

**Informal Thematic Debate on**

***International Migration and Development***

Thursday, 19 May 2011

Conference Room 4, North Lawn Building, UN Headquarters, New York

**Program**

**10:00 – 10:20 Opening remarks**

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss** *President of the General Assembly*
- **H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon** *Secretary-General*

**10:20 – 13:00 Panel one: *The contribution of migrants to development***

**Chair: Mr. William Swing** Director General, International Organization for Migration

**Panelists:**

- **Professor John Connell** Professor of Human Geography, University of Sydney
- **H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa** Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Ecuador and Former Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations
- **Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri** Chairperson of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and Member of the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad
- **Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie** Co-Founder, African Foundation for Development [AFFORD] and Consultant, Sierra Leone
- **Mr. Göran Hultin** Chief Executive Officer, Caden Corporation and Contributor to the Talent Mobility Project, World Economic Forum

**Focus of discussion**

As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. How can Governments support their nationals working abroad as assets for their national economies and for social development in their countries and communities?
2. What social and other policies have proven effective or are needed to maximise the benefits of migration for development, for example measures to ensure the portability of social security benefits, facilitate the transfer of remittances, or ensure access to health, education and other critical social services for migrants?
3. What are successful examples of cooperation between Governments and key stakeholders such as trade unions and other members of civil society, employers, and private recruitment agencies, to safeguard the rights of migrants and ensure their full participation in the social and economic life of countries of destination?

**15:00 – 17:40 Panel two: *Improving international cooperation on migration and development***

**Chair: Dr. Khalid Koser**, Academic Dean and Head of the New Issues in Security Course, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

**Panelists:**

- **H.E. Mr. Saqr Ghobash** Minister of Labour of the United Arab Emirates
- **Ambassador Eduard Gnesa** Special Ambassador for International Cooperation on Migration Issues, Switzerland, in his capacity as Head of Switzerland's Presidency of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
- **Mr. Anthony Lake** UNICEF Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Global Migration Group
- **Ms. Thetis Mangahas** Senior Migration Specialist and Deputy Regional Director, Policy and Programmes, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- **Dr. Rafael Fernández de Castro** Founder and Chair, Department of International Studies, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

**Focus of discussion**

1. What are concrete outcomes and best practices achieved by the regional and global cooperation mechanisms, including informal consultative processes, in which Member States discuss migration and development issues, and which could be multiplied or replicated in other world regions? How can the international community best support these efforts?
2. What are good models and lessons learned in the context of bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating migration and protecting migrants' rights? Have, for example, bilateral agreements and codes of practice had a positive influence on the ethical recruitment of migrant health personnel? Are other measures necessary?
3. What are good examples of how development cooperation has been effectively targeted to support national efforts to integrate migration into development planning and projects? How could such measures be stepped up?
4. Given the urgent need to facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and certifications between countries of origin and countries of destination in order harness the economic and social contribution of migrants to development, which good practices have emerged on the recognition of qualifications and how can these be replicated?

**17:40 – 17:50 Summary by Sir Peter Sutherland**, *Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration and Development*

**17:50 – 18:00 Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly**