recommendation regarding liberalization and simplification of migration channels was likely to be controversial during an economic recession. She acknowledged that the emphasis of the report was on labour migration and noted that circular migration was potentially beneficial to migrants and countries of origin and destination. However, from a human development perspective, the gains for migrants were greater if they were permitted to stay. She felt that individual employers should have a greater say in planning the admission of foreign workers. Ms. Klugman said that the report had not found a clear connection between accession to human rights instruments and migration levels. The Report emphasized that, in addition to the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, other human rights treaties were also relevant in protecting migrant rights. The report had also found that access to rights for internal migrants was a concern, for example, when they were denied the right to vote or to obtain public education for their children. As to the linkages between migration and climate change, Ms. Klugman noted that the 2007/2008 edition of the Human Development Report had been devoted to climate change. She also noted that the issue of gender had been mainstreamed in the current report. Ms. Klugman agreed that there was an apparent disconnect between government policies and public perceptions in the area of migration. While the 2009 Human Development Report could not address all misconceptions, it had tried to make a contribution to reasoned public discourse. She hoped that the report had raised the interest of the development community

for international migration and noted that UNDP was exploring various avenues for follow-up to the 2009 report.

In closing, Ms. Zlotnik congratulated Ms. Klugman and her team on the very insightful and valuable report. She reiterated that countries needed a framework for development in order to maximize the benefits from migration. She underlined one of the key messages of the report, namely that migration was no substitute for development. However, development was clearly linked to migration as countries would not develop if people did not move. Unfortunately, Governments tended to disregard the role of internal migration in the context of development.

### III. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: ONE YEAR LATER

Mr. Ibrahim Awad of the International Labour Organization (ILO) made a presentation on the impact of the global economic crisis on migrant workers. He observed that, given the different conditions within and between countries, it was difficult to generalize about the effects of the economic and financial crisis on migrant workers. It was clear, however, that the impact on migrant workers was particularly harsh in countries that were most severely affected by the crisis, including Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Migrants were much less affected in countries experiencing continued economic growth, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Qatar. The impact of the crisis depended on the employment sector. Thus, construction, manufacturing and tourism, sectors in which migrant workers were often concentrated, tended to be more seriously affected than health-care and education. The impact of the crisis also varied by the time spent by migrants in countries of destination, their migration status and their occupational background as well as the occupational distribution of the native labour force. Regarding migration status, the presenter posited that undocumented migrants who believed that the economic situation in countries of origin was worse than in countries of destination might be tempted to stay. They might also find it difficult to return once they had left. If migrants worked in sectors of the economy shunned by the native labour force, they might be less affected, assuming those sectors were still productive. Countries that were heavily relying on foreign trade could also experience significant labour force reductions affecting the employment of migrant workers. Although massive returns of migrants to countries of origin had not yet occurred, higher unemployment and lower pay had reduced the volume of remittances. The World Bank had estimated that remittance flows to developing countries had declined by 10 per cent from 2008 to 2009. However, remittance trends differed significantly between countries. Whereas Mexico, Morocco and Tajikistan had all experienced a significant decline in remittances, Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan and Sri Lanka experienced smaller declines and—at certain times—increases. The relative stability of remittance flows could be attributed in part to their countercyclical nature: in times of crisis, migrant workers tended to remit more to help their families recover from the crisis, despite the adverse labour market conditions they were facing. The World Bank expected that global remittance levels would recover in 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Awad noted that xenophobia and discrimination directed at migrant workers were on the rise. According to a recent Financial Times/Harris poll, a large percentage of citizens of the European Union (EU) favoured the repatriation of unemployed migrant workers. According to the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights, the number of racially motivated attacks on foreigners and ethnic minorities had increased in 2008. Although the number of incidents had increased, he noted that xenophobia and discrimination were not a generalized response to crisis. Some countries of destination had enacted policies encouraging the voluntary repatriation of migrant workers and tightening admissions rules. However, most of these new policies had not yet

realized their objectives. Countries of origin such as Bangladesh, the Philippines and Tajikistan had responded to the crisis by strengthening the protection of migrant workers abroad, exploring new labour markets and facilitating the reintegration of returnees in national labour markets. So far, it was too early to judge the success of these programmes. In conclusion, the presenter offered several policy recommendations to mitigate some of the effects of the global economic crisis on migrant workers. Countries of destination should sustain employment, ensure that migrant workers benefit from the stimulus programmes, and protect migrant workers and their families against discrimination and xenophobia. In the case of unemployment, migrant workers should receive unemployment and other benefits. Countries of origin should increase their support for migrant workers by offering pre-departure training and providing protection and support in countries of destination. Countries of origin of migrants should also develop long-term human resource plans in relation to their own and other countries' future labour needs.

The second presentation, made by Mr. Jean-Christophe Dumont from the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), addressed the effects of the crisis on international migration in OECD countries. Unemployment in OECD countries had increased by four per cent between September 2008 and September 2009, with Ireland, Spain and the United States experiencing the most significant increase. As migrant workers were often concentrated in the sectors of the economy most sensitive to business cycle fluctuations, such as construction and tourism and as they had less secure contractual arrangements and less job seniority, they were especially vulnerable during times of crisis. Yet, despite the effects of the crisis and the implementation of return policies, there was little evidence of massive repatriation of migrant workers in the European Union. Some countries had enacted policies to curb immigration flows. Italy, the Republic of Korea and Spain, for example, had reduced their numerical limits for certain migrant categories. Some countries had introduced or enforced labour market tests for migrant workers, while other countries had restricted the possibility to renew temporary visas. The presenter expected that some unemployed temporary migrants would opt to stay without proper documentation rather than to return home. At the same time, irregular immigration levels were expected to decline as job opportunities for undocumented migrants became scarcer. Indeed, between 2008 and 2009, border crossings of undocumented migrants had declined along European borders as well as the border between Mexico and the United States. Migrant workers who were denied entry to countries of destination might attempt to gain entry by applying for asylum, thereby abusing asylum laws. In order to address the negative impacts of the economic crisis on international migration, Mr. Dumont made the following policy recommendations. OECD countries should maintain, if not strengthen, integration programmes for foreigners and reinforce efforts to fight discrimination against migrant workers. He also recommended that countries develop temporary labour migration schemes in order to be more responsive to short-term labour market conditions. Further, he suggested that new entrants into the labour market, including those who had lost their jobs, should receive assistance in finding new work. Rather than providing financial support to migrants who return, Governments should reduce obstacles for migrants to move back and forth between their country of origin and destination. Special attention should be paid to the economic situation of less developed countries, especially where remittances had fallen, as the crisis might create additional push factors for irregular migration from these countries.

The third presentation, made by Ms. Batool Shakoori of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), focused on the impact of the crisis on international migration in the Arab region. Ms. Shakoori noted that economic growth in the Arab region was primarily driven by oil revenues, real estate investments, tourism and foreign aid rather than by productive activities. A decline in the global economy affecting one or more of these sectors would immediately affect the economies in the region. At first, the region had

appeared to be insulated from the adverse effects of the crisis by oil revenue surpluses. Recently, however, the region had shown signs of effects of the crisis. Although the impact of the economic crisis on migration could not yet be fully gauged due the absence of timely and accurate data, recent reports had indicated a rise in unemployment, a decline in remittances, and return migration. The projected fall in the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from six per cent in 2007 to four per cent in 2009 was expected to affect employment and remittances in the Arab region. According to the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), 17 million persons, 14 per cent of the total workforce in the Arab region, were unemployed. Employment opportunities in the banking and investment sectors had fallen, and the demand for labour in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries was expected to decline. The crisis had also affected remittance flows. According to the World Bank, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, and Yemen, the nine largest remittance receiving countries in the Arab region, were all expected to experience declining remittances in 2009. A fall in remittances would particularly impact economies and living conditions in countries where remittances constituted a large portion of GDP, including Lebanon (24 per cent), Jordan (22 per cent), and Morocco (9 per cent). The crisis also threatened to affect migrants' rights, as Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic were the only ESCWA Member States who had ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. However, the crisis seemed also to create some new opportunities. Thus, countries of origin could benefit from the transfer of skills by returning migrant workers, while countries of destination faced fewer challenges in integrating new arrivals. The return of migrants would also restore some imbalances in the population structure of Arab countries due to sex- and age-specific emigration. Certain economic sectors had benefited at the onset of the global economic downturn. For example, the banking sector in Lebanon had experienced a 21 per cent increase in deposits in 2009 as compared to 2008 as mistrust of foreign financial institutions had returned some business to local banks. The crisis also presented opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation among countries in the Arab region. Such cooperation was deemed essential by the presenter if the region were to compete in the global economy. Ms. Shakoory noted that the impact of the crisis on female migrants depended on the economic sectors in which they were employed. In the Arab region, female migrants were primarily employed in health care and domestic work. While these sectors were less affected by lay-offs, they provided only limited protection against discrimination and exploitation. In sum, the surplus from oil revenues had enabled the Arab region to resist and delay the onset of the crisis, but more countries were now experiencing increased unemployment, a fall in remittances and violations of migrants' labour and human rights. However, the crisis also provided limited opportunities in terms of transfer of skills, limited economic growth, and a more balanced population structure. In order to advance the debate on this topic, ESCWA was planning to host an expert group meeting on the social impact and policy responses to the global financial and economic crisis in Beirut, Lebanon, in December 2009. ESCWA stood ready to assist countries in engaging in regional consultative processes (RCPs) on international migration.

The three presentations were followed by a lively discussion. It was observed that the relation between the financial and economic crisis and international migration was complex. For instance, despite the deepening of the crisis, return migration had not markedly increased in recent months. Moreover, due to administrative inertia, some of the policies to facilitate international migration, designed before the onset of the crisis, had only recently come into force. It was observed that the scope for policy makers to make abrupt policy changes was limited to migration flows that could be changed within existing legal bounds. Non-discretionary flows, which were subject to changes in immigration law, were more difficult to change and had remained largely unaffected. The presenters were asked whether they had found any concrete evidence of increased human trafficking or enhanced social protection for migrant workers as a

result of the crisis. Ms. Batool was asked to expand on frameworks for intraregional dialogue on migration in the Arab region. Doubt was expressed that return migration was sizeable enough to balance population pyramids in the Arab region.

In response, the ILO representative said that he had not found any hard evidence that human trafficking or migrant smuggling had increased. He noted that in difficult economic times, people had fewer incentives to resort to smuggling. Although social protection was not realized overnight, some countries of origin had expanded their social protection measures to migrants in countries of destination hit hard by the crisis.

The OECD representative added that one way to ascertain whether countries had extended social protection to migrant workers was to review the stimulus packages countries had put in place in response to the crisis. Speeches by political leaders constituted another useful source of information in this regard. He agreed that many of the recent policy changes affecting international migrants had been initiated before the onset of the financial crisis, such as the ones enacted in Sweden and the United Kingdom. It was important to note that those policies had not been abandoned due to the crisis. He added that, with the exception of Italy, few OECD countries had introduced restrictions to family reunification as a response to the economic crisis. Policy responses by countries were mainly targeting recent immigrants, who were mostly affected by the crisis. He emphasized that national policy responses differed because countries were affected differently by the crisis. For instance, the impact of the crisis in countries experiencing a recession, such as Ireland or Spain, was much more severe than in countries whose economic systems had experienced more indirect effects.

The representative of ESCWA responded that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue was taking place between countries of origin and destination in Asia, including GCC countries. As there was currently no similar dialogue between GCC countries and labour sending Arab countries, ESCWA was offering to host such a dialogue, especially in order to promote a discussion on high youth unemployment in the region.

#### IV. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

During this session, representatives of United Nations offices, funds and programmes and other organizations exchanged information regarding their work in the area of international migration. Twenty speakers took the floor. A summary of the interventions is provided below.

##### A. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT AND OTHER ENTITIES

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was continuously working to ensure that migrants' human rights were represented in the discussion on migration and development. In this regard, the office promoted ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by United Nations Member States and supported the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. In 2009, the Human Rights Council adopted two resolutions related to migration. Resolution A/HRC/RES/11/9, adopted on 17 June, addressed the human rights of migrants in detention centers. Resolution A/HRC/RES/12/6, which was adopted on 1 October, requested OHCHR, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to prepare a study on challenges and best practices in protecting the rights of the child in the context of international migration.

In preparation of the Global Forum in Athens, OHCHR had organized a meeting exploring the linkages between human rights, inclusion, acceptance and integration of migrants in host societies as well as the contribution of migrants to development in both origin and destination countries. The meeting had been held in Geneva, Switzerland on 8 October 2009. The representative also reported on a panel discussion on migration, discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights co-hosted by the ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the Durban Review Conference, which was held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009. OHCHR continued to assist governments and civil society organizations in developing international human rights standards for migration and had contributed to a handbook on the human rights of migrants. OHCHR worked with the Global Migration Group (GMG) to mainstream a human rights approach to migration within the United Nations system and had recently appointed a special adviser on migration.

The representative of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) said that the Office had worked on the impact of the global economic and financial crisis on development, with special focus on remittances.

From June to December 2009, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) had chaired the GMG, an inter-agency group of 14 Heads of agency of the United Nations, the IOM and the World Bank that was seeking a to develop a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach to international migration. As chair of GMG, UNITAR had established an annual workplan, improved the working methods and developed joint outputs. UNITAR had delivered the joint GMG statement at the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens, Greece, in November 2009. The statement focused on the following messages: (a) the global recession should not undermine the progress made since the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in recognizing the development gains associated with migration; (b) migration policies and practices should be rooted in human rights, and (c) the evidence base for policymaking should be strengthened. UNITAR had also initiated the preparation of factsheets on the impact of the crisis on migration by GMG members, which were made available to participants of the Athens Global Forum on Migration and Development.<sup>1</sup> With the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), IOM and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, UNITAR continued to organize seminars as part of its Migration and Development Seminar Series at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The objective of the seminars was to inform and educate policy makers and to stimulate debate among the diplomatic community in New York. Since February 2009, the Series had covered the following topics: (a) migration, “brain drain” and care-giving; (b) the challenges of policy coherence in aligning migration and development goals; (c) the role of diasporas in peace-building, and (d) migration and the economic crisis. In December 2009, the Series would focus on migrant youth. In 2010, UNITAR was planning to organize seminars on female migration, the integration of immigrants in host societies, and climate change and migration. UNITAR, in collaboration with IOM and with support from the Government of Spain, was carrying out a project to strengthen capacities in the field of international migration and development. The project included four activities, namely extending the Migration and Development Seminar Series to other locations, following up GFMD recommendations, enhancing the development dimensions of regional migration dialogues, and building capacities at country level. The seminar “Africa-EU 7th Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment: Moving forward involving Non-State Actors” was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 4 June 2009,<sup>2</sup> while a follow-up seminar would be organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2010.



## B. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was engaged in research, policy advocacy, operational support and evidence-building. It continued to collaborate with Governments and civil society to protect children, adolescents and women who were affected by migration. UNICEF was collaborating with the Population Division of UN/DESA to produce a set of estimates of the global migrant stock by age, including children and adolescents, that would enable Governments to formulate evidence-based policies on migrating children. In December 2009, UNICEF, in collaboration with UN/DESA, was planning to host a meeting on improving migration information using household surveys. The Fund had assisted in the preparation of the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and was planning to collaborate with OHCHR in implementing resolutions that were recently adopted by the Human Rights Council concerning migration and children. UNICEF, together with IOM, Save the Children and UNHCR, had developed recommendations for the European Union regarding unaccompanied children and human rights. UNICEF continued to advocate against human trafficking, for the social protection of migrants and their families and was planning to study the impact of climate change on children. In 2009, UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre had completed a report on the integration of children of immigrants in eight developed countries. UNICEF had conducted surveys and studies assessing the impact of the economic and financial crisis on migrant children and their families. In various countries, UNICEF, in collaboration with IOM, had advised Governments in the formulation of social protection policies. UNICEF had prepared a factsheet on the impact of the economic crisis on migration and children's rights and one on the economic crisis and migration, remittances and children left behind. UNICEF was working with the ILO, IOM and UNDP on a handbook to mainstream international migration in national development strategies.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had worked on issues pertaining to migrant women since the 1990s. At the global level, UNIFEM was focusing on mainstreaming gender concerns into national development plans and national action plans for violence against women and was promoting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in particular recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers. UNIFEM worked with nine countries in the Asia-Pacific and Arab regions in formulating migration policies that concerned migrant women, advocating for the rights of female migrant workers, creating a gender perspective in migration, providing capacity-building to service providers who work with female migrants, and working with recruiting agencies to ensure that gender concerns were reflected in their activities. With the support of the Government of Spain, UNIFEM was planning to launch the third phase of the Regional Programme to Empower Women Migrant Workers in Asia. In several countries, including Nepal, UNIFEM collaborated with partner organizations to reintegrate return migrants. In 2009, UNIFEM, in partnership with ILO, had organized meetings on the impact of the economic crisis. UNIFEM was planning to carry out a global programme that would provide for policy advocacy, capacity development and knowledge management on gender and migration. A newly appointed global adviser on gender and migration would oversee the implementation of the programme.

The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that the Human Development Report had been the most visible activity on migration and development in 2009. The lack of reliable data on international migration by country of destination and origin had made it difficult to conduct a global analysis of migration levels and trends. While the OECD had compiled detailed information, their data was limited to OECD member countries. In the end, the Human Development Report Office had used the origin-destination matrix from the

Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty at the University of Sussex.<sup>3</sup> The representative expressed her thanks to all agencies that had made their data available for the 2009 report.

The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported that climate change induced migration had been the subject of a high-level mission to the Sahel region in June 2008 of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advisor on conflict. The mission had found that vulnerable communities in the region were affected by a combination of factors, including climate change, disputes over scarce natural resources, and increasing migration pressures due to disasters and conflicts. Following the mission, UNEP, in collaboration with the Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS), IOM and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), had conducted an assessment of the implications of current and anticipated environmental changes on conflict dynamics and migration patterns in the region. A project proposal on climate change, environment and migration, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Mauritania was currently being developed. The aim of the project was to develop solutions and mitigation measures for climate change- and environmentally induced migration in the Sahel region.

In 2006, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had adopted a Ten-Point Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration that provided practical guidance to governments and international organizations to develop strategies in situations where refugees were at risk of refoulement, human rights violations and hazardous onward movement.<sup>4</sup> The Ten-Point Plan was currently being implemented at the global and regional levels. The first meeting on refugee protection and international migration in the Gulf of Aden had been held in Sana'a, Yemen, from 19 to 20 May 2008. The second meeting, dealing with refugee protection and international migration in West Africa, was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 13 to 14 November 2008. UNHCR had also organized two roundtables on the Ten-Point Plan. The first roundtable on "Controlling borders while ensuring protection", had been organized in cooperation with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 21 November 2008. The second roundtable, entitled "Different people, different needs", organized together with ILO and IOM, had been held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 8 July 2009. The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 11 December 2008, had addressed the issue of protracted refugee situations. According to UNHCR, the number of refugees in protracted refugee situations was estimated at some 5.7 million in 2009. Five key protracted refugee situations were identified, and specific plans of action were formulated to address them. Given that the world's population was becoming more urban, UNHCR was also focusing on refugees in urban settings and had issued policy guidelines to protect and assist refugees in urban areas. UNHCR was encouraging the integration of refugee support programmes into national development strategies in order to ensure the sustainability of durable solutions and to avert irregular movements. Refugees were an important part of the labour force, provided they were granted freedom of movement and permission to work.

The representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) stated that the organization addressed migration by focusing on the impact of migrants in cities. Although local authorities had limited input into national policies, they were dealing with the challenges presented by migration on a daily basis. The forthcoming 2009/2010 State of World Cities Report would examine the impact of South-South and South-North migration on cities. UN-HABITAT would also work with the European Forum on Urban Safety (EFUS) and the UNDP office in Côte d'Ivoire on a project assisting cities of origin, transit and destination in protecting and integrating international migrants. In 2010, UN-HABITAT would

organize, with the support of the Government of Italy, an international conference to review policies aimed at integrating migrants in cities, with the goal of identifying best practices.

The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) briefed the meeting on the organization's collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in organizing the seminar "People on the move", held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 June 2009. The seminar had called attention to the barriers migrants faced in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and examined successful policies and programmes which provided accessible and culturally appropriate HIV-related services to mobile populations. As a member of the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), UNFPA had participated in preparing a "virtual fair" at the 2009 Global Forum. The fair had enabled virtual visitors to watch interviews featuring civil society leaders and policy makers discussing migration themes, to explore an on-line exhibit of good practice projects, and to participate in a daily blog. In its capacity as a member of the GMG, UNFPA had prepared a factsheet on the impact of the economic crisis on female migration. UNFPA had also participated in a study on "Regional and inter-regional processes and fora" prepared for the 2009 Global Forum and in a recent meeting of the Suitland Working Group, aimed at developing practical guidance on using household surveys to study of international migration.

#### C. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was collaborating with the other regional commissions of the United Nations and the Population Division of UN/DESA on the implementation of the development account project on migration and development. The project aimed at strengthening national capacities by improving the quality and availability of data on international migration; enhancing capacities for designing and implementing migration policy, and developing networks involving migration experts and government officials in countries of destination and origin to improve the exchange of migration information and experiences. As part of the project, ESCWA was planning to carry out a study on labour mobility, remittances and development, transnational communities and development. The study would also address "brain drain" and circular migration. ESCWA was planning to collaborate with the League of Arab States (LAS) and other relevant partners in order to assess the situation of Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

#### D. THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) called for greater interagency cooperation and for better managing national resources, particularly in the light of linkages between climate change and migration. Interagency cooperation and investments were critical to assist rural areas to maximize the impact of remittances and to address the effects of population ageing. He anticipated that a new institutional framework for rural and agricultural development would be adopted at the World Summit on Food Security to be held in Rome, Italy, from 16 to 18 November 2009. The representative of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) added that remittances were a very important indicator for monitoring food security. He stressed the need to collect real-time remittance data, disaggregated by urban and rural areas, in order to study the impact of the crisis on countries of origin.

In 2009, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) had commissioned a study entitled *Sending Money Home to Africa: Remittance markets, enabling environment and prospects*. The report addressed the regulations governing money transfers, the extent of market competition among remittance service providers, and access to financial institutions in 50 African countries. The study also used surveys to establish a profile of remittance recipients. According to IFAD estimates, migrants sent about US\$ 40 billion annually in remittances to families and communities in Africa. Remittances exceeded official development assistance (ODA) for the entire continent, and in many African countries, they exceeded foreign direct investment (FDI). Although remittances had a direct and positive impact on the lives of recipients, their full development potential had yet to be reached. Transfer costs remained high, competition among service providers was limited, and access of newcomers to the market was restricted. Based on the report, the Global Forum on Remittances, organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and IFAD in Tunis, Tunisia, from 22 to 23 October 2009, had formulated a number of recommendations, including increasing competition in the marketplace, empowering market actors, achieving effective and efficient regulation, adopting new technologies, expanding access to financial services in rural areas, and making financial services available to the rural poor. IFAD had established a multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances which was tasked with helping to develop and to support remittance services by reducing transfer costs, developing institutional partners and promoting innovative remittance and financial services. IFAD was also sponsoring a project on migration, remittances, and development in Africa, initiated by the World Bank. This project aimed to improve the understanding of the linkages between migration, remittances and development in sub-Saharan Africa and to build the capacity of local partners. Lastly, IFAD had contributed to a background paper on engaging diasporas and migrants in development policies and programmes, prepared for the 2009 Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) continued to advise countries in the management of labour migration and the social protection of migrant workers. The ILO was testing migration modules for labour force surveys in several countries and was preparing a paper on this topic. The Organization had also started advising countries on the return of migrants.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had started two new research projects in 2009. The major findings of the first project, which was on the topic of migration and climate change, would be published in 2010. The second project dealt with skilled migration, with special emphasis on migration from Africa. The book —to be published in 2011— would address the ethical aspects of recruiting skilled migrants, the linkages between education policies and highly-skilled migrants, and the future of skilled migration. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics had released an online database on the international mobility of tertiary level students.<sup>5</sup>

In the discussion following the presentations the issue of migration, natural resources and climate change dominated. The representatives of both the FAO and WMO foresaw an increase in the movement of people due to conflicts over resources and to environmental change and underlined the need for interagency collaboration to address these topics. The representative of IOM responded that internal migration was generally caused by other factors than climate change. Ms. Zlotnik said that a better understanding of internal movements in general would advance the debate over the extent to which internal migration was due to climate change. Although Governments were hesitant to address internal migration, internal migration and development were closely linked, and she suggested conducting an interagency meeting on this topic.

## E. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) during 2009 had largely focused on the effects of the global economic and financial crisis on international migration. In addressing these effects, IOM, in consultation with partner organizations, had defined the following key messages for policy makers: (a) migrants should not be made scapegoats of the crisis; (b) the crisis and its impact on migrants requires a long-term perspective, and (c) the dialogue between employers and labour migrants should include migrants' rights. The relationship between climate change and migration remained high on the organization's agenda despite the weak evidence base. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance, had carried out a series of informal interagency meetings and consultations to develop an appropriate terminology and typology on migration, displacement and climate change, and to identify possible operational and analytical gaps in the humanitarian response to displacement resulting from climate change.

IOM's International Dialogue on Migration had focused on the human rights of migrants in 2009 and would address migration and social change in 2010. IOM had been working on a series of migration profiles, funded by the EU. Of 30 country profiles completed thus far, 14 were accessible on the organization's website. The profiles used a common template and provided information on the migration situation in a given country based on a range of statistics related to immigration, emigration, return migration, remittances, labour migration and irregular migration, including human trafficking and smuggling. They also included an analysis and assessment of the institutional and policy framework governing migration in the country under consideration. It was important to keep the profiles updated and to distribute them widely. IOM had continued its collaboration with partner organizations on the development of a handbook on mainstreaming migration into national development and poverty reduction strategies. The 2010 World Migration Report would focus on migration scenarios and capacity-building.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had organized a high-level policy forum entitled "Towards responsive, effective and fair migration policies," in Paris, France, from 29 to 30 June 2009.<sup>6</sup> At the forum, ministers and other senior officials in charge of migration and integration had discussed the current economic crisis and its impact on international migration; the management of skilled and low skilled migration, and labour market integration of immigrants and their children. The forum had made the following recommendations. First, countries had to explicitly recognize the need for low skilled workers for certain types of jobs in order to avoid relegating labour migrants to an irregular status. Second, countries should improve workers' access to employment opportunities in small and medium-sized enterprises. Third, employers should be more actively involved in migrant recruitment and in identifying the actual demand for migrant labour. Fourth, policies should be formulated for sharing costs of migrant training between countries of origin and destination. Fifth, enforcement of return migration had to be accompanied by enhancing the portability of pensions and other social protection schemes, and sixth, countries should combat all forms of discrimination against migrants and their families. In 2007 and 2008, the OECD had produced a two-volume report entitled *Jobs for Immigrants* that discussed the status of labour market integration of immigrants in several OECD member states. The organization, in collaboration with the European Commission (EC), had also organized a conference on "The labour market integration of the children of immigrants" which was held in Brussels, Belgium, from 1 to 2 October 2009. For 2010, the OECD was planning to organize a conference on the effects of naturalization for immigrant integration. The OECD had also produced a joint paper with Eurostat on indicators for measuring integration of immigrants. For 2010, the organization planned a study on entrepreneurship of migrants in destination countries.

The main initiatives of the Organization of American States (OAS) on migration included building information systems, strengthening human and institutional capacity and enhancing dialogue among OAS member states. Specifically, OAS was developing an information system—Continuous Reporting System on Migration for the Americas (SICREMI)—to report timely and accurate information on migration, similar to the *Système d’Observation Permanente sur le Migrations* (SOPEMI) of the OECD. The organization was also mapping temporary worker programmes for migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, and was building a database on migration laws, programmes and public policies in the Americas. OAS was training organizations working on migration issues in Central America in order to identify, protect and assist victims of human trafficking. The organization was collaborating with the Young American Business Trust helping young and low income entrepreneurs to create their own local businesses as an alternative to emigration. OAS also assisted migrant women who were victims of violence in border areas between Mexico and the United States. OAS was committed to enhancing dialogue among OAS member States on migration issues and would continue to organize seminars to enhance migration knowledge.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supported development and poverty reduction throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB assisted member countries in social, labour migration and development programmes, and supported research and technical activities related to migration, remittances and development. Specific activities of IDB included loan and grant operations; research; support of national surveys and censuses, and awareness-raising. The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) had launched a programme to increase awareness of the economic and development impacts of remittances, and had led an effort to reduce the cost of remittance transactions. In 2009 and 2010, the Fund would continue its periodic survey of remittance flow data in the region. The Fund had also partnered with IFAD to build the Financing Facility for Remittances to support remittance services and to promote innovative financial services. IDB had launched a pilot project with the Ministry of Labour of Honduras to provide jobs to Honduran deportees from the United States. In the future, IDB’s research agenda would include research on migration modules as part of household surveys and a study of migrants’ human capital in the region.

#### F. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The representative of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) said that the Commission supported the Global Forum on Migration and Development and that it was looking forward to collaborating with Mexico, the chair and host of the fourth meeting of the Global Forum. ICMC had already met with the Government of Mexico to discuss how participation by civil society organizations at the Global Forum meeting could be increased. For the future, the presenter suggested that civil society should identify its own topics for the civil society days, and that civil society should be more involved in events leading up to the Global Forum. He also recommended greater cooperation between Governments and civil society during the meeting. Lastly, ICMC had launched Conversations on the Global Governance of Migration, an initiative that allowed Governments, civil society, international organizations and others to informally discuss the governance of international migration.

## V. STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The session on strengthening the evidence base included four presentations. The first two presenters focused on the collection of migration data and how to improve it. The third and fourth presentations concerned recent advances in estimating global flows of migrants.

The first presenter, Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita of the Statistics Division of UN/DESA, gave an overview of the status of implementation of the 2010 round of world population and housing censuses. The Statistics Division was working with Governments and partner organizations to ensure that migration questions were included in the census questionnaires. The *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, published in 2008, recommended that countries collect data and produce tabulations on 25 core topics. Three of the core topics addressed international migration, namely country of birth, country of citizenship and year or period of arrival in the country. The Division assisted countries in planning and conducting censuses, facilitated the dissemination of census results, and monitored country progress in census activities. Seventy-five countries had carried out a census between 2005 and November 2009, 63 countries would conduct a census in 2010 and 54 countries would do so in 2011. Only 10 countries had not yet scheduled a census, as compared to 26 countries during the 2000 census round. It was expected that 98 per cent of the world population would be counted as part of the 2010 round of population censuses. An analysis of 62 censuses carried out during the 2010 census round showed differences in the way countries captured migration data. Seventy-four per cent of the 62 countries —46 countries in all— included a question on country of birth, 71 per cent a question on citizenship and 37 per cent on year or period of arrival. Thirty-five countries had collected information on both country of birth and country of citizenship. Countries in Asia collected more often data on citizenship than on country of birth, whereas countries in Oceania preferred the question on country of birth over citizenship. National statistical offices were expected to publish, release and disseminate the collected information in a timely manner, but this was a low priority for many countries. The Statistics Division had created a website which allowed for the exchange of information and the provision of guidance on census-taking activities.<sup>7</sup> In collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA, the Statistics Division had developed a free software package, CensusInfo, to help countries disseminate census data.

Ms. Elizabeth M. Grieco of the U.S. Census Bureau presented an overview of the activities of the Suitland Working Group, a task force charged with improving migration data using household surveys and other sources. She also briefed the meeting on preparations for the 2010 population census. The 2010 US census would only have a 10-question form and would not collect any information on international migration. Detailed socio-economic information of the total population, including information on the foreign-born, would be provided through the American Community Survey (ACS). The primary objectives of the Suitland Working Group were to improve the quality and availability of data on migration and remittances, and to coordinate initiatives for guidelines on specialized household surveys focusing on migration. The group operated in the context of the work plan on improving international migration statistics of the Conference of European Statistics (CES), while the United States acted as chair and host of the first meeting. Organized in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Eurostat, the United Nations Population Division and the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics, the first meeting of the group had focused on using household surveys to measure migration levels and the size, distribution, and characteristics of migrant populations. The meeting, held in Suitland, Maryland, from 16 to 17 March 2009, had agreed on seven different projects.<sup>8</sup> Ms. Grieco concluded her presentation by inviting new members to join the

group and noted that the U.S. Census Bureau, as the current chair, would continue to monitor progress and coordinate the group's work.

During the debate one participant stressed that the questions on country of birth and country of citizenship should be asked in each census. The question regarding country of citizenship was especially important in the debate on migrant rights. Another participant remarked that the skills set and educational profile of migrants were critical in understanding the relationship between international migration and development. He requested that the Statistics Division include these variables in future editions of the questionnaires sent to national statistical offices in the context of the Demographic Yearbook. Ms. Grieco was asked whether the Census Bureau was involved in estimating the number of undocumented migrants and whether it was collecting information on remittances. Another participant noted that the ACS did not provide samples of sufficient size, as had previously been accomplished by the long-form of the decennial census. This would complicate—if not prevent—quantitative analysis of numerically small immigrant groups. One participant observed that national statistical offices must convince migrants of the benefits of participating in censuses and surveys and that they should address the fear of being personally identified through a census.

In response to the questions raised by participants, Ms. Osaki-Tomita said that the Statistics Division was closely monitoring the progress of census-taking activities worldwide and encouraged countries to collect information on both country of birth and citizenship. Because the response rate to the questionnaires of the Demographic Yearbook on migration flows and stocks had been low, her office was planning to increase follow-up with countries. She expressed general optimism that data collection on international migration from the 2010 round of censuses would be more successful than during the 2000 round, because Governments had realized the importance of such data for their work and due to greater capacity building efforts.

Ms. Grieco explained that the ACS consisted of three different files, namely the one-year file covering one out of 40 people, the three-year file covering three persons out of 40 people and the five-year file covering one out of eight people. Thus, the coverage of the five-year estimates of the ACS was very similar to that of the long-form of the 2000 census questionnaire and provided reliable information also on small immigrant groups. She noted that the migration supplement to the ACS appeared to have been well accepted by the respondents, including migrants. Since the Census Bureau was prohibited from collecting information on the legal status of immigrants, it did not provide estimates on the number of undocumented migrants in the United States. To make sure that all migrants, regardless of their legal status, participated in the 2010 census, the Census Bureau was running outreach campaigns to convince people to participate. She replied that the Current Population Survey (CPS) supplement included basic questions on the private use of remittances and that the response rate to these questions was surprisingly high.

The third presentation was made by Ms. Costanza Giovannelli of the United Nations Population Division who briefed the meeting on the main findings of *Trends in international migrant stock: The 2008 Revision*. The 2008 Revision updated the 2005 estimates of the number of international migrants by sex in each country or territory of the world by five-year periods from 1960 to 2010. Estimates were produced for the 230 countries and territories. The number of international migrants, also called the international migrant stock, generally represented the number of persons born in a country other than that in which they lived. For countries lacking information on country of birth, data on the number of persons having foreign citizenship was used if available. For 179 countries or areas, the estimates were based on the foreign-born population; for 42 countries data by country of citizenship was used. For the remaining nine



countries or areas, the estimates had to be imputed due to a lack of any information regarding the origin of migrants. The 2008 Revision projected that there would be 214 million international migrants in the world in 2010, up from 156 million in 1990. In 2010 the majority of international migrants lived in more developed regions, 128 millions versus 86 million in less developed regions. In 2010, the more developed regions would host about 18 per cent of the world's population, but 60 per cent of the world's migrant stock. Globally, the proportion of international migrants was expected to grow from 2.9 per cent in 1990 to 3.1 per cent in 2010. In the more developed regions, the share of migrants in the total population had passed from 7.2 per cent in 1990 to 10.3 per cent in 2010. In contrast, the percentage of migrants in the less developed regions had dropped slightly, from 1.8 per cent in 1990 to 1.5 per cent by 2010. The United States, the largest destination country for international migrants, was projected to host 42.8 million migrants in 2010, followed by the Russian Federation (12.3 million), Germany (10.8 million), Saudi Arabia (7.3 million) and Canada (7.2 million). The number of countries with more than one million inhabitants where international migrants constituted more than 10 per cent of the total population was expected to rise from 29 in 1990 to 38 in 2010. Countries with the highest proportion of international migrants in 2010 would be Qatar (87 per cent), United Arab Emirates (70 per cent) and Kuwait (69 per cent).

Refugees constituted an important share of the global migrant stock. It was estimated that by 2010 the global refugee stock would reach 16.3 million persons, up from 15.6 million in 2000, but lower than the 18.5 million estimated in 1990. The recent increase in the refugee population, especially in less developed countries, was due to inclusion of persons in refugee-like situations. The proportion of refugees among the global migrant population declined from 12 per cent in 1990 to 9 per cent in 2000 and further to 8 per cent in 2010. For estimating the migrant stock, mid-year averages of the number of refugees reported by UNHCR and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) were added to the estimates of the international migrant stock for most developing countries where refugees were unlikely to be included in the census. This adjustment was not made in the case of developed countries where censuses and population registers tended to include refugees. Between 2005 and 2010, the global migrant stock was expected to grow by 19 million persons. Because the size of the migrant stock was affected not just by immigration and emigration, but also by mortality of the foreign-born, total net migration among the foreign-born was estimated at 24.4 million over the period 2005-2010. Female migrants were expected to constitute almost half of the total migrant stock at the world level, or 49 per cent in 2010. Although there was little change in the proportion of female migrants over the past 20 years at the global level, important regional differences existed. Thus, the percentage of female migrants was the highest in Europe (52.3 per cent), followed by Oceania (51.2 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (50.1 per cent) and Northern America (50.1 per cent). The proportion of female migrants was the lowest in Africa (46.8 per cent) and Asia (44.6 per cent).

The fourth and last presentation in the session was made by Mr. Çağlar Özden of the World Bank. He briefed the meeting on a recent initiative to estimate the international migrant stock for all countries of destination by all countries of origin, or "bilateral stocks", covering the period 1960 to 2000. The data were obtained from the Global Migration Database, maintained by the United Nations Population Division, the most complete set of statistics on the foreign and foreign-born population, classified by country of origin, sex and age. Depending on the data available, country of origin was recorded either as country of birth or country of citizenship. The data were primarily derived from population censuses or, where available, population registers. Mr. Özden noted that the project faced several challenges, including defining a master country list and the associated recoding of migration data; estimating missing data, and harmonizing survey dates. Preliminary analysis of the data showed that about 44 per cent of the data were truly

bilateral raw data; the rest had to be estimated. Initial results showed that the global migrant stock had doubled from 76 million persons in 1960 to 159 million in 2000. The United States and Western Europe had absorbed about half of this growth, while the disintegration of the former USSR into 15 independent states and the subsequent reclassification of internal migrants to international migrants accounted for about one-quarter. The remainder was due to the emergence of the GCC countries as key migrant destinations, the growth in intra-African migration flows and migration towards Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Although the total number of international migrants worldwide had more than doubled, the percentage of the world population that was an international migrant had remained fairly stable, between 2.0 and 2.5 per cent. Disaggregating the world into the North and the South, the presenter showed that South to South migration dominated global trends between 1960 and 2000, due in part to the increase in migrant stock following the disintegration of the former USSR. As a consequence, millions of persons who had been internal migrants within the former USSR had become international migrants because their place of birth had become a separate country. While North to South and North to North migration remained fairly stable over the last 40 years, South to North migration increased significantly in the 1980s. Thus, the number of international migrants from the South living in the North had risen from 11 million in 1960 to 55 million in 2000. The presenter then highlighted various migration corridors, starting with the United States, the single most important destination for international migrants, with Mexico and the Philippines as primary countries of origin. Another important South to North migration corridor was the one from Turkey to Germany. In the South, the Pakistan to India corridor had lost in numerical importance while migration from Burkina Faso and Mali to Côte d'Ivoire had increased over time. Mr. Özden concluded his presentation by stating that constructing this bilateral database inevitably involved trade-offs between accuracy and pragmatism. Despite the paucity of data, he expected that the project would contribute to a better understanding of global migration trends.

During the discussion, one participant noted that he was confused by the different estimates on migration within and between the North and the South provided by various presenters over the course of the meeting. Another participant asked the two presenters to clarify the treatment of refugees in their estimates. Several participants requested that the estimates prepared by the World Bank be made available to the public as soon as possible. The World Bank representative was also asked how he estimated the migrant stock by sex for countries where such data were not available and whether he had plans to disaggregate the matrix by age. One participant queried the reliability of the data presented for certain migration corridors. One delegate expressed concern that environmental refugees and internally displaced persons had not been mentioned during the presentations, although in his country, there were some 20 million people at risk of losing their homes due to environmental change.

One participant recalled that a recent Gallup poll, which had surveyed respondents regarding their migration intentions,<sup>9</sup> had shown that 16 per cent of the world's adults intended to move to another country permanently, and inquired whether such findings had been taken into account by the presenters. However, another participant questioned whether the poll had contributed to serious research in this area. He added that it was difficult to measure people's intentions and that intentions were not a reliable indicator for future behaviour. In contrast, another participant noted that he had found the Gallup polls to be very useful in his work, and that the results of the most recent poll clearly showed people's dissatisfaction with the current social, economic and political conditions. However, he agreed that the polls were less useful for projecting migratory movements.

In response, Ms. Zlotnik said that the Population Division's migrant stock estimates for the less developed countries included the number of refugees as reported by UNHCR and

UNRWA. The underlying assumption was that in developing countries refugees were more likely to be segregated from the rest of the population, and less likely to be counted by the population census. She admitted that there was a chance of over-counting the number of refugees by adding them to the migrant stock figures in less developed countries. She explained that the differences in the estimates for migration within and between the North and the South were mainly the result of the different regional classifications adopted by the various agencies. Presenters were advised to properly explain the definitions used when providing data by regional aggregates. Lastly, she noted that the underlying data for the World Bank project were accessible through the Global Migration Database, posted on the Population Division's migration website.

Mr. Özden replied that he intended to ask a select group of experts to verify the estimates before making them available to the general public. The matrix would be accompanied by a detailed documentation of sources and methodological notes. He confirmed that he had not added the number of refugees to the migrant stock data, because the World Bank was primarily interested in economic migrants. He said that he had used sub-regional data to fill data gaps at the country level. Given the many issues encountered when constructing bilateral migration matrices by sex, it was unlikely that they would attempt to disaggregate the estimates by age. He confirmed that some changes in migration corridors were caused by the redrawing of national boundaries rather than actual movements, such as in the case of the former USSR.

## VI. THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Hovy opened the last session of the coordination meeting by welcoming the two speakers. He introduced the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador Anastasis Mitsialis, who would present the achievements of the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009. He was also pleased that Mr. Noel González Segura, Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in New York, had agreed to deliver a statement on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Juan Manuel Gomez, the chair of the fourth Global Forum, which would be in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 11 November 2010.

Ambassador Mitsialis thanked the Population Division for inviting the chair of the third Global Forum, H.E. Ms. Theodora Tzakri, Deputy Minister of Interior, Decentralisation and E-Governance of the Hellenic Republic. Since she was unable to attend, he had been designated to deliver the statement on her behalf. The theme of the third Global Forum was "Integrating migration policies into development strategies for the benefit of all." It was chosen with the aim of sharpening the development focus of the Forum and to highlight the role migration could play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In total, the two civil society days, organized by the Onassis Foundation, and the two governmental days had attracted nearly 300 civil society representatives and 600 delegates from 140 Governments and 35 observer organizations. Both events had followed one agenda set by the Greek chair, which had clearly created synergies between the events. Civil society has presented a report during the opening session of the governmental meeting.

Ambassador Mitsialis observed that the Global Forum had grown into a unique global process where Governments, international organizations and civil society could informally discuss the linkages between international migration and development. The Greek Forum had successfully addressed the connection between root causes of migration and achievement of the MDGs against the backdrop of the global economic and financial crisis. The meeting had also showed how integration and reintegration strategies in countries of destination and origin could

strengthen the human development of migrants and their contribution to the well-being of their families and communities. The Athens meeting had also reinforced the practical orientation of the Global Forum process by identifying policy gaps and offering practical solutions to both countries of origin and destination. Since Greece was chairing the Global Forum, two ad hoc working groups had been established that were tasked with implementing Global Forum outcomes. The first working group was concerned with protecting and empowering migrants for development. The second working group, in which the Population Division played a valuable role, dealt with policy coherence, data and research. Ambassador Mitsialis also mentioned that a global meeting of chairs of RCPs, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 5 June 2009, had allowed for a space to share experiences in facilitating regional dialogues and cooperation on migration. Lastly, the Greek chair had initiated two studies. The first was aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of migrant resource centers in providing information and support to migrants. The second would provide best practices in encouraging voluntary return and reintegration of contract workers.

He presented the main recommendations from the roundtable discussions held during the Athens Global Forum. Participants had agreed that international migration should be integrated into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. The preparation of migration profiles, such as those funded by the EC, were considered a useful tool in providing greater coherence between international migration and development policies and in bringing together information on transnational communities and gender. In order to promote the role of transnational communities in development, participants had suggested strengthening their capacities, engaging them more actively in development planning, and preparing a handbook. Countries were also encouraged to share information on the impacts of the global financial crisis on migrant communities with other countries. Furthermore, participants in the Forum had called for the creation of a set of indicators to evaluate the impact of integration policies on development, the effectiveness of social protection policies, and the impact of migrant reintegration on labour markets in countries of origin. In this regard, an observatory could be established to collect data and experiences with reintegration. The Government of Bangladesh had proposed to develop a pilot programme, in partnership with financial institutions and NGOs, to provide low-cost pre-departure loans to migrants. Another suggestion involved the development of a database on circular migration programmes that could be made available to the Global Forum. Migrant resource centres in countries of origin and destination were called upon to strengthen their collaboration in order to share information and best practices to support migrants. It was proposed that the United Nations Statistical Commission be requested to ensure that national statistical offices included migration questions in the 2010 census round. Lastly, participants had called for closer linkages between the Global Forum process and RCPs.<sup>10</sup> While gender issues had been addressed at all roundtables, more work remained to be done in collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data. The outcomes of the Global Forum discussions would be made available through the Global Forum website and through the National Focal Points, whose roles in enhancing national coherence should be strengthened. The Ambassador noted that there was a need to assess the future of the Global Forum process ahead of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the General Assembly. In conclusion, Mr. Mitsialis called on the participants of the coordination meeting to become partners in helping Governments implement the GFMD outcomes.

Asked to complement Ambassador Mitsialis' presentation, Ms. Zlotnik noted that no other Global Forum meeting had seen so much interaction between Governments and civil society. She also welcomed the highly structured organization of the meeting, with short presentations by chairs of the roundtables and ample time allocated for dialogue among participants. She was especially impressed with the roundtable on "Engaging diasporas and

migrants in development policies and programmes” in which the chair had asked participants to present practical examples of their work. Despite the global economic and financial crisis, there had been no calls for overly restrictive immigration policies. She added that following the same agenda during the governmental and the civil society days had fostered important synergies. She noted that Governments had to arrange for appropriate follow-up to the GFMD meetings and that the interaction between GFMD and the United Nations could be strengthened. In this regard, it was important that the work of the two ad hoc working groups continued their work under the new chair-in-office. She concluded by applauding the Greek Government for convening an excellent Global Forum meeting.

Mr. Noel González Segura of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations joined Ms. Zlotnik in congratulating Greece for its organization of the third Global Forum. He expressed Mexico’s satisfaction in chairing the fourth meeting of the Global Forum in 2010. As a country of destination, origin and transit of migrants, it was particularly appropriate that Mexico would be hosting this important intergovernmental forum seeking to enhance dialogue and cooperation between countries. Mexico hoped that the international community would move away from linking international migration to security concerns and focusing on the burden migrants bring to countries of destination, to adopting a more positive approach that migration could be beneficial to all concerned. Mexico supported a multilateral approach to migration that placed the individual migrant and the protection of his and her human rights at the centre of the debate. Mexico was committed to maintaining continuity with past Global Forum meetings while adding region-specific perspectives to the debate. In conclusion, the representative said that Mexico had begun preparations for the fourth Global Forum, including an analysis of potential themes of discussion. Mexico was proposing to enhance the dialogue between countries, transnational communities, civil society and international organizations, focusing on concrete success stories of the linkages between migration and development.

During the debate, several participants congratulated the Greek Government for organizing a successful meeting of the Global Forum. One participant noted that the civil society days had much improved over previous meetings, with a better balance between academia and practitioners and that he had appreciated the roundtable on “Building alliances: Business engaging with other civil society actors.” He suggested the creation of a support unit for the civil society days to ensure continuity between different Global Forum meetings and follow-up of recommendations, advocated for greater cooperation between civil society and Governments during the Mexican chair-in-office, and suggested in this regard that civil society should play a greater role in setting its own agenda. One participant asked how United Nations agencies could better contribute to the Global Forum. Another participant thanked the Government of Mexico for meeting with civil society organizations at an early stage and was looking forward to further collaboration. One delegate inquired about the mechanisms for following up GFMD recommendations.

In his closing remarks, the Greek Ambassador wished Mexico every success in organizing the forthcoming meeting of the Global Forum. Citing the Greek Government’s experience with the Onassis Foundation, he advised the Mexican Government to invite a preeminent civil society group to organize the civil society days.

Mr. González Segura said he was very thankful for the suggestions made and would convey them to H.E. Ambassador Juan Manuel Gomez, the chair of GMFD IV. Regarding the future of the forum, Mexico had always felt that the Global Forum process should be close to the United Nations. At the same time, his country respected the wish of other countries to maintain the current state-led and informal character of the Global Forum process. The Mexican GFMD

would be organized by the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with support from other governmental organizations such as those dealing with statistics and population issues. Dialogue between the Global Forum and the United Nations was very important. Indeed, the Global Forum could benefit from the excellent work done by many United Nations organizations, including the Population Division, which had collaborated with his Government on several occasions. He confirmed that the Mexican Government had already met with NGOs working in the field of migration in order to include their views in the next Global Forum meeting. He concurred with Ms. Zlotnik about the benefits of having the same agenda for the governmental and the civil society days.

Mr. Hovy added that the network of National Focal Points, established during the Belgian chairmanship of the Global Forum in 2007, was an important element in following up GFMD recommendations. Through this network, United Nations Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders were able to communicate and liaise with one another and with the Forum chair. During the Athens meeting there had been a call for strengthening the network of National Focal Points. He expressed the hope that the report of the Athens meeting would soon be forwarded to the Secretary-General for distribution among Member States.

## VII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

In his closing remarks, Mr. Hovy reminded the audience that the General Assembly would revisit the topic of international migration and development at its sixty-fifth session. He thanked the presenters for their presentations and expressed his gratitude to all participants for their active contributions. The information that had been shared during these past two days would constitute an important input for the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. He thanked Ambassador Mitsialis of Greece and Mr. Noel González Segura of Mexico for their presentations and then proceeded to close the meeting.

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the website of the GMG and the 14 factsheets on the impact of the economic crisis on migration, see [http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/gmg\\_on\\_migration.htm](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/gmg_on_migration.htm) (accessed 27 December 2009).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the seminar, see [http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/pdf/090804\\_report\\_africa\\_eu\\_7th\\_partnership\\_iom\\_unitar.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/pdf/090804_report_africa_eu_7th_partnership_iom_unitar.pdf) (accessed 12 February 2010).

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the database, see [http://www.migrationdrc.org/research/typesofmigration/global\\_migrant\\_origin\\_database.html](http://www.migrationdrc.org/research/typesofmigration/global_migrant_origin_database.html) (accessed 11 December 2009).

<sup>4</sup> For the plan, see <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf> (accessed 10 December 2009).

<sup>5</sup> For access to the database, see [http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=143&IF\\_Language=eng](http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=143&IF_Language=eng) (accessed 12 December 2009).

<sup>6</sup> For more information on the meeting, see [http://www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343,en\\_21571361\\_42931477\\_43072742\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343,en_21571361_42931477_43072742_1_1_1_1,00.html) (accessed 11 December 2009).

<sup>7</sup> For more information on this website, see [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010\\_PHC/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm) (accessed 14 December 2009).

<sup>8</sup> For the final report of the meeting, see <http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.migration.htm> (accessed 15 December 2009).

<sup>9</sup> For more information on the 2009 Gallup poll, see <http://www.gallup.com/poll/124028/700-Million-Worldwide-Desire-Migrate-Permanently.aspx> (accessed 17 December 2009).

<sup>10</sup> For the Global Forum website, see <http://gfmd.org/> (accessed 5 February 2010).

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