Sixty-seventh session
Item 22 of the provisional agenda *
Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

International migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

* A/67/150.
Summary

In resolution 65/170, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution at its sixty-seventh session. The report was also to include organizational details of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including possible themes.

The first part of the report presents recent migratory patterns by origin and destination. These estimates allow for an assessment of the scope of international migration from developing countries, providing a critical underpinning to the debate on international migration and development. Recent levels of remittance transfers are also presented, including evidence on the costs of transferring remittances. Further, the report highlights recent activities to safeguard the rights of migrants and to combat irregular migration. Gaps in protecting and assisting migrants, including “stranded migrants” and people who move in the context of environmental change, are discussed.

The second part of the report synthesizes recent efforts of the United Nations system to enhance partnerships, coordination and cooperation through coordination meetings and the Global Migration Group (GMG). It also reviews the support provided by the GMG to Member States, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

The third part of the report contains proposals for the organisation of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be convened by the General Assembly during its sixty-eighth session in 2013, pursuant to resolution 63/225. The report suggests a structure and format for the event as well as possible themes, preparatory activities and outcomes.

The report concludes with a set of concrete recommendations to enhance the benefits of migration and to reduce its negative impacts for development and recounts the steps that are being taken in preparing for the 2013 High-level Dialogue.
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Annex
I. Introduction

1. International migration is a global phenomenon growing in scope, complexity and impact. Today, virtually all countries in the world are simultaneously countries of destination, origin and transit for international migrants. Traditional immigration patterns are complemented by new migratory flows, fuelled by changing economic, demographic, political and social conditions. These changing migration patterns affect the size and composition of immigrant populations as well as economies and societies in countries of origin and destination.

2. The rise in global mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns, and the impact of these movements on development have all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community. Prior to the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in 2006, international migration had been addressed as part of the United Nations development agenda at various international conferences and summits. Chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, remains one of the most comprehensive internationally agreed texts on international migration to date.

3. The 2006 High-level Dialogue was the first high-level General Assembly meeting exclusively devoted to migration. In May 2011, the President of the General Assembly organized an informal thematic debate on international migration and development, which provided an opportunity for Member States to exchange views and to take stock of their achievements in addressing the opportunities and challenges of international migration on the
way to the 2013 High-level Dialogue. The informal thematic debate provided further evidence that international migration could significantly contribute to poverty reduction, provided that partnerships and capacity-development were strengthened and that the rights of migrants were safeguarded.\(^1\)

4. The 2013 High-level Dialogue comes at a crucial time. Seven years after the first High-level Dialogue, and one year ahead of the special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action, the international community is well positioned to assess the impact of international migration policies and programmes, to recommend concrete actions for follow-up, and to mainstream migration into the post-2015 development agenda.\(^2\)

II. Recent developments on migration and development

A. Global migratory patterns and the role of the South

5. More people live outside their country of origin today than at any time in history. The global number of international migrants increased from 155 million in 1990 to 214 million in 2010. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants in the more developed regions, or the North,\(^3\) grew by 46 million, or 56 per cent, while the immigrant population in

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\(^1\) A/65/944.
\(^3\) The “North” refers to the more developed regions and the “South” refers to the less developed regions. These terms are used for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Developed countries are those in Europe and Northern America plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Developing countries include all other countries.
the South increased by 13 million, or 18 per cent. By 2010, almost 60 per cent of all international migrants in the world were living in more developed countries, compared to 53 per cent in 1990.\(^4\)

6. While reasonably accurate global estimates on international migrants by country of destination have been available for some time, documenting their origin has been a major challenge. Yet, knowledge about the country of birth or citizenship of international migrants is critical for evidence-based migration policies. Thus, in order for countries of origin to mobilize their citizens abroad for development at home, information on the size and location of transnational communities, or diaspora, is critical. Similarly, information on the origin of immigrants is essential for destination countries when designing immigration policies. At the aggregate level, information on the origin of international migrants allows for an assessment of the role of South to South movements in global migration.

7. The Population Division of UNDESA, with the support of partners, has produced a dataset, estimating, for the first time, the global migrant population by origin.\(^5\) These estimates indicate that the increase in the international migrant population in the North, referred to above, was primarily due to the growth in the number of migrants from the South. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants in the North who were born in the South (South-North migrants) almost doubled, from 40 million in 1990 to 74 million in 2010,

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accounting for 75 per cent of the increase in immigration in the North. The remaining 11 million persons who were added to the immigrant population in the North were born in the North (see table 1).

Table 1.

**Number of international migrants by origin and destination, 1990 and 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin/destination</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Absolute change</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Percentage change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North/North</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North/South</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South/North</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>86.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South/South</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in North</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>55.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in South</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total from North</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total from South</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>147.4</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>155.2</td>
<td>214.2</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. As a result of these trends, the share of South to South migration in global migration fell from 39 per cent in 1990 to 34 per cent in 2010 with South to North migration overtaking South to South migration as the dominant migration corridor. In 2010, the number of South-South migrants was about 73 million, slightly smaller than the number of South-North migrants (74 million). The number of North-North migrants stood at 53 million in 2010, while North-South migrants numbered about 13 million.
9. Recent immigration data, compiled by the Population Division, confirm the growing contribution of migration from the South to migration in the North. In Australia/New Zealand, the average annual share of foreign immigrants originating from less developed regions rose from 53 per cent in 1990-1999 to 59 per cent in 2000-2009. Likewise, Europe recorded an increase in the average annual share of foreign immigrants from the South from 36 per cent in 1990-1999 to 43 per cent in 2000-2009. In Northern America, the share of immigrants from developing countries in total immigration during both periods remained stable, however, at around 84 per cent. The growth in migration from the South has generated significant flows of remittances in the opposite direction.

B. Remittance transfers: flows and costs

10. According to the World Bank, remittances to developing countries reached US$372 billion in 2011, an increase of 12 per cent compared to 2010. While remittance transfers recorded a brief decline in 2009, following the economic crisis, they recovered the next year and are projected to continue to increase further during 2012-2014. China, India, Mexico and the Philippines were the main destination countries for remittances, each receiving more than US$20 billion in 2011. As a percentage of the gross domestic product, Lesotho, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa and Tajikistan were the largest remittance-receiving countries in the world.

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11. Remittances are an important source of income for households in developing countries. A recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) study, using data from 77 developing countries, found that a 10 per cent rise in remittances was estimated to lead to a 3.1 per cent reduction in the poverty headcount ratio. The report concluded that, while the character of remittances as private funds should be respected, sustained policy interventions could encourage migrant families to use remittances for skills improvement and could promote the use of remittances as collateral for procuring small business loans and for other productive purposes.

12. The international community has long emphasized the need to reduce the costs of transferring remittances. In July 2009, the members of the Group of Eight, or G8, agreed to reduce global remittance costs from ten to five per cent over five years (the “5 by 5” objective) and to make financial services more accessible to migrants and their families. The global average total costs of transferring remittances declined from 9.8 per cent in 2008 to 8.9 per cent in the third quarter of 2010, but rose again to 9.3 per cent during the third quarter of 2011. Remittance transfer costs between developing countries exceed those between developed and developing countries, while the costs of transferring remittances between countries in sub-Saharan Africa are particularly high. Factors that contribute to the high costs of transferring remittances in some migration corridors include insufficient market competition, limited transparency, small transaction volumes, and the use of

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8 The percentage of the population living on less than US$1.25 a day.
10 A/RES/60/206.
informal channels. In the third quarter of 2011, commercial banks were found to charge the highest rates for transferring remittances (13.7 per cent), followed by money transfer operators (7.4 per cent) and post offices (7.2 per cent).

C. Migrant rights and migration policies

13. International migration, development and human rights are intrinsically interconnected. Respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the full benefits of international migration. Migrants in an irregular situation are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and abuse.

14. By June 2012, 83 States had ratified at least one of three international instruments related to migrant workers, namely the 1949 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised) (No. 97), the 1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143) and the 1990 United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Member States that had ratified at least one of these three international instruments hosted approximately 68 million international migrants in 2010, almost one-third of the global migrant population.\textsuperscript{12}

\textsuperscript{12} Op. cit.
15. In 2010, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) coordinated a global ratification campaign to increase the number of States Parties to the 1990 Migrant Worker Convention. The Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants repeated the call for ratification on the occasion of International Migrants’ Day in December 2011. At the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a joint statement of the GMG expressing concern about the human rights of migrants in an irregular situation and called for an end to their criminalization. Participants at a round table, organized by OHCHR and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in May 2011, concluded that the detention of immigrants did not reduce irregular migration or deter the arrival of asylum-seekers.

16. In June 2011, the International Labour Conference adopted Convention No. 189 and Recommendation 201 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The Convention recognizes the economic and social value of domestic work, provides standards to improve working conditions, and encourages the inclusion of domestic workers in labour and social protection mechanisms. This new standard represents an important step in advancing the rights of millions of women migrants who are employed as domestic workers.

17. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) promotes the ratification and implementation of the domestic worker convention and has developed a checklist to assist Governments in formulating and implementing legislation to
protect migrant domestic workers. UN Women has assisted Chairs of the Global Forum in highlighting the rights of migrant domestic workers.

18. The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the main pillars for the international protection of refugees, guide the activities of UNHCR. The 148 countries that had ratified either of the two international instruments by mid-2012 collectively hosted over six million refugees, 42 per cent of the global refugee population. Excluding approximately 4.8 million Palestinians who fall under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the proportion of refugees hosted by States Parties to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol increases to 61 per cent.

19. Combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is a key priority for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). As of June 2012, 149 countries had ratified the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, while 130 countries had ratified the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. UNODC focuses its activities on organizing information campaigns to prevent these heinous crimes as well as on prosecuting their perpetrators and protecting their victims. In 2010, UNODC published a set of model laws against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants to assist States in adopting adequate legislation to implement the two Protocols.


20. Several regional conventions govern the recognition of academic qualifications. These conventions, overseen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have been signed in varying degrees. More generally, the lack of mutual recognition of diplomas, skills and qualifications is an important barrier to leveraging the benefits of migration.

21. In 2010, the sixty-third World Health Assembly adopted a global code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel. The voluntary code promotes the ethical recruitment of migrant health workers and the strengthening of health systems in developing countries.

22. Migrant workers who are caught in situations of natural disasters, civil conflict or war are often unable to avail themselves of the protection and assistance of their country of citizenship, residence or transit. Cut-off from their means of subsistence, they face economic hardship upon return. The plight of these “stranded migrants” may be particularly precarious for those who are undocumented. In 2011, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR launched a massive humanitarian response to assist and repatriate third country nationals who were affected by the crisis in Libya. The crisis revealed the absence, or the inadequate implementation, of existing norms, obligations or standards and thus highlighted the need for the international community to address the situation of “stranded migrants” more systematically.
D. Migration and environmental change

23. Migration in response to environmental or climate change may range from gradual movements as part of adaptive strategies to slow-onset environmental changes to massive forced displacement in response to sudden-onset disasters. Environmental change is seldom the sole reason for people to move, but is often one of the reasons to migrate, alongside political, social, economic and demographic factors. Although exact figures are lacking, it is believed that most environmentally related migration takes place over relatively short distances and only rarely across international borders. Those who cross international borders due to natural disasters are not considered refugees under international law and may lack international protection. Displacement due to natural disasters is often short-term. Paradoxically, people who are unable to move away from affected areas, so-called "trapped" populations, may be most vulnerable in the context of environmental change. 15

24. In the fall of 2011, the GMG called on Member States to recognize migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental risks and to make migration an option available to the most vulnerable. Further, the Group recommended that immigration policies take into account environmental factors, that the least developed countries mainstream migration and mobility in national adaptation plans to climate change, and that the relationship between climate change and migration be incorporated in poverty reduction strategies and national development strategies. 16

25. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, Member States agreed to include population and migration factors in their development strategies. They also resolved to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue, to recognize the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination, and to avoid practices that might increase the vulnerability of international migrants. 17

E. Strengthening the global evidence base

26. Evidence-based policymaking and informed public debate require timely, reliable and easily accessible data and analysis. The decennial population census is the primary source for internationally comparable migration information. According to the United Nations Statistics Division of UNDESA, 228 countries or areas have conducted or will conduct a population census during the 2010 round of population censuses, an increase of 21 countries over the previous round. Early indications suggest that the reporting on “country of birth”, “country of citizenship” and “year or period of arrival” —critical topics for the analysis of global migration trends— during the 2010 round of censuses has improved little compared to the 2000 round of censuses. However, the number of census questions covering other migration topics, such as return migration, remittances and the integration of first and second generation immigrants, appears to be on the rise.

17 A/66/L.56.
27. The Population Division of UNDESA, in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, developed the Global Migration Database, which contains a comprehensive set of empirical tabulations on international migrants by country of enumeration, birth, citizenship as well as by sex and age.\(^\text{18}\) For the 2000 round of population censuses, the database covers over 90 per cent of immigrants in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania, but only 70 per cent in Africa and Asia. During the 2010 census round, Africa and Asia continue to lag behind other major areas in reporting migration data.

28. In response to requests from Member States,\(^\text{19}\) the Population Division of UNDESA prepared various new data sets on international migration and international migrants. Thus, the Division produced, for the first time, a set of estimates on international migrants by age and sex.\(^\text{20}\) The Division also produced, for the first time, estimates of the international migrant stock by country of birth or citizenship.\(^\text{21}\) Further, the Division created a database on annual immigration, and, where available, emigration and net migration flows by country of origin and destination for 43 countries.\(^\text{22}\)

\(^{18}\) See http://www.unmigration.org.

\(^{19}\) See for instance resolution 2006/2 on international migration and development, adopted by the Commission on Population and Development, and General Assembly resolution 65/190 and 66/128.


\(^{21}\) See Chapter II, Section A.

\(^{22}\) Op. cit.
29. In 2005, the European Commission initiated Migration Profiles to improve the evidence base on international migration. To date, Migration Profiles are available for over 80 countries.\textsuperscript{23} In 2011, the GMFD annual meeting endorsed a GMG proposal to develop a common set of indicators for Migration Profiles. These indicators, finalized by the GMG in 2012, provide comparable estimates on population, international migration and development as well as information on the ratification of relevant legal instruments for all Member States.

30. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, collect data on internationally mobile tertiary students.\textsuperscript{24} The number of international students has grown from 0.8 million in 1975 to 3.4 million in 2009, fuelled in part by the internationalisation of educational institutions. A recent UNESCO study indicated that Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had the highest outbound mobility ratio for tertiary students worldwide.\textsuperscript{25} Unlike their counterparts from other parts of Africa pursuing tertiary education in Europe and North America, nearly half of all mobile students in the SADC region are choosing to study in South Africa.

III. Coherence, partnerships and coordination

A. The coordination meeting on international migration

\textsuperscript{24} UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Global Education Digest. Various issues.
31. Since 2002, the Population Division of UNDESA has organized coordination meetings on international migration. The 2012 meeting marked the tenth anniversary of this unique interagency mechanism, open to Member States, non-governmental organizations and experts. The meeting includes an intergovernmental segment, fostering interaction between the United Nations system and the GFMD, a coordination segment, which identifies gaps and synergies in migration activities within the United Nations system, and an expert segment, where recent migration research is being presented.

32. The increase in the number of participants in the coordination meeting, from 45 in 2002 to 138 in 2012, testifies to the growing interest in this interagency platform. By allowing for informal interaction between representatives of the Global Forum, delegates from Member States, participants from civil society and researchers with representatives from the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, the meeting plays a critical role in sharing information, facilitating dialogue, and strengthening coherence on migration.

B. The Global Migration Group

33. The Global Migration Group (GMG) was established by the Secretary-General prior to the 2006 High-level Dialogue. The GMG is tasked with fostering coherence in the interagency response to challenges and opportunities of migration. As of 2012, the Group includes 16 members, 15 United Nations entities and IOM. It meets regularly at working-level, organizes technical meetings and issues joint statements. The GMG is planning to launch a report on migration, youth and human rights in November 2012.
34. The GMG working group on mainstreaming, co-chaired by UNDP and IOM, is piloting the GMG handbook on mainstreaming migration in national development planning in four countries. The working group also created a repository of guidance documents and tools for United Nations country teams. The working group on data and research, co-chaired by UNDESA and IOM, produced a common set of indicators for Migration Profiles and promotes the implementation of the report “Migrants count: Five steps toward better migration data”. 26

35. Led by UNODC and UNESCO, with support from UNDESA, the GMG has initiated a review to take stock of its achievements and challenges since its creation in 2006. The goal of the review is to formulate recommendations for a robust interagency response to the opportunities and challenges of international migration post-2013.

36. The GMG plays a major role in formulating a set of conclusions and recommendations on international migration and development by the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. This initiative, coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the IOM, assisted by UNDESA, will highlight good practices and challenges encountered in undertaking migration and development activities since 2006.

C. The Global Forum on Migration and Development

37. The GFMD is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and government-led process open to all Member States and observers of the United Nations, which was launched during the 2006

High-level Dialogue. It provides a platform for Governments to discuss the opportunities and challenges of international migration for development in practical and action-oriented ways.

The Global Forum offers opportunities for cooperation and partnership between stakeholders at national, regional and international levels. The GFMD Chair-in-Office submits an annual report to the United Nations through the Secretary-General.

38. The Secretary-General has addressed three of the five Global Forum meetings in person. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration and Development chairs annual sessions on the future of the Global Forum and participates in the GFMD Steering Committee and the Friends of the Forum.

39. In 2010, the Global Forum initiated an assessment. The first part of the assessment, led by the Swiss Chair-in-Office, focused on operating modalities, outcomes and follow-up of the Global Forum as well as on the relationship between the Global Forum, international organizations and civil society. The Mauritian Chair-in-Office leads the second part of the assessment on the future of the Global Forum, which will be presented at the forthcoming GFMD meeting.

40. Between 2007 and 2011, the GMFD organized 15 round tables which produced a total of 199 recommendations (see table 2). Of these, 35 recommendations were followed up by one GMG member and 149 recommendations were followed by two or more. Members of the GMG undertook 759 actions to follow up on these 199 recommendations. The average number of
follow-up actions per recommendation increased from 2.4 in 2007 to 5.4 in 2010, while the number of recommendations that have not been followed up fell from five in 2007 and 2008 to three in 2011. These figures confirm the key role of the GMG in implementing GFMD outcomes and, consequently, adding value, increasing the relevance and enhancing the impact of the Global Forum process.
Table 2.
Follow-up of GFMD recommendations by the Global Migration Group, 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Round table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Number of GMFD recommendations</th>
<th>Follow-up by GMG members</th>
<th>Number of follow-up actions reported by GMG</th>
<th>Ratio*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>By one GMG member</td>
<td>By two or more GMG members</td>
<td>No follow-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Human capital development and labour mobility</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Remittances and other diaspora resources</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>III</td>
<td>Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Optimizing development impacts of regular migration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total 2008</td>
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* Number of follow-up activities reported by the GMG divided by the number of GMFD recommendations.

Source: For a detailed list of implementation actions by GMG entity, see www.unmigration.org.
D. Building national migration capacity

41. In follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the United Nations system has stepped up efforts to assist Member States in building institutional capacities to develop, formulate and implement evidence-based policies on international migration and development.

42. From 2009 to 2012, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), in collaboration with the other Regional Commissions and the Population Division of UNDESA, carried out a project to strengthen national capacities to maximize the development benefits and to minimize the negative impact of international migration. Through workshops, studies, online data repositories and a toolkit, the project assisted developing countries in dealing with the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration. By convening two interregional meetings, the project also fostered partnership and cooperation between regions of origin and destination of international migrants.27

43. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with the support of UNFPA, organized several training workshops to improve migration statistics in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The workshops allowed participants to exchange data on the size and composition of the foreign population in their countries. A clearing house on migration statistics, established by UNECE, allows for a systematic exchange of migration statistics in the region. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) convened a

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dialogue in October 2011 to develop a regional position on international migration and development in preparation for the 2013 High-level Dialogue. UNECA assists the Government of Mauritius in highlighting the contributions and challenges of international migration to development in Africa during the 2012 Global Forum.

44. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) supported the Scalabrini Migration Center in the Philippines in the development of the Migration Information System in Asia (MISA), a network of 16 Asian partners that collaborate in sharing migration data. UNESCAP also worked with partner organizations in the preparation of a situation report on international migration in South and South-West Asia, providing an overview of the migration situation, including laws, policies and programmes in the region. 28

45. In 2011, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) launched a project to strengthen local migration governance through online learning tools. UNITAR, in collaboration with IOM, UNFPA and the MacArthur Foundation, organizes seminars on migration and development to inform the diplomatic community in New York. The International Training Centre of the ILO, based in Turin, Italy, convenes the Labour Migration Academy, a summer course which is being organized in collaboration with the ILO and other GMG partners.

46. IOM’s International Dialogue on Migration provides a forum for Member States and other stakeholders to exchange views and experiences and to promote cooperation on international migration. In 2011, the Dialogue addressed the linkages between migration and environmental change as well as the relationship between migration and the economy. The 2012 edition will focus on migrant workers who are trapped in crisis situations. IOM also organizes training courses on immigration law and policies for representatives of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. In 2011, IOM and the Migration Policy Institute published a handbook for policymakers and practitioners to encourage expatriate communities to engage in development efforts.\(^{29}\) Together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), IOM developed training modules on the management of labour migration.\(^{30}\)

IV. The 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development: Modalities, format and organization

47. The General Assembly, in resolution 63/225 of 19 December 2008, decided to hold, within existing resources, a high-level dialogue on international migration and development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013. The resolution also indicated that the Assembly would decide on the focus and modalities of the High-level Dialogue at its sixty-seventh session.


48. In resolution 65/170 of 20 December 2010, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the organizational details and possible themes of the High-level Dialogue at its sixty-seventh session. The recommendations made in the present section of the report are submitted in response to that request and draw upon recent experiences in organizing high-level meetings of the General Assembly. A detailed programme is proposed in the annex.

A. Scope

49. The focus of the High-level Dialogue could be on identifying concrete measures that enhance the benefits of international migration, while reducing its costs, for countries of origin and destination and migrants alike. The General Assembly may wish to focus on identifying good practices and lessons learned since the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in 2006, with a particular emphasis on national, regional and global policies and programmes that have leveraged the development benefits of international migration. In doing so, the General Assembly may wish to take into account the experiences of the informal, State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

B. Duration and timing

50. Should the General Assembly wish to consider convening the High-level Dialogue over the course of two days before the general debate of the session of the Assembly, as was the case for the High-level Dialogue in 2006, the following elements should be taken into consideration. Given that the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly is scheduled to start on Tuesday 17 September 2013, that the first week the General Assembly is reserved for the General
Committee and the adoption of the agenda, and that, in accordance with resolution 66/124 of 19 December 2011, the High-level Meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities is scheduled for Monday, 23 September 2013, the High-level Dialogue could take place from Tuesday, 24 September to Wednesday, 25 September 2013 inclusive. This option would require a General Assembly decision to postpone the opening of the general debate to Thursday, 26 September 2013. The decision needs a clear provision if Member States wish to continue, with additional cost, the general debate on Saturday, 28 September 2013 before it resumes on Monday, 30 September.

51. Alternatively, the Assembly may wish to hold the High-level Dialogue during the two days immediately following the conclusion of the general debate.

C. Structure and format of the plenary meetings

52. The General Assembly may wish to structure the high-level meeting around four plenary meetings, with two plenary meetings held each day (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.) in order to accommodate statements by the maximum number of Member States.

53. In its resolution on the modalities of the High-level Dialogue to be adopted during its sixty-seventh session, the Assembly may wish to specify a time limit of interventions by Member States or groups of states as well as the number of speakers per plenary meeting.
54. Member States may wish to begin the High-level Dialogue with statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council, as well as by an eminent person actively engaged in the field of international migration and a representative of a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), both to be selected by the President of the General Assembly.

55. At the conclusion of the afternoon plenary meeting on the second day, the chairperson of each interactive round-table meeting might present an oral summary of the deliberations of each of the four round tables in the event Member States decide to hold such round tables (see section E below). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development could be invited to make a brief statement summarizing the main achievements of the High-level Dialogue.

D. Participation in the plenary meetings

56. Participation in the plenary meetings could be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and thus open to Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, the European Union, in its capacity as observer as well as other intergovernmental organizations and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
57. In addition to Member States and observers, the Assembly could consider inviting the heads of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants might also be invited to participate in the plenary meetings.

58. For security reasons and given the space limitations of the United Nations building, broad participation of civil society in the High-level Dialogue is not possible. However, one representative of each of three categories (non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector) could be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings. These speakers would be different from those invited to speak at the opening of the Dialogue or in the round tables.

59. Further, recognizing the importance of the contributions of civil society and other stakeholders, including the private sector, the Assembly may wish to hold informal interactive hearings with civil society groups prior to the High-level Dialogue (see section G below).

E. Structure, format and themes of the interactive round-table meetings

60. As for the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the Assembly may wish to consider convening four interactive round-table meetings in parallel with the plenary meetings. It should be noted that holding parallel meetings would result in additional costs, as was the case in 2006.31

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31 A/60/623 and A/C.5/60/23.
61. Should the Assembly decide to convene such interactive round-table meetings, round table 1 and 2 could take place in the morning and afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue, respectively. Round table 3 and 4 could be held in the morning and afternoon of the second day of the High-level Dialogue, respectively.

62. The following might be considered as possible themes for the round-table meetings:

**Round table 1: Leveraging diaspora contributions for development**

This round table could focus on the experiences gained since 2006 in leveraging remittances and other diaspora contributions for development, facilitating the portability of diplomas, skills and benefits, reducing the costs of migrating and of transferring remittances, and promoting the reintegration of returning migrants.

**Round table 2: Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights**

This round table could review progress made in promoting legal, safe and orderly migration, including temporary, circular and return migration for all skills levels. As well, this round table could review concrete measures to prevent and combat irregular migration in a systematic way. The relationship between migration policies and the protection of migrant rights would also be discussed in this context. This round table could consider measures to improve the response of the international community to the situation of “stranded
migrants”. The role of women, children and youth in migration and the impact of migration on families could also be reviewed.

Round table 3: Mainstreaming migration into the development agenda

The focus of this round table would be on concrete experiences in mainstreaming migration into national development planning. The integration of migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda could be a main focus of this round table. Measures to improve the evidence base for migration policymaking would also be discussed.

Round table 4: Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration at all levels

This round table could discuss concrete steps to promote coherence and cooperation among all stakeholders. The discussion could build on the experiences of Member States, international organizations and civil society in promoting coherence, cooperation and partnership on international migration and in maximizing development outcomes for migrants. The role of the United Nations and IOM in providing a coherent and robust interagency response to the challenges and opportunities of migration, including by supporting the GFMD and its outcomes, could also be considered. The results of the GFMD assessment could be presented during this round table.
63. The chairpersons of the round tables could be designated by the President of the General Assembly, after consultation with the regional groups, from among the ministers attending the High-level Dialogue and with due regard for geographical and gender representation.

64. Summaries of the deliberations of the interactive round-table meetings could be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round tables at the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue.

**F. Participation in the interactive round-table meetings**

65. Participation of Member States in each of the round-table meetings could be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

66. In addition, the Assembly may wish to make specific provisions to allow for the participation in the round-table meetings of heads of entities of the United Nations system as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector.

67. The number of participants could be limited to 50 or fewer, at least four of whom could be representatives of entities of the United Nations system and another six representatives of other relevant institutional stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector.
68. Each delegation could be requested to indicate its preference for participation in one of the four round tables to the chairperson of its respective regional group.

G. Preparatory activities

69. The Assembly may wish to consider organizing informal interactive hearings with civil society organizations prior to the high-level plenary meeting, as was done for the 2006 High-level Dialogue. The hearings could take place over the course of one full day and include two sequential segments. As in previous events of this type, the President of the General Assembly could preside over the informal interactive hearings and each segment could consist of presentations by invited participants from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector, and include an exchange of views with Member States.

70. The hearings could be open to accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers of the General Assembly.

71. The Assembly may wish to entrust its President to determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, civil society organizations and the private sector. The President of the General Assembly could be tasked with preparing a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue.
72. In order to facilitate the participation in the hearings of non-governmental and civil society organizations from developing countries, the Assembly may wish to urge Member States and others to make contributions to a trust fund set up specifically for this activity.

73. The Assembly may wish to recommend that other preparatory activities, such as panel discussions or expert meetings, be organized with support from interested Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes or other institutional stakeholders.

H. Outcome

74. The outcome of the High-level Dialogue could be a summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly, which would be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations. The President’s note may include the summaries of the round-table discussions and be issued as an official General Assembly document.

75. Alternatively, the General Assembly may wish to consider a succinct action-oriented outcome document, and entrust the President of the General Assembly with producing a draft text in consultation with Member States based on their inputs, as well as on inputs from the preparatory process, where relevant, and convene informal consultations at an appropriate date in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States prior to the High-level Dialogue.
V. Conclusions, recommendations and way forward

76. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants increased by 59 million or 39 per cent. Most of this increase, which took place in the North, was driven by migration from the South. The increase in South to North migration has triggered a significant flow in remittances in the opposite direction. Member States should redouble their efforts to reduce the costs of transferring remittances and to enhance benefits of remittances for development, bearing in mind that they are private financial flows.

77. The adoption of a new ILO instrument to defend the rights of domestic workers is an important milestone in protecting female migrant workers. Yet, millions of migrants continue to face discrimination, xenophobia and abuse. The 2013 High-level Dialogue presents an opportunity to accelerate the ratification and promote the implementation of international instruments related to international migration.

78. Without additional resources to collect baseline data, policy formulation and public debate on migration is bound to remain ill-informed. The international community should prioritize the dissemination of migration data from the 2010 census round, ease access to data generated by administrative records, and consider funding a dedicated survey programme in countries that lack adequate migration data.

79. The increase in migration activities has prompted the need for enhanced coordination. The interagency coordination meeting on international migration, organized by the Population
Division of UNDESA, plays a critical role in exchanging migration information among stakeholders. The GMG has improved interagency cooperation on migration since 2006 and engages constructively with the Global Forum.

80. The GMG has launched a review to consider how the United Nations system and other key stakeholders can provide a robust and coherent support to Member States in responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration and in promoting a wider implementation of relevant instruments and norms. This review will also address the question of how the United Nations system can provide effective support and follow-up to GMFD meetings.

81. UNFPA and IOM are leading a system-wide initiative to formulate recommendations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue, based on experiences and lessons learned in implementing migration and development programmes since 2006. This initiative is expected to produce a set of concrete recommendations to maximize the benefits of migration and address its challenges.

82. The Commission on Population and Development, at its forty-sixth session in April 2013, will consider the demographic aspects of recent migration trends, allowing ECOSOC to contribute to the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

83. The GFMD is currently undertaking the second phase of an assessment, focusing on the future of the Global Forum beyond the 2013 High-level Dialogue. The results of the
assessment, which will also consider the linkages with the United Nations, are expected to be available by the end of 2012.

84. With the right set of policies, the benefits of international migration for countries of origin and destination as well as for migrants and their families can be harnessed, while its negative impacts may be reduced. The 2013 High-level Dialogue is a crucial step for the international community to guide the global migration policy agenda, to make concrete recommendations on how to make migration work for development, and to ensure that the issue of international migration is brought into the post-2015 development debate.
Annex

Proposed programme of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (United Nations Headquarters)

The High-level Dialogue would consist of four plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four interactive round-table meetings to be held in concurrence with the plenary meetings.

First day of the High-level Dialogue

10 a.m.-10.30 a.m. Opening of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly

Statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President of ECOSOC, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and an eminent person and a representative from civil society both to be selected by the President of the General Assembly

10.30 a.m.-1 p.m. Continuation of the first plenary meeting

Round table 1: Leveraging diaspora contributions for development (to be held in parallel with the first plenary meeting)

3 p.m.-6 p.m. Second plenary meeting

Round table 2: Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights (to be held in parallel with the second plenary meeting)

Second day of the High-level Dialogue

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Third plenary meeting
Round table 3: Mainstreaming migration into the development agenda (to be held in parallel with the third plenary meeting)

3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  Fourth plenary meeting
Round table 4: Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration at all levels (to be held in parallel with the fourth plenary meeting)

5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.  Oral summaries of the deliberations of the four interactive round-table meetings presented by the respective chairpersons
Summary statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development
Closing of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly