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Featured articles

Trends in the International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has issued the *2008 Revision of Trends in the International Migrant Stock*,¹ a CD-ROM containing the latest estimates of the number of international migrants in the world, its regions and 228 countries or areas. The estimates contained in the CD-ROM were derived from national data, generated mostly by population censuses or population registers, relating to the number of foreign-born persons living in a country at different points in time. For countries lacking such data, the number of foreigners was used instead. Classification of those data by sex allowed the derivation of estimates of the changing sex distribution of migrants as time elapsed. The estimates presented refer to every year multiple of five from 1960 to 2010. The 2010 figures are the result of extrapolating recent trends and should be viewed as projected numbers.

According to the *2008 Revision* of the migrant stock, the number of international migrants in the world rose from 178 million in 2000 to 195 million in 2005 and is expected to reach 214 million in 2010.

As illustrated in the following map, the majority of international migrants live in developed countries,

¹United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008.

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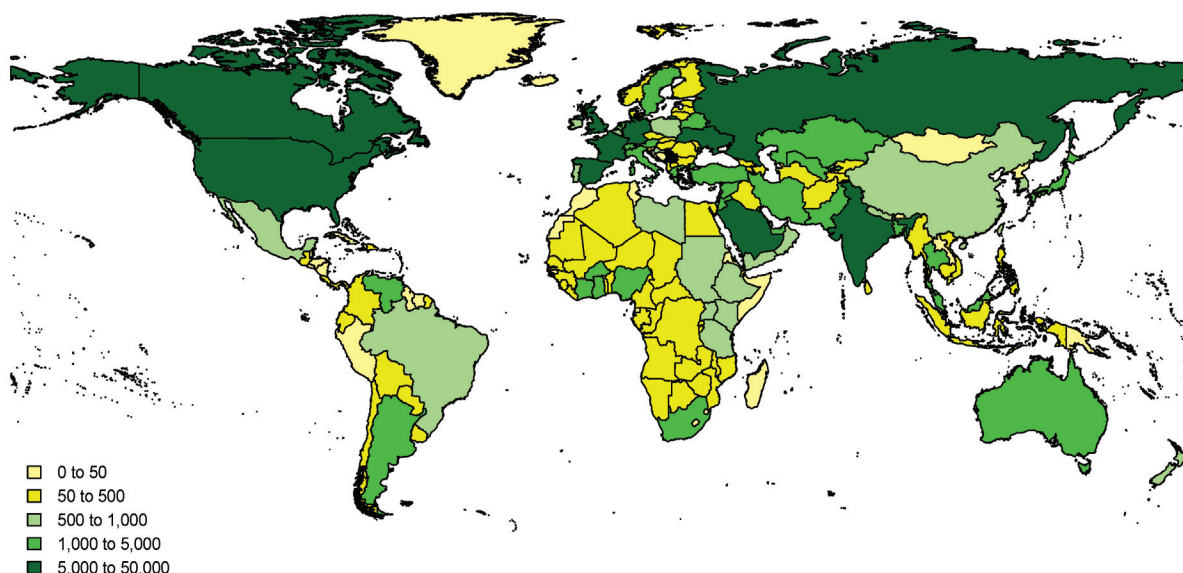
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which include in this case Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, the United States and all the countries in Europe plus the members of the Commonwealth of Independent

International migrant stock, 2010 (thousands)



The number of international migrants in the world rose from 178 million in 2000 to 195 million in 2005 and it is expected to reach 214 million in 2010.

States (CIS), that is, the former USSR. According to the *2008 Revision*, the developed countries as a group hosted 123 million international migrants in 2005 and are expected to have 133 million migrants in 2010. Therefore, about 66 per cent of all international migrants live in that group of countries.

The rest of the countries in the world, that is, the developing countries hosted 72 million international migrants in 2005 and are expected to have 81 million in 2010, accounting today for just about a third of all international migrants.

The numbers of migrants cited above include refugees. Although the global number of refugees had been declin-

ing since 1990, it has increased recently. Thus, it moved from 19 million in 1990 to 14 million in 2005 but is expected to reach 16 million by 2010. This change stems from the rising numbers of refugees in developing countries because the number of refugees in developed countries has been decreasing since 1995.

The changing trend in the number of refugees affects the growth rate of the total number of international migrants. Thus, whereas the growth rate of the total number of migrants increased steadily between 1990 and 2005 and is expected to remain unchanged until 2010 at 1.8 per cent per year, if refugees are excluded from the migrant stock, the growth rate peaks in the early part of this decade and then declines markedly, from 2.2 per cent annually during 2000-2005 to 1.7 per cent per year during 2005-2010. The declining growth rate in the estimates that exclude refugees reflects the expected effect of the economic downturn in slowing down international migration worldwide over the period 2005-2010. Furthermore, the slowdown

in the growth rate of international migrants at the world level is mainly driven by a reduction in the growth rate of international migrants in developed countries, which is noticeable whether refugees are included or not (figure 1). That is, including refugees, the growth rate of the number of international migrants in developed countries drops from 2.1 per cent annually in 2000-2005 to 1.6 per cent annually in 2005-2010, whereas excluding refugees the decline is from 2.3 per cent to 1.7 per cent.

In contrast, in developing countries the growth rate of the migrant stock has increased during this decade mainly because of the growing number of refugees, as there is no increase in the growth rate of the number of international migrants excluding refugees.

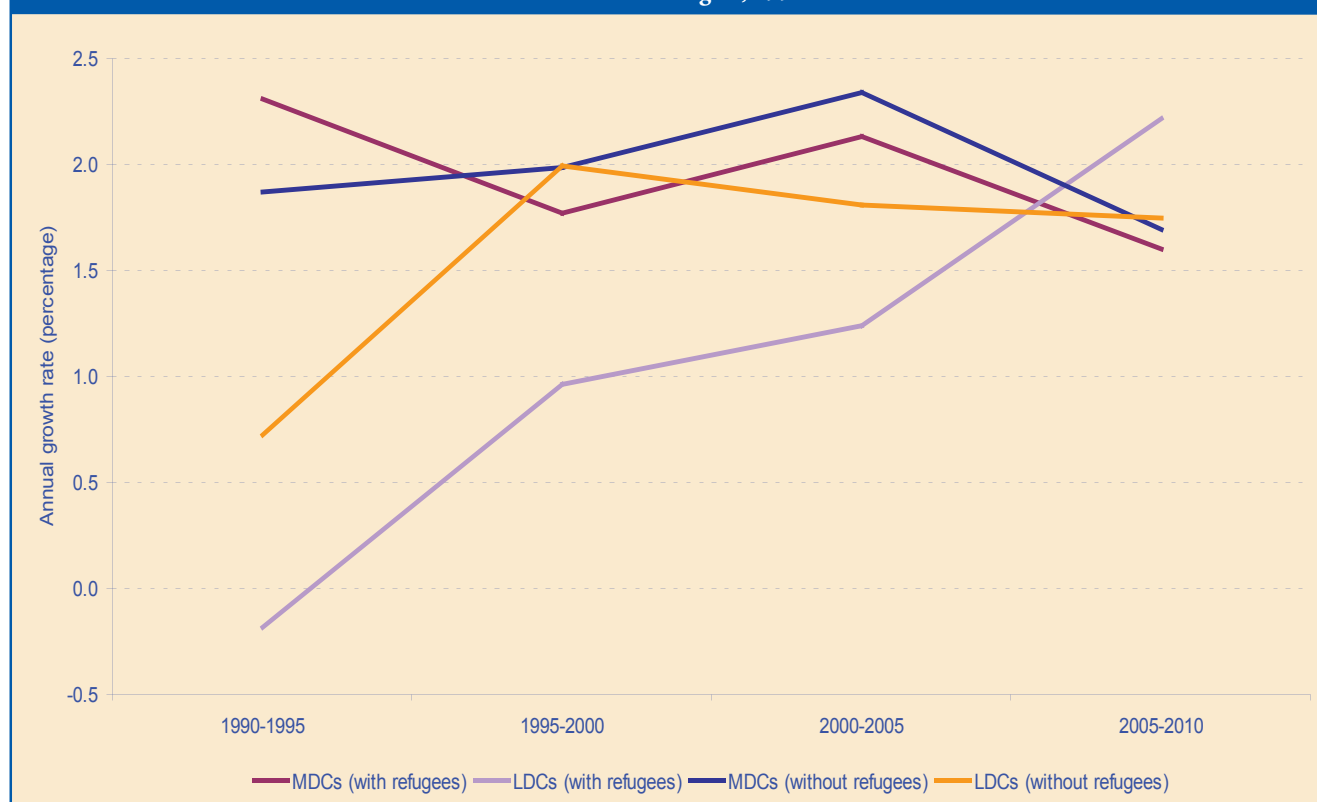
The *2008 Revision* also shows that, since 1990, international migrants have become increasingly concentrated in rich countries. Among the 214 million migrants expected

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in 2010, 57 per cent will be living in high-income countries: 104 million in high-income developed countries and 17 million in high-income developing countries, which include the oil-producing Member States of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Furthermore, the high-income developed countries experienced the largest gain in international migrants, amounting to 47 million migrants (a rise from 57 million in 1990 to 104 million in 2010). There is also a marked increase in the number of international migrants in the high-income developing countries, amounting to 7 million migrants (from 10 million to 17 million), and a smaller

Figure 1. Annual growth rate of the number of international migrants by development group, with and without refugees, 1990-2010



increase of 3 million migrants in countries with medium-high and medium-low income. However, the number of international migrants decreased by 3 million in the low-income countries. These trends indicate that prosperous economies with ageing populations were major magnets for international migrants and suggest that the current economic recession, which is affecting those economies markedly, will have a dampening effect on international migration flows even if it is unlikely to stop the growth of the number of international migrants altogether.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of international migrants increased in the majority of countries. Currently, the United States of America is by far the main receiving country in the world, with a projected 43 million international migrants in 2010. The Russian Federation follows, with 12 million international migrants and Germany comes next, with 11 million. Saudi Arabia, Canada and France, in order of the number of migrants, follow with about 7 million international migrants each.

International migrants account for 10 per cent of the population of developed countries.

At the world level, the number of international migrants as a proportion of the population is rising. Globally, international migrants accounted for 2.9 per cent of the world population in 1990 and are expected to account for 3.1 per cent in 2010. International migrants account for a markedly higher share of the population of developed countries where, as a proportion of the population, they increased from 7.2 per cent in 1990 to nearly 10 per cent today. In the developing countries as a whole, the share of international migrants in the population fell slightly

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between 1990 (1.8 per cent) and 2000 (1.5 per cent), but is expected to remain at that level until 2010.

Globally, female migrants constitute almost half of the international migrant stock and their proportion has declined slightly over the past decade. By 2010, the proportion female among international migrants is projected to be 49 per cent, down from 49.4 per cent in 2000. This reduction stems mainly from a major drop in the proportion female among international migrants in Northern America, given the preponderance of male migrants among those born in Latin America and living in the United States.

The percentage female among international migrants by 2010 will continue to be highest in Europe (52.3 per cent), followed by Oceania (51.2 per cent) and Latin America and the Caribbean (50.1) as well as Northern America (50.1). Yet, male migrants will still outnumber female migrants by wide margins in Africa and Asia where they are expected to account for 53 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively, of the total number of international migrants in 2010.

The full set of estimates for all countries and areas of the world can be found in a CD-ROM entitled Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision. An order form is available at www.unmigration.org. The estimates for each country can also be accessed via an interactive database accessible on the same website. ■

High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals

Since 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have provided a global framework for addressing by 2015 the world's most urgent development challenges. Over the years, the MDGs have become a catalyst for international cooperation between developed and developing countries and have contributed significantly to improving the lives of millions of people. Yet, progress is uneven and many countries remain off track in the path towards the achievement of the MDGs.

A key objective of the 2008 High-level Event on the MDGs was to identify ways of scaling-up efforts to achieve the MDGs and keep up the momentum beyond 2008.

In order to accelerate the attainment of the MDGs, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly convened a High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals in New York on 25 September 2008, in the context of the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. The main objectives of the event were to review progress made and take stock of existing gaps in the implementation of actions to achieve the MDGs by 2015 as well as to identify ways of scaling-up efforts to that end and ensure that the momentum to reach the MDGs was maintained beyond 2008.

The High-Level Event (HLE) consisted of a plenary opening session followed by three parallel roundtables focusing on: (a) poverty and hunger; (b) education and health, and (c) environmental sustainability. Gender equality and the global partnership for development were addressed as cross-cutting themes in the three roundtables. A background note by the Secretary-General entitled *Committing to Action: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, with five sections addressing each of the

roundtable topics as well as the cross-cutting themes, was issued on 25 July 2008 to guide the discussion.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat collaborated in the organization and servicing of the HLE on the MDGs. The Population Division served as the focal point for the organization of the roundtable on education and health and led an inter-agency team that collaborated in preparing the sections on education and health of the Secretary-General's background note as well as MDG Action Points on those themes.

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The improvement of education and health is important for the attainment of most of the MDGs and involves a wide range of actors, interventions and indicators. In order to make sure that the background note included the latest and most reliable information on the different MDG indicators and that its key messages reflected a consensus from the different United Nations entities, the Population Division organized meetings and coordinated activities with key agencies working to improve education and health, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and other divisions within the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The background note provided an overview, as well as a reminder, of the demanding challenges that still needed to

be tackled in achieving the MDGs while noting that, with common resolve and commitment to collaborative action, the MDGs could be reached by 2015.

The Population Division also assisted in documenting the new initiatives and commitments made in relation to the HLE, especially during the various Partnership Events in support of the HLE, and collaborated in the preparation of the Secretary-General's closing statement for the event itself.

The High-level Event generated an estimated US\$ 16 billion, including some US\$ 1.6 billion to bolster food security, more than US\$ 4.5 billion for education and US\$ 3 billion to combat malaria.

The HLE allowed Governments, foundations, the business community and civil society organizations to rally

around the call to action to reduce poverty, hunger and disease by 2015, by announcing new commitments during the HLE that would accelerate progress towards reaching the MDGs. A compilation of initiatives launched and the commitments made during the HLE and related events can be found on the event's website. As the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the end of the event: "Today we did something special. We brought together a broad coalition for change. [...] [This event] exceeded our most optimistic expectations." He noted that it had generated an estimated US\$ 16 billion, including some US\$ 1.6 billion to bolster food security, more than US\$ 4.5 billion for education and US\$ 3 billion to combat malaria. The HLE was therefore successful in reaffirming both the political and financial commitments of all stakeholders for the timely achievement of the MDGs, particularly those related to health and education. ■

Meetings

Panel on the Contribution of Population Policy to the Achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

In order to raise awareness among Governments about the importance of population trends for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat organized an expert panel on "The contribution of population policy to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals," which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15 December 2008.

The panelists included in order of the presentation, Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division; Mr. John Ross, consultant and expert on family planning

programmes; Ms. Ann Biddlecom, Senior Research Associate at the Guttmacher Institute, and Ms. Ann Pawliczko, Technical Specialist in the Technical Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The panel discussion attracted about 60 participants, including the President and Vice-Presidents of the Commission of Population and Development who made presentations on the national experiences of their respective countries. Thus, Ms. Elena Zúñiga-Herrera, President of the Commission, spoke about Mexico, Mr. Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin spoke about Malaysia, Ms. Yera Ortiz de Urbina presented the case of Spain, Ms. Ivanka Tasheva spoke about Bulgaria, and Ms. Irene Bwalya Muloshi Tembo presented the case of Zambia.

The panelists documented the varied population trends that characterize the regions and countries of the world today and related them to the efforts made by Governments to develop and implement population policies, particularly in relation to family planning. They noted that high population growth was still prevalent in most of the least developed countries and, if continued, it would remain an obstacle for the attainment of key development goals, especially for the reduction of maternal mortality, poverty and hunger and the achievement of universal education.

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The panel noted that several obstacles remained to implementing the family planning programmes that would contribute to accelerate the decline of fertility, which would, in turn, facilitate the achievement of key development goals, especially in the least developed countries. Lack of political commitment, weak policy frameworks, deficiencies in service delivery and constraints in access to contraceptive supplies all contributed to limiting the ability of couples and, in particular, married women to exercise the right to have the number of children they desired and attain the spacing of births that was beneficial to both mothers and children.

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Attention was paid to the high levels of adolescent fertility that still characterized some countries, mostly those in the developing world. In some regions, particularly in Africa and Southern Asia, early marriage was the cause of

high adolescent fertility. Since childbearing early in life posed greater than average risks for both mothers and their children, delaying childbearing until women reached legal adulthood would also reduce maternal and child mortality, both critical MDGs. Postponement of marriage and childbearing was likely to occur if greater emphasis was put on educating girls and adolescents, that is, on increasing both the primary and secondary school enrollment of girls. Improvement of women's educational attainment usually translated into higher labour force participation among women and better economic outcomes for them and their families. In this way, the synergistic effects of achieving the MDGs in education and health, partly through population policy measures such as those aimed at delaying early marriage, would contribute to reduce poverty and increase wellbeing.

The panel underscored the large gap existing between donor funding for family planning and the objectives established in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. The decline in donor funding for family planning, which on a per capita basis amounted in most countries to more than 50 per cent over 1997 levels, was hampering efforts to achieve universal reproductive health, particularly in the least developed countries where levels of unmet need for family planning were particularly high. There was also the concern that the funding targets set in the ICPD Programme of Action were outdated because, given the slower than expected reduction of fertility in the least developed countries, more women were in need of family planning than originally expected. Furthermore, in 1994 the ICPD did not anticipate the rapid expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic nor the steep increases in the funding required to provide anti-retroviral therapy to those living with the disease. The recent decline in the value of the dollar with respect to other currencies also exacerbated the inadequacy of the cost estimates included in the ICPD Programme of Action. For those reasons, the panel suggested that new estimates of the funding needed to address current demand for reproductive health services as well as to cover the costs of the other components identified in the ICPD Programme of Action be prepared.

The panel stressed that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and especially of the MDGs, was inextricably linked to the success of population policies and population strategies such as those laid out in the ICPD Programme of Action. In particular, achieving universal access to reproductive health and enabling couples and individuals to exercise their right to decide freely and without coercion the number and spacing of their children had already resulted in major reductions of fertility in the majority of countries in the world. Among economists, there was a growing consensus that declining fertility not only reduced population growth but brought about changes in the age structures of population that facilitated economic growth provided they were accompanied by supportive macroeconomic policies. Therefore, during the second half of the twentieth century, in many developing countries, declining fertility had contributed to reducing poverty, increasing school enrolment, empowering women, and improving maternal and child health, all key development goals. Nonetheless, it was still a challenge to achieve similar successes in the countries lagging behind in the transition to low fertility, particularly those classified as least developed, where high fertility persisted in the absence of effective, community-oriented

family planning programmes. The good news was that, as the experience of many countries had demonstrated, the knowledge and means to implement effective family planning programmes existed so that committed Governments could, with the assistance of the international community, make a difference in a short time.

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The panel discussion was held in preparation of the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, that was held at the United Nations Headquarters from 30 March to 3 April 2009. The theme of the session was “The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”.

The presentations of the panelists are available on the Population Division’s website at www.unpopulation.org. ■

Seventh Coordination Meeting on International Migration

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat convened the Seventh Coordination Meeting on International Migration in New York from 20 to 21 November 2008. The meeting had the following three objectives: (a) to discuss follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, (b) to identify emerging issues on international migration and development, and (c) to exchange information on international migration and development. About 80 participants attended the meeting, including representatives of agencies, funds and programmes

of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, invited experts and representatives of Member States. The annual coordination meeting is the only system-wide venue where intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations share information in a systematic way on their activities related to the various aspects of international migration, review advances in our knowledge and understanding of the migration and development nexus and discuss emerging issues. In 2008, the meeting provided a venue for discussion of the early assessments of how the unfolding financial and economic crises might affect international migration.

(a) Follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue

The Under-Secretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Mr. Esteban Conejos, addressed the meeting and, in his capacity as Chair of the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), made a presentation of the outcomes of that meeting, which was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 27 to 30 October 2008. The theme of the meeting had been "Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development" and it had included two distinct parts: a meeting of civil society held on 27 and 28 October and an intergovernmental meeting held on 29 and 30 October. During the first meeting, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, trade unions, faith-based organizations and academics, discussed the issues and produced a set of recommendations to transmit to the intergovernmental meeting. The key recommendations that civil society made to Governments were:

- *To consider the benefits of migration and resist the temptation to cut migrant numbers in the current economic circumstances;*
- *To recognize the need for the development of a global architecture to ensure a rights-based approach to migration;*
- *To re-affirm the commitment to development through realizing the MDGs, full employment and decent work as priorities for development.*

The intergovernmental meeting was organized around a number of roundtables covering three major topics: (1) migration, development and human rights; (2) secure, regular migration can achieve a stronger development impact, and (3) policy and institutional coherence and partnerships. The roundtables were organized by selected Governments and led by them. The debates in the roundtables resulted in a number of outcomes involving proposals for concrete action. There were several calls for compiling best practices in regard to specific issues, including the protection of international migrants and bilateral agreements on temporary labour migration. The assessment of

pilot circular migration schemes was suggested. To benefit from the experience of the regional consultative processes on migration, a meeting of the heads of those processes was requested. The establishment of a Data and Research Working Group was called for and the recommendation of including appropriate migration questions in the 2010 round of censuses was supported. A call was made to carry a new round of the survey on policy and institutional coherence and to set up a website to ensure on-going exchange and to stimulate the identification and dissemination of best practices in policy and institutional coherence. The full report of the second meeting of the Global Forum can be found at www.unmigration.org.

The Deputy Minister of the Interior for Greece, Mr. Athanasios Nakos, informed the meeting about the preparations being made for the third meeting of the Global Forum that would be held in Athens, Greece, in November 2009. The theme of the meeting would be "Integrating migration policies in development strategies for the benefit of all, and especially countries of origin".

Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division/DESA, informed the meeting that the General Assembly had considered the report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development in October 2008 and was debating how to follow-up the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that it had conducted in 2006. Mr. Philip Guest, Deputy Director of the Population Division/DESA, presented the report of the Secretary-General that was the basis for the discussion of possible follow-up actions to the High-level Dialogue. He said that the report provided three options for follow-up which were not mutually exclusive, namely: (a) to maintain consideration of international migration and development in the General Assembly's second committee; (b) to give special consideration to the ideas generated by the Global Forum on Migration and Development in the deliberations of the General Assembly; and (c) to conduct periodically a high-level dialogue on international migration and development. A resolution on the subject was still under discussion.

(b) Migration, remittances and the financial crisis

Mr. Dilip Ratha, representative of the World Bank, presented the most recent World Bank estimates on remittance flows between countries and his assessment of how they might be affected by the unfolding financial crisis. He noted that the crisis would likely reduce the growth of remittance flows, especially because it was having major negative impacts on developed countries, which were the source of a major proportion of remittances worldwide. However, it was not possible to make categorical statements in this regard because the impact of the crisis was likely to differ in the various regions and countries and was yet to play itself out fully. In previous crises, remittance flows had proved to be resilient to economic upheavals and had often been countercyclical, that is, increasing rather than decreasing when the crisis hit. The reason for such trends was that migrants were likely to send more money home when their families lost income as a result of economic stringencies. Of course, such a response depended on whether the migrants themselves could keep their jobs in the host countries. The worrisome aspect of the current crisis was that unemployment was rising rapidly, particularly in those sectors where migrants were concentrated.

Ms. Barbara Span of Western Union presented the Global Migration Barometer, a study conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit on behalf of Western Union to assess (a) the attractiveness and accessibility of countries for migrants, and (b) the demand for migrants to sustain economic growth. Sixty-one countries were selected for the study. A country's attractiveness to migrants was measured in terms of its economic and social conditions. Accessibility to migrants was assessed in terms of ease of entry, integration and legal environment, including public attitudes to migration and the respect of migrants' rights. Twenty-two indicators were used. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected and weighted to reflect the relative importance of each indicator. According to the composite score that resulted, politically stable and democratic countries with high living standards were identified as the most attractive destinations for migrants. However, most

of the countries attractive to migrants did not necessarily have a demand for them. Countries identified as having a high demand for migrants were Japan and other countries in Western and Eastern Europe, most of which had rapidly ageing populations. Australia, Canada, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States of America ranked high in terms of accessibility for migrants. Youth-oriented cultures, liberal attitudes towards migrants and their families, and pro-migration policies contributed to increase the scores of those countries.

(c) Improving data and building capacity

Mr. Georges Lemaitre, representative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), presented the work being carried out to derive comparable estimates of international migration flows based on permit data reported by members of OECD. Mr. Lemaitre noted that the quality of permit data in OECD countries was good but their use was hampered by differences among countries in the regulation of migration which led to a lack of comparability in the data. However, by requesting data classified according to permit duration, OECD was trying to improve the comparability of the data and use them to assess current trends in international migration directed to OECD countries.

Mr. Douglas Massey, Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, presented the draft report of the Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research. He summarized the key recommendations made by the Commission, namely: (1) to include in population censuses both a question on country of birth and another on country of citizenship, and to ask those born abroad for the date of first arrival in the country; (2) to increase the use of administrative statistics on international migrants, (3) to add a migration module to existing household surveys, (4) to provide access to anonymized micro-data from censuses and relevant surveys, and (5) to build capacity for data collection and dissemination at national level.

Ms. Colleen Thouez, representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) spoke about the results of the training activities that UNITAR had been organizing for the United Nations diplomatic community in New York. The Migration and Development Seminar Series had begun in 2006 and was a useful vehicle to disseminate the latest knowledge and research on key aspects of international migration. Supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNFPA, the seminar series had covered a wide range of topics, including most recently migration and climate change, ways to combat human trafficking and the importance of international migration law. UNITAR was planning to extend their training activities to other United Nations locations and audiences, including through e-learning courses.

(d) Activities in the area of international migration and development

During the meeting, representatives of the participating entities described their current and future activities in

the area of international migration and development and shared lessons learned and important findings. The resulting review indicated that the outcomes of the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the activities of the resulting Global Forum were influencing or guiding the work of many of the entities in the United Nations system. More entities were carrying out activities on international migration, exploring its causes and its consequences for development. During 2008, several had focused their activities on international migration, human rights and development in commemoration of the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In addition, several organizations were working to compile, collect and disseminate data on international migration as well as to build capacity at the national and regional level in this regard.

Presentations and background papers for the meeting are available on the Population Division's migration website at www.unmigration.org. ■

United Nations Second Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat has the task of producing estimates of the levels and trends of mortality for all the countries of the world. This task encompasses the use and development of direct and indirect methods to estimate mortality, particularly when the data available are incomplete or deficient. As mortality continues to decrease in most countries of the world, deaths become increasingly concentrated at older ages where problems of age reporting may introduce severe biases in the estimates of mortality levels. In addition, as the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to expand, accounting for its effect on adult mortality is essential. These developments justify devoting more attention to the evaluation and improvement of the methods used to estimate adult mortality.

As part of this ongoing effort, the Population Division has been organizing annual meetings to discuss matters related to the estimation of adult mortality. The Second Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality took place in New York on 31 July 2008. Participants represented agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of United Nations regional commissions, national statistical offices, universities and research organizations. The meeting reviewed recent progress in methodological developments for estimating mortality in countries with deficient data and identified future directions for research and collaboration. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss ongoing activities in different institutions working on the estimation of adult mortality, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Economic Commission for Latin America

and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the University of California at Berkeley and the United States Census Bureau.

The discussion considered recent work on death distribution methods for the estimation of the completeness of death registration, including the impact of international migration on the results of those methods. Two widely used methods for the estimation of the completeness of death reporting, namely, the generalized growth balance method (GGB) and the method based on synthetic extinct generations (SEG), assume that the population being studied is closed to international migration. Yet, this assumption rarely holds in some developing countries where the death distribution methods are necessary to adjust mortality estimates. The Population Division reported on its exploration of ways to extend the application of the GGB method to cases where international migration is a significant component of population change and proposed approaches to adjust for the effect of non-zero international migration. The new approach was tested using data relative to Canadian males for the period 1989-1998. When the GGB method was applied to the observed data without adjusting for migration, adult mortality was underestimated or overestimated by between 7 per cent and 9 per cent. However, even when the data had been adjusted for net migration using available estimates, the GGB method did not yield the expected adjustment factor of one. It seemed, therefore, that the results yielded by the GGB method were sensitive to other errors in the data.

The meeting also addressed the quality of estimates produced from data on the survival of respondents'

siblings collected by demographic surveys. It was noted that estimates of adult mortality based on sibling histories were generally lower than expected according to other data. While introducing proper weighting could correct for the intrinsic bias arising from the correlation of sibship size and mortality, there were as yet no methods that would allow an adjustment for underreporting of sibling deaths.

The meeting also considered the performance of the two-dimensional mortality model presented at the first Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality held in 2006. Since then the model had been extended to be specific for each sex and its ability to fit observed data had been tested against the mortality schedules from which it had been derived. It had also been tested by fitting other data. The tests conducted showed that the model performed adequately. Comparisons were also presented between the fitted model and estimates of old-age mortality in selected developing countries.

The discussion examined the usefulness of modelling adult mortality in terms of two components: one representing "senescence" and another "background" mortality. The implications of this approach for the projection of mortality were also considered.

The report of the Second Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality is available on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org. ■

Wall charts

New wall charts on *Urban and Rural Areas 2007* and *Urban Agglomerations 2007* have been issued by the Population Division/DESA. Based on the *2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*, these two

wall charts present revised and updated estimates of the urban and rural populations of all countries and areas in the world as well as for their major urban agglomerations.

Urban and Rural Areas 2007

The wall chart entitled *Urban and Rural Areas 2007* displays key indicators of urbanization for 2007, 2025 and 2050. Estimates are presented for 299 countries or areas as well as for the world's development groups, six major areas (i.e., Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania) and 21 regions. Projections of future urbanization are consistent with the results of *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.2).

The wall chart shows that in 2008, for the first time in history, half of the world population lived in urban areas. From then on, a majority of the world population will be constituted by urban dwellers (figure 2).

Among the major areas, Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest level of urbanization (78 per cent), followed by Europe (72 per cent). Africa and Asia, in con-

trast, are still mostly rural, with only 38 per cent and 41 per cent of their populations, respectively, living in urban areas. Over the coming decades, the levels of urbanization in Africa and Asia are expected to increase more rapidly than those of the other major areas. Still, by mid-century, Africa and Asia are still likely to have much lower levels of urbanization than the more developed regions or Latin America and the Caribbean.

Despite its low level of urbanization, in 2007, Asia was home to about half of the urban population in the world. Europe had the second highest share, at 16 per cent. Over the next four decades, Africa and Asia will experience marked increases in their urban populations. The urban population of Asia is projected to more than double and that of Africa will likely triple. By mid-century, most of the urban population of the world will be concentrated in Asia (54 per cent) and Africa (19 per cent).

Figure 2. Urban and rural population of the world, 1950-2050



The world's rural population is expected to reach a maximum of 3.5 billion around 2019 and to start declining slowly thereafter, to reach 2.8 billion in 2050. Currently, the majority of rural dwellers live in Asia (71 per cent) and Africa (18 per cent) and the concentration of the world rural population in those two major areas is

expected to increase, so that in 2050 they are projected to account for 91 per cent of the world's rural population. In future, most of the population growth expected in urban areas will be concentrated in the cities and towns of the less developed regions. ■

Urban Agglomerations 2007

The wall chart entitled *Urban Agglomerations 2007* presents estimates referring to 1975, 2007, and 2025 for urban agglomerations having one million inhabitants or more in 2007. For each agglomeration, the total population, its rank among all other large urban agglomerations, the average annual rate of population change, and the shares that its population represents of the country's total and of the urban population in 2007 are presented.

Tokyo, which had nearly 36 million inhabitants in 2007, is the most populous urban agglomeration in the world. It encompasses all contiguous densely inhabited districts in Tokyo-to (ku-bu) plus those in 87 surrounding cities and towns, including Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba, important cities in their own right. The next largest urban agglomerations are New York-Newark, Ciudad de México, Mumbai and São Paulo, each with about 19 million inhabitants in 2007. In 2025, Tokyo is still expected to be the world's most populous urban agglomeration, with 36 million inhabitants, followed by Mumbai (with 26 million), Delhi (23 million), Dhaka (22 million) and São Paulo (21 million).

The distribution of the urban population by city size varies among the major areas. In Latin America and the Caribbean, for instance, 14 per cent of urban dwellers live in megacities, which are urban agglomerations with at least 10 million inhabitants. Relatively high concentrations of urban dwellers in megacities are also found in Northern America, where megacities account for 11 per cent of the urban population, and in Asia, where they account for

10 per cent. In contrast, 58 per cent of urban dwellers in Africa live in small urban centres with fewer than half a million inhabitants and 68 per cent of those in Europe do the same.

Today, Asia has 11 megacities; Latin America, 4; Northern America, 2; and Africa and Europe, one each. Eleven of these megacities are capitals of their countries. By 2025, the number of megacities will rise to 27 with those in Asia increasing by 5, those in Africa by 2 and those in Europe by 1.

Large urban agglomerations are not necessarily experiencing fast population growth. Out of the 19 megacities that existed in 2007, only 3 are expected to experience population growth above 2 per cent per year during 2005-2010: Dhaka in Bangladesh (3.3 per cent), Delhi in India (2.5 per cent) and Karachi in Pakistan (2.4 per cent). Seven megacities are expected to have an annual population growth below 1 per cent during that period.

Faced with the opportunities and challenges associated with urbanization, many Governments have consistently reported that they are not satisfied with their population's spatial distribution. According to *World Population Policies 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.8), as of 2007, 85 per cent of Governments expressed concern about their pattern of population distribution, a percentage that has changed little since the 1970s.

To obtain the wall charts on Urban and Rural Areas 2007 and on Urban Agglomerations 2007 (United Nations

publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.13 and E.08.XIII.12, respectively), please contact United Nations Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-853, Dept. PRES, New York,

NY 10017 USA; tel. 1-800-253-9646 or 1-212-963-8302, fax: 1-212-963-3489, e-mail: publication@un.org. ■

Data on CD-ROM

The Global Migration Database

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat has completed work in the construction of the *Global Migration Database*, an internet-accessible database containing the most complete collection of data on national populations classified by place of birth or by country of citizenship and derived mainly from population censuses or population registers. The data were compiled from census publications, reports by National Statistical Offices to the Statistics Division of DESA or special tabulations from censuses made for the IMILA project of ECLAC or derived from IPUMS International, a database developed and maintained by the Minnesota Population Center.

The *Global Migration Database* includes more than 4,000 tabulations referring to over 230 countries or areas. Census tabulations relating to the population by place of birth or country of citizenship vary both between countries and for the same country over time. The types of tabulations contained in the database include:

- *the population of both sexes classified by country of birth;*
- *the population of both sexes classified by country of citizenship;*
- *the population classified by country of birth and sex;*
- *the population classified by country of citizenship and sex;*
- *the population classified as native or foreign-born and by sex and age group;*

- *the population classified by citizenship (citizens and non-citizens) and by sex and age group;*
- *the population classified by country of birth, sex and age group;*
- *the population classified by country of citizenship, sex and age group.*

Ideally, all countries should have the last two types of tabulations but, in practice, the tabulations available for each country vary. In constructing the database, the aim was to achieve exhaustive coverage of all types of tabulations that presented the population classified by place of origin (whether the origin was defined in terms of place of birth or citizenship) and, when available, classified also by sex or age or both.

The data contained in the database refer mostly to the period 1960 to 2006. The data have been entered as reported in official sources, maintaining the country listings used in each source. The *Global Migration Database* is meant to serve as reference for those interested in the analysis of changes in international migration over time. It is a research tool rather than a finished product. It is updated periodically as new data become available and is not open for general public use. Those wishing to access the database must register with the Population Division.

Registered users get access to an interface that permits downloading selected types of data, including: (a) the sex and age distribution of the population classified by country of birth (or citizenship) and enumerated in a given country; (b) the population born in a given country (or having the citizenship of a given country) by country of

enumeration, or (c) the population enumerated in a given country by country of origin (or citizenship).

The Population Division wishes to acknowledge the collaboration of the World Bank and the University of Sussex in collecting some of the data included in the database. The financial support from UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP is also gratefully acknowledged.

To register as a user of the United Nations *Global Migration Database* visit www.unmigration.org. For any other inquiries, please write to the Director, Population Division/DESA, United Nations, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017, USA, or e-mail migrationp@un.org. ■

Resolutions

Resolution 63/225 on International migration and development. Adopted by the General Assembly [on the report of the Second Committee (A/63/416/Add.2)]

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, 62/156 of 18 December 2007 on the protection of migrants, 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development and 61/208 of 20 December 2006 on international migration and development,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and taking note of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted on 2 December 2008,²

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

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the International Convention on the Elimina-

tion of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁵ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁶ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁷

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁸ and the invitation to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

Recalling also the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, and the eight fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization,

Recalling further Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,⁹

Bearing in mind the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,¹⁰

Acknowledging that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness of the issue,

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1.

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁴ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

⁹ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25), chap. 1, sect. B.

¹⁰ A/61/515.

Acknowledging also the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

Acknowledging further the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

Recognizing that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹¹
2. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;
3. *Emphasizes* that respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the benefits of international migration;
4. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination;
5. *Takes note* of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which held its first meeting in Brussels from 9 to 11 July 2007, and its second meeting in Manila from 27 to 30 October 2008, as an informal, voluntary, open, State-led initiative, and also takes note of the generous offer of the Government of Greece to host the third meeting of the Global Forum, to be held in Athens on 4 and 5 November 2009, as well as the offers of other Governments to hold subsequent meetings of the Forum;
6. *Invites* the countries of origin and destination, in accordance with domestic legislation, to undertake appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;
7. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to continue considering the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;
8. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to undertake such action, bearing in mind that remittances can-

not be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance, debt relief or other public sources of financing for development;

9. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries;

10. *Acknowledges* the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary migration, circular migration and return migration on the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as on migrants themselves;

11. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes on international migration in order to, inter alia, reinforce the positive contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen the protection of women migrants from all forms of violence, discrimination, trafficking, exploitation and abuse by promoting their rights and welfare, while recognizing in this regard the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels;

12. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

13. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way, within the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their efforts to address migration issues within their respective development strategies in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Decides* to hold, within existing resources, a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013, the focus and modalities of which will be decided upon at its sixty-seventh session;

¹¹A/63/265 and Corr.1.

17. *Also decides* to convene, within existing resources, at its sixty-fifth session, in 2011, a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development;

18. *Further decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”;

19. *Invites* the regional commissions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to pro-

vide inputs, in accordance with respective mandates and within existing resources, to the report of the Secretary-General on this item;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*72nd plenary meeting
19 December 2008*



United Nations

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