

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



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The Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly debated the issue of international migration and development in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Part II of this report reproduces the reports of Secretary-General on international migration and development, which were produced in preparation of these debates as well as the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as a result of these debates.

During its fifty eighth session, held in 2003, the General Assembly decided in resolution 58/208 to hold a high-level dialogue in international migration and development in 2006. The purpose of the High-Level Dialogue would be to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The same resolution called upon the Secretary-General, in cooperation with other United Nations entities and relevant organizations, to convene meetings to coordinate international migration activities.

In resolution 59/241, adopted in 2004, the General Assembly invited Member States to contribute to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development. Finally, the resolution took note of the creation of the Global Commission on International Migration.

In 2005, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/277 in which it was decided that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, would consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables. It was decided that round table 1 would focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development; that round table 2 would focus on measures to ensure respect for, and protection of, the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons; and that round table 3 would focus on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances. Finally, round table 4 would focus on 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. The General Assembly further agreed to organize one day of informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Finally, the President of the General Assembly was requested to organize up to two panel discussions with a focus on the overall theme of the Dialogue.

In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a second resolution related to international migration and development, namely on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances. The adoption of this resolution shows the importance that remittance flows, one of the most tangible benefits of international migration for development, have gained in the recent past.

## **IV. REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

### **A. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

#### **A/58/98. International migration and development**

##### *Summary*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/203 of 21 February 2002, the present report summarizes activities relating to international migration and development that have been carried out by relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, taking into account the lessons learned as well as best practices on migration management and policies. The report also discusses the actual and potential mechanisms within the United Nations system to address the issues related to international migration and development, including the possibility of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development.

### **I. Introduction**

1. The United Nations estimates that the total number of international migrants in the world stood at 175 million in 2000, up from 154 million in 1990. While international migrants constitute only 3 per cent of the world population, the debate over the cross-national movements of people continues with little sign of abating. Continued political instability and violations of human rights in some parts of the world have led to the forced movements of people, often on a large scale. Widening disparities in income and opportunities among countries add to the pressures for people to move. Technological transformations and economic globalization in particular have generated new demands for skills and labour in many parts of the world, demands that are often satisfied by migrant workers. As a result, a growing number of countries are involved in international migration, whether as countries of origin, transit or destination for migrants. The challenges posed by today's cross-border movement of people call for international cooperation and coordinated responses.

2. Population movements are closely related to a variety of socio-economic, demographic and political dimensions. Both among policy makers and researchers the need to understand better the intricate linkages between international migration and development has been growing. Recent debates on migration issues have focused on the role of international migration in relation to free trade and international financial flows. It is clear that modern modes of communication have facilitated the creation and maintenance of transnational networks of people that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology across borders. Reductions in the cost of transportation have not only helped to fuel international migration but have also permitted more frequent trips to the country of origin, thus strengthening ties between migrants and their communities of origin and providing incentives for the participation of migrants in the development of those communities. In addition, migrant remittances continue to provide an additional income to the families and households left behind. At the macro level, migrant remittances have grown, often exceeding the amount of official development assistance. These developments underscore the need to re-examine the linkages between international migration and development so as to devise ways of ensuring that international migration contributes to the economic and social development of the countries involved.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/203 of 21 February 2002, requested the Secretary-General to submit at its fifty-eighth session a report on international migration and development which would update the lessons learned, as well as best practices on migration management and policies, from the various activities relating to international migration and development that have been carried out at the regional and interregional levels, and submit action-oriented recommendations for the consideration of the Assembly. The same resolution also requested the Secretary-General to solicit, one additional time, the views of Member States on the possibility of convening a United Nations conference on international migration and development. The present report is prepared in response to those requests, and in consultation with relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations active in the field of international migration and development.

## **II. Recent work of the relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system in the field of international migration and development**

### **A. United Nations Secretariat**

#### **1. Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

4. Several offices of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) carry out activities related to international migration and development. The Population Division has been responsible for monitoring levels and trends of international migration as well as international migration policies. It has also carried out studies to investigate the interrelations between international migration and socio-economic and political changes in selected regions. Since 2001 the Division has issued two publications focusing on particular regions: *International Migration from Countries with Economies in Transition, 1980-1999*<sup>1</sup> and *Levels and Trends of International Migration to Selected Countries in Asia*.<sup>2</sup> In addition, in 2003, the Population Division published the *International Migration Report, 2002*,<sup>3</sup> presenting new estimates of the stocks of international migrants at the country level, estimates of net migration, and the views of Governments regarding levels of immigration and emigration. The information compiled in this report provides an objective basis for a comparative assessment of international migration trends and policies worldwide.

5. The Population Division attaches particular importance to strengthening partnerships with international and intergovernmental bodies involved in international migration activities, within and outside the United Nations system. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/203, which called upon all relevant organizations to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, the Division organized the first Coordination Meeting on International Migration in July 2002. The Meeting brought together representatives from over 20 organizations to discuss issues related to the collection and exchange of information on international migration. A key conclusion reached was that coordinating activities was important to avoid duplication of efforts. The Meeting also underscored the need to strengthen efforts to standardize international migration information and statistics so as to improve the cross-national comparability of information. However, it was recognized that the required information on international migration could be generated only with the appropriate national capacity, and that it was, therefore, necessary to increase technical and financial assistance for capacity-building.

6. The Statistics Division continues to collect statistics on international migration from national statistical offices for publication in the *Demographic Yearbook*. In 1998, the Division issued *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*,<sup>4</sup> which provides guidelines for the compilation of international migration statistics. These recommendations have been

disseminated widely among those in charge of international migration statistics, as well as through relevant workshops and meetings. Most recently, the Statistics Division organized a side-meeting on the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* during the joint United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics held in Geneva in April 2003. The Division is planning an interregional workshop on the same subject for the second half of 2003. It is to be noted that some concepts and definitions relevant to international migration are also relevant to other statistical areas, such as international trade in services involving natural persons, as well as balance of payment and tourism statistics.

7. The Division for the Advancement of Women undertakes activities related to the prevention of violence against female migrant workers and trafficking in women and girls. In November 2002, DAW organized the Expert Group Meeting on Trafficking in Women and Girls, which discussed the human rights, criminal justice and gender-based approach to combating such trafficking. During the past two years, it prepared the Secretary-General's reports on violence against women migrant workers (A/56/329) and on trafficking in women and girls (A/57/170). The Division also acts as the Secretariat for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In its consideration of the reports by States parties, the Committee regularly addresses the issues of international migration and trafficking in women and girls. The Division promotes the need of adopting a gender perspective in the formulation of international migration policies, particularly because female migrants are often subject to various forms of discrimination and violence owing to their status as both migrants and women. It is recognized that globalization, by increasing the need for cheap labour, has helped increase the demand for female migrant workers and that restrictive immigration laws and regulations may promote trafficking as a means of satisfying that demand.

8. In July 2002 and in parallel with the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, another part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organized a panel discussion on better managing migration for sustainable development, thus providing a forum for consideration of the topic. In addition, the Division for Social Policy and Development is organizing the International Forum for Social Development: International Migrants and Development, to be held in October 2003, and its *Report on the World Social Situation, 2003* will contain a chapter on the social vulnerabilities of migrants.

## **2. United Nations regional commissions**

9. The recognition that regional cooperation can effectively address the challenges posed by international migration and enhance its impact on development has prompted various activities at the regional level. Thus, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have all expanded their work on international migration issues.

10. At the Economic Commission for Europe, the Statistical Division continues to compile and disseminate international migration statistics for European countries. It compiles statistics on flows of international migrants by using the joint migration questionnaire under the coordination of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Demographic and Migration Statistics. This collaborative strategy for the compilation of official statistics minimizes the burden on national authorities providing the international migration statistics and contributes to improving the international comparability of the data compiled. In addition, the Statistical Division of the Economic Commission for Europe organizes the joint ECE-Eurostat intergovernmental meetings on international migration statistics, which provide a forum where various aspects of the

collection, compilation and use of data on international migration are discussed by national and international experts. The most recent meeting was held in Geneva in April 2000 and it considered, inter alia, the international migration statistics derived from the 2000 round of population censuses, estimates of undocumented migration and estimates of other major categories of migrants.

11. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean continues updating its Research on International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) databank, in collaboration with the Governments in the region. The Centre has also carried out studies on specific aspects of international migration in the context of globalization. Documents generated by these efforts have been presented at various regional meetings, including the Commission's twenty-ninth session in 2002 and the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and the Trafficking in Persons in the Americas held in Chile in 2002. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has also provided technical assistance on diverse aspects of international migration to governmental institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions in the region. Although the Commission is aware that there is increasing participation on the part of civil society and international agencies in cooperation mechanisms, it considers that more efforts are necessary to harmonize policies and national laws and to promote the ratification of international instruments on international migration.

12. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific organized in 2001 an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Development: Opportunities and Challenges for Poverty Reduction in the Asian and Pacific region, as a preparatory activity for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference held in 2002. The Conference noted that there is considerable diversity in international migration flows within the Asian and Pacific region. Refugees and asylum-seekers are among the types of migrants whose numbers have increased in the region and, together with unauthorized labour migrants and women and children who are victims of trafficking, they pose special challenges. The Plan of Action adopted at the Conference urged Governments, in cooperation with civil society organizations and the international community, to address the issues of international migration and to maximize its benefits while mitigating its adverse effects. In October 2002, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific convened a seminar on promoting gender equality to combat trafficking in women and children. Later in 2003 it will convene an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development, the major objective of which will be to understand the linkages between internal and international migration and development, with particular emphasis on gender, poverty and health.

## **B. Other bodies of the United Nations system**

### **1. United Nations Children's Fund**

13. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) extends its assistance primarily to minors and women who are refugees or the victims of trafficking. It works with its government partners, parliamentarians and civil society to support the development of legislation, including bilateral and regional agreements, for the protection of child victims of trafficking. Most recently, the Fund's efforts in partnership with the Stability Pact Task Force have resulted in guidelines for the provision of services to child victims of trafficking in South-Eastern Europe. The Fund's outreach programmes at the community level provide information about the risks of trafficking to adolescents considering employment opportunities abroad. For example, in Western and Central Africa, advocacy campaigns raise awareness among communities and in schools. In South-Eastern Europe, hotlines have been established to enable individuals to report suspicious employment

agencies or a missing family member. Capacity-building programmes in East Asia enable non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, as well as law enforcement and health personnel, to ensure that systems exist to respond to the needs of child victims.

## **2. United Nations Development Fund for Women**

14. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has organized several round tables on international migration involving key stakeholders and emphasizing a gender and rights-based perspective. It has also set up a network of institutions working on issues related to the labour migration of women. During 2001-2003, as part of its Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia, the Fund worked towards the development of policy, as well as the creation of an enabling institutional and socio-economic environment that ensures women's equality of opportunity and equal access to resources and benefits at all stages of the international migration process. In Latin America, the Fund supports building an information base on the migration of women, its causes and consequences.

15. The United Nations Development Fund for Women has successfully promoted better employment standards for female migrants. For instance, as a result of advocacy by the Fund, the Ministry of Labour of Jordan endorsed in 2003 a special work contract for non-Jordanian domestic workers, providing them with a list of social rights. In the Philippines, the Fund in partnership with an NGO for migrant workers has developed a pilot savings and investment scheme for female migrants, including returnees. This initiative seeks to channel the productive contribution of migrants not only to their families but also to the communities of origin.

## **3. United Nations Development Programme**

16. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approached international migration from two different perspectives. First, it has conducted research focusing on the relationship between the brain drain and capacity development. Second, it has carried out TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals), a programme to help qualified expatriates return to their countries of origin to work on specific projects. This programme aims at promoting the social and economic advancement of developing countries through the transfer of expatriates' expertise.

17. The TOKTEN programme has proved that skilled expatriates can be an asset to their countries of origin and that the transfer of knowledge occurs at lower cost and more rapidly when expatriates are involved. Such programmes are more successful when they are supported by an active transnational community. The utilization of the emigrants' expertise through migrant networks should be an added dimension of technical cooperation.

## **4. United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

18. Participation in the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) is a key activity of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the field of international migration and development. The Programme is an inter-agency programme bringing together the Institute, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Its aim is to strengthen the capacity of Governments to manage international migration and to facilitate regional and international cooperation aimed at promoting orderly international migration and the protection of international migrants. Its efforts have been especially targeted towards strengthening the capacity of senior government officials in developing countries to address the issues posed by international

migration and forced displacement and to foster a constructive dialogue among States. Since 2001, the International Migration Policy Programme has organized seven major regional meetings and co-organized seminars on human trafficking in South-Eastern Europe. These activities have benefited more than 400 senior and middle-level government officials from some 56 countries.

19. The Programme's activities attest to the critical importance of fostering dialogue among senior government officials involved in the management of international migration, so that they can identify common interests and priorities. Best results have been achieved when the activity was aimed at confidence-building and was open and transparent; when government delegations represented the ministries dealing with international migration and forced displacement; when there was gender balance in the delegations; when follow-up programmes were planned; and when concrete progress was measured through the Programme's country reporting system.

## **5. United Nations Population Fund**

20. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) participates in the International Migration Policy Programme and works towards strengthening national capacity to manage international migration. Through its regional programme, UNFPA provides funds for policy-oriented studies on international migration. Thus, it supported the Hemispheric Conference convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Organization for Migration in Chile in November 2002. The Conference aimed at strengthening cooperation among Governments in identifying mechanisms for protecting and promoting the human rights of migrants and for combating and preventing the trafficking in persons. The Fund's activities have indicated that issues of sexual and reproductive health should be considered in relation to international migration; that the linkages of migration with HIV/AIDS had to be addressed by policy-oriented research and advocacy; and that there continued to be a need to understand better the role of migrant remittances in family formation, levels and trends of fertility, intergenerational transfers and internal migration.

## **6. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS**

21. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has been actively involved in issues of population mobility and HIV/AIDS by supporting advocacy, policy guidance and definition of best practices at the global level. Thus, the Programme carries out baseline assessments of HIV-related risks associated with migration and coordinates research in the area of HIV/AIDS and migration. In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, it has contributed to increasing the understanding and recognition of the vulnerability of migrant populations to HIV/AIDS through its publications entitled *Population Mobility and AIDS and Migrants' Right to Health*. Initiatives have also been directed towards assisting Governments and regional institutions to address migration in strategic plans and programmes to combat HIV/AIDS.

22. The linkages between migration and HIV/AIDS are clouded by misinformation, misunderstanding and stigmatization. While many think that migrants are the source of HIV infection, the evidence shows that migrants are more vulnerable to contagion from the local population. The links between mobility and HIV/AIDS are related to the conditions and structure of the migration process. In order to avoid stigmatizing migrants, a pragmatic and rights-based approach is necessary. As in the case of programmes dealing with other vulnerable populations, it is important to involve migrants in programme planning, implementation and evaluation. A positive environment for dealing with HIV/AIDS must be created, where issues such as discrimination and xenophobia are addressed and where international migrants have access to health-care services on the same basis as the local population. It is particularly important to train

core groups of experts in the field of HIV/AIDS and international migration and to create centres of expertise at the regional level to provide technical and programme development support, training, research and policy guidance.

## **7. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

23. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) services the Committee that monitors the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>5</sup> which entered into force on 1 July 2003. It also provides secretarial services for the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants. In the past two years, the Special Rapporteur, who seeks ways to overcome obstacles to the full and effective protection of the human rights of international migrants, has visited Ecuador, the Philippines, Mexico and the border area between Mexico and the United States of America. On the basis of these visits, the Special Rapporteur has concluded that the creation of employment in the country of origin can prevent irregular migration, provided that respect for the rights of workers is also strengthened. By itself, economic aid for development cannot solve the problems associated with unauthorized migration to richer countries. It is of fundamental importance that the States of origin commit to promote the human rights of all their nationals.

24. Trafficking in persons is a crime that entails human rights violations. On this basis, in 2000 OHCHR advocated the formulation of two protocols to supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.<sup>6</sup> In July 2002, the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmitted to the Economic and Social Council the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking in order to facilitate the integration of human rights into national, regional and international laws and policies related to trafficking in persons.

## **8. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

25. In partnership with the Governments of countries of asylum, development actors and bilateral donors, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides essential services to refugees and promotes the self-reliance of refugee populations in the countries of asylum. It facilitates the return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons to their communities of origin, linking short-term reintegration programmes to long-term reconstruction and development efforts. UNHCR also contributes to poverty reduction efforts among refugees so as to reinforce the protection capacity of countries of asylum and to facilitate the attainment of durable solutions for refugees and other displaced populations.

26. On the basis of these activities, UNHCR emphasizes the continuing need to bridge the gap between short-term humanitarian programmes and longer-term development initiatives, both in countries of asylum and in countries of origin. Efforts must be made to ensure that refugees, returnees and other international migrants can effectively exercise their productive capacities, thereby enabling them to contribute to the development of the countries and communities in which they reside. While recognizing the importance of reducing irregular migration and human smuggling, UNHCR cautions that such objectives must be consistent with the principles of refugee protection and must not prevent people from seeking asylum.

## **9. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

27. Although the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) do not focus specifically on international migration, the types of developmental interventions promoted by the Organization are highly relevant to migration. FAO stresses that hunger and food insecurity can act as powerful push factors and contribute to undesirable patterns of international migration. Consequently, the incorporation of food security concerns into the management of international migration should be promoted. Migration also has major implications for the management of the environment and natural resources, for the supply of and demand for agricultural and non-agricultural labour, and for food production in the countries of origin and destination. Examples of agricultural policies that can stabilize rural populations or foster return flows of people include interventions to improve rural livelihoods and the diversification of rural economies. It is also crucial to reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of farming systems and rural households.

## **10. International Labour Organization**

28. The protection of migrant workers from discrimination and exploitation through the formulation of international standards for the treatment of international migrant workers has been a key activity of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Two of its conventions on international migrants, namely, the Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Migrant Workers, 1975 (No. 143), are in force. In addition, the Organization has adopted a number of labour standards that apply equally to foreign and national workers.

29. Since 2001, ILO has carried out a number of studies on international migration at the regional and interregional levels. These include a comparative study on the international migration of the highly skilled and its impact on countries of origin and destination; the situation of migrants in irregular employment in Mediterranean countries of the European Union; international migration from Sub-Saharan Africa to and across Morocco; and the situation of migrant workers in Central America and the Andean countries. In addition, ILO organized regional seminars in Africa and Asia to enhance the capacity of its constituents to formulate and enforce labour migration policy.

30. The studies carried out by ILO found that programmes to facilitate the spontaneous return and circulation of skilled migrants were more sustainable and cost-effective than those to promote their permanent return to the countries of origin. Therefore, ILO stresses the importance of formulating migration policies conducive to the circulation and readmission of international migrants. Countries of destination can help reduce the loss of highly skilled workers from countries of origin by supervising recruitment, engaging in bilateral labour agreements, encouraging investment in the countries of origin, becoming parties to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and orienting their aid and technical assistance to support education and training in the communities of origin. Countries of origin need to promote economic growth and economic diversification so as to create rewarding working opportunities at home. It is also important for them to eliminate institutional barriers that make the labour market inflexible to the demand for skills and to establish links with nationals abroad.

31. The effective protection of migrant workers can best be achieved by empowering the migrants themselves through information and training. Countries of origin should develop systems to supervise the recruitment of their workers and train specialized civil servants for that task. They

can also extend social insurance to international migrants, allow them access to social and health services and monitor their living conditions while abroad. Lastly, countries of origin need to formulate and adopt policies and regulations to combat trafficking, while ensuring respect for the rights of victims.

## **C. Organizations outside the United Nations system**

### **1. International Organization for Migration**

32. As an increasing number of developing countries have joined the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the issue of international migration and development has gained prominence on its agenda. IOM holds the view that international migration, if managed effectively, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of both countries of origin and those of destination. Migrants are considered as potential agents of development and a means to strengthen cooperation between the home and the host society.

33. The Organization's approach to the issue follows three major orientations; (1) targeted research and policy dialogue; (2) the facilitation of labour migration, and (3) the realization of the potential benefits of transnational communities. In order to raise awareness about the relevance of international migration to development, IOM has organized conferences and workshops and has carried out research on international migration dynamics in developing countries. To take advantage of the significant contribution that migrants abroad can make to poverty alleviation and economic development in countries of origin, IOM has implemented over 40 projects since 1999. Some of them have fostered the transfer of migrants' skills. Others have provided direct assistance to microenterprises and small enterprises established by returnees.

34. IOM considers that carefully targeted research is crucial in identifying effective modes of intervention. In addition, effective coordination and partnerships need to be promoted and strengthened among international organizations and NGOs working in the field of international migration. Dialogue between countries of origin and destination has proven to be an effective means of exploring innovative approaches to the management of international migration for the benefit of all parties concerned. The Organization's projects prove yet again that labour migration is crucial for the livelihood of many families. Its pre-departure orientation programmes contribute significantly to the well-being of migrants at destination. As for the utilization of transnational communities, it has been found that strategies for the involvement of international migrants in the development of communities of origin is feasible and should be extended. Migrants are highly interested in participating in such projects, provided that the opportunities offered are credible, that the proactive participation of the Government of the country of origin is ensured, and that the jobs held by migrants in the country of destination are secure.

### **2. European Union**

35. Following the Amsterdam Treaty in 1997, which established for the first time Community competence on immigration and asylum, the European Union (EU), at its meeting in Tampere in October 1999, called for a common policy on immigration and asylum and set forth a framework to achieve it. This framework involved partnerships with countries of origin; a common European Asylum System; the fair treatment of third country nationals; and the management of international migration flows. In accordance with these principles, the Commission has taken various initiatives designed to lead to a gradual convergence of policy objectives and the Union's legislative programme reflects a regional approach to international migration.

36. The key elements set out in Tampere, in particular, ensuring a comprehensive and balanced approach and pursuing partnerships with third countries, are seen as essential cornerstones for the success of migration management. Hence, the European Council, at its meeting of June 2002, stressed the need to integrate further immigration policy into the Union's relations with third countries, making use of all appropriate EU external relations instruments. In December 2002, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Integrating Migration Issues in the European Union's Relations with Third Countries. Part one of this Communication deals explicitly with the link between international migration and development, assessing the effects of international migration on developing countries. The Commission is also of the view that no international migration policy will be successful unless it is accompanied by a comprehensive integration strategy for international migrants admitted by member States.

### **3. Metropolis**

37. The International Metropolis Project is a multinational partnership with members representing national policy interests, academic and other research organizations, non-governmental organizations and international organizations, whose goal is to enhance policy-making and other decision-making processes relative to international migration. To that end, the Metropolis project convenes numerous international conferences, seminars, closed-door policy discussions, and expert round tables on specific migration issues. The project has mostly concentrated on the integration of immigrants into their host societies. However, over the years it has greatly expanded its scope to include demographic trends, international migration flows, the smuggling and trafficking of migrants, international cooperation in the management of international migration, the abuse of the international asylum system and the extent and effects of the brain drain on countries of origin. Recently, the Metropolis project has focused on international migration and development, specifically on whether international migration can be managed in such a way as to confer social, economic and political benefits to countries of origin in the developing world.

### **4. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

38. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with 55 participating States from Europe, Central Asia and North America, carries out activities related to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. Activities in the field of international migration are concentrated on three major thematic areas, targeting primarily the newly independent States of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. First, OSCE provides border services, as well as training for border service officers. Second, it organizes workshops to exchange information on international migration, addressing the responsibilities and coordination of activities among various government agencies involved in the management of international migration. Third, it helps establish population registration systems operating under the principle of freedom of movement and choice of place of residence, which the OSCE considers a prerequisite for a transition to democracy.

### **5. Society for International Development**

39. The Netherlands Chapter of the Society for International Development (SID) started in 1999 a three-year multidisciplinary project called the Future of Asylum and Migration. The project consisted of a series of thematic seminars involving some 50 participants each, and a Special Hearing in 2001 attended by 190 experts. In November 2002, the project produced the Declaration of The Hague which was presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. As stated in the Declaration, the project reaffirmed that economic disparities between and within countries are one

of the major causes of international migration. Migration policy therefore must be seen as an integral part of policies to promote development, combat disease and eradicate poverty and illiteracy. A greater commitment is required to formulate comprehensive development strategies that are sustainable, people-centred and include an emphasis on education, health and political participation and that mitigate the negative effects of the brain drain.

### **III. Possible mechanisms to address the issues of international migration and development within the United Nations system**

#### **A. Views of Governments regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development**

40. A United Nations conference on international migration and development has been considered as a possible forum to address the complex issues involved in maximizing the benefits that international migration can have for development. The Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat has solicited the views of Governments regarding the possibility of convening such a conference through letters sent to all States Members of the United Nations. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/127 of 19 December 1994, the first letter to seek the views of Governments about the objectives and modalities for the convening of such a conference was sent in February 1995. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/123 of 20 December 1995, a second letter was sent in April 1997 to obtain additional views of Governments on the proposed conference. In March 1999, as requested by General Assembly resolution 52/189 of 18 December 1997, a third letter was sent to all Governments, inviting especially those who had not responded yet to the letters sent in 1995 and 1997 to express their views. The most recent summary of the views elicited by the previous three inquiries was presented in the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/56/167). The responses received between 1995 and 1999 reflected the views of 41 per cent of all Member States and there were diverging views among those responding. Therefore, no conclusion could be drawn regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development.

41. In 2002, the General Assembly, through resolution 56/203 of 21 February 2002, requested the Secretary-General to solicit, one additional time, the views of Member States in pursuance of resolution 52/189. Consequently, in early March 2003, a letter was sent to all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, inviting them to express the latest views of their Governments on the proposed conference by 15 April 2003. In late April, the Permanent Representatives who had not yet responded were contacted and informed that a reply was needed as soon as possible in order to ensure that the results of the survey would provide a comprehensive assessment of the views of Member States.

42. By early July 2003, responses had been received from the following 46 member States: Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Czech Republic, Congo, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Estonia, Gambia, Greece (on behalf of the 15 States members of the EU), Guyana, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland and Tunisia. A non-member State, the Holy See, also replied. Hence, the number of Governments responding to the most recent inquiry represent 24 per cent of all United Nations Member States. Given the high level of non-response, it was again not possible to reach a conclusion about whether a United Nations conference on international migration and development should be convened. Furthermore, the views expressed by the 47 Governments who responded were diverse, with 25 Member States favouring the convening of a conference and 22 expressing reservations about the proposal.

43. Among the 25 Governments that favoured holding a United Nations conference, the majority considered that it should be of a technical and analytical nature. It was envisaged that the proposed conference would debate major issues concerning international migration and development and deepen the theoretical and empirical knowledge by discussing the trends, causes and consequences of international migration in relation to development. A few countries were of the opinion that the conference could provide a forum for dialogue among concerned Governments, strengthen cooperation between countries of origin and of destination, and eventually establish a system of collaboration to help maximize the benefits of international migration. Some Governments suggested that the conference could undertake negotiations on specific issues.

44. International movements of people take a variety of forms. Hence, the majority of the Governments suggested that all types of international migrants be considered in the proposed conference. Several Governments indicated that special attention should be given to migrant workers and migrants in an irregular situation.

45. The most frequently mentioned outcome of the conference would be the adoption of recommendations or principles, especially relative to migration policies in countries of origin and destination or with respect to the establishment of an institutional framework to foster cooperation.

46. Several Governments that favoured convening a conference mentioned that it could be held, following a preparatory process at the regional and subregional levels, either in 2004 or 2005, with the proposed duration of the conference ranging from 2 to 10 days. Regarding other logistics of the conference, such as sources of funding needed to organize it or the composition of its secretariat, the views expressed by Governments varied widely.

47. Most of the 22 Governments that did not favour the holding of a conference nevertheless underscored the importance of international migration and development. However, many of them considered that existing mechanisms, such as the Commission on Population and Development or a special session of the General Assembly, could provide appropriate fora for discussion of the issue. Whereas some Governments objected to the idea of convening another international conference in view of the financial constraints of the Organization, one State stressed that a regional approach was more appropriate to address the current needs of States.

## **B. Other ways and means for the United Nations to address the issues related to International migration and development**

48. As reviewed earlier, several bodies in the United Nations system have already played key roles in addressing different issues related to international migration, with varying degrees of relevance to development. While there is still no comprehensive international mechanism to deal with the complex linkages between international migration and development, the growing recognition that international migration is of key relevance to the global agenda has led the international community to take a new look at how the United Nations can support and promote efforts to address existing global migration challenges. This section summarizes the views of Member States and concerned organizations about possible roles of the United Nations in the field of international migration and development.

49. Member States generally consider that the United Nations role in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on international migration is essential in order to dispel myths about international migration and to guide the formulation of appropriate policy. The United

Nations has a comparative advantage in promoting the collection and compilation of compatible statistical and other data relating to international migration and development. It is also well placed to conduct comprehensive and objective analyses of international migration dynamics and their interrelations with development processes. Its research could focus on the causes, patterns and trends of international migration, the impact of migrant remittances, the interactions of migrants abroad with the communities of origin, the creation and maintenance of transnational populations and the trade and development implications of international migration for countries of origin and destination.

50. United Nations leadership is crucial to creating the conditions under which partnerships in this field can be forged and maintained and in which policy issues that go beyond narrow national interests can be addressed. Enhanced cooperation and coordination between the United Nations agencies, bodies, funds and other international organizations that are active in the area of international migration should be expected. The exchange of experiences and best practices should be actively promoted and facilitated among all concerned institutional actors.

51. It is also expected that the United Nations would contribute further to addressing the issue of international migration and development through the provision of advisory services and technical assistance. The United Nations can assist Governments in developing policy, ensuring a rights-based approach to policy-making, drafting legislation on international migration and migrants, and developing strategies whereby international migration considerations become an integral part of development planning. Technical assistance can also be extended to countries that need to strengthen national capacity to monitor, evaluate and manage international migration flows.

52. The evidence provided by a number of activities already under way indicates that providing a venue for dialogue between interested parties can help in generating trust and fostering the cooperation necessary for the management of international migration. The United Nations is well placed to promote such dialogue through consultative forums addressing the different but interrelated aspects of international migration and development. Such dialogue can involve not only States, but also relevant regional and international organizations, development and financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations.

53. Lastly, there must be stronger efforts by the United Nations to increase awareness of the rights of international migrants and the importance of effective integration of international migrants into the host society. To this end, the United Nations should promote a wider ratification of existing international instruments related to international migration. These include the two ILO conventions on treatment of migrant workers, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the two Protocols supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

#### IV. Conclusions

54. Over the past years, a wide range of activities relating to international migration and development have been carried out by relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as by other organizations that work at the international level. The lessons learned and best practices regarding the management of international migration, as well as the policy guidance emanating from them, have helped to address some of the consequences that international migration has for development and to clarify aspects of the migration and development nexus that provide insights into ways of maximizing the development benefits of international migration.

55. The present report has examined the actual and potential mechanisms available within the United Nations system for addressing the issues related to international migration and development. While the possibility of convening a United Nations conference on the theme remains uncertain, the expectation that the United Nations should address this global challenge in a comprehensive manner has grown. Areas in which the organization is expected to play a key role include data collection, research, coordination of activities among concerned organizations, the provision of advisory services and technical assistance, advocacy, and the promotion of the ratification of existing international instruments related to international migration.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> ESA/P/WP.176.

<sup>2</sup> ST/ESA/SER.A/218.

<sup>3</sup> ST/ESA/SER.A/220. United Nations publication, Sales No. 03.XIII.4.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14.

<sup>5</sup> Adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990.

<sup>6</sup> Adopted by the General Assembly through resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.

## B. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### A/59/325. International migration and development

#### *Summary*

In its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003 on international migration and development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. Pursuant to that request, the present report provides an update of the results of relevant activities within the United Nations system and of United Nations cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning international migration and development. The report also reviews major initiatives of Member States to create a multilateral framework of cooperation for improving migration management. The penultimate section of the report suggests the action-oriented options of the United Nations for addressing the issue of international migration and development.

#### **I. Introduction**

1. International migration is an intrinsic part of the development process. It is both a response to the dynamics of development and a facilitator of social and economic change. The migration and development nexus has received renewed attention in recent years, as the rising trends in respect of migrant remittances become evident and the transnational linkages of migrants and their communities of origin grow stronger through advanced communication technology. Concomitantly, the migration debate has begun to be centred on how the benefits of migration can be maximized, for sending, receiving and transit countries, as well as for the migrants themselves. As reviewed below, the growing number of activities related to international migration and development carried out by various international organizations are also a manifestation of the high priority of this issue in international debates.

2. The present report considers the implementation of General Assembly resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, entitled "International migration and development". In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to, inter alia, submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session that would provide an update of the results of relevant activities within the United Nations system and of United Nations cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning international migration and development, including best practices on managed migration and policies to increase understanding and strengthen cooperation in the area of international migration and development among States and other stakeholders; that would review major initiatives of Member States; and that would suggest action-oriented options for consideration by the Assembly. This report has been prepared in response to those requests, in consultation with relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system active in the field of international migration and development.

## **II. Recent work of the relevant organizations within the United Nations system in the Field of international migration and development**

### **A. United Nations Secretariat**

#### **1. Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

3. At the United Nations Secretariat, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs aims to promote sustainable development through a multidimensional and integrated approach to economic, social, environmental, and population and gender-related aspects of development.

4. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has been responsible for monitoring levels and trends of international migration as well as international migration policies. The Division also conducts studies on the interrelationships between international migration and socio-economic and political changes. During 2003, new estimates of the stocks of international migrants were prepared. The resulting database, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2003 Revision*,<sup>1</sup> is a compilation of country-specific estimates of migrant stock, using data on the number of foreign-born or foreign residents enumerated by population censuses and the number of refugees for the period 1960-2000. The estimates obtained indicate that the number of international migrants worldwide stood at 175 million in 2000, up from 76 million in 1960. The results of the estimates have been widely used by individuals as well as institutions working on international migration. The Division also published *World Population Policies, 2003*,<sup>2</sup> a compilation of Governments' views and policies concerning population and development for the 194 Member States and non-member States of the United Nations. The publication reveals that substantial changes in Government perceptions of immigration took place in the late 1970s and the early 1980s. Thus, between 1975 and 2003, the proportion of Governments that viewed immigration levels as too high had risen from 7 to 21 per cent.<sup>3</sup>

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/208, requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to continue convening meetings in order to coordinate their activities regarding international migration. In order to facilitate stronger partnerships among relevant bodies active in the field of international migration, the Population Division has been organizing annual coordination meetings on international migration. A first meeting had taken place in July 2002 and discussed issues related to the collection and exchange of information on international migration. The second coordination meeting, held in October 2003, brought together representatives from over 20 organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Participants were informed about recent debates on international migration at the United Nations Secretariat, and discussed selected current issues of international migration, namely, remittances, undocumented migration and security. They also exchanged information on their recent activities related to international migration. The wide range of activities reported by the different organizations prove that international migration has become an issue of central concern for the international community. Participants confirmed the usefulness of having regular meetings among concerned organizations to identify the complementary roles of different institutions and plan the future direction of their work in the field, while minimizing the possible overlap of activities undertaken by different institutions.

6. The Population Division also serves as the secretariat of the Commission on Population and Development. At its thirty-seventh session in 2004, the Commission decided that the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-ninth session in 2006 should be “International migration and development”, as a contribution of the Commission to the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on that issue.<sup>4</sup> In addition, at the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration addressed the Commission as a keynote speaker on the orderly management of the movement of people.

7. The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs directs its efforts towards standardizing the concepts and definitions used to measure international migration in order to increase the cross-country comparability of international migration statistics. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), organized a Workshop on Improving the Compilation of International Migration Statistics, which was held in Geneva in September 2003. Participants representing 14 countries from different regions of the world were introduced to the framework for compiling international migration statistics from available data sources laid out in *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration: Revision I*.<sup>5</sup> During the workshop, participants highlighted the importance of producing statistics that were relevant for policy requirements, and therefore emphasized the need for a greater dialogue between policy makers and statisticians. The dialogue resulting from such a platform would increase mutual appreciation of the needs of users of statistics and the challenges faced by the producers of statistics. The Statistics Division was requested by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fourth session in 2003 to produce a handbook on the collection and compilation of international migration statistics as a practical guide on how the above-mentioned recommendations could be implemented.<sup>6</sup>

8. Other Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs are also engaged in a growing number of activities in the field of international migration and development. For instance, in order to shed light on the situation of migrants from a social perspective, the Division for Social Policy and Development convened, on 7 and 8 October 2003, the third meeting of the International Forum for Social Development which considered the topic of international migrants and development. Subsequently, at its forty-second session in 2004, the Commission for Social Development held a high-level panel discussion entitled “International migration and migrants from a social perspective”, under its agenda item entitled “Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development”.<sup>7</sup> The *Report on the World Social Situation 2003*,<sup>8</sup> prepared by the Division, discussed the well-being of migrants in the context of employment and working conditions, migrant health and social vulnerabilities.

9. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs addresses the issues of international migration and development from a gender perspective. As a preparatory process for the report on the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (A/59/287), to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, the Division held a meeting entitled “Migration and mobility and how this movement affects women” in Malmö, Sweden, in December 2003. The preparation of the *World Survey* also included close consultations with other United Nations entities in the context of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, as well as cooperation with other Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In 2003, the Division for the Advancement of Women also prepared the Secretary-General’s report on violence against women migrant workers (A/58/161), which included measures taken by Member States, United Nations entities and other international bodies to combat violence against female migrant workers. The Division acts as the secretariat for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In its consideration of the reports by States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women (Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), the Committee regularly addresses the issues of international migration and trafficking in women and girls.

10. In 2003, the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had prepared the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization” (A/58/394). The report examined, inter alia, the linkages among international migration, financial flows including workers’ remittances, and trade. The report was submitted to the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its 37th meeting, which considered the topic of international migration under the agenda item entitled “Globalization and independence”.

11. Furthermore, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs selected international migration as the special topic for its *World Economic and Social Survey, 2004*.<sup>9</sup> This publication provides an annual analysis of the state of the world economy and emerging policy issues. The 2004 *Survey* will provide recent information on selected aspects of international migration and cover such topics as levels and trends of international migration; refugees and asylum-seekers; international migration policies; causes and economic impacts of international migration; social dimensions of international mobility; and international cooperation.

## **2. Regional commissions**

12. The regional commissions approach the issue of international migration and development from a regional perspective based on empirical observations and frequent interaction with Member States. During the past few years, the topic of international migration and development has been an important component of the work programmes of the regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

13. At ECE, the Statistics Division has long been engaged in the improvement of international migration statistics and the compilation of the data. In 2003, ECE convened jointly with the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) the Work Session on Migration Statistics in Geneva. It was attended by delegates of the member States of ECE as well as by representatives of concerned international and intergovernmental organizations. The Work Session considered, inter alia, the international migration statistics derived from the 2000 round of population censuses and sought synergies between international migration statistics and statistics on other topics. It assisted countries in the region in exchanging experiences on the collection, processing and dissemination of data related to international migration and on the further improvement of the comparability of data and concepts.

14. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) of ECLAC provides technical cooperation with respect to the integration of international migration issues in national development plans and programmes. Many of these activities are carried out in close collaboration with national institutions from the region as well as international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IOM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). CELADE also participates in the regional consultative processes, such as the Puebla Process and the South American Migration Dialogue. This constant search for collaboration among stakeholders in the region allows CELADE to organize intergovernmental meetings on a hemispheric scale. In addition, CELADE maintains a data bank for the Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) which has continued to expand, most recently by including the data from the 2000 round of censuses. The data compiled serve as bases for

examining the patterns and trends of international migration and contribute to developing analytical frameworks on specific aspects of international migration in the region.

15. As a follow-up to the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC),<sup>10</sup> ESCAP held an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Development in August 2003. The key topics discussed included linkages among internal and international migration and development, international migration statistics, and migration and poverty. Based on the research findings presented and the ensuing discussions, the meeting adopted several recommendations, providing guidelines for the formulation of policies and the implementation of programmes. Subsequently, in December 2003, ESCAP organized an Expert Group Meeting on Trafficking in Women and Children and identified key issues and strategic areas for regional and subregional cooperation in order to prevent and combat this crime. ESCAP also published in 2003 a report entitled *Combating Human Trafficking in Asia: A Resource Guide to International and Regional Legal Instruments, Political Commitments and Recommended Practices*.<sup>11</sup>

## **B. Other bodies of the United Nations**

### **1. Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)**

16. The Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) has been actively involved in issues of population mobility and HIV/AIDS, by supporting advocacy, policy dialogue, country programmes, research and information dissemination. In recent years, UNAIDS, in collaboration with IOM, has contributed to increased understanding and recognition of the vulnerability of migrant populations to HIV/AIDS through publications such as *Population Mobility and AIDS* and *Migrants' Right to Health*. In addition, it collaborates with ILO in establishing workplace-based HIV/AIDS policies. In collaboration with IOM, UNAIDS also extends its support at the country level. These initiatives include assistance to Governments in integrating or mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and migration issues into humanitarian and development planning, budget allocations, and programme implementation. Since migration and HIV/AIDS are both cross-border concerns, UNAIDS also facilitates intergovernmental coordination to address the issue.

17. A number of interventions by UNAIDS are under way in different parts of the world. In Africa, UNAIDS has been involved in the multi-partner West Africa Abidjan-Lagos Transport Corridor Project with the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CARE. The project provides prevention education, voluntary counselling and testing, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections to mobile populations along the main communication routes and at sites where mobile groups mix with existing social networks. UNAIDS has also carried out baseline assessments of HIV-related risk associated with migration and has undertaken, with IOM, mapping studies of targeted programmes for truckers in West Africa, and mobile populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Southern Africa. In Southern and South-eastern Asia, UNAIDS works with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regional initiative and has produced various studies on mobility patterns and strategic planning tools to address the needs of mobile populations in these regions.

18. In Europe, the European AIDS and Mobility Project is an example of best practice for increasing understanding of the issue and strengthening cooperation among countries. Starting in 1991, the project has focused on HIV/AIDS prevention, targeting travellers and migrants in Europe. The project brings together national focal points representing States members of the

European Union (EU), and operates by stimulating collaboration and exchange of information on AIDS activities aimed at ethnic minority and migrant communities. During 1999, each of the national focal points organized a national seminar with themes based on priorities set at the country level with respect to prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and mobile populations. The project also disseminates necessary information, regularly publishes an updated bibliography of relevant books, articles and reports, and provides a reference service to other organizations in Europe. The project acknowledges the need to make health services more accessible to international migrants, as they frequently receive limited services owing to legal and administrative obstacles and lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate information and services.

## **2. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

19. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is responsible for ensuring the implementation of universally recognized human rights and of key human rights instruments relating to international migration. The Office's technical cooperation programme includes provision of legal advice, raising awareness about migrants rights through meetings and publications, and strengthening the capacity of national human rights institutions to safeguard the rights of international migrants. It also coordinates the Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) Contact Group on Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, which consists of several United Nations organizations, IOM and non-governmental organizations.

20. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights services the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Committee, which consists of 10 experts, monitors the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (General Assembly resolution 45/158, annex), which entered into force in July 2003. The Committee held its first session in Geneva in March 2004,<sup>12</sup> adopted its provisional rules of procedure<sup>13</sup> and discussed its methods of work.

21. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights provides secretariat support for the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants. The Special Rapporteur seeks ways to overcome obstacles to the full and effective protection of the human rights of international migrants. During the past two years, the Special Rapporteur has participated in several regional and subregional conferences on migration and development and has undertaken missions to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Spain and the border areas between Mexico and the United States of America. Through these activities, the Special Rapporteur has stressed that the human rights of international migrants must be protected at every stage and in every procedure involved in migration management, in countries of origin and transit as well as of destination.

## **3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

22. The primary mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to provide protection and durable solutions for refugees and other persons of concern, including asylum-seekers, returnees and stateless people. Since a majority of the people who are of concern to UNHCR are found in low-income countries, the Office has developed an active interest in the relationship subsisting among development, international migration and refugee protection. UNHCR is engaged in a variety of activities that address this relationship. For instance, it promotes self-reliance among refugee populations in countries of asylum, in partnership with host Governments, development actors and bilateral donors. It ensures that its

short-term reintegration programmes for returnees are linked to longer-term reconstruction and development efforts. To this end, UNHCR promotes the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, so as to reinforce the protection capacity of refugee-hosting countries and to facilitate the attainment of durable solutions for refugees and other displaced populations.

23. From a viewpoint of sharing burdens and responsibilities more equitably and elaborating development-based responses that effectively contribute to refugee protection, UNHCR maintains efforts to strengthen collaboration with key United Nations partners such as UNDP and ILO. In addition, there are a number of forums in which UNHCR and IOM participate where they direct attention to the issues of international migration and development.

24. A number of key lessons learned and best practices can be identified based on UNHCR involvement in refugee protection. As mentioned, UNHCR recognizes a strong need to bridge the gap that has traditionally existed between short-term humanitarian programmes and long-term development initiatives, both in refugee hosting countries and in countries of origin, and calls for joint programming between humanitarian and development organizations. Thus, UNHCR has developed a Framework for Durable Solutions for Refugees and Persons of Concern. The framework consists of three elements: (a) promotion of development assistance for refugees; (b) establishment of so-called 4Rs programmes aimed at ensuring repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction in post-conflict situations; and (c) promotion of development strategies through local integration. The framework has already been implemented through specific projects in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Zambia. UNHCR is also emphasizing the rule of law and justice issues as part of its efforts to ensure the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of refugees. Experience shows that the reintegration of returnees in post-conflict situations is closely linked to the re-establishment and proper functioning of national protection mechanisms.

#### **4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

25. The principal functions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are, among others, to promote international trade, particularly between countries at different stages of development, and to formulate and implement principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development. UNCTAD recognizes the movement of labour as an integral part of the international trade in services and therefore the economic importance of the movements of workers who stay temporarily in a country for the purpose of providing a service in any of the categories identified in Mode 4 under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.<sup>14</sup> In July 2003, UNCTAD held in Geneva, in collaboration with IOM and ILO, a three-day Expert Meeting on Market Access Issues in Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons to Supply Services) and Effective Implementation of Article IV on Increasing Participation of Developing Countries (see document TD/B/COM.1/64-TD/B/COM.1/EM.22/3 of 27 November 2003 for the report thereon). UNCTAD has also contributed to the preparation of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*,<sup>15</sup> covering Mode 4, through inter-agency cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), OECD and the World Trade Organization.

## **5. United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

26. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has been executing the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) since 1998. IMP is an inter-agency activity of ILO, IOM, UNFPA and UNITAR, implemented in collaboration with other relevant multilateral organizations such as EU, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS, UNHCR and UNICEF. Its aim is to strengthen the capacity of Governments to manage international migration and to facilitate regional and international cooperation for orderly migration and the protection of international migrants.

27. Between 2002 and 2004, IMP organized five regional meetings on migration policy, in the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. In addition, in 2003, IMP co-organized an International Conference on Migrant Remittances with the World Bank and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The activities of IMP have benefited over 340 senior- and middle-level government officials from some 57 developing countries. IMP is part of the South-East Europe Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings. Thus, since 2001, IMP has co-organized with ICMPD, IOM and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) training seminars for police, the judiciary, non-governmental organizations, international experts and government officials who are responsible for counter-trafficking strategies. IMP is also a member of the Geneva-based IGO Contact Group on Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling.

## **6. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

28. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime plays an active role in supporting the efforts of the international community to fight trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, particularly through its legal advisory services, technical cooperation and awareness-raising. It works closely with many international and regional organizations, including EU, Europol, ICMPD, ILO, Interpol, IOM, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNAIDS, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). In its field-level activities, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime cooperates with UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

29. One of the most notable activities carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in recent years has been the establishment of a global database on human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Using the data collected, the Office assesses trends in trafficking and smuggling with respect to smuggling routes, forms of exploitation, methods used by organized criminal groups, cooperation among law enforcement, and the responses of Governments, including legislative reforms. The database has been regularly shared with IOM. The technical cooperation projects of the Office are currently in operation in more than 10 countries of Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and Western Africa. These projects aim to review national legislation and assist in the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annexes I-III), and to strengthen the national capacity of the criminal justice system to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers.

30. The best practices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in migration management are related to awareness-raising activities. Information campaigns are effective measures to prevent persons from becoming victims of trafficking as well as to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation leading to trafficking. The Office launched in 2001 the Global Television Campaign on Human Trafficking. The first video focused on the trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation and projected a powerful message about this complex and growing problem. The Office produced in 2002 a second video focusing on trafficking in men, women and children for bonded and forced labour. With the cooperation of broadcast stations worldwide, these videos have been transmitted on national networks in over 40 countries as well as on global and regional networks. Two new videos launched in 2003 call upon victims and the general public to take action against trafficking.

## **7. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

31. In addition to its support for IMP, UNFPA organized an international workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia, in 2002 to address the problems of trafficking in women and girls. The workshop brought together more than 60 parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations from 25 countries. In 2003, UNFPA, in collaboration with IOM, supported the League of Arab States in organizing a Conference on Arab Migration in a Globalized World to address, inter alia, the openness of labour and commercial markets, the freedom of movement for individuals, and mechanisms to rationalize the mobility of human resources in Western Asia. The Conference was attended by more than 200 policy makers, government officials, migration officials, and experts, as well as by representatives of intergovernmental organizations concerned with international migration.

### **C. Specialized agencies**

#### **1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

32. Although the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) do not focus specifically on international migration, the types of developmental interventions promoted by the Organization are highly relevant to migration. For instance, an important component of the work of FAO on food security, poverty reduction and sustainable agricultural development is to promote policies and programmes that support rural livelihoods and encourage investment in rural areas. Such interventions should enhance living conditions in rural settings, eventually reducing the magnitude of outmigration and improving the conditions under which people migrate. Examples of agricultural policies that can stabilize rural populations or foster return flows of people include interventions to increase agricultural production, strengthen rural infrastructure and diversify rural economies. This is also crucial to reducing vulnerability or increasing the resilience of farming systems and rural households.

#### **2. International Labour Organization**

33. The International Labour Organization (ILO) promotes social justice and internationally recognized labour rights. In the area of international migration, ILO has helped forge an international consensus on the protection of migrant workers from discrimination and exploitation, while allowing orderly movements of workers. The ILO strategy for achieving this objective includes the supervision of standards, legislative and policy advisory services, and technical training and awareness-raising among government officials and representatives of workers' and employers' organizations. For instance, ILO has adopted a number of Conventions and

Recommendations specific to migration and migrant workers, including the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143). ILO promotes ratification of these conventions and ensures adherence to their standards by monitoring laws, regulations and practices related to the treatment of migrant workers.

34. Monitoring and assessing emerging issues in the field of migration and the conditions of migrants have also been a mainstay of ILO activity. The recent research of ILO includes evaluation of comparative experiences with temporary foreign worker programmes, recruitment methods and their implications for the labour market, the use of immigration quotas, the effectiveness of measures to prevent the illegal employment of undocumented migrants, the relationship between the growth of trade and migration of skilled and unskilled workers, and the effects of emigration of the highly skilled on a sample of developing countries. The ILO online database on international labour migration (ILM), established in 1997, currently provides comprehensive and comparative statistical information for over 80 countries.

35. In order to achieve its mission and objectives, ILO has offered substantive technical assistance to member States. In recent years, ILO has sent advisory missions to an increasing number of Member States and has provided technical advice on various aspects of labour migration, including the improvement of national migration policies, the formulation of legislation and the establishment of frameworks for protecting nationals working abroad. In addition, ILO has been also requested to provide advisory services to regional economic groups such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In view of the further integration of labour markets at the regional level, the provision of advisory work on the implications of the free circulation of labour will be an important area of work of ILO in the future.

36. Recognizing that there are many other actors in the field of international migration and development, ILO has promoted joint activities with other United Nations offices and intergovernmental agencies. Hence, ILO is an active partner of UNITAR, UNFPA and IOM in the International Migration Policy Program (IMP). ILO is also cooperating with the Council of Europe in documenting best practices to prevent discrimination and xenophobia, and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

37. The International Labour Conference of ILO is a global ministerial-level conference in which participate Ministers of Labour and the leaders of the main national employer and business associations and the most representative trade union federation of each ILO member State. The International Labour Conference of 2004 chose “migrant workers” as a main topic of general discussion. As part of the preparation for the Conference, the International Labour Office conducted the International Labour Migration Survey and obtained from 93 member States the latest information on the trends in international migration and conditions of migrant workers, the state of law and practice, the impact of migration and the experience with structures and policies for regulating migration and employment of migrant workers. The report, entitled *Towards a Fair Deal for Migrant Workers in the Global Economy*,<sup>16</sup> which was submitted to the Conference, reflects the outcomes of the survey.

### **3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

38. Under the newly established programme on International Migration and Multicultural Policies, the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) focus on: (a) strengthening the rights of migrant workers and their families; (b) improving regional, national and international policies to manage the impact of migration on society; (c) promoting the value of, and respect for, cultural diversity in multicultural societies; and (d) contributing to the global fight against the exploitation of migrants and human trafficking. Thus, UNESCO has been actively involved in the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, by publishing an information kit on the contents and implications of the Convention. The outcomes of comparative research on the obstacles to the ratification of the Convention, carried out by its regional research networks in Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb, have been published in the form of more than 30 country reports.

39. In order to guide policy formulation and to strengthen the linkage of research and policy, UNESCO is engaged in the collection of best practices on various aspects of international migration, and is planning to establish a database accessible through the Internet. The first collection of best practices has been focused on measures combating exploitative migration and human trafficking. For this project, UNESCO collaborates closely with research networks and other international organizations such as ILO, IOM and UNICEF. In Western and Southern Africa, UNESCO has undertaken research, advocacy and training activities to strengthen the fight against human trafficking.

#### **4. World Health Organization**

40. The World Health Organization (WHO) increasingly recognizes the need to better understand the challenges of migration to health in the context of globalization, as it focuses its efforts on reaching the health targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals. The organization participated, as a member of the steering committee, in the global evaluation on reproductive health for refugees and internally displaced persons led by UNHCR in 39 countries. One of the outcomes of this evaluation has been the WHO inter-agency technical consultation to revise the content of reproductive health kits. In addition, WHO convened, in collaboration with UNFPA, the ninth annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Refugee Settings, held in Brussels in October 2003. In order to identify the main health and human rights challenges in the context of migration, WHO, together with key partner organizations such as ILO, IOM, the International Centre for Migration and Health and OHCHR, published the report entitled *International Migration, Health and Human Rights*<sup>17</sup> in 2003. The report considered a broad range of categories, from victims of trafficking to undocumented migrants, and key challenges for policy makers in addressing the linkages among migration, health and human rights.

#### **D. Geneva Migration Group**

41. In April 2003, the heads of six international organizations and United Nations entities, based in Europe and active in the field of international migration, namely, ILO, IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, UNCTAD and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, established the Geneva Migration Group. The Group is an informal mechanism for the exchange of information among organizations, sharing many objectives and areas of work. It meets regularly, usually on a quarterly basis, and has a rotating Chair. Through these meetings, the Group aims to improve mutual understanding, discuss the possibility of inter-agency cooperation and collaboration, and promote synergies, and to avoid duplication of activities. The link between migration and development is a common theme in this forum.

### **III. Major initiatives of Member States to create a multilateral framework of cooperation**

42. In recent years, several groups of countries have launched important initiatives to create multilateral frameworks for cooperation in improving migration management. These initiatives are most evident at the regional level.

43. Undoubtedly, the member States of the European Union (EU) have made the greatest progress in seeking harmonization of measures to manage international migration, in a context of growing economic and regional integration. EU aims to assure the free movement of people and workers in conjunction with appropriate measures regarding external border controls, immigration, asylum and the prevention of crime. In 1997, the Treaty of Amsterdam<sup>18</sup> established for the first time EU competence on immigration and asylum. Subsequently, the European Council, at its meeting in Tampere, Finland, on 15 and 16 October 1999, called for a common policy on immigration and asylum and set forth a framework within which to achieve it. In this framework, partnerships with countries of origin are seen as essential elements for the success of migration management. In May 2004, an additional 10 countries joined the 15 member States of EU. Although the access of citizens of new member States to the labour markets of the old member States is at present restricted by transitional arrangements, the free movement of workers from the new member States is expected to be fully achieved by 2011.

44. Outside EU, regional consultative processes have been established in virtually all world regions. These processes were often spawned by regional conferences or seminars focusing on specific migration issues of regional concern. In some cases, a concerned Government brought together representatives of States in the region for a first meeting. Subsequently, concern over specific migration issues affecting the whole region gave rise to a regional consultative process. Consultations normally involve regional and international organizations working on international migration and, in some cases, non-governmental organizations as well. Organizations such as ICMPD, IOM, UNITAR and UNHCR have provided substantive and logistic support to maintaining such consultative processing.

45. For instance, the first meeting of what would become the Budapest Process was convened by Germany in 1991. Primarily concerned with irregular migration from Eastern and Central Europe towards Western Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall, 26 Ministers of European countries met to seek the establishment of sustainable systems for orderly migration. Over time, the process has expanded both its membership and its focus. It now functions as a consultative forum for more than 40 Governments and has developed closer ties with EU. In 1997, the Ministerial Conference of the Budapest Process adopted a set of recommendations in Prague, many of which addressed the emerging problem of trafficking.

46. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Process began with the Regional Conference to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and relevant neighbouring States, held in Geneva, under the joint auspices of UNHCR, IOM and OSCE on 30 and 31 May 1996. The Conference, convened at the request of the Russian Federation, was attended by 87 States, including the 12 members of CIS and many European countries concerned about the consequences of unmanaged migration flows in the region. The Conference adopted a Programme of Action (A/51/341 and Corr.1, appendix) and led to the establishment of a technical cooperation programme aimed at establishing, improving and harmonizing national migration legislation, policies and administrative structures in CIS.

47. In Central and Northern America, Governments of the region have been holding regular regional consultations in what has become known as the Puebla Process. The first meeting took place in Puebla, Mexico, in 1996 and was attended by representatives of 10 Governments in the region. The process initially had the objective of reducing irregular migration, especially the transit of irregular migrants from outside the region through Central America and Mexico to the United States of America and Canada. In 1997, the Plan of Action of the Regional Conference on Migration was drawn up to address the main issues of concern in the area of international migration and development. Since then, the scope of the Puebla Process has expanded markedly by including technical cooperation activities.

48. In Asia, the Manila Process has developed from a regional seminar on irregular migration and trafficking in persons organized by the Philippines and IOM in 1996. It originally intended to be a one-time seminar; but, by 2000, there had been four meetings, involving 14 States or administrative regions of Eastern and South-eastern Asia. The process focuses on the exchange of information, primarily on irregular migration and trafficking. The participating States have shared country reports on a regular basis to gain an overall view of the phenomenon in the region.

49. The Berne Initiative, which started explicitly as an intergovernmental consultation process, has the goal of improving the management of international migration at the regional and global levels through cooperation among countries. The Initiative was launched by the Government of Switzerland at the International Symposium on Migration, held in Berne in June 2001. It has been expanding by including countries not only in Europe, but also in other regions. As a process, the Berne Initiative enables Governments from all world regions to share their policy priorities and identify long-term interests in the area of international migration, and offers the opportunity of developing a common orientation towards the management of international migration. An objective of the Berne Initiative is to develop a broad policy framework to facilitate cooperation among Governments in managing the movement of people in a humane and orderly fashion.

50. A more recent initiative has been the establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration. With the encouragement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland, together with those of Brazil, Morocco and the Philippines, established the Commission in December 2003. Since then, a further 16 Governments plus EU have offered their support to this institution. The Commission is an independent body, based in Geneva, and constituted by 18 eminent persons from all regions of the world. Its objectives are: (a) to place international migration in the global agenda; (b) to analyse gaps in current policy approaches to international migration and examine its interlinkages with other issues; and (c) to present recommendations to the Secretary-General and other stakeholders on how best to address international migration issues at the international level. The Commission has identified “development” as a key issue in the overall analysis of the complex challenges posed by contemporary migration.

51. The first meeting of the Global Commission was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 26 and 27 February 2004. The Commission is in the process of organizing a series of regional hearings. The first, involving the Asia-Pacific region, was held in Manila, Philippines, in May 2004. It was attended by some 160 people, consisting of senior and middle-level government officials in the region, migration experts, and representatives of international organizations, trade unions, employer associations, non-governmental organizations, and the media. Similar hearings are scheduled for Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Mediterranean region, to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of all regions are taken into consideration. The Commission will submit its final report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in mid-2005.

#### **IV. Action-oriented options of the United Nations for addressing the issue of international migration and development**

52. International migration is clearly at the forefront of the international agenda. Since 1995, the issue of international migration and development has been in the agenda of the General Assembly six times. Over the past 10 years, the Assembly has thus provided a forum for the exchange of views and experiences among Member States on this issue. The high-level dialogue on international migration and development, to be held in 2006, will provide a further opportunity for the consideration of strategies and mechanisms to address the many facets of this issue.

53. The United Nations has played a critical role in establishing legal norms and standards in relation to international migration. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted in 1990, entered into force on 1 July 2003 and has been ratified by 26 States. It is a key instrument with respect to the setting of standards for the treatment, and protection of the welfare and rights, of migrant workers, in conjunction with two ILO conventions, namely, the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), ratified, respectively, by 42 and 18 States. In addition to monitoring the application of the 1990 Convention among States parties, the United Nations will continue to promote its ratification and raise awareness about the importance, in regard to fostering the benefits of international migration, of safeguarding the rights of migrants.

54. The United Nations has also made major strides in advancing a legal framework to prevent and combat the trafficking and smuggling of persons. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, both adopted in November 2000, have been signed by more than 100 States. The United Nations could expand its technical cooperation projects to assist countries in the ratification and implementation of the Protocols.

55. The United Nations, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the regional commissions, is well placed to elucidate the different facets of the interrelations between international migration and development, and their implications for developed and developing countries. By undertaking the collection and dissemination of information relevant to international migration and development, gathering and analysing the available statistics on international migration, working to improve the availability and comparability of statistics on international migration, monitoring national policies and government views on international migration, and providing objective assessments of the state of knowledge regarding the causes and consequences of international migration, the United Nations plays a fundamental role in underpinning the policy debate on the subject. The United Nations can continue to strengthen its substantive and technical work on international migration.

56. The United Nations, in collaboration with agencies, funds and other relevant organizations, may further assist Governments in achieving a better understanding of the extent and implications of specific migration trends and the strategies to address them. In addition, the United Nations will continue to provide a forum for the exchange of information and coordination of activities on international migration among the different actors in the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations by convening coordination meetings at regular intervals, as called for in General Assembly resolution 58/208.

## V. Conclusions

57. During the 1990s, international migration to developed countries increased significantly even though many of them restricted the admission of international migrants. In the countries with economies in transition, restrictions on freedom of movement were dismantled and international mobility increased. In the developing world, the accelerated development of the newly industrialized countries caused shortages in certain sectors of labour that was provided by migrants. Millions of refugees repatriated once long-standing conflicts were resolved. However, new foci of instability emerged, particularly in Europe, leading to rising numbers of displaced persons in need of protection. At the same time, migrant remittances reached unprecedented levels, surpassing the amount of official development assistance and becoming a major source of income for a growing number of developing countries. These developments have moved international migration to the forefront of the international agenda and raised awareness of the need for international collaboration in addressing the challenges and reaping the benefits related to international migration.

58. As this report has documented, the response by the international community has been swift. The United Nations system, in collaboration with relevant institutions and organizations, including IOM, has responded by addressing a wide array of relevant issues such as the protection of migrant rights; the development of international instruments to combat human trafficking and smuggling; the provision of technical assistance on labour migration, on the formulation of migration legislation, and on the development of national institutions and expertise to manage migration; the provision of information and technical expertise on migration issues; the implications of migration for health; and the provision of assistance to refugees and others in need of protection. To facilitate collaboration and ensure coordination in carrying out this wide array of activities, mechanisms such as the Geneva Migration Group and the coordination meetings convened by the United Nations have been used.

59. In addition, a number of government initiatives, sometimes launched in collaboration with international organizations, have given rise to several regional consultative processes that have provided useful forums for the exchange of information and the discussion of positions among government representatives. In some regions, these consultative processes have advanced to a stage where concrete proposals are being acted upon by the group of countries concerned. The work of the United Nations on international migration would benefit from closer ties with the regional consultative processes in regard to determining which issues would benefit from consideration at the global level. Inputs from the regional consultative processes would be a useful part of the preparatory activities for the high-level dialogue scheduled for 2006.

60. Consideration of international migration issues at the United Nations will also benefit from the findings of the Global Commission on International Migration whose report is scheduled to be completed by mid-2005. Among other things, the report is expected to distil the views expressed in the regional hearings that are being conducted by the Commission.

61. International migration is a priority issue for the United Nations, as the Secretary-General has emphasized. This report shows that the United Nations is continuing to address the issues raised by the many facets of international migration in concrete ways. By maintaining its focus on the interrelations of international migration and development, the

**General Assembly has ensured that the United Nations will play a key role in advancing the debate on this crucial global issue.**

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NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> POP/DB/MIG/2003/1.
- <sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XIII.3.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid., table 16.
- <sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 5* (E/2004/25), chap. I, sect. B, decision 2004/1, para. (c).
- <sup>5</sup> Statistical Papers, No. 58, Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14).
- <sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No.4* (E/2003/24), chap. II, para. 2 (d).
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid., 2004, *Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), annex III.
- <sup>8</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.IV.10.
- <sup>9</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.C.1. Forthcoming.
- <sup>10</sup> “Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference: Report and Plan of Action on Population and Poverty” (Asian Population Studies Series, No. 159 (ST/ESCAP/2264)) (New York, 2003).
- <sup>11</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.F.5.
- <sup>12</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/59/48), for the report on the first session.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid., annex IV.
- <sup>14</sup> The complete text of the Agreement is available from [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_c/gatsintr\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_c/gatsintr_e.htm).
- <sup>15</sup> Statistical Papers, No. 86 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XVII.11).
- <sup>16</sup> Geneva, 2004. Also available from <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc92/pdf/rep-VI.pdf> (accessed 22 September 2004).
- <sup>17</sup> Health and Human Rights Publication Series Issue No. 4 (Geneva, WHO, December 2003).
- <sup>18</sup> Text of the Treaty is available from [http://www.unizar.es/euroconstitucion/Treaties/Treaty\\_Amst.htm](http://www.unizar.es/euroconstitucion/Treaties/Treaty_Amst.htm) (accessed 22 September 2004).

## C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### **A/60/205. International Migration and Development**

#### *Summary*

In its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session in 2006. The purpose of the high-level dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. Additionally, the high-level dialogue should have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the high-level dialogue. In its resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004, the General Assembly recalled the decision to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session and reconfirmed that the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the high-level dialogue. Pursuant to those resolutions, the present report addresses the organizational details of the high-level dialogue.

The General Assembly, upon consideration of the present report, will set the dates for the high-level dialogue and decide on its organization of work, including the number and timing of plenary meetings and informal interactive meetings.

#### **I. Subject, purpose and content of the high-level dialogue**

1. In its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to devote a high-level dialogue to the theme of international migration and development in 2006 and requested the Secretary-General to report to it, at its sixtieth session, on the organizational details. In its resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004, the General Assembly reconfirmed this request and that the high-level dialogue would be held during its sixty-first session. The present report provides the organizational details of the high-level dialogue, bearing in mind that, as General Assembly resolution 58/208 stipulates: “(a) the purpose of the high-level dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts; (b) the high-level dialogue should have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals; (c) round tables and informal exchanges are useful for dialogue; (d) the outcome of the high-level dialogue will be a Chairperson’s summary, which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations.” (paragraph 10, resolution 58/208).

2. In resolution 59/241, the General Assembly recognized the important contributions that international and regional efforts, including by the regional commissions, can provide to the high-level dialogue. The Assembly also invited appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the high-level dialogue. In particular, the General Assembly took note of the establishment of

the Global Commission on International Migration. The report of the Global Commission will be available in October 2005. The General Assembly may wish to take into account the recommendations made in that report in finalizing the arrangements for the high-level dialogue.

3. At the request of the General Assembly (resolution 59/241), the Secretary-General will prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education. That report will serve as a substantive input for the high-level dialogue.

4. The organizational details for the high-level dialogue on international migration and development proposed in the present report are largely based on the established practices of other recent high-level meetings of the General Assembly.

## **II. Participation**

### **A. Member States and observers**

5. As in other high-level meetings of the General Assembly, the high-level dialogue would be open to participation by Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly (A/INF/57/4), in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly. Accordingly, it is expected that the International Organization for Migration would be invited to the dialogue.

6. In addition, in the light of the provisions of resolution 59/241 referred to in paragraph 2 above, the Assembly may consider inviting representatives of relevant institutional stakeholders, that is, representatives of or spokespersons for regional intergovernmental consultative processes and the Global Commission on International Migration.

7. Member States should be encouraged to participate in the high-level dialogue at the ministerial level.

### **B. Other institutions**

8. Relevant entities of the United Nations system would be invited to the high-level dialogue. The General Assembly may wish to encourage those entities to be represented at the highest level.

9. In recognition of the important contributions that regional efforts can provide to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development, as noted in General Assembly resolution 59/241, the General Assembly may wish to encourage the participation of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions of the United Nations.

### **C. Civil society and other stakeholders**

10. Civil society and other stakeholders, including the business sector, can make valuable contributions to a dialogue on international migration. Owing to space limitations at United Nations Headquarters, the broad participation of civil society in the dialogue itself may not be possible. In other high-level meetings of the General Assembly civil society has organized special consultations or hearings prior to those meetings. If such consultations or hearings were to take place, the General Assembly could invite representatives of civil society and representatives of the business sector to participate in the dialogue by reporting on the consultations or hearings.

### **III. Organizational arrangements**

11. The high-level dialogue would consist of plenary meetings and informal interactive meetings, including round tables. A dialogue of two-day duration is necessary to accommodate the active participation of all Member States and other stakeholders. In particular, at least two plenary meetings<sup>1</sup> need to be programmed to accommodate the number of official statements expected.

12. To facilitate participation at the highest level, the high-level dialogue could be held at the beginning of the sixty-first session of the Assembly, which is scheduled to start on 12 September 2006. The suggested dates for the dialogue are 14 and 15 September 2006.

13. The dialogue would start with a plenary session that would adopt the agenda, hear introductory statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and proceed with statements from ministers and high-level officials. An informal interactive meeting devoted to a policy dialogue would then follow. It would be opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and would include two panel discussions on policy relevant issues. On the second day, five concurrent round tables would be held. The dialogue would conclude in the afternoon with a plenary meeting that would end with a concluding statement by the President of the General Assembly (see annex for a full programme).

14. Plenary meetings would thus occupy the first morning and the last afternoon of the high-level dialogue. Statements during the plenary meetings would be limited to five minutes, on the understanding that the limit would not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts and that the principle of precedence would be strictly applied to accord priority to participation at the ministerial level.

15. During the first afternoon of the dialogue, an informal interactive meeting devoted to a policy dialogue would be held. Participation in the informal interactive meeting would be open to Member States and observers, other accredited institutions and representatives of civil society and the business sector.

16. To allow a free-flowing, interactive discussion during the informal interactive meeting, no list of speakers would be established. All participants would be invited to speak from their seats and would be strongly encouraged to avoid reading from written statements. Representatives of civil society and representatives of the business sector, selected by accredited participants among themselves, would be invited to speak on behalf of each group (see paragraph 10 above).

17. As part of the informal interactive meeting, two panel discussions focusing on ways of enhancing the response of the United Nations system to the challenges posed by international migration would be organized. One panel would focus on relevant international instruments and

their role in enhancing the benefits of migration and the other would focus on the role of international migration in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. Panellists would include heads of relevant entities of the United Nations system.

18. On the second day of the high-level dialogue, five round tables would be held concurrently to permit focused discussion of selected issues. Participation in the round tables would be open to Member States and observers and to entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutional stakeholders (see paragraph 6 above).

19. To promote interactive participation in the round tables a limit on the number of participants would have to be set. The overall number of participants per round table could be limited to 50 or fewer, at least five of whom would be representatives of entities of the United Nations system and another five, representatives of other relevant institutional stakeholders. The list of participants in each round table would be established on a first-come, first-served basis.

20. The chairperson of each round table would 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 representation.

21. The round tables would focus on policy issues that would be most likely to result in action to enhance the positive impacts of international migration on development or to reduce its negative consequences. The topics suggested are: (a) the effects of international migration on economic and social development; (b) the migration of highly skilled persons; (c) actions to improve the impact of remittances on development; (d) international cooperation to prevent and combat the trafficking in persons; and (e) institutional mechanisms to enhance international cooperation for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

22. The substantive basis for the discussion in the round tables would be provided by the comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development being prepared by the Secretary-General (see paragraph 3 above). In addition, there would be two lead discussants per round table who would introduce the subject under discussion. The lead discussants would be designated by the President of the General Assembly on the basis of recommendations made by the Secretary-General.

23. The chairpersons of the round tables would be requested to submit to the President of the General Assembly summaries of their respective round-table discussions.

#### **IV. Outcome of the high-level dialogue**

24. As stipulated in resolution 58/208, the outcome of the high-level dialogue will be a Chairperson's summary (that is, the President's summary), which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations. The General Assembly may wish to specify that the President's summary would include summaries of the round-table discussions and would be issued as an official document of the General Assembly.

## V. Conclusions

25. The high-level dialogue on international migration and development will provide a unique opportunity for the international community to set the foundation for enhanced international cooperation in addressing the multifaceted issues raised by the international movement of people. To make the most of that opportunity, it is suggested that the high-level dialogue be held at the start of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, on 14 and 15 September 2006.

26. It is also suggested that Member States be encouraged to participate in the high-level dialogue at the ministerial level. The General Assembly may also wish to encourage the engagement of other stakeholders at the highest possible level, such as relevant entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental institutions.

27. Regarding the organization of the high-level dialogue, the recommendations made in the present report are summarized in the programme presented as an annex. The dialogue would start with a plenary session that would adopt the agenda, hear introductory statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and proceed with statements from ministers and high-level officials. There would then be an informal interactive meeting devoted to a policy dialogue that would include two panel discussions on policy-relevant issues. On the morning of the second day, five concurrent round tables would be held. The high-level dialogue would then conclude with a plenary meeting in the afternoon that would be closed by the President of the General Assembly.

28. It is suggested that the topics for the round tables be the following: (a) the effects of international migration on economic and social development; (b) the migration of highly skilled persons; (c) actions to improve the impact of remittances on development; (d) international cooperation to prevent and combat the trafficking in persons; and (e) institutional mechanisms to enhance international cooperation for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

29. The outcome of the high-level dialogue will be the President's summary. In addition to requesting its wide dissemination, the General Assembly may wish to consider how best to use the outcome document to inform and buttress further decision-making on how to build an effective multilateral mechanism for cooperation in the field of international migration.

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### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> In the event that official statements could not be accommodated during those two plenary meetings, provisions would need to be made for additional night meetings.

## Annex

### **Proposed programme of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (United Nations Headquarters, 14 and 15 September 2006)**

#### **Thursday, 14 September**

##### **Plenary meeting**

- 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.    Opening of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly  
Organizational matters  
Statements by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.    Statements by ministers and high-level officials

##### **Informal interactive meeting**

- 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.    Policy dialogue opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders
- 5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.    First panel discussion

#### **Friday, 15 September**

##### **Informal interactive meeting**

- 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.    Second panel discussion

##### **Round tables**

- 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.    Five simultaneous round tables on different topics

##### **Plenary meeting**

- 3.00 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.    Statements by ministers and high-level officials
- 5.45 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.    Concluding statement by the President of the General Assembly

## V. RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/483/Add.3)]

#### **58/208. International migration and development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,<sup>1</sup> in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,<sup>2</sup> the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>3</sup> the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women<sup>4</sup> and the outcome documents of the twenty-fourth<sup>5</sup> and twenty-fifth<sup>6</sup> special sessions of the General Assembly,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997, 54/212 of 22 December 1999 and 56/203 of 21 December 2001 on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>7</sup> and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>8</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>9</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>10</sup>

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>11</sup> which entered into force in July 2003,

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution S-25/2, annex.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 34/180, annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 44/25, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 45/158, annex.

*Recalling also* that heads of State and Government at the United Nations Millennium Summit resolved to take measures, inter alia, to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies,

*Reaffirming* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities as entrusted to them in the Charter of the United Nations, and that Member States should strive to achieve the goals set at the relevant United Nations conferences in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities in the field of population and development, including activities on international migration,

*Reaffirming also* the need for the relevant United Nations organizations and other international organizations to enhance their financial and technical support to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to foster migration that contributes to development,

*Taking note* of the views of Member States on the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda, and noting the low number of respondents to the survey of the Secretariat, and in this context inviting the Secretary-General to continue considering the issue,

*Noting* the work undertaken under the International Migration Policy Programme by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the International Labour Office, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions, with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments to manage migration flows at the national and regional levels and thus foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

*Aware* that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, due in part to the uneven impact of the benefits of globalization and liberalization, have contributed to large flows of people between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

*Aware also* that, in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to enhance international cooperation on migration issues and make further efforts, including through appropriate mechanisms, to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families, in particular of women migrant workers, are respected and protected,

*Taking note* of the rights of all migrants and their obligation to respect national legislation, including legislation on migration,

*Noting* that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide a context for the effective integration of migrants, preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in receiving societies,

*Recognizing* the need for further studies and analyses of the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education on economic and social

development in developing countries, and emphasizing the need for further studies and analysis of the effects of those movements on development in the context of globalization,

*Noting* the importance of remittances by migrant workers, which for many countries are one of the major sources of foreign exchange and can make an important contribution to developmental potential, and stressing the need to consider the various dimensions of this issue in a sustainable development perspective,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>12</sup>
2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to continue strengthening international cooperation and arrangements at all levels in the area of international migration and development in order to address all aspects of migration and to maximize the benefits of international migration to all those concerned;
3. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development goals and respect for all human rights;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to continue convening meetings, as necessary, in order to coordinate their activities regarding international migration, and to collect information to assist States in identifying critical issues and discussing future steps;
5. *Takes note* of the initiatives undertaken by Member States to continue to identify the many dimensions of international migration and development in order to better understand international migration processes and their linkages with globalization and development, to address the issues related to international migration, to analyse the gaps and shortcomings in the current approaches, to maximize the benefits of international migration and to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation;
6. *Encourages* Governments of countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination to increase cooperation on issues related to migration, and notes with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development,<sup>13</sup> in particular in the context of regional cooperation;

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<sup>12</sup> A/58/98.

<sup>13</sup> Including the European Conference on Migration, held at Brussels on 16 and 17 October 2001; the International Symposium on Migration: Towards Regional Cooperation on Irregular/Undocumented Migration, held at Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 1999, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration (see A/C.2/54/2, annex); the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996; the Regional Conference on Migration in North and Central America; regional migration policy capacity-building and cooperation meetings organized and planned by the International Migration Policy Programme; the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development, held at Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 15 to 17 October 1996; the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, held at The Hague from 29 June to 3 July 1998; and the First and Second Ministerial Regional Conferences on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held at Bali, Indonesia, from 26 to 28 February 2002 and from 28 to 30 April 2003.

7. *Invites* Governments, with the assistance of the international community, where appropriate, to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people, in particular through efforts to achieve sustainable development, leading to a better economic balance between developed and developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as an exception, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth instead of its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, which, inter alia, provides an update of the results of relevant activities within the United Nations system and of United Nations cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and other relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning international migration and development, including best practices on managed migration and policies to increase understanding and strengthen cooperation in the area of international migration and development among States and other stakeholders, reviews major initiatives of Member States and suggests action-oriented options for the consideration of the General Assembly;

9. *Decides* that in 2006 the General Assembly will devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Assembly;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the high-level dialogue, bearing in mind that:

(a) The purpose of the high-level dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

(b) The high-level dialogue should have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals;

(c) Round tables and informal exchanges are useful for dialogue;

(d) The outcome of the high-level dialogue will be a Chairperson's summary, which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".

*78th plenary meeting  
23 December 2003*

## B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/485/Add.2)]

### **59/241. International migration and development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,<sup>14</sup> in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,<sup>15</sup> the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,<sup>16</sup> the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women<sup>17</sup> and the outcome documents of the twenty-fourth<sup>18</sup> and twenty-fifth<sup>19</sup> special sessions of the General Assembly,

*Recalling also* its relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/190 of 22 December 2003 and 58/208 of 23 December 2003, in which it decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session, bearing in mind that the purpose of the high-level dialogue is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>20</sup> and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>21</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>22</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>23</sup>

*Noting* the work undertaken under the International Migration Policy Programme by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in partnership with the International Labour Office, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions, with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments to manage migration flows at the national and regional levels and thus foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

*Noting also* the ongoing efforts and recent activities within the United Nations system and the other intergovernmental activities and multilateral initiatives on international migration and development being undertaken, as well as the exchanges of information on the subject,

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<sup>14</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>15</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>18</sup> Resolution S-24/2, annex.

<sup>19</sup> Resolution S-25/2, annex.

<sup>20</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>21</sup> Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol.1249, No.20378.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>24</sup> which entered into force in July 2003,

*Welcoming* the adoption of the special theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2006, which will be “International migration and development”,<sup>25</sup>

*Taking note* of the views of the Member States on the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda, noting the low number of respondents to the survey of the Secretariat, and in this context inviting the Secretary-General to continue considering the issue,

*Acknowledging* the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

*Aware* of the fact that all countries are impacted by international migration, and hence stressing the crucial importance of dialogue and cooperation so as to better understand the international migration phenomenon, including its gender perspective, and to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts,

*Realizing* the benefits that international migration can bring to migrants, their families, the receiving societies and their communities of origin and the need for countries of origin, transit and destination to ensure that migrants, including migrant workers, are not subject to exploitation of any kind and the need to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families, in particular of women migrant workers, are respected and protected,

*Noting* that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide a context for the effective integration of migrants, preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in receiving societies,

*Aware* that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, due in part to the uneven impact of the benefits of globalization and liberalization, have contributed to large flows of people between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

*Recognizing* that countries can be concurrently any combination of origin, transit and/or destination,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>26</sup>
2. *Reconfirms* that the Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the 2006 high-level dialogue;
3. *Recognizes* the important contributions that international and regional efforts, including by the regional commissions, can provide to the high-level dialogue on international migration and development;
4. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the high-level dialogue;

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<sup>24</sup> Resolution 45/158, annex.

<sup>25</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 5 (E/2004/25)*, chap. I.B, decision 2004/1.

<sup>26</sup> A/59/325.

5. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global Commission on International Migration;
6. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development goals and respect for all human rights;
7. *Encourages* Governments of countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination to increase cooperation on issues related to migration, and notes with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development, in particular in the context of regional cooperation;
8. *Invites* Governments, with the assistance of the international community, where appropriate, to seek to make the option of remaining in one's own country viable for all people, in particular through efforts to achieve sustainable development, leading to a better economic balance between developed and developing countries;
9. *Reaffirms* the need to adopt policies and undertake measures to reduce the cost of the transfer of migrant remittances to developing countries, and welcomes the efforts of Governments and stakeholders in this regard;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;
11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*75th plenary meeting  
22 December 2004*

C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/490/Add.3)]

**60/206. Facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

*Recognizing* that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

*Recognizing also* that remittance flows constitute one of the important aspects of international migration and that they particularly benefit the households of migrants and could impact the economies of recipient countries,

*Recognizing further* that there is a need to address and to promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries, and the need to facilitate the potential of their productive use in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to do so,

*Noting* that, despite some recent initiatives to facilitate and to reduce the costs of remittance transfers, the costs incurred by migrants remain high and could be reduced,

*Noting also* the fact that many migrants without access to regular financial services may resort to informal means of transferring remittances,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of reducing the transfer costs of migrant remittances, facilitating their flow and, as appropriate, encouraging opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to do so;

2. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to consider adopting measures, in accordance with national legislation, that facilitate migrant remittance flows to recipient countries, including through, inter alia:

(a) Simplifying procedures and facilitating access to formal means of remittance transfers;

(b) Promoting access to, and awareness of the availability and use of, financial services for migrants;

3. *Invites* development partners and relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their capacity-building efforts to facilitate the flows of migrant remittances;

4. *Looks forward* to the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development to be held in 2006, which will offer an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

5. *Invites* interested countries to voluntarily convey to the Secretary-General information on their practices, initiatives and proposals in regard to the facilitation and the reduction of the cost of migrant remittances, in the context of the preparation of the Secretary-General's comprehensive overview for the High-level Dialogue.

*68th plenary meeting  
22 December 2005*

#### D. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/490/Add.3)]

#### **60/227. International migration and development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>27</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>28</sup>

1. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and also decides that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;
2. *Invites* Member States to participate in the High-level Dialogue at the ministerial level or highest level possible;
3. *Decides* that the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Dialogue;
4. *Invites* those intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the High-level Dialogue;
5. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of, and participate in, the High-level Dialogue;
6. *Decides* that the participants in the High-level Dialogue will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;
7. *Also decides* that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables, within existing resources;
8. *Further decides* that the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General will make introductory statements at the opening of the High-level Dialogue;

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<sup>27</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>28</sup> A/60/205.

9. *Decides* that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including its relevant special rapporteurs, and the International Organization for Migration, as well as to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decides that the round tables will be organized as follows:

(a) The first set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue;

(b) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day of the High-level Dialogue;

(c) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;

10. *Also decides* that the themes for each of the four round tables will be the following:

(a) Round table 1 will focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development;

(b) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(c) Round table 3 will focus on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances;

(d) Round table 4 will focus on 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;

11. *Further decides* to hold, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in 2006 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue in September 2006;

12. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly will 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 the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector;

13. *Also decides* 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;

14. *Further decides* that arrangements concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the High-level Dialogue will in no way create a precedent for other meetings of the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to address also in his comprehensive overview in consultation with relevant United Nations organizations, short-term and seasonal workers within the issue of labour movements;

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to contribute to and coordinate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue;

18. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions with a focus on its overall theme;

19. *Notes* that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women will have considered the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites their inputs through the Economic and Social Council;

20. *Also notes* that the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will have considered the issue of protecting the rights of all migrant workers as a tool to enhance development, within its mandate, by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites the Secretary-General to make available for the High-level Dialogue the summary of the discussion in the Committee;

21. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

22. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, and notes its contribution to the debate on international migration and development, and also takes note of the report as an input for consideration at the High-level Dialogue;

23. *Reiterates* that the outcome of the High-level Dialogue will be a Chairperson's summary, which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the High-level Dialogue;

25. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of resolution 59/241;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".

*69th plenary meeting  
23 December 2005*