



High-level Dialogue on
International MIGRATION
and **DEVELOPMENT**



Making Migration Work

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High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Round table 1:

Assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation of the post-2015 development framework

Friday, 1 October 2013, 10.00 – 13.00

Summary by

**H.E. Ms. Rita Claverie de Scioli,
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala**

Mr. President,
Deputy Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to summarise the debate that took place in round table 1 on the theme “Assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation of the post-2015 development framework”. The discussion in our round table identified five main points which I would like to draw your attention to.

First, throughout our discussion we recognised the positive impact of international migration for development in both countries of origin and countries of destination. We acknowledged that migration plays an important role in lifting millions of people around the world out of poverty. Further, migration contributes to development through the accumulation of human capital, improved access by migrants and their families to health and education services, and increased participation of women in productive employment. Consequently, when appropriate policies are in place, migration can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

Second, we acknowledged that the High-level Dialogue represents as an important opportunity to ensure that migration is integrated into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda. Governments identified a number of options for incorporating migration into a future development framework, including as part of a new goal on global partnership for development. A number of concrete proposals

were also put forward in terms of possible targets or indicators. Several Governments called for lowering the human, social and financial costs of migration, including those related to recruitment and remittance transfers. Other concrete targets proposed included: promoting the recognition of foreign qualifications and work experience, protecting the human rights of all migrants, and combating human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Third, our discussion reiterated that, owing to the current state of migration governance, a number of challenges persist. Often, migrants and their families face human rights violations at work and in their daily lives, or are burdened by excessive migration costs, including recruitment fees. In our discussion, we concurred that states can accrue large economic and social gains from migration when they respect the human rights of migrants and of their families.

Fourth, we agreed on the need for a sound evidence base on the links between migration and development. In particular, a number of Governments called for better data on the development impacts of migration on countries of origin, transit and destination as well as on migrants themselves and members of their families. It was recognised that such information could benefit Governments in the formulation and execution of national policies, as well as in the development of bilateral and multilateral policies and programmes.

Fifth, we recognized the need for improved cooperation and partnerships between all relevant stakeholders. Partnerships between countries, including regional partnerships and South-South cooperation, were identified as particularly promising approaches. Several participants also acknowledged that Governments need to work closely with international organizations as well as

representatives of civil society to maximise the benefits of migration, while reducing its negative consequences. In addition, the discussion underscored the key role that the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was playing in facilitating such partnerships. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration, Peter Sutherland, and the Global Migration Group were also identified as having an important role. The former, as an advocate for integrating migration into the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and the later in monitoring any eventual goals or targets on migration therein.