

**Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-Governmental
Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector
on International Migration and Development**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
12 July 2006**

Information Note

I- Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005, decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York from 14 to 15 September 2006.
2. As part of the preparatory activities leading to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Assembly will hold informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations and the private sector on 12 July 2006 at United Nations headquarters in New York.
3. The objective of the informal interactive hearings is to provide an opportunity for NGOs, civil society and the private sector to interact with Member States and offer input for the High-level Dialogue. The outcome of the informal interactive hearings will be a summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly prior to the High-level Dialogue.
4. The General Assembly also decided, in its resolution 60/227, that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping being selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of the High-level Dialogue, and that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States.
5. To ensure an open, transparent and participatory process, the President of the General Assembly has established a Task Force to assist in the planning of the Hearings. The Task Force includes representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and relevant parts of the United Nations system. The functions of the Task Force will be to assist the President in the decisions relating to the organizational arrangements of the Hearings.
6. The President of the General Assembly expects to invite a number of participants either as speakers or spokespersons to the Hearings from among the

representatives nominated by non-governmental, civil society and private sector organizations.

7. While not guaranteed, funding for travel and accommodation may be available for a number of participants. According to the resolution, the Hearings are to be organized within existing resources. Nominees are therefore strongly encouraged to seek their own funding. Decisions on who will be granted funding assistance will be communicated by 31 May 2006.

8. Timeline

24 April: Notification sent out to non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector inviting nominations for representatives to participate in the Hearings.

5 May: Deadline for submission of nominations

31 May: Nominees will be informed whether they have been selected to attend the Hearings

10 June: Participants will be informed of the roles they will have in the Hearings

II- Format

9. The President of the General Assembly will preside over the informal interactive hearings, which shall consist of a brief opening followed by a morning meeting, an afternoon meeting and a brief closing meeting that will be held on 12 July 2006.

Provisional programme of the Hearings (also see the Annex)

10. The Hearings will be opened by the President of the General Assembly and will feature remarks by a keynote speaker representing NGOs, civil society organizations or the private sector.
11. The Hearings will then be divided into four segments focusing on the following topics: (a) Promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families; (b) International migration and development - challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries; (c) Policy responses - Promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.
12. The closing of the Hearings will include remarks by the President of the General Assembly.

Outcome of the hearings

13. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/227, the outcome of the informal interactive hearings will be a summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly reflecting the views and recommendations of NGOs, civil society and the private sector prior to the High-level Dialogue.

Organization of the segments

14. The segments will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and ensure interactive discussions between delegates of Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.
15. Each segment will begin with five-minute statements from speakers representing NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector with rejoinders by Member States. The remaining time will be devoted to an interactive dialogue between Member States, speakers and spokespersons for NGOs, civil society organizations or the private sector with a view to achieving a clear articulation of concrete suggestions and proposals for consideration by Member States. Participants are strongly encouraged not to read from written statements.
16. Interventions from the floor and responses should not exceed two minutes.
17. To permit the observance of as many representatives as possible, an overflow room will be equipped with a live feed of the proceedings on a large screen.

III- Registration, nomination and accreditation to attend the hearings

Nomination and accreditation of representatives

18. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC or affiliated to the Department of Public Information (DPI) do not require special accreditation to attend the hearings but must indicate their firm intention to participate by submitting a Nomination Form by 5 May 2006 so as to ensure that sufficient seating is planned for.
19. The Nomination Form can be downloaded from www.unmigration.org. In case of space constraints, attendees will be admitted on a first-come first-served basis.
20. Representatives of non-governmental, civil society organizations or the private sector without consultative status with ECOSOC or affiliation to DPI must submit a Nomination Form to be considered for special accreditation on a non-objection basis by Member States in order to be able to attend the Hearings. The Nomination Form can be downloaded from www.unmigration.org and should be submitted by 5 May 2006.

21. For speakers and spokespersons, only one nominee per organization will be considered.
22. Nominees will be informed by 31 May 2006 whether they have been selected to attend the Hearings or not.

Criteria used to select participants

23. The Task Force will advise the President of the General Assembly on the list of speakers and spokespersons based on the following criteria:
 - Broad substantive expertise from a policy, advocacy or programmatic perspective on issues related to international migration and development;
 - Representation of organizations or networks of a public interest nature, focused, inter alia, on migration issues, and operating at the national, regional or international level;
 - Balance in terms of gender, geographic (sending and receiving countries) and sectoral representation, as well as in relation to racial, ethnic, and inter-generational diversity;
 - Representation of organizations or community groups of migrants in host countries. The selection process should attempt to capture experiences from various types of migration flows: South/North; South/South; East/West (in the case of Europe);
 - Given the unique nature of the subject matter: “migration and mobility”, selection and funding considerations should go beyond traditional criteria – emphasis on participants from the south- to consider also the case of migrants from the south resident in the north or south. Relevance and competence in terms of issues and experiences should be overriding considerations in this case.

Travel arrangement and visa process

24. Nominees should be aware of the U.S. visa application process and timetable. If a visa is necessary, it is best to apply for it at least two months before the intended date of arrival in the United States. Nominees are strongly encouraged to contact the closest U.S. consulate as soon as possible for further information.

Funding

25. While it is not guaranteed, funding may be available for some participants. Requests for funding may be made, using the Nomination Form. Priority of

funding will be given to speakers from developing countries, subject to availability of funds.

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ANNEX

**Provisional programme of the Informal Interactive Hearings
of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations,
civil society organizations and the private sector
on international migration and development**

To be held at United Nations Headquarters, Trusteeship Council Room

12 July 2006, New York

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| 10.00 – 10:40 | Opening of the Hearings |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | Segment 1: Promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families. |
| 11:50 – 13:00 | Segment 2: International migration and development - challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries. |
| 15:00 – 16:15 | Segment 3: International migration and development contd.- challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries. |
| 16:20 – 17:30 | Segment 4: Policy responses - Promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike. |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | Closing of the Hearings |