

International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment



United Nations
New York, 2009

DESA

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

Note

The designations employed in this report and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

This publication has been issued without formal editing.

Suggested citation:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment

PREFACE

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for providing the international community with up-to-date and scientifically objective information on population and development. The Population Division provides guidance to the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development on population and development issues and undertakes regular studies on population levels and trends, population estimates and projections, population policies and population and development interrelationships.

In particular, the Population Division is concerned with the following substantive areas: patterns of mortality, fertility and international and internal migration, including levels and trends, their causes and consequences, and socio-economic, geographic and gender differentials; spatial distribution of population between urban and rural areas and among cities; estimates and projections of population size, age and sex structure, spatial distribution and demographic indicators for all countries of the world; population and development policies at the national and international levels and the relationship between socio-economic development and population change.

The work of the Population Division is published in a variety of formats, including electronically, in order to meet the needs of diverse audiences. These publications and materials are used by Governments, national and international organizations, research institutions and individuals engaged in social and economic planning, research and training, and by the general public.

This report presents information on international migration levels and policies for major areas, regions and countries of the world. The data for the international migrant stock presented in this report are based on the database *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2005 Revision*, which was issued by the Population Division in 2006. In order to maintain full consistency with the indicators contained in this database, the estimates on the total population, net migration and the projected population in 2050 in this report were derived from *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*. For many of the countries, information on international migration is sufficient to provide a reasonable basis for levels, trends and policies. For some countries, however, the information is very limited or unavailable, and in such cases, imputations were made.

Responsibility for this report rests with the Population Division. Preparation of the report was facilitated by the ongoing work of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Population Division is also grateful to the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for its continuing cooperation.

This report as well as other population information may be accessed on the world wide web site of the Population Division at www.unpopulation.org. For further information about this publication, please contact the office of Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA (tel.: 212-963-3179, fax: 212-963-2147).

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Preface	iii
Explanatory notes.....	xi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	xiii

PART ONE: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION LEVELS, TRENDS AND POLICIES

I. TRENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK	1
II. GOVERNMENT VIEWS AND POLICIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION	6
III. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION.....	15

PART TWO: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IV. REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	22
A. A/58/98. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	22
B. A/59/325. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	36
C. A/60/205. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	52
V. RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.....	58
A. A/RES/58/208. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.....	58
B. A/RES/59/241. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.....	62
C. A/RES/60/206. FACILITATION AND REDUCTION OF THE COST OF TRANSFER OF MIGRANT REMITTANCES	65
D. A/RES/60/227. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT	67

PART THREE: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PROFILES

VI. PROFILES BY MAJOR AREA, REGION AND SPECIAL GROUP.....	73
World	74
More developed regions.....	75
Less developed regions	76
Least developed countries.....	77
Africa	78
Eastern Africa	79
Middle Africa.....	80
Northern Africa.....	81
Southern Africa.....	82
Western Africa	83
Asia	84
Eastern Asia	85
South-Central Asia.....	86
South-Eastern Asia.....	87
Western Asia.....	88

	<i>Page</i>
Europe.....	89
Eastern Europe.....	90
Northern Europe.....	91
Southern Europe.....	92
Western Europe.....	93
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	94
Caribbean.....	95
Central America.....	96
South America.....	97
Northern America.....	98
Oceania.....	99
Australia/New Zealand.....	100
Melanesia.....	101
Micronesia.....	102
Polynesia.....	103
VII. PROFILES BY COUNTRY OR AREA.....	105
Afghanistan.....	106
Albania.....	107
Algeria.....	108
American Samoa.....	109
Andorra.....	110
Angola.....	111
Anguilla.....	112
Antigua and Barbuda.....	113
Argentina.....	114
Armenia.....	115
Aruba.....	116
Australia.....	117
Austria.....	118
Azerbaijan.....	119
Bahamas.....	120
Bahrain.....	121
Bangladesh.....	122
Barbados.....	123
Belarus.....	124
Belgium.....	125
Belize.....	126
Benin.....	127
Bermuda.....	128
Bhutan.....	129
Bolivia.....	130
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	131
Botswana.....	132
Brazil.....	133
British Virgin Islands.....	134
Brunei Darussalam.....	135
Bulgaria.....	136
Burkina Faso.....	137

	<i>Page</i>
Burundi	138
Cambodia	139
Cameroon.....	140
Canada	141
Cape Verde.....	142
Cayman Islands.....	143
Central African Republic	144
Chad	145
Channel Islands.....	146
Chile	147
China.....	148
China, Hong Kong SAR	149
China, Macao SAR	150
Colombia.....	151
Comoros.....	152
Congo.....	153
Cook Islands.....	154
Costa Rica	155
Côte d’Ivoire	156
Croatia.....	157
Cuba	158
Cyprus.....	159
Czech Republic	160
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.....	161
Democratic Republic of the Congo.....	162
Denmark.....	163
Djibouti	164
Dominica.....	165
Dominican Republic	166
Ecuador	167
Egypt.....	168
El Salvador.....	169
Equatorial Guinea	170
Eritrea.....	171
Estonia	172
Ethiopia	173
Faeroe Islands	174
Falkland Islands (Malvinas).....	175
Fiji	176
Finland	177
France.....	178
French Guiana.....	179
French Polynesia	180
Gabon.....	181
Gambia.....	182
Georgia.....	183
Germany.....	184
Ghana	185
Gibraltar	186
Greece	187
Greenland.....	188

	<i>Page</i>
Grenada.....	189
Guadeloupe.....	190
Guam.....	191
Guatemala.....	192
Guinea.....	193
Guinea-Bissau.....	194
Guyana.....	195
Haiti.....	196
Holy See.....	197
Honduras.....	198
Hungary.....	199
Iceland.....	200
India.....	201
Indonesia.....	202
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	203
Iraq.....	204
Ireland.....	205
Isle of Man.....	206
Israel.....	207
Italy.....	208
Jamaica.....	209
Japan.....	210
Jordan.....	211
Kazakhstan.....	212
Kenya.....	213
Kiribati.....	214
Kuwait.....	215
Kyrgyzstan.....	216
Lao People’s Democratic Republic.....	217
Latvia.....	218
Lebanon.....	219
Lesotho.....	220
Liberia.....	221
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.....	222
Liechtenstein.....	223
Lithuania.....	224
Luxembourg.....	225
Madagascar.....	226
Malawi.....	227
Malaysia.....	228
Maldives.....	229
Mali.....	230
Malta.....	231
Marshall Islands.....	232
Martinique.....	233
Mauritania.....	234
Mauritius.....	235
Mexico.....	236
Micronesia (Federated States of).....	237
Moldova.....	238
Monaco.....	239

	<i>Page</i>
Mongolia.....	240
Montserrat.....	241
Morocco.....	242
Mozambique.....	243
Myanmar.....	244
Namibia.....	245
Nauru.....	246
Nepal.....	247
Netherlands.....	248
Netherlands Antilles.....	249
New Caledonia.....	250
New Zealand.....	251
Nicaragua.....	252
Niger.....	253
Nigeria.....	254
Niue.....	255
Northern Mariana Islands.....	256
Norway.....	257
Occupied Palestinian Territory.....	258
Oman.....	259
Pakistan.....	260
Palau.....	261
Panama.....	262
Papua New Guinea.....	263
Paraguay.....	264
Peru.....	265
Philippines.....	266
Pitcairn.....	267
Poland.....	268
Portugal.....	269
Puerto Rico.....	270
Qatar.....	271
Republic of Korea.....	272
Réunion.....	273
Romania.....	274
Russian Federation.....	275
Rwanda.....	276
Saint Helena.....	277
Saint Kitts and Nevis.....	278
Saint Lucia.....	279
Saint Pierre et Miquelon.....	280
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	281
Samoa.....	282
San Marino.....	283
Sao Tome and Principe.....	284
Saudi Arabia.....	285
Senegal.....	286
Serbia and Montenegro.....	287
Seychelles.....	288
Sierra Leone.....	289
Singapore.....	290

	<i>Page</i>
Slovakia	291
Slovenia	292
Solomon Islands	293
Somalia	294
South Africa	295
Spain	296
Sri Lanka	297
Sudan	298
Suriname	299
Swaziland	300
Sweden	301
Switzerland	302
Syrian Arab Republic	303
Tajikistan	304
TFYR Macedonia	305
Thailand	306
Timor-Leste	307
Togo	308
Tokelau	309
Tonga	310
Trinidad and Tobago	311
Tunisia	312
Turkey	313
Turkmenistan	314
Turks and Caicos Islands	315
Tuvalu	316
Uganda	317
Ukraine	318
United Arab Emirates	319
United Kingdom	320
United Republic of Tanzania	321
United States of America	322
United States Virgin Islands	323
Uruguay	324
Uzbekistan	325
Vanuatu	326
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	327
Viet Nam	328
Wallis and Futuna Islands	329
Western Sahara	330
Yemen	331
Zambia	332
Zimbabwe	333

ANNEX

I. DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES	337
II. CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD	341

Explanatory notes

The tables presented in this report make use of the following symbols:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

An em dash (—) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the first year to 1 July of the second year.

Numbers and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six major areas: Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern America; and Oceania. These major areas are further divided into 21 geographical regions. In addition, for statistical convenience, the regions are classified as belonging to either of two categories: more developed or less developed. The less developed regions include all the regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The more developed regions comprise Australia/New Zealand, Europe, Northern America and Japan.

The group of least developed countries currently comprises 50 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

The following abbreviations have been used:

DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
EU	European Union
EURODAC	European dactylographic system (European common automated fingerprinting register)
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GCIM	Global Commission on International Migration
GDP	gross domestic product
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SOPEMI	Système d'Observation Permanente sur les Migrations (OECD Continuous Reporting System on Migration)
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *International Migration Report 2006: A Global Assessment*, prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, is the second in a series which presents information on international migration levels and policies as well as other related indicators for major areas, regions and countries of the world.

International migration is a topic that has moved to the forefront of the national and international agenda. The United Nations system is addressing the various dimensions of international migration. The United Nations Secretariat has focused on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the levels, trends and national policies of international migration. Other parts of the United Nations have been concerned with issues such as human rights, family reunification, undocumented migrants, trafficking and the social and economic integration of migrants. In addition, specialized agencies have focused on issues related to their expertise and mandates, such as labour migration, refugees and asylum seekers and remittances.

The United Nations General Assembly has addressed on a variety of occasions the issue of international migration and development. In its resolution 56/203 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to continue to address the issue of international migration and development and to provide appropriate support for processes and activities on international migration and development. In response to this resolution, and also to provide further information on international migration to the General Assembly, the United Nations Population Division since 2002 has been organizing annual system-wide Coordination Meetings on International Migration.

The implementation of national policies to affect levels and patterns of international migration has also intensified, spreading to all regions of the world. Discussions on issues such as sustained low fertility and population ageing, unemployment, brain-drain and brain-gain, worker remittances, human rights, social integration, xenophobia, human trafficking and national security have led to a re-examination of migration policies and the potential benefits and disadvantages accruing to sending, receiving and transit countries. Over the past decades, the number of Governments adopting new measures to influence migration has grown rapidly.

In his proposals for strengthening the United Nations Organization, (Report of the Secretary-General, A/57/387), the Secretary-General of the United Nations stressed that “it is time to take a more comprehensive look at the various dimensions of the migration issue, which now involves hundreds of millions of people and affects countries of origin, transit and destination. We need to understand better the causes of international flows of people and their complex interrelationship with development.”

At the global level, several initiatives have been launched to address the challenges posed by international migration. In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly decided to conduct a high-level dialogue on international migration and development in 2006. In 2004, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development in preparation of the High-level Dialogue. In October 2005, the Global Commission on International Migration published its report *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action*. During its sixtieth session in 2005, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions relevant to the area of international migration and development, namely one on the organizational aspects of the High-level Dialogue and one on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances.

The many questions arising from growing concerns about international migration, however, have few clear answers largely because of the lack of accurate and up-to-date information on international migration. This report attempts to address some of these questions by providing an overview of

international migration levels, trends and policies for countries and regions and for the world as a whole. The number of indicators in this report is larger in comparison with the previous issue and includes data by sex when possible. For many countries, there is sufficient information to provide a reasonable basis for the estimation of levels, trends and policies of international migration. For some countries, however, information is limited or unavailable, and in such cases, imputations were made. Furthermore, data on citizenship, if available, are used for estimating the numbers of international migrants in the absence of data on place of birth.

In addition to data on migrant stock, number of refugees and workers' remittances, information on Government positions concerning international migration and whether a country is party to United Nations instruments such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air is included for each country.

The report documents the following key findings:

1. **In 2005, the number of international migrants in the world reached almost 191 million, which was 3 per cent of the world population. Between 1990 and 2005, the world gained 36 million international migrants (table 1).**

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS AND THEIR PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND MAJOR AREA, 1990-2005

<i>Development group and major area</i>	<i>Number of international migrants (millions)</i>		<i>Increment (millions)</i>	<i>Percentage distribution of international migrants</i>	
	<i>1990</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>1990-2005</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2005</i>
World	154.8	190.6	35.8	100.0	100.0
More developed regions	82.4	115.4	33.0	53.2	60.5
Less developed regions	72.5	75.2	2.8	46.8	39.5
Least developed countries	11.0	10.5	-0.5	7.1	5.5
Africa	16.4	17.1	0.7	10.6	9.0
Asia	49.8	53.3	3.5	32.2	28.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.0	6.6	-0.3	4.5	3.5
Northern America	27.6	44.5	16.9	17.8	23.3
Europe	49.4	64.1	14.7	31.9	33.6
Oceania	4.8	5.0	0.3	3.1	2.6

Source: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision* (POP/DB/MIG/Rev.2005), database in digital form, 2006.

2. **Developed countries absorbed most of the increase in the number of international migrants between 1990 and 2005 (33 out of 36 million). As a result, there was an increasing concentration of international migrants in the developed world. In 2005, developed countries hosted 60 per cent of all international migrants (115 million), up from 53 per cent in 1990.**
3. **In developing countries, the migrant stock virtually stagnated during the period—it declined in 1990-1995 and increased slowly from 1995 to 2005. The number of migrants in developing countries has increased by barely 3 million since 1990. Return flows cancelled out new outflows over the period. In 2005, some 75 million international migrants lived in developing countries: 53 million in Asia, 17 million in Africa and 7 million in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

4. The drop in the number of refugees is one of the main reasons for the slow increase in the number of migrants in most developing regions and the decline observed in Latin America and the Caribbean and the group of least developed countries. In 1990-2004, 21 million refugees were repatriated, the majority to developing countries. The number of refugees in developing regions dropped from 16.5 million in 1990 to an estimated 10.5 million in 2005. Refugees constituted almost 18 per cent of all international migrants in Africa and 15 per cent of those in Asia.
5. Migration to developed countries remained high during 1990-2005. The major increases in the number of international migrants occurred in Northern America (17 million) and Europe (15 million). Migration for family reunification accounted for an important share of the inflows to those regions, although the share of immigrants admitted under the skills categories had risen.
6. The proportion of migrants in the total population increased between 1990 and 2005 in all the more developed regions and declined in the less developed regions. In 2005, international migrants constituted the largest share of the population in Oceania (15 per cent), Northern America (13 per cent) and Europe (9 per cent).
7. A relatively small number of countries host most of the international migrants. In 1990, the 30 countries with the largest migrant populations had accounted for 75 per cent of all international migrants worldwide, and in 2005, 28 countries sufficed to account for that percentage. The top twenty countries with the largest international migrant stock are shown in table 2. With 38 million migrants, the United States hosted the largest number of migrants in 2005, followed by the Russian Federation with 12 million and Germany with 10 million.
8. The number of countries where the share of international migrants exceeded 10 per cent increased from 73 in 1990 to 79 in 2005. In 2005, countries with at least 20 million inhabitants where international migrants constituted high shares of the population included Australia (20 per cent), Canada (19 per cent), France (11 per cent), Germany (12 per cent), Saudi Arabia (26 per cent), Spain (11 per cent), Ukraine (15 per cent) and the United States (13 per cent).
9. The proportion of women and girls among all international migrants was nearly 50 per cent in 2005, up from 49 per cent in 1990. In developed countries, female migrants accounted for 52 per cent of all international migrants throughout the period, but their share was markedly lower in developing countries, at 46 per cent. By 2005, female migrants outnumbered male migrants in Europe, Northern America, Oceania and in Latin America and the Caribbean. In contrast, females were underrepresented among the migrant populations of Africa and Asia.
10. In 2004, official migrant remittances amounted to US\$ 226 billion, US\$ 145 billion of which went to developing countries. Remittances sent back to the home country by migrants are a major source of foreign exchange earnings for some countries and are an important addition to the gross domestic product.

TABLE 2. THE 20 COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS, 1990 AND 2005

Rank	1990			2005		
	Country or area	Number of migrants (millions)	As percentage of total	Country or area	Number of migrants (millions)	As percentage of total
1	United States of America	23.3	15.0	United States of America	38.4	20.2
2	Russian Federation	11.5	7.4	Russian Federation	12.1	6.4
3	India	7.4	4.8	Germany	10.1	5.3
4	Ukraine	7.1	4.6	Ukraine	6.8	3.6
5	Pakistan	6.6	4.2	France	6.5	3.4
6	Germany	5.9	3.8	Saudi Arabia	6.4	3.3
7	France	5.9	3.8	Canada	6.1	3.2
8	Saudi Arabia	4.7	3.1	India	5.7	3.0
9	Canada	4.3	2.8	United Kingdom	5.4	2.8
10	Australia	4.0	2.6	Spain	4.8	2.5
11	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3.8	2.5	Australia	4.1	2.2
12	United Kingdom	3.8	2.4	Pakistan	3.3	1.7
13	Kazakhstan	3.6	2.3	United Arab Emirates	3.2	1.7
14	China, Hong Kong SAR	2.2	1.4	China, Hong Kong SAR	3.0	1.6
15	Côte d'Ivoire	2.0	1.3	Israel	2.7	1.4
16	Uzbekistan	1.7	1.1	Italy	2.5	1.3
17	Argentina	1.6	1.1	Kazakhstan	2.5	1.3
18	Israel	1.6	1.1	Côte d'Ivoire	2.4	1.2
19	Kuwait	1.6	1.0	Jordan	2.2	1.2
20	Switzerland	1.4	0.9	Japan	2.0	1.1

Source: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision* (POP/DB/MIG/Rev.2005), database in digital form, 2006.

11. **Between 1996 and 2005, the proportion of Governments wishing to lower international migration declined by about half (from 40 to 22 per cent). The Governments of many receiving countries have been taking measures to facilitate the inflow of the types of migrants they need, especially skilled migrants and temporary low-skilled workers. In 2005, 30 countries had policies to promote the inflow of highly skilled workers.**

12. **Increasingly, Governments of receiving countries have been using temporary worker programmes to address their labour shortages. To that end, a large number of bilateral agreements have been concluded.**

13. **The Governments of countries of origin have become more proactive in encouraging the return of their citizens living abroad and strengthening ties with their expatriate communities so as to encourage the involvement of migrants abroad in fostering development at home. In 2005, seventy-two countries had policies to encourage the return of citizens, up from 59 in 1996.**

14. **In 2005, 75 countries had programmes to facilitate the integration of foreigners, up from 52 in 1996. More than three quarters of developed countries had integration policies, whereas less than a quarter of developing countries did so.**

15. Since 1995, 18 countries have ratified the 1951 Convention and 17 countries have ratified the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. In 2003, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had entered into force. As of early 2006, it had been ratified by 34 States, none of which was a major migrant receiving country. In 2004, the protocol against smuggling and that to prevent trafficking in persons also entered into force, after having been adopted by the General Assembly in 2000; these protocols had been ratified by 84 and 95 States, respectively.

This report consists of three major parts. The first part contains three chapters. Chapter I provides an overview of major trends in the international migrant stock in the world. It discusses changes in the estimated numbers of international migrants, their percentage distribution, their share in the population and their sex distribution by major area in 1990-2005. It focuses particularly on changes in the estimated numbers in countries with the largest migrant populations.

Chapter II provides a summary of major trends in international migration policies in developed and developing countries since the mid-1990s. The focus is on policies designed to influence the size and composition of international migration flows. Managing the various flows of immigrants, reducing undocumented migration, and the integration of migrants are also discussed.

Chapter III provides an overview of the seven legal instruments on international migration and of the global government initiatives promoting dialogue and enhancing international cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by international migration.

Part II of the report reflects the United Nations General Assembly debates on the issue of international migration and development. It reproduces the resolutions on international migration and development adopted by the General Assembly in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (Chapter V). The reports of the Secretary-General, produced in preparation for these three debates, have also been included (Chapter IV).

The third part of the report presents international migration profiles. Chapter VI contains international migration profiles for the world as a whole and for major areas, regions and special groups, whereas the country profiles are provided in Chapter VII. The profiles contain information for 1995 and 2005 concerning the total population, the international migrant stock, refugees, remittances and Government views and policies relating to immigration and emigration levels. Also presented is information, for the periods 1995-2000 and 2000-2005, on net migration flows.

The annex to the report presents information on each of the indicators and concepts used in the profiles, including definitions and primary sources of data.

The information contained in this report aims to provide substantive input for the continued dialogue on international migration and development and to contribute to fostering international cooperation in addressing international migration issues.

