

**NINTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

New York, 17-18 February 2011

**INPUT TO THE  
NINTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

*International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

---

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

## **Introduction**

IOM welcomes the emphasis of the Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration on issues of direct relevance to the migration and development discourse, including: a) an examination of the development of indicators that measure the contribution of international migration to countries of origin and destination; b) information on recent initiatives to build capacities on international migration and development, and c) discussion on the contribution of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant organizations to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and to the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development.

All indications are that current migration patterns will continue in the twenty-first century, driven by, among others, demographic trends marked by negative population replacement rates in the industrialized world, resulting labour market deficits in the North that cannot be met locally, coupled with projections of significant growth in the labour force in developing countries from an estimated 2.4 billion in 2005 to a projected 3.6 billion in 2040 and continued high unemployment in developing countries, perpetuating continuous North–South economic and social disparities. All of this is exacerbated by natural, man made, as well as slow-onset disasters – most notably those induced by climate change – that are likely to result in additional migration flows. These population movements – still representing only 3 per cent of the world’s population, but, numerically the largest in recorded history – are spurred on by the information, communications and transport revolutions, and can be expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

With migration now an integral part of the global economic and social landscape, and labour migration firmly embedded into the fabric of global economic activity, the challenge for migration policy makers and practitioners will be to ensure that current migration management practices are keeping pace with the rapidly evolving landscape if the benefits of this mobility are to be optimised and the challenges it sometimes engenders are to be minimised. The choice of focus of this meeting therefore is timely.

In addition to the general negative impact of the financial crisis on legal migration opportunities, there is a regrettable growing anti-migrant sentiment globally. This is a matter that IOM views with grave concern and underscores the need for concerted action against these anti-migrant sentiments. The increasingly negative attitude toward migrants is reflected in a variety of ways, including through political campaigns; sensationalist media programming; new national laws that build walls; tightened visa regimes that have led even more migrants to seek the services of human traffickers and smugglers; and incidents of abusive, menacing treatment of migrants. Governments and all actors involved in migration management face a difficult task of responding to and preventing potentially volatile situations involving heated social tensions among their constituencies. Critical issues such as the human rights of migrants and their integration into host societies will likely become even more acute. Greater investment and planning in the future of migration will therefore be required to help improve public perceptions of migrants and lessen political pressure on governments to devise hasty, short-term political responses to migration.

### **(a) Development of indicators that measure the contribution of international migration to countries of origin and destination**

IOM initiated the development of the *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning* which was launched together with UNDP as a joint Global Migration Group (GMG) initiative at the GFMD 2010. The Handbook addresses the gap between rhetoric and action by

providing a step-by-step guide for policymakers, giving practical meaning to the notion of migration and development. The first part of the Handbook gives an overview of how migration and development are linked, the potential benefits of mainstreaming migration into development planning tools, and the current state of play with regard to the inclusion of migration issues into development planning around the world. Part II describes the institutional structures and policy frameworks that need to be put in place to effectively integrate migration into the development planning cycle, while Part III compiles migration and development programme experiences including projects analysing the impact of migration on development. IOM currently co-Chairs the GMG Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies together with UNDP, tasked with making the handbook operational through the development of appropriate tools and resources including *inter alia* training materials on migration and development.

Since 2005, IOM has provided extensive technical support for the development of more than 30 *Migration Profiles* (MPs)<sup>2</sup> for countries in different regions of the world that provide a framework for data collection and analysis in support of strategic policy planning at the national and regional levels. MPs have also been used by the UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies and by the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council with whom IOM works closely. MPs bring existing information from different sources together in a structured manner as a means to identify and develop strategies to address data and policy development needs. MPs aim to, among others, enhance governmental knowledge about migration and its relationship to development, support governments in establishing mechanisms for regular reporting on migration-related trends, improve the use of migration information for policy development, foster greater inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration with respect to data collection and policy development. Several MP exercises - both at national and regional level - are currently being implemented by various governments with the technical support of IOM (Benin, Bolivia, Chile, Guyana, Moldova, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela) and an increasing number of governments have shown interest in developing MPs in the near future. In 2011, IOM plans to organize regional workshops for government representatives to share experiences between countries who have already developed MPs and those who have not. Such workshops are in line with the activities proposed by the Swiss Chair-in-Office for the GFMD 2011 and would further promote MPs as a useful tool for enhancing governmental knowledge about the migration and development nexus, greater policy coherence and evidence-based policy making. A seminar on the MPs is also being organized by IOM, UNITAR and UNFPA within the framework of the Migration and Development Series, with financial support from the MacArthur Foundation. To this end, IOM also plans to develop a *MP Guide* explaining how IOM offices can best provide technical guidance and support to governments wishing to prepare a country migration profile. The guide will be used in combination with the new MP template which provides a “menu” of thematic modules relevant for a comprehensive analysis of the migration situation in a country. Each thematic module outlines the main issues to be discussed together with a given set of indicators, among which are indicators to measure the contribution of migrants to the development of countries of origin and destination.

Ad-hoc studies regularly carried out by IOM field missions also provide useful insights into how to measure the impact of migration on development. Two studies, *Economic and Social Impacts of Remittances on Households: The Case of Pakistani Migrants Working in Saudi Arabia* and *Angola: A Study of the Impact of Remittances from Portugal and South Africa*, represent recent relevant research projects which might be replicated elsewhere.

The EC-funded African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Observatory on Migration - supported by IOM and a Consortium of 15 partners - aims to build the knowledge base on the migration and development nexus by enhancing existing leading theoretical and empirical frameworks for measuring

---

<sup>2</sup> For further information on Migration Profiles, please see IOM's dedicated webpage at : <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research/migration-research/migration-profiles/cache/offonce/>

this nexus through new dedicated research projects. The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) - Consortium member of the Observatory - will lead impact studies in several target countries (Cameroon, DRC, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago) commissioned by the ACP Observatory. Based on the methodology developed by IPPR, it is envisaged to further develop the existing inventory on potential impacts into a detailed list of indicators measuring the effects of human mobility on development. In 2011, the ACP Observatory will also organize regional training workshops on data collection focusing on the measurement of the impact of South-South migration on human development.

In recent years there has been a growing awareness of the importance of considering the right to health of migrants in the framework of the broader agenda on migration and development. In May 2008, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution 61.17 on the Health of Migrants that, amongst other things, calls upon Member States to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation on migrants' health. IOM, upon the request of the Government of Spain during its Presidency of the European Union, developed a list of indicators to monitor structural health inequities affecting migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities, amongst other vulnerable groups. In cooperation with WHO and the Government of Spain, IOM organised a *Global Consultation on Migrant Health* in March 2010. One of the four priorities that was identified was the need 'to better monitor migrant health' by establishing indicators on migrant health. Without adequate data, governments lack the evidence needed for policy development and to assess the health costs and benefits of modern migration. In follow up to this meeting IOM has convened an expert group on migrant health monitoring in collaboration with WHO and other partners. Among others, this group will provide technical expertise to member states in generating comparable international data on migrant health. Such evidence would enable Member States and partner agencies to develop and monitor the impact of their policies and programmes. Migration health indicators need to be considered in the development of the accountability framework that is being established by the *UN High Level Commission to Track Results and Resources for Women's and Children's Health* launched by UN SG Ban Ki-moon in September 2010.

#### **(b) Recent initiatives to build capacities on international migration and development**

As demonstrated in the 2010 edition of the IOM flagship publication, the *World Migration Report on The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*, IOM is committed to working with Member States and the broader international migration community to develop core capacities to manage migration effectively. As an example of this commitment, in 2010, IOM's African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Moshi, United Republic of Tanzania, trained more than 400 government officials from 31 African countries in immigration, border management, migration health, counter-trafficking, and migration and development. IOM's regular International Migration Law courses, trainings and capacity building activities continue to enhance the capacity of governments and other migration stakeholders to develop and implement laws and policies consistent with international migration law. In 2010, IOM conducted trainings in Afghanistan, Djibouti, El Salvador, Mongolia, Namibia, South Africa, Syria and Zimbabwe. In the same year, the sixth edition of the International Migration Law Course IOM organizes on a yearly basis in cooperation with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law took place.

In 2011, IOM will develop training activities at the regional and national levels. Events in Armenia, Austria, Poland, Thailand (for States of the South Pacific) and Latin America will take place during the year. Additionally, trainings for diplomats are held every year in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the auspices of the Indonesian MoFA, and in New York, United States of America, in collaboration with UNITAR. In a similar vein, IOM and UNITAR will lead an effort to enhance capacity building and coherence by surveying in 2011 the migration training activities of the 16 GMG partner agencies.

Another area in which IOM is stepping up capacity building efforts for Member States is through the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs). The role that RCPs and similar inter-regional *fora* dealing with migration issues can play in addressing migration policy coherence within and between regions is now widely acknowledged. However, meaningful interaction between such

*fora* is often impeded by the uneven capacities of RCPs. IOM continues to focus on capacity enhancement at the request of RCP participating states with a view to putting them on a firmer footing towards predictability and regularity of meetings, a factor that is critical to building and sustaining trust and promoting cooperation within and between regions. In line with outcomes of the 2009 Global RCP Meeting, IOM is planning a 2011 global consultation of RCPs which will address, *inter alia*, the issue of migration and development from the perspective that the benefits of migration can be maximised through a comprehensive approach to migration governance which involves balancing facilitation of regular migration with effective measures to counter irregular migration. Such a comprehensive approach includes, *inter alia*, investing in capacity building, international cooperation and partnerships for increased collaboration.

In the health domain, IOM, in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, developed a handbook on *Caring for Trafficked Persons* with the support of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT). The handbook provides practical, non-clinical advice to help concerned health care providers understand the phenomenon of human trafficking, recognize some of the associated health problems, and consider safe and appropriate approaches to providing health care to trafficked persons. With the financial support of UNFPA and others, the book has been translated for practical use at the field level. A training package based on the handbook is being developed and will be rolled out in 2012. At the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, IOM is implementing a capacity development programme to strengthen the health ministry's efforts to manage health challenges related to migration, focusing on internal, inbound and outbound labour migration. Further, in collaboration with partners from academic institutions, IOM has developed training curriculum for health workers which provides migrant friendly health services. Additionally, IOM continues to work to ensure the integration of health modules in border management training for immigration officials.

The successful integration of migrants is key to enhancing the developmental impact that migration can bring to both host and origin countries. There is need to dispel popular myths about migration and migrants. A new narrative is needed – one based on factual accounts of migrants' contributions to society and the global economy. This can be achieved through trade, investment and development linkages, including the role of migrants as a channel for development finance in the form of remittances, the transfer of skills and ideas, and the establishment of commercial and cultural networks. Successful migrant integration requires a process that begins in the country of origin, continues in the country of transit and then in the country of reception or resettlement. Increasing migrants' knowledge of the host country, while concurrently raising awareness in receiving communities, improves the prospects for successful migrant integration and multiculturalism. To this end, IOM has co-developed, together with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, an Online Community on Migration and Integration – Building Inclusive Societies (IBIS)<sup>3</sup> which showcases projects from around the world that successfully help integrate migrants and connects grassroots initiatives with policymakers and civil society groups.

As it has done since its creation sixty years ago, IOM continues to facilitate the safe and organized transfer of persons for resettlement, return, family reunification and both permanent and temporary labour migration. In 2010 alone, IOM resettled more than 86,000 persons through major programmes in Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Turkey and in another 85 countries. In the first half of 2010, more than 22,000 of these migrants – including refugees, internally displaced persons, migrant workers, live-in care providers – participated in IOM migrant training programmes in 43 countries, on four continents, to prepare them for their new lives abroad.

**(c) IOM contribution to the Global Forum on Migration and Development and to the informal thematic debate on international migration and development**

---

<sup>3</sup> [www.unaoc.org/communities/migrationintegration](http://www.unaoc.org/communities/migrationintegration)

IOM remains firmly committed to the success of the GFMD which it views as an important State-driven platform for dialogue aimed at identifying practical and action-oriented ways to address the links between migration and development. To this end, and as in previous years, IOM intends to continue to support the GFMD in a variety of ways. IOM has seconded a migration expert to the GFMD Taskforce since the very beginning, and will continue to contribute to the preparation of background papers when requested to do so. IOM has offered its full support to the Government of Switzerland in its hosting of the 2011 GFMD, both in its individual capacity as well as in its capacity as a GMG member agency.

The 2009 global meeting of RCPs<sup>4</sup> recommended that such gatherings be convened on a bi-annual basis in the future. To this end, IOM is planning a 2011 consultation, the third such consultation and the second since the establishment of the GFMD<sup>5</sup>. The 2011 consultation, like its predecessors, will allow representatives from the various RCPs to exchange information and good practices on migration issues of interest to individual RCPs. In addition, it will encourage a robust exchange among them on possible improvements they could bring about within their respective RCPs in terms of organizational and operational arrangements, with a view to enhancing the regularity with which they meet and thereby enhancing their effectiveness. In doing so, this consultation will serve a capacity building function by deepening the cross-fertilization of information and ideas, in addition to further enhancing the role that RCPs play in international migration, including vis-à-vis other mechanisms facilitating inter-state dialogue, partnership and cooperation on migration at the regional, inter-regional and global levels. Representatives of the GFMD 2011 Chair will be invited to attend the forthcoming consultation.

With support from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), IOM undertook a rapid assessment of Migrant Resource Centers (MRCs) globally in providing good practices for the protection of migrant workers. The UAE also hosted and co-organized a workshop in January 2011 together with IOM, OHCHR and ILO on the labour recruitment industry of the UAE. Jointly with UN Women, IOM prepared the Annex to the background paper for RT 2.2 at GFMD 2010 on the global care worker industry, a theme that will be followed up by Switzerland in 2011.

In collaboration with the Migration Policy Institute, and with the support of the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland, IOM will be producing a handbook on engaging diaspora in development activities, as recommended during Athens GFMD Roundtable 1.2. In follow up to Roundtable 2.1 of the Puerto Vallarta GFMD, IOM is prepared to carry out an assessment of cost effective health care models for multiple migration scenarios, in partnership with relevant GMG agencies. Following the Puerto Vallarta GFMD endorsement of the Migration Profiles as a tool to promote policy coherence and evidence-based policy development, IOM continues to assist interested governments in preparing Migration Profiles in different regions of the world. Together with GMG partners, IOM and UNDP will lead work on mainstreaming migration in national development strategies in several countries, to assist governments interested in systematically factoring migration into their development planning strategies and tools as well as their donor partners, and to identify lessons learned. Coherence of the UN, IOM and international community response on migration and development is an additional key objective of this work and has been a key emphasis of each GFMD. Finally, IOM is reviewing the outcomes of the Puerto Vallarta GFMD with a view to assisting those governments and other partners wishing to take forward any of its recommendations.

---

<sup>4</sup> The 2009 Global RCPs meeting was the second global gathering of RCPs following an initial meeting of RCPs that was convened in 2005 in the context of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM).