

**United Nations General Assembly  
High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

**Information Note on Panel Discussions  
Issued on 29 June, 2006**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227, the President of the General Assembly is organizing two panel discussions in preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. See also the organizational note by the Secretary-General (A/60/864).

The first panel discussion was held at the UN Headquarters in New York, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, on 8 June 2006 from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. The second panel discussion will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in Conference Room XX, on 4 July 2006 from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

The purpose of the panel discussions is to debate, at the substantive level, the ways and means of maximizing the benefits of international migration for development and minimizing its negative impacts and, particularly, the role that the United Nations system can play in assisting Member States to make the most of the opportunities that migration brings and addressing the challenges it poses. The report of the Secretary-General (A/60/871) will serve as a background document to these discussions.

The panel discussions will provide an excellent opportunity for fruitful interaction between Member States and representatives of the United Nations system and will be an important contribution to the successful organization and outcome of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006.

The panel discussions are open to the participation of Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, other intergovernmental entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, and entities of the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions. Access to the panel discussions will be on a first come-first served basis.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector may also attend the panel discussions, within the limits of the space available in the public gallery.

The panellists have been selected by the President of the General Assembly among the heads of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, that constitute the Global Migration Group and the regional commissions.

The proposed programme for the panel in Geneva is as follows:

- The Chair will welcome the participants to the session and describe the overall theme of the panel (5 minutes).
- Panellists will make a presentation of up to 7 minutes. Each panellist will be introduced by the Chair before making a presentation.
- After the presentations, the floor will be open for questions or comments from participants on the issues raised and relating to the overall theme of migration and development.
- Participants will be asked to identify themselves prior to posing their question and be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to present their question to a particular panellist or to the panel.
- Participants are discouraged from reading prepared statements so as to ensure an interactive debate.
- The Chair will conclude by asking panellists to respond to the points raised.

### **Panel in Geneva**

Chair: H.E. Mr. Ali Hachani, Vice-President of the General Assembly, President of ECOSOC and the Permanent Representative of Tunisia in New York

Panellists:

1. Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development
2. Mr. Juan Somavía, Director-General, International Labour Organization
3. Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
4. Mrs. Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
5. Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
6. Mr. Brunson McKinley, Director-General, International Organization for Migration