

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

International Migration Report 2002



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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

International Migration Report 2002



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NOTE

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

The designations “more developed”, “less developed” and “least developed” countries, areas or regions are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the developing process.

The term “country” as used in the text of this report also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

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PREFACE

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

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

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

This report is the first of its kind to be issued by the Population Division. It presents information on international migration levels and policies for major areas, regions and countries of the world. In addition to this report, the United Nations Population Division has issued a wall chart, *International Migration 2002*, which provides selected information from this report for all countries. For many of the countries, information on international migration is sufficient to provide a reasonable basis for levels, trends and policies. For some countries, however, the information is very limited or unavailable, and in such cases, imputations were made.

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

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

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Explanatory notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The group of least developed countries currently comprises 49 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

The following abbreviations have been used:

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CDMG	European Committee on Migration
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
EURODAC	European common automated fingerprint register
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GDP	gross domestic product
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMILA	Investigation of International Migration in Latin America
IMP	International Migration Programme

IOM	International Organization for Migration
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NATLEX	ILO database on national laws on labour, social security and related human rights
NGO	non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SOPEMI	OECD Continuous Reporting System on Migration
STD	sexually transmitted disease
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

OVERVIEW

Introduction

A fundamental characteristic of people is their movement from place to place. The right to move was recognized globally over a half century ago with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration states in Article 13 that “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state” and “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”

As noted in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, orderly international migration can have positive impacts on both the communities of origin and the communities of destination. Migration also has the potential of facilitating the transfer of skills and contributing to cultural enrichment. Today the number of people residing outside their country of birth is at an all-time high of about 175 million, more than double the number a generation ago. The vast majority of migrants are making meaningful contributions to their host countries. At the same time, however, international migration entails the loss of human resources for many countries of origin and may give rise to political, economic or social tensions in countries of destination.

International migration, with its intricate web of demographic, social, economic and political determinants and consequences, is a topic that has moved to the forefront of national and international agenda. In the last few years, immigration has become a major issue of concern in an increasing number of countries. More recently, in the aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001, some countries have further tightened their policies towards immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

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

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

The implementation of national policies to affect levels and patterns of international migration has also intensified, spreading to all regions of the world. Discussions on issues such as sustained low fertility and population ageing, unemployment, brain-drain and brain-gain, worker remittances, human rights, social integration, xenophobia, human trafficking and national security

have led to a re-examination of migration policies and the potential benefits and disadvantages accruing to sending, receiving and transit countries. Over the past decades, the number of Governments adopting new measures to influence migration has grown rapidly. In particular, the number adopting policies to lower immigration rose from 6 per cent in 1976 to 40 per cent in 2001.

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

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

Findings

Some of the major findings of the report are as follows.

Around 175 million persons currently reside in a country other than where they were born, which is about 3 per cent of world population. The number of migrants has more than doubled since 1970*. Sixty per cent of the world's migrants currently reside in the more developed regions and 40 per cent in the less developed regions. Most of the world's migrants live in Europe (56 million), Asia (50 million) and Northern America (41 million). Almost one of every 10 persons living in the more developed regions is a migrant. In contrast, nearly one of every 70 persons in developing countries is a migrant.

In the ten years from 1990 to 2000, the number of migrants in the world increased by 21 million persons, or 14 per cent (see table 1 below). The total net growth in migrants took place in the more developed regions. Europe, Northern America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan in total registered an increase of migrant stock of 23 million persons, or 28 per cent. The number of migrants in Northern America grew by 13 million (48 per cent) during the last decade, while Europe's migrant population increased by 8 million, or by 16 per cent. In contrast, the migrant population of the less developed regions fell by 2 million during the 1990-2000 period. The number of migrants residing in Latin America and the Caribbean declined by one million, or by 15 per cent.

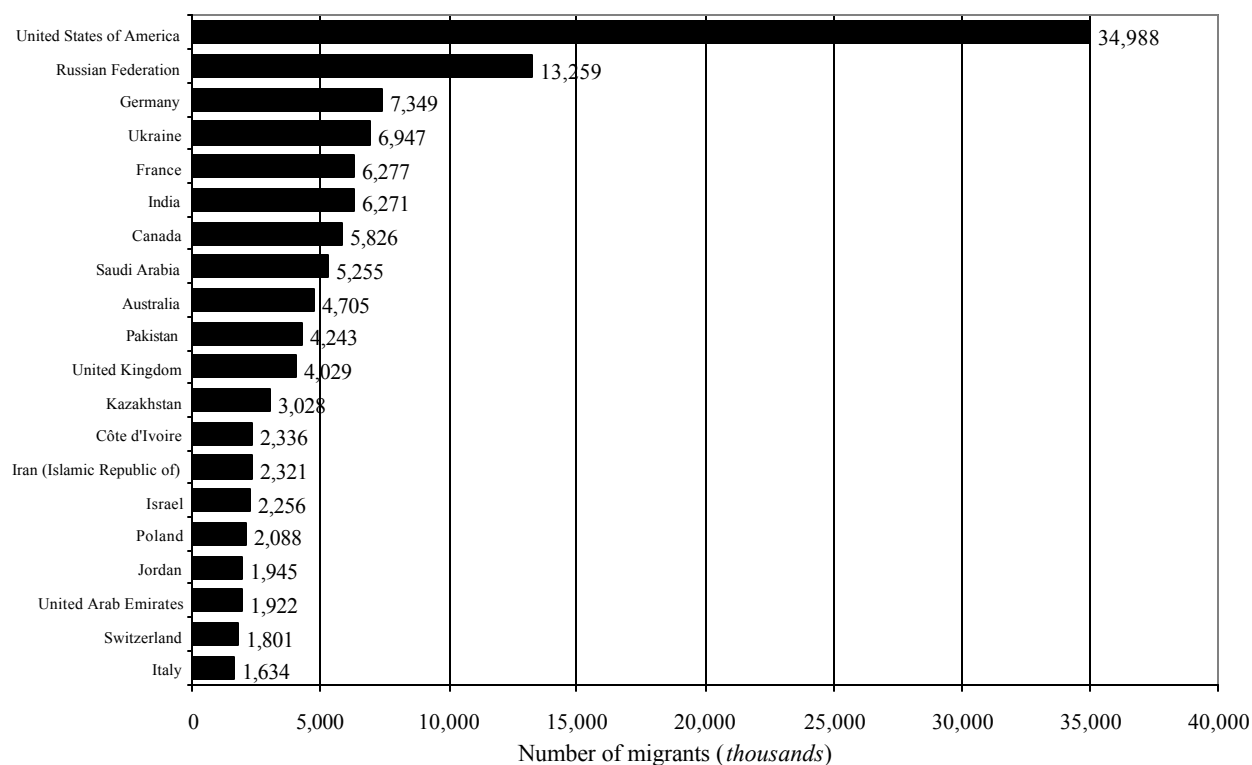
In just the five years from 1995-2000, the more developed regions of the world received nearly 12 million migrants from the less developed regions, an estimated 2.3 million migrants per year. The largest gains per year were made by Northern America, which absorbed 1.4 million migrants annually, followed by Europe with an annual net gain of 0.8 million and by Oceania, with a more modest net intake of 90,000 migrants annually.

The top twenty countries with the largest international migrant stock are shown in figure I. With 35 million migrants, the United States contains the largest number of migrants, followed by the Russian Federation with 13 million and Germany with 7 million.

TABLE 1. SIZE AND GROWTH OF MIGRANT STOCK BY MAJOR AREA, 1990-2000

Major area	1990	2000	Change: 1990-2000	
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Per cent
World.....	153 956	174 781	20 825	13.5
More developed regions	81 424	104 119	22 695	27.9
Less developed regions	72 531	70 662	-1 869	-2.6
Least developed countries	10 992	10 458	-534	-4.9
Africa.....	16 221	16 277	56	0.3
Asia.....	49 956	49 781	-175	-0.4
Europe.....	48 437	56 100	7 663	15.8
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	6 994	5 944	-1 051	-15.0
Northern America.....	27 597	40 844	13 248	48.0
Oceania	4 751	5 835	1 084	22.8

Figure I. Countries with the largest international migrant stock, 2000

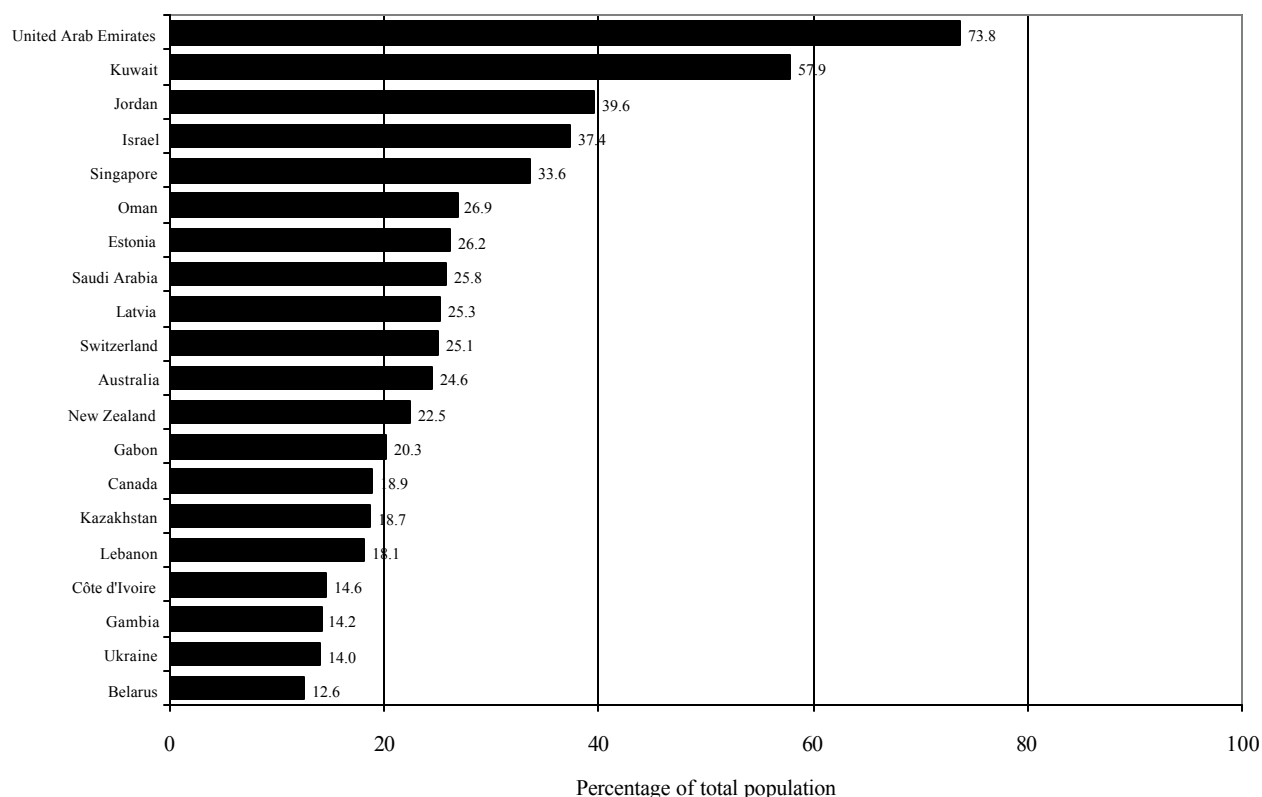


In figure II, the top twenty countries with the highest proportion of migrant stock are shown. The four highest are in Western Asia: United Arab Emirates (74 per cent), Kuwait (58 per cent), Jordan (40 per cent) and Israel (37 per cent).

About 9 per cent of the migrants are refugees. At the end of 2000, the number of refugees in the world stood at 16 million, of which 12 million are under the mandate of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 4 million under the mandate of United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency (UNRWA). The largest number of refugees is found in Asia, 9 million and in Africa, 4 million. Three million refugees are in developed countries and 13 million in developing countries.

Beginning in the late 1970s, major changes in Governments' views and policies on the level of immigration have been taking place, as a result of growing concerns with the economic, political and social consequences of immigration. By 2001, almost one-quarter of all countries viewed immigration levels as too high. Although developed countries are more inclined towards lowering immigration, developing countries are also moving in a similar direction towards more

**Figure II. Countries with the highest percentage of international migrant stock, 2000
(Countries with population of one million or more inhabitants)**



restrictive policies. In 2001, 44 per cent of developed countries had policies aiming to lower immigration levels, as did 39 per cent of developing countries. Developed and developing countries are strikingly similar in their views and policies concerning levels of emigration. About three-quarters of both developed and developing countries view their level of emigration as satisfactory. One in five countries have policies in place to lower levels of emigration.

Remittances sent back to the home country by migrants are a major source of foreign exchange earnings for some countries and are an important addition to gross domestic product. For example, in 2000, remittances from abroad were more than 10 per cent of the gross domestic product for countries such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Jamaica, Jordan, Nicaragua, Samoa and Yemen. Remittances can be used to import capital goods and provide investment funds for entrepreneurs. Also important, remittances can augment household income and savings and be used for the purchase of consumer products and services.

Since 1951, the international community has adopted a number of conventions and protocols for the protection of migrants. Among the most prominent are the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, which relates to the status of refugees, and the 1990 Convention and 2000 Protocol which considers the protection of migrants and trafficking in persons. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, ratified by 141 countries, establishes legal protections and a clear definition of the status of refugees. It also prohibits the expulsion or forcible return of persons accorded refugee status. The 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, ratified by 139 countries, extends the scope of the 1951 Convention, which benefited only persons who became refugees prior to 1 January 1951. It also extends the application of the Convention to persons who became refugees after that date.

The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, ratified by 19 countries, establishes an international definition of the different categories of migrant workers. It formalizes the responsibility of receiving States in regard to upholding the rights of migrants and assuring their protection. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified by 18 countries, aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking; and to promote cooperation among States parties to meet these objectives. Finally, the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified by 17 countries, aims to combat and prevent the smuggling of human cargo, reaffirming that migration in itself is not a crime, and that migrants may be victims in need of protection.

This report provides a wealth of information on international migration levels, trends and policies. Nevertheless, migration information remains incomplete and often inaccurate. Many of the data provided in this report are based on imputation or proxies of the numbers of foreign born; in particular, data on citizenship are used in the absence of data on place of birth. Documenting migration levels, trends and policies remains a major challenge. In many countries, the information is neither available nor produced on a regular basis. Furthermore, responsibility for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of migration data is often diffused among Government bodies as well as among international organizations.

Structure of the Report

The report consists of two major parts. The first part contains three chapters. Chapter one deals with the measurement of international migration. It discusses some of the challenges faced in gathering and analyzing data on levels and trends of international migration, and illustrates some of these challenges with recent examples from the work of the Population Division.

Chapter II provides a summary of major trends in international migration policies in developed and developing countries since the mid-1970s. The focus is on policies designed to influence the size and composition of international migration flows. It also discusses two policy issues that currently dominate the field of international migration: managing the various flows of immigrants and reducing undocumented migration.

Chapter III reproduces the most recent report of the Secretary-General presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session in 2001: "International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations Conference on international migration and development to address migration issues". This document summarises the views of governments and describes recent activities carried out by the relevant organisations at the regional and international levels. Also included in this chapter is the resolution adopted by the General Assembly following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General. This resolution provides added impetus for coordination among relevant national and international bodies. The resolution also calls for the General Assembly to further discuss the issues of international migration and development at its fifty-eighth session in 2003.

The second part of the report presents international migration profiles for each individual country and for regions, major areas and special groups of countries. Chapter IV presents information on each of the indicators and concepts used in the profiles, including definitions and primary sources of data.

Chapters V and VI present regional and country profiles, respectively. More specifically, these chapters present information for 1990 and 2000 concerning population, migrant stock, refugees, remittances and Government views and policies relating to immigration and emigration levels. Also presented is information, for the periods 1990-1995 and 1995-2000, on net migration flows.

* Part of the increase in the world international migrant stock observed between 1970 and 2000 is due to the break-up of the former Soviet Union into a number of independent countries. In 1989, there were 2.4 million persons in the USSR born outside the country. In 2000, there were a total of 29.2 million persons born outside their country for all the countries that used to be part of USSR. The break-up of the USSR has thus resulted in adding about 27 million persons to the 2000 world total international migrant stock. The increase was due to the change in classification from internal migrant to international migrant for former Soviet citizens who were living in 1989 in a Soviet Republic other than the Republic of their birth.

PART ONE: LEVELS, TRENDS AND POLICIES

I. MEASURING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION*

A. ESTIMATING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

As the issue of international migration has gained greater importance as a policy agenda item, the demand for international migration information has increased. In particular, international migration statistics and analyses should serve as solid bases for the formulation and the implementation of policies aiming at managing the phenomenon. However, the data that allow the precise estimation of levels and trends of international population movements and the investigation of its causes and consequences are far from complete. International monitoring and reporting initiatives are seriously hindered by data availability, quality, and comparability, thus calling for improved coordination of data-gathering activities among those who are concerned with global estimates of international migration.

Despite a prevailing view that data on international migration are scarce, statistical sources that can potentially produce information relevant to international migration are quite diverse. Possibly, the sense of scarcity partly stems from the limited access to these data (Zlotnik, 1987). Many existing data-collecting systems are set up to answer the demands of different administrative objectives, and therefore, not necessarily valued as sources of information to measure the volume of international migration. Dissemination of information generated by those systems has been often limited, or has been slow if it is ever released. Hence, one of the fundamental challenges for data-compilation at international level is the identification of appropriate data sources and timely access to the data.

Data sources producing information on international migration can be customarily grouped into the following four types: *a)* administrative registers, including population registers and registers of foreigners; *b)* other administrative sources, such as information derived from the issuance of visas, residence permits, work permits and exits clearances; *c)* border statistics, derived from the collection of information at ports of entry into and departure from a country; and *d)* household-based inquiries, including population censuses and household surveys of different types (United Nations, 1998). Unfortunately, there is no single source of data that can reflect the growing complexity of the international population movements. A variety of sources produce different types of migration statistics, with its own strengths and limitations.

For example, administrative registers have the potential of producing information on certain groups of persons who change a country of usual residence and thus qualify as international migrants. National population registers, if a country maintains the system, can be a valuable source of data on both inflows and outflows of citizens. However, the identification of international migrants is subject to the rules concerning inscription in or deregistration from the register. Moreover, when individuals do not comply strictly with the rules, the true extend of population mobility tends to be understated. Similar biases affect the data derived from registers of foreigners. While registers of foreigners may capture the influx of foreigners granted the permission to reside in a country, the coverage of those leaving the country is likely to be less complete, because of their reluctance to report the departure.

* This chapter is a revised version of the United Nations Population Division paper, "Measuring International Migration: Many Questions, Few Answers", presented at the United Nations Co-ordination Meeting on International Migration held in New York from 11-12 July 2002.

Other administrative sources, especially those generated from the operations designed to control international migration, can produce information about specific subsets of international migrants. Thus, the data on work permits issued to foreign nationals can be a proxy for the influx of economically active foreigners. The number of applications for asylum filed by the national authority can be an indirect evidence of the inflow of asylum-seekers. Similarly, the number of deportations in a year can refer to a segment of undocumented migrants. A common drawback of many administrative sources is that, because data are collected to satisfy specific administrative needs, they do not reflect the full volume of migration, and are thus subject to incompleteness. The adequacy of these data as international migration statistics also depends on the degree of effectiveness with which such administrative procedures are implemented (Athuskorala, 1993).

Border statistics can be considered the most appropriate for the direct measurement of international migration flows. However, in practice, because the coverage is invariably influenced by the geography of a country, only an island country or country that has a few well-controlled ports of entry and departure is likely to gather useful border statistics. Moreover, countries often apply different degrees of control depending upon citizenship of passengers and mode of transport. In general, greater control is exercised upon arrivals than upon departures.

Population censuses or household surveys can yield an estimate of international migration stock at a country level, when appropriate questions are included in the census questionnaire. If a question on place of birth, or nationality, is included in a census, the number of migrants can be estimated as the size of the foreign-born, or foreign, population. In contrast with the limited availability of flow statistics, data on migrant stock are available from a large number of countries that conduct a census. A major limitation of census data is that the information cannot be updated easily, as a census usually take place with an interval of ten years in many countries. Policy formulation may require data on changes in key variables in shorter intervals. Census data also fail to capture the circulatory nature of international migration such as temporary labour migration.

The attempts to characterize the international population mobility have been also hampered by different concepts used to define international migration. Who is an international migrant? The lack of uniformity among countries in defining a migrant has been a key source of inconsistency in international migration statistics. Countries gather data according to their own definitions and hardly make adjustments to make them internationally comparable. In fact, the international efforts to achieve greater homogeneity in the concepts underlying flow statistics on international migration started as early as in the 1920s (United Nations, 1998). Since then, however, limited progress has been achieved.

Basic criteria customarily used to identify international migrants are citizenship, residence, time or duration of stay, purpose of stay and place of birth (Bilsborrow and others, 1997). Perhaps, the most widely used, yet loosely defined concept is that of residence. Countries may define immigrants as non-residents who enter the country with a view of establishing residence, or emigrants as those currently not residing in a country. However, there has been no legal consensus on the term “residence” among countries. Often, the definition of international migrants has no reference to any minimum period of presence in the country or absence from the country.

Many countries also use legal nationality as an identifying factor for international migrants, because citizenship is a decisive factor determining a person’s rights in a country and has traditionally been used to determine who is subject to control when crossing international

boundaries. States usually exert minimal controls on their own citizens, but use a variety of means to restrict the admission of foreigners.

Most recently, taking into account the “time” aspect of population mobility, the United Nations (1998) recommended to define a long-term migrant as a person who moves to a country other than his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year and short-term migrants as a person who moves for at least three months but less than a year. To date, only a few countries have implemented strictly these definitions in their reporting.

In summary, the variety of data sources and definitions used by different countries to produce international migration statistics results in a lack of international comparability of statistics, and in turn, poses a difficulty in characterizing the international population mobility with accuracy. While efforts to enhance the comparability of data are vital, greater availability of data and proper understanding of strengths and limitations of major data on international migration will contribute to better illustrating international population mobility.

The following part of this paper presents recent studies on levels and trends of international migration carried out by the United Nations Population Division. International migration policies are discussed in the next chapter of this report.

B. AN OVERVIEW OF LEVELS AND TRENDS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FROM EXAMPLES OF THE WORK OF THE POPULATION DIVISION

1. Trends in Total Migrant Stock

Using data on the number of foreign-born or foreign residents enumerated by population censuses, together with information on the number of refugees in developing countries, estimates of the migrants stock in each country have been derived for the beginning of the years 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990 and 2000. The estimates are based on straightforward interpolation and extrapolation for countries with more than one data point and on assumptions of minor changes for most countries with only one data point in the past.

The estimates obtained indicate that the number of international migrants stood at 175 million in 2000, up from 75 million in 1965. Between 1990 and 2000, it grew at approximately 1.3 per cent per year and constituted 3 per cent of the total population of the world in 2000. Refugees are an important component of population movements. It accounted for 9 per cent of the world’s migrant stock.

International migrants are not distributed evenly across countries or regions. Thus, in 2000, they constituted 8.7 per cent of the population in developed countries, while they accounted only for just 1.5 per cent in developing countries. In the first group, the United States, followed by Russian Federation, Germany, Ukraine and France hosted the largest number of international migrant in 2000. In the developing world, India, followed by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, hosted the largest number of foreign-born persons in 2000.

The estimates of migrants stocks are widely used by individuals and institutions working on international migration. Given the dearth of flow data, particularly in developing regions, stock information is often the only available indication of the residual effects of inflows and outflows at a given time. For 159 (70 per cent) out of the 228 countries or territories that constituted the world in 2000, the number of foreign-born persons enumerated by censuses was

used as the basis for estimation of migrant stock. For a further 51 countries or areas, data referred to the number of foreigners. No relevant data could be found for remaining 18 countries, therefore, the number was imputed by using a model.

2. Database: South-to-North International Migration

The database contains time series data on the flows of international migrants with particular attention to migration streams between developing and developed countries. Given the fact that most developing countries lack adequate statistics on the flows of international migrants, attempts have been made to compile data sets available for key receiving countries in the developed world. The database comprises the annual statistics on international flows of people, classified by country of origin or destination, recorded by eight developed countries, namely, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. In most cases, the data cover the period 1960 to 2000. These countries were selected because they were major recipients countries of international migrants, and long time series of data were available for these countries.

These data aim to equally capture the number of persons who enter or leave a country in a given year. However, statistical sources which yield the data vary among eight countries and, therefore, they are subject to biases pertinent to each statistical source. The data are derived from border statistics (Australia), population registers (Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden), administrative records on the number of permission granted to reside in the country (Canada, the United States), and passenger survey (the United Kingdom).

The cross-national comparison of the flow statistics also raises some comparability problems. First, in order to classify migrants, the eight countries that could furnish the data use different criterion: place of birth, citizenship, place of previous/intended residence, etc. Second, the classification of migrants by countries of origin or destination is of particular importance for the estimation of flows between developing and developed countries. However, the reporting practices differ significantly from country to country. Some countries tabulate the data only for selected countries of origin or destination, making the classification of migrants by standard region of origin or destination difficult. Third, given the long time span that the data sets cover, dissolutions or emergences of nations over time need to be properly accommodated. However, there is a lack of uniformity among the eight countries in respect of the timing to incorporate such changes as well as the way they reclassify the data. Lastly, both Canada and the United States do not produce statistics on outflows of migrants, because they do not monitor the departures of people from the country. Thus, the estimation of net flows of migrants is not possible for these two countries.

3. International Migration from Countries with Economies in Transition, 1980-2000

Despite the apparent increase in migration flows in and from Eastern Europe, the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Albania and the former Yugoslavia since the end of the cold war, there have been few attempts to gather all information available in a comprehensive manner. The Population Division compiled time series data on flows and stocks of international migrants to and from countries with economies in transition, as recorded by these countries as well as countries with established market economies (United Nations, 2001a) and prepared a report based on these data (United Nations, forthcoming).

The data compiled show the historical rise of international migration from and within the region during the first years of the transition. Between 1990 and 1994, countries with established market economies recorded more than 1 million arrivals per year from the group of countries with

economies in transition. Between 1.5 and 2 million people migrated yearly within these countries, particularly from former Soviet republics to the Russian Federation. Long-term migration levelled off in the second half of the 1990s, as the main armed conflicts subsided and the main receiving countries tightened their immigration and asylum policies. The average net out-migration rates recorded for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in 1990-1995 are among the world's highest out-migration rates observed during the period. Five countries in the region had an overall positive net migration balance during the 1990s: Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The limitations intrinsic to most international migration studies, namely those imposed by data availability, quality and comparability are particularly relevant in this case. In general, statistics from countries with economies in transition are not complete. There are significant information gaps and a significant proportion of flows are undocumented. As it becomes necessary to rely on more than one source in order to obtain complete data series, issues of quality and comparability arise. The data sources used in the report include, among other, population registers, registers of foreigners, issuance of residence permits, border statistics and censuses. While a majority of countries included in the study classify migrants by country of previous/intended residence, some classify them by citizenship or by country of birth. In addition, a significant number of countries with established market economies include both short-term and long-term migrants in their statistics. Countries with economies in transition, in contrast, have until recently recorded long-term or permanent migrants only. The increase in various forms of short-term migration reported in recent studies and surveys cannot be systematically confirmed with the existing data.

4. Levels and Trends of International Migration to Selected Countries in Asia

The study *Levels and Trends of International Migration to Selected Countries in Asia* (United Nations, forthcoming) analyses the new and complex patterns of international migration in the Asian region, focusing primarily on changes that have occurred in the region since 1970s. It shows the growth of cross-border movements of people within Asia and some important shifts in the direction and nature of the movements. More specifically, the region has experienced a burgeoning of labour migration, centering in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia and the newly industrialized and industrializing economies of Eastern and South-eastern Asia. Permanent settlement of immigrants occurred mostly in Israel, and involved a substantial number of people originating in Eastern Europe in the 1990s. In addition, prolonged conflicts, increased occurrences of civil unrest, and political instability in some areas of Asia also led to an unprecedented rise in refugee populations during the 1980s and early 1990s.

In order to assess the quantitative aspects of the population movements, efforts have been made to gather statistics on international migration from a wide range of available sources. The data sources employed in the study include, among others, population censuses, registers of foreigners, border statistics, issuance of visa or work permits, recodes on clearance of overseas employment maintained by the Governments of labour-sending countries and records from regularization drives.

The study shows that, while each data source on international migration has its own strength and limitations, use of information from a variety of sources can help illustrating the phenomenon more accurately. For example, the comprehensive assessment of foreign workforce has been still hampered by a paucity of information in several major recipient countries of labour migration, including the oil-producing countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the high-income economies in South-eastern Asia. The records maintained by labour administration offices of

sending countries, albeit with their own limitations in coverage, have been a useful supplement to investigate the changing volumes and directions of migration flows.

Asia is one of the regions where feminization of labour migration has been relatively well documented, primarily based on the data concerning official clearance of departing migrant workers. Much remains unknown, however, about other socio-economic and demographic characteristics of migrants, from which important policy implications might have been derived. Lastly, the most serious statistical challenge in the region has been the estimation of scale of undocumented migrants. While the number of deported or regularized migrants provides information about a segment of undocumented migration, no other existing data can reveal the scale of undocumented migration close to the reality.

5. *Net international migration flows for 1990-2000, from
World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision*

The report *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision* (United Nations, 2001b) incorporated newly available data on long-term trends in the flows of refugees and a systematic use of direct information on international migration flows to assess other indirect evidence available. All this evidence was used to estimate past trends and assess prospects for the future of international migration at the country level.

The net migration estimates used for 1990-2000 confirm the trends depicted in other regional studies: increased emigration from a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to developed countries, together with new outflows of North African workers to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, contributed to a raise in net migration out of Africa during the 1990s. In Asia, the disintegration of the former Soviet Union contributed to increase the net emigration balance for the region. Net emigration from Latin America and the Caribbean had been rising steadily until the late 1980s; in the 1990s, it was still high by historical standards. Among the major areas of destination, Northern America has recorded the largest net gains from international migration during the 1990s. The break-up of the former Soviet Union led to an increase in net migration to Europe, which nearly doubled between the 1980s and the 1990s.

Globally, the annual average between 1990 and 2000 was 2.4 million net migrants from the less developed regions to the more developed regions. These migrants represented 3 per cent of the overall population growth of the less developed regions, but they represented 56 per cent of the overall population increase in the more developed regions during the same period. Net immigrants represented 89 per cent of the population increase of Europe between 1990 and 2000.

Despite their worth for the depiction of regional trends, these estimates should be interpreted with caution, particularly at the national level. Adequate statistics allowing the accurate measurement of international migration remain rare. They often need to be revised or complemented in light of a better assessment of past trends in fertility, mortality and population growth. However, indirect evidence is often insufficient to capture the instability of migration trends. In addition, these diverse estimates must often be revised in order to obtain a zero net migration balance at the world level. Namely, information on net inflows of international migrants to more developed regions or, most frequently, net outflows of international migrants from less developed regions, is adjusted *ex post facto* if flows to one group do not cancel out flows from the other.

6. Replacement migration

The Population Division published in September 2001 a report entitled “Replacement Migration: Is it a Solution to Declining and Ageing Populations?” (United Nations, 2001c). Replacement migration refers to the international migration that a country would need to prevent the population decline and the population ageing resulting from low fertility and mortality rates.

The report examines in detail the case of eight low-fertility countries (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States) and two regions (Europe and the European Union). Estimates and projections published by the Population Division in *World Population Prospects: the 1998 Revision* (United Nations, 1999) provided the population base. In each case, alternative scenarios of international migration for the period 1995-2000 are considered, corresponding to specific objectives in terms of the size or the age structure of the populations, highlighting the impact that immigration could have on population size and population ageing.

Major findings of this report include the following:

During the first half of the twenty-first century, the populations of all developed countries are projected to become smaller and older as a result of below-replacement fertility and increased longevity, in the absence of migration.

While some immigration is needed to prevent population decline in all countries and regions examined in the report, the level of immigration in relation to past experience varies greatly. For the European Union, a continuation of the immigration levels observed in the 1990s would roughly suffice to prevent total population from declining, while for Europe as a whole immigration would need to double.

The numbers of immigrants needed to prevent declines in the working-age population are larger than those needed to prevent declines in total population. If such flows were to occur, post-1995 immigrants and their descendants would represent a strikingly large share of the total population in 2050.

The levels of migration needed to prevent population ageing are many times larger than the migration streams needed to prevent population decline. Maintaining potential support ratios (ratio of people in working-age to people past working-age) at the 1995 level would in all cases entail extremely large volumes of immigration, entirely out of line with reasonable expectations.

C. CONCLUDING REMARKS

As illustrated in this chapter, the challenges faced in gathering, assessing and analysing information on international migration and development are manifold. Adding on to questions about data availability, quality and comparability are issues related to co-ordination and implementation of data-gathering activities.

Information on current efforts of relevant organizations collecting data on international migration is frequently incomplete. Many working in the field of international migration are often unclear about the information that various institutions collect and the purposes for which they do it. It would be useful to assess further to what extent these efforts are concurring, and what overlapping may exist and how to improve by filling the gaps.

Regarding implementation, ways need to be found to ensure that the data received and used by international organizations are the most recent and accurate. Of particular importance is the issue of choice between, on the one hand, quality and completeness, and, on the other hand, timeliness.

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II. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICIES*

This chapter aims at providing a brief overview of major trends in international migration policies in developed and developing countries since the mid-1970s. The focus is on policies designed to influence international migration flows. Policies that address the rights and living conditions of migrants in host countries are beyond the scope of this paper. Levels and trends of international migration are discussed in the previous chapter of this report.

A. GOVERNMENTS PERCEPTIONS OF LEVELS OF IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION AND RELATED POLICIES

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs began monitoring Governments' perceptions and policies on immigration and emigration in the wake of the United Nations World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974. The core of the information included in the monitoring of migration policies encompasses three basic components:

Government perceptions of the levels of immigration and emigration: Are the levels or trends viewed as significant policy issues? Are the levels or trends too high, too low or acceptable/satisfactory in relation to other social and economic conditions?

Government objectives with respect to each variable. Is the objective of the Government to raise, lower or maintain the level of immigration/emigration?

Government policies concerning interventions to influence each variable. Has the Government actively intervened to modify or maintain levels and trends of immigration/emigration and, if so, by what means?

When the monitoring of Governments' views and policies began in 1976, international migration was not a topic of major concern for most Governments. Major changes in Governments' perceptions of migration trends took place however, in the second half of the 1970s and the early 1980s. In the context of the global recession which followed the first oil shock, Governments' concerns with the economic and social consequences of immigration grew. While in 1976, only 7 per cent of Governments viewed immigration as too high, the percentage rose to 20 per cent in 1986 and subsequently leveled off (table 2). By 2001, the proportion of Governments that viewed immigration as too high reached 23 per cent worldwide.

In 1976 few Governments had explicit policies to modify migration flows: 10 countries (7 per cent) had a policy to lower immigration, whereas 11 countries had a policy to raise immigration. Nineteen countries wanted to lower emigration and six countries aimed at raising it (tables 3 and 5).

*This chapter is a revised version of the United Nations Population Division paper, "International Migration: Explicit Policies, Uncertain Consequences", presented at the United Nations Co-ordination Meeting on International Migration held in New York from 11-12 July 2002.

TABLE 2. GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON THE LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION, 1976, 1986, 1996 AND 2001
BY LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

Year	<i>(Number of countries)</i>				<i>(Percentage)</i>			
	<i>Too low</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Too high</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Too low</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Too high</i>	<i>Total</i>
World								
1976	11	129	10	150	7	86	7	100
1986	6	125	33	164	4	76	20	100
1996	4	148	41	193	2	77	21	100
2001	4	145	44	193	2	75	23	100
More developed regions								
1976	1	27	6	34	3	79	18	100
1986		26	8	34	0	76	24	100
1996	1	31	16	48	2	65	33	100
2001	2	32	14	48	4	67	29	100
Less developed regions								
1976	10	102	4	116	9	88	3	100
1986	6	99	25	130	5	76	19	100
1996	3	117	25	145	2	81	17	100
2001	2	113	30	145	1	78	21	100

Source: Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

While developed countries are more inclined towards lowering immigration, there is also a similar trend in developing countries towards more restrictive policies. As of 2001, 44 per cent of developed countries had policies aimed at lowering their immigration levels, as did 39 per cent of the developing countries (table 3). In 1976, in comparison, only 18 per cent of developed countries and 3 per cent of the developing countries had adopted such policies.

TABLE 3. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON IMMIGRATION, 1976, 1986, 1996 AND 2001 BY LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

Year	<i>(Number of countries)</i>				<i>(Percentage)</i>			
	<i>Raise</i>	<i>Maintain/No intervention</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Raise</i>	<i>Maintain/No intervention</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>Total</i>
World								
1976	11	129	10	150	7	86	7	100
1986	6	125	33	164	4	76	20	100
1996	8	107	78	193	4	55	40	100
2001	7	108	78	193	4	56	40	100
More developed regions								
1976	1	27	6	34	3	79	18	100
1986	0	21	13	34	0	62	38	100
1996	1	18	29	48	2	37	60	100
2001	2	25	21	48	4	52	44	100
Less developed regions								
1976	10	102	4	116	9	88	3	100
1986	6	104	20	130	5	80	15	100
1996	7	89	49	145	5	61	34	100
2001	5	83	57	145	3	58	39	100

Source: Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

In regard to emigration, both developed and developing countries show similar trends in their views and policies. In 2001, about three-fourths of the countries, whether developed or developing, viewed their level of emigration as satisfactory (table 4) and 1 country in 5 had policies aimed at lowering emigration (table 5). Only 6 per cent of countries in the less developed

TABLE 4. GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON THE LEVEL OF EMIGRATION, 1976, 1986, 1996 AND 2001 BY LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

Year	<i>(Number of countries)</i>				<i>(Percentage)</i>			
	<i>Too low</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Too high</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Too low</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Too high</i>	<i>Total</i>
World								
1976	6	125	19	150	4	83	13	100
1986	9	124	31	164	5	76	19	100
1996	5	133	55	193	3	69	28	100
2001	7	142	44	193	4	74	23	100
More developed regions								
1976	1	28	5	34	3	82	15	100
1986	2	29	3	34	6	85	19	100
1996	1	35	12	48	2	73	25	100
2001	0	38	10	48	0	79	21	100
Less developed regions								
1976	5	97	14	116	4	84	12	100
1986	7	95	28	130	5	73	22	100
1996	4	98	43	145	3	68	30	100
2001	7	104	34	145	5	72	23	100

Source: Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

TABLE 5. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON EMIGRATION, 1976, 1986, 1996 AND 2001 BY LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

Year	<i>(Number of countries)</i>				<i>(Percentage)</i>			
	<i>Raise</i>	<i>Maintain/No intervention</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Raise</i>	<i>Maintain/No intervention</i>	<i>Lower</i>	<i>Total</i>
World								
1976	6	125	19	150	4	83	13	100
1986	8	120	36	164	5	73	22	100
1996	6	142	45	193	3	74	23	100
2001	9	143	41	193	5	75	21	100
More developed regions								
1976	1	28	5	34	3	82	15	100
1986	2	28	4	34	6	82	12	100
1996	1	35	12	48	2	73	25	100
2001	1	37	10	48	2	77	21	100
Less developed regions								
1976	5	97	14	116	4	84	12	100
1986	6	92	32	130	5	71	25	100
1996	5	107	33	145	4	74	23	100
2001	8	105	32	145	6	72	22	100

Source: Population Policy Data Bank maintained by the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

regions aimed to raise their level of emigration. The percentage of developing countries that viewed their level of emigration as too high increased steadily from the 1970s to the mid-1990s. However, since 1996 it has declined somewhat to 23 per cent.

Regional trends are dissimilar. Concerns with high levels of emigration among developed countries are found mostly among Eastern European countries. In both Asia and Oceania, the number of Governments viewing emigration as too high has been on a steady upward trend, reaching 30 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively, in 2001. In contrast, in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, concerns with high emigration eased during the second-half of the 1990s and the proportions of Governments that viewed emigration levels as satisfactory increased significantly to 83 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively.

B. LABOUR MIGRATION

Over the past three decades, policies in the area of labour migration have developed along four major paths: growing restrictiveness and selectiveness in the admission of labour migrants in developed countries; a significant increase in the number of countries, particularly developing countries, that have become host to foreign workers; the rising recognition that the rights of migrant workers and their families need to be protected and; the adoption of regional agreements on the free movement of persons.

The nature, direction and magnitude of labour migration have clearly been influenced by economic and political changes taking place in the world. The economic turmoil that followed the oil shocks of the 1970s led many governments to adopt measures that put an end to the relatively relaxed immigration controls that had characterized the post-war period. The change in policy resulted in a major decline in the number of migrant workers admitted in countries with developed market economies. In most of the labour-importing countries of Western and Northern Europe, the recruitment of regular migrant labour practically ceased. With a view to protecting the domestic labour markets in the context of rapidly growing unemployment, many Governments also implemented repatriation programmes that provided incentives for migrant workers to return to their home country. These programmes had limited success, although the overall number of, at least temporary returnees, was on the order of several hundred thousand.

The 1970s mark, indeed, a new era in the policy formulation of migration with many European countries endorsing the goal of an overall stabilization of their foreign population. However, a gradual improvement in productivity and competitiveness, along with an economic revival in the 1980s, induced most Western Europe countries to resume, albeit on a smaller scale, recruiting foreign labour. More recently, a strengthening of growth in certain sectors during the years 1997-2000, led to a further increase in the intake of foreign workers in most OECD countries.

Although labour migration has been limited for over 25 years in developed countries, the foreign labour force has significantly increased during this period. This apparent paradox points to the fact that, in many countries, large numbers of foreign workers entered the host country as family members—now the largest share of migration flows in OECD countries—or refugees.

In a climate of growing policy restrictiveness, policies reflect an evolution towards greater selectiveness, favouring the admission of individuals and groups of people who meet

specific labour needs, such as those in science and technology, those with skills considered in short supply in the labour market, and those who are able to bring in capital.

Either by means of preferential categories as in the case of the United States of America, or points systems as in Canada and Australia, by the early 1990s most of the traditional immigration resettlement countries had enacted legislation placing greater emphasis on migrant skills. The recruitment of foreign labour on the basis of skills has had a significant influence on the origin and nature of overall migration flows. Under the current preference system, newly arrived immigrants in the United States are more likely to come from Asia and Europe, while in Canada and Australia, the numerical weight attached to factors such as education, training, occupation, and language skills has reduced the proportion of immigrants dependent on family relationships.

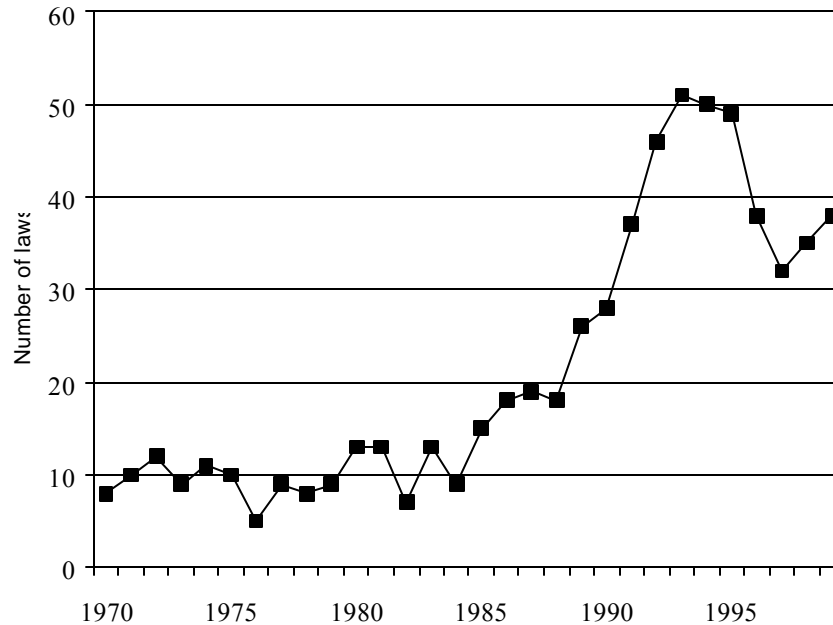
Migration provisions for skilled workers differ significantly from provisions for other types of migration prevailing in countries of permanent settlement and labour-importing developed countries. In settlement countries, skilled workers are only granted temporary residence and are, therefore, not put on a permanent immigration track. In contrast, in labour importing developed countries, skilled workers are often contracted for a period that may significantly exceed the length of time granted for other types of work. In addition, some countries, such as the United Kingdom are taking steps towards allowing highly skilled persons to seek entry without having a prior offer of employment.

While labour migration is still largely viewed as a matter of national or bilateral concern, the adoption of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) during the latest rounds of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1993) provides a general framework for trade-related temporary movements of people based on government-to-government agreements. So far, no such agreement has yet been worked out as GATS contains no clear or specific rules regarding the movement of labour. However, a number of developed countries, including the EU as a whole, have taken steps towards the formulation of such agreements. Concern has also been raised at the potential impact of such agreements for sending countries in terms of brain-drain issues, particularly in the health and education sectors.

A second major policy development in the area of labour migration has been the significant increase in the number of countries, particularly developing countries that have become host to foreign workers. Based on the entries in the NATLEX database maintained by the International Labour Organization, over 100 countries enacted legislation or signed agreements that related to migration during the 1990s (figure III). In comparison, in 1970, there only were around 40 countries employing foreign labour.

The new labour-importing countries encompass different groups of countries. First, during the 1980s, following a jump in oil prices, ambitious projects were launched to build basic infrastructure and develop modern services in the oil exporting countries of Western Asia. The small size of the populations, the low female labour force participation rates, the low status of manual labour and a reluctance to work in the private sector made it very difficult to alleviate the labour shortages created by the economic boom without importing foreign workers. Therefore, the oil-producing countries of the Gulf region became the main destination for migrant workers from Asia.

Figure III. National laws and regulations concerning migration by year of enactment



Source: International Labour Organization (NATLEX).

Migrant workers in Western Asia are typically recruited under a guest-worker policy that limits their rights. Usually hired under a contract of one year with the possibility of extension, they are not permitted to change employers, and only certain categories of workers are allowed to bring their families. Migrant workers are forbidden to leave the country of employment without the written consent of their employers. Although bilateral agreements exist between some sending and receiving countries in the Gulf region, they have little impact on the type of treatment migrant workers receive in the country of employment. Most labour migration in Asia is arranged by recruitment and placement firms that, until recently, have not been responsible for dealing with the exploitive or abusive situations faced by some migrants.

The outbreak of the Gulf War in August 1990 dealt a severe blow to the economies of labour-exporting countries and to the families of the approximately six million foreign workers who were employed in the region. In the aftermath of the war, as many as two million migrants were estimated to have returned to their countries of origin. Subsequently, the economic slowdown experienced by Gulf countries led to scaling back the number of migrant workers.

When the demand for migrant labour in Western Asia began to decline, the labour recruitment industry that had facilitated the export of labour to the region focused on the rapidly growing economies of Japan and the newly industrialized countries of South-Eastern Asia. Governments of these countries favoured labour-import contracts with recruitment agencies, whether public or private, because they are much easier to manage and monitor than individual migrants.

The scale and diversity of international labour migration patterns in Asia have become increasingly complex. While a few countries can be characterized as either labour-importer or labour exporter, a growing number of countries have become both receiving and sending countries. In addition, investments by multinational companies throughout Asia have been accompanied by significant flows of skilled labour from both Western and Asian countries.

The high degree of institutionalization of labour migration poses specific policy challenges in the area of regulating the migration of workers—in the event of an economic downturn, for instance—and in protecting the rights and social entitlements of labour migrants and their families. Regional cooperation between receiving and sending countries has been contemplated but implementation has lagged behind.

Many Governments of sending countries have been concerned about the mistreatment and abuse of their nationals employed overseas, and have become more actively involved in migration issues. Some countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, have adopted measures for the protection of their manpower abroad, including insurance schemes, and many Asian embassies now have labour attachés on their staff. This growing concern has led some receiving countries, including some Western Asian countries such as Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, to acknowledge that their migration legislation and practices are outdated and inadequate and require updating and/or reformulation.

In Southern Europe, the migration balances of the traditional countries of emigration have turned positive and they have become immigration countries. Such is the case with Italy beginning in the 1970s and with Greece, Spain and Portugal in the 1980s. These developments are linked to the cessation of labour recruitment in Western Europe, and the rapid economic growth in Southern European countries. Initially, the workers came to Southern Europe mostly from Northern Africa—Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt—and tended to be concentrated in low-paying sectors such as construction, manufacturing and agriculture. In the 1990s, labour migration reflected former colonial links such as migrants from Latin America in Spain and Portugal. With increasing European integration, immigrant flows in the 1990s also included a mix of relatively high-income professionals from the EU, contract workers from Eastern Europe, as well as spontaneous movements of unskilled migrant workers from Northern Africa and Asia.

The emigration culture that had long dominated, combined with rapid changes in migration flows in the countries of Southern Europe, has made it difficult for these Governments to provide an appropriate policy response to the challenge of immigration. As a result, immigration has remained largely unregulated. Policy measures that were implemented in the 1990s have proved to be inconsistent. However, the new millennium appears to have brought Southern European countries closer to their EU counterparts in a search for a tighter control of their immigration.

Some of the most dramatic changes in migration patterns at the end of the twentieth century have occurred in Eastern Europe. Before the political changes of 1989, the countries of Eastern Europe—with the exception of Yugoslavia—severely restricted the entries and departures of both citizens and foreigners. The first modifications in migration laws, typically in the form of guaranteeing rights to movement were adopted in the years immediately preceding the collapse of the communist regime in Bulgaria, the former Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. Subsequently, most countries of Eastern Europe, as well as several newly independent countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, have enacted migration legislation. Recently, a number of cooperation agreements were signed between several countries of Western and Central

Asia and the International Labour Organization that included the formulation of migration legislation.

Many Governments have also signed bi-lateral agreements establishing guest worker programmes both within Eastern Europe and with Western European countries. Under such schemes, workers are granted non-renewable, fixed-term contracts for a duration ranging from three months to one year. Some of these schemes include professional and language training.

Focusing on two critical and striking demographic trends, population decline and population ageing, the Population Division recently issued a study, which addresses the question of whether replacement migration is a solution to declining and ageing populations. Replacement migration refers to the international migration that is needed to offset declines in the size of population and declines in the population of working age, as well as to compensate for the overall ageing of population. One of the major findings of the study was that the level of migration needed to offset population ageing is extremely high and entails vastly more immigration than has occurred in the past.

C. IMMIGRATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS

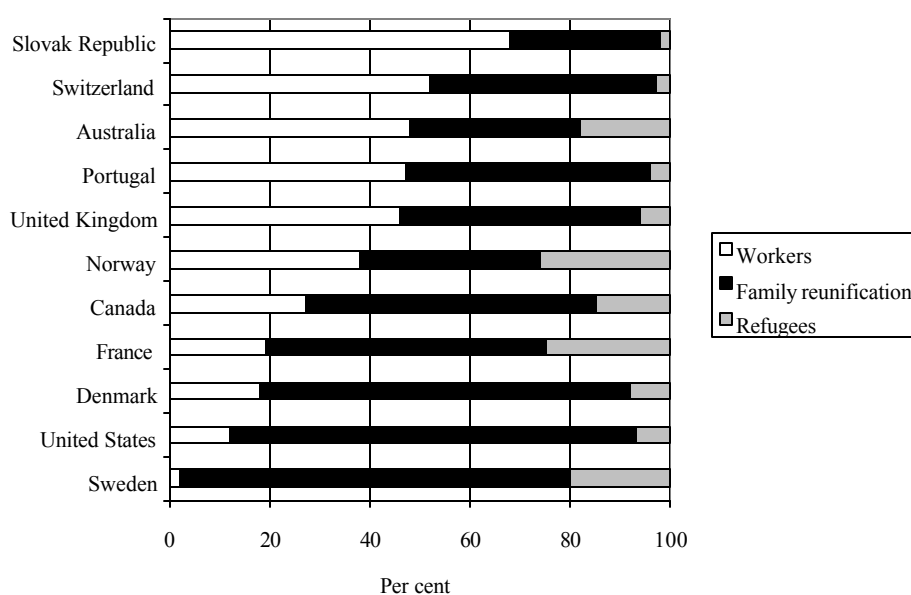
Since the 1980s, family reunification has become a major source of immigration in a significant number of countries, particularly in Europe. In OECD countries as a whole, migration for family reunification accounts for the largest share of migrant intake (figure IV). To a large extent, the significance of migration for family reunification is a direct consequence of the restrictions imposed on labour migration in the mid-1970s. Family reunion has become the main legal means of migration, apart from asylum.

In Western Europe, the surge in migration for family reunification took Governments by surprise. Many Governments wanted to implement a zero migration policy and hoped that by halting the recruitment of labour migrants this would be achieved. For many years, this attitude entailed an official denial of the existence of any major migration flow in most Western European countries. It was only in the second-half of the 1990s that the issue of migration for family reunification was formally addressed.

As no international instrument universally establishes family reunification as a right, immigration for family reunification largely exists as a privilege granted by national authorities to the individual, based on both the right to family life and the right to travel. Implementation of family reunification is, therefore, discretionary, although international norms and human rights agreements have placed some moral and political constraints on the State.

Beside human rights considerations, countries of permanent immigration have traditionally valued family reunification as being conducive to integration, and therefore have facilitated reunification. In contrast, in labour-importing countries, much of the debate has focused on the cost of providing migrants' dependents with health, education and welfare benefits.

Figure IV. Long-term immigration flows into selected OECD countries by main categories in 1999



Source: OECD, SOPEMI 2001: Trends in International Migration, Chart 1.2.

The significance of immigration for family reunification has led several European countries to eventually recognize the right to reunification. Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain amended their legislation to this extent in the second half of the 1990s. The Council of Europe passed six recommendations and adopted two recommendations on the right to family reunification. Within the borders of the EU, the right to family reunification for European citizens has been in effect since 1998.

With the exception of the Gulf countries, most migrant-receiving countries have some basic provision for family reunification. There are, however, many variations in definitions of the family, criteria for eligibility and rights accorded to migrants entering a country under family reunification procedures. In all countries, family reunification provisions apply to spouses and unmarried, dependent, minor children. However, there is no consensus on the age of children. Polygamous unions are ruled out while un-married partners do qualify for reunification under certain conditions in an increasing number of countries. Australia and the Netherlands, and to some extent the United Kingdom, also recognize homosexual partners. In some countries, parents as well as brothers and sisters and other relatives may also qualify under conditions of dependency, age and sponsorship. Within the EU, more flexibility with regard to parents and grandparents is under discussion.

In most countries, only nationals and holders of long-term residence permits—holding a residence permit for one year or longer, or permanent residence permit—may act as sponsor. However, in Belgium, a three-months authorization of stay suffices. Most countries also require proof of the sponsor's ability to support incoming family members and to provide them with adequate accommodation. In a number of countries, assessing whether these conditions are met is left to local authorities, which results in a great deal of variability in the actual implementation of these provisions.

In all countries, family members who are known to constitute a threat to public order or national security are not admitted through family reunification. It is, however, difficult to determine the practice and the thoroughness of verification. A few countries ask for documentary evidence of absence of criminal record, while others only check for selected offenses. There has been discussion of whether a different set of rules should apply to refugees who cannot provide the necessary document or may have been sentenced under criminal law. In some countries, family members are not eligible if they have medical conditions that endanger public health. At the end of the 1980s, concern with the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus led some countries to deny access to migrants suspected of being infected.

In almost all countries—Germany being the exception—family members are allowed to immediately enter the labour market. This is a significant change from the situation that prevailed in most Western European countries in the 1970s and early 1980s.

D. REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Whereas asylum and migration were long viewed as separate issues by Governments, asylum policies are now at the core of the discussions on migration in many parts of world. This major change in perspective has been triggered by the surge in the number of refugees during the 1980s and early 1990s, a trend that ran contrary to the pursuit of restrictive migration policies by an increasing number of Governments. The international asylum regime that had prevailed from the early 1950s through the late 1990s eventually challenged the States' prerogative to decide on the admission of foreigners, an issue that was brought to the public attention by the extensive media coverage of refugees and significantly contributed to the politicization of migration.

Denying asylum seekers¹ the protection provided for by the 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees surfaced in 1980s in the context of the refugee streams that resulted from the conflicts in the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan. Reluctance to grant asylum spread during the early 1990s when the Gulf Crisis, ethnic strife in Rwanda and the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia resulted in large and unexpected international displacements of population.

The financial cost and, sometimes, environmental cost of maintaining large refugee populations, as well as national security concerns in a number of cases, are factors that influence Governments' unwillingness to provide asylum. However, restrictions on granting asylum seem to be primarily viewed by Governments' as an appropriate response to growing anti-immigrant feelings in large segments of their populations and the politicization of asylum. Evidence of Governments' restrictiveness can be found in the low recognition rates of asylum applications under the 1951 Convention. For example, in the EU as a whole, recognition rates averaged 11 per cent in both 2000 and 2001.

While restrictions on asylum have become quite common in both developed and developing countries, some Governments of developed countries such as the United Kingdom, have adopted measures aimed at preventing the arrival of asylum seekers, as a means of restricting

¹ Under the 1951 Geneva Convention, every person who claims that he/she has been persecuted in his/her country of origin for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group or, political opinion, has the right to seek asylum in a third country. If the demand is receivable, this asylum seeker shall be granted refugee status pursuant to Article 1 of the Geneva Convention.

asylum. The implicit assumption of such policies is that most asylum seekers are in fact economic migrants.

The measures taken include visa requirements, sanctions against carriers, in-country processing (i.e., the requirement that asylum seekers submit their application at a consulate or embassy in their country of origin) and the adoption of the “safe country” principle under which an asylum-seeker can be denied access to national asylum procedures and sent back to a safe third country, if they had travelled through such country prior to applying for asylum. Some countries such as Austria, Germany and Switzerland have gone one step further and have developed lists of “safe countries of origin” the nationals of which will not be considered for asylum.

In addition, many countries now resort to rapid asylum procedures for “manifestly unfounded applications” and enforce removal decisions concerning rejectees, often by way of detention so as to facilitate deportation. Stricter control during the processing of applications has been in effect, ranging from finger-printing to quasi house arrest in reception facilities.

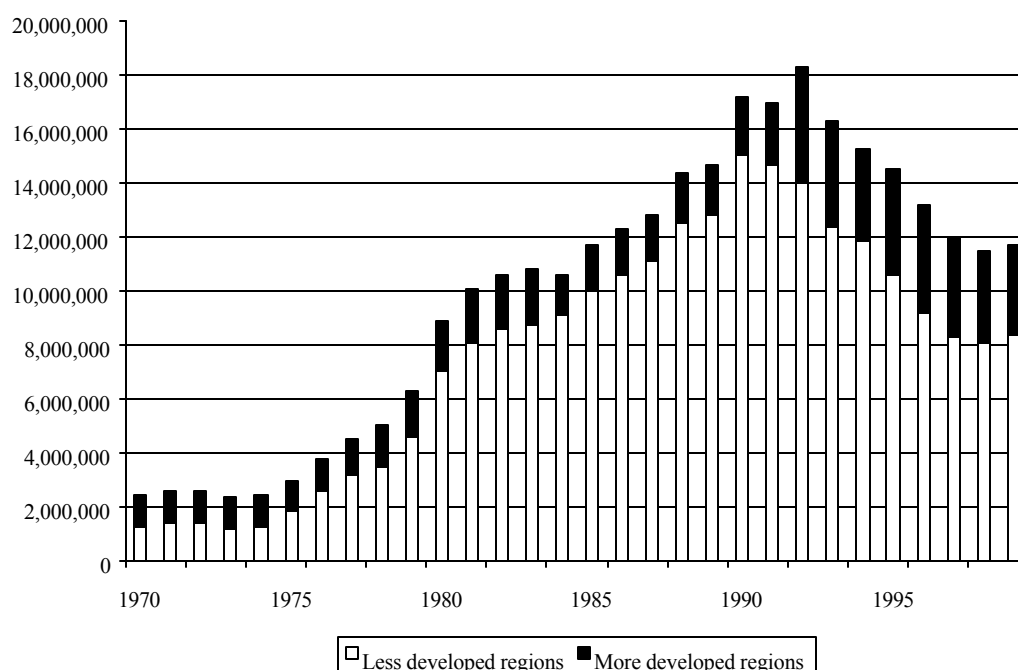
The impact of these restrictive asylum policies has been significant. In contrast to voluntary migration, the number of refugees has been declining since 1993 when the total number of refugees peaked at 18.2 million (figure V). The latest estimate put the number of refugees at 12 million in early 2001.

However, while the number of refugees has recently decreased, the number of internally displaced persons who have been forced to flee their homes, but who have not reached a neighbouring country is on the rise. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates the current number of internally displaced persons at 20 to 25 million persons.

Since the 1970s, a number of countries have also introduced the concept of “de facto refugees” as well as enacted legislation which makes it possible to grant residence on special humanitarian grounds. Whereas, these provisions were initially implemented to allow asylum seekers who did not meet all the requirements of the Geneva Convention to benefit from a temporary protection status, the plurality of legislations eventually weakened the concept of asylum. Furthermore, by the late 1990s, controlling undocumented migration became a major policy priority and contributed to blurring the distinction between asylum seekers and other irregular migrants, further eroding the consensus on the importance of asylum.

Recognizing that the institution of asylum was being threatened, the UNHCR launched in 2001 a series of global consultations with Governments and non-governmental organizations that were to continue through mid-2002 and cover five main objectives: strengthening the implementation of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol; ensuring better protection of refugees within broader migration movements; sharing the burden and responsibilities for refugees and asylum seekers more equitably among states; handling security-related concerns more effectively and increasing efforts to find long-lasting solutions for refugees.

Figure V. Estimated number of refugees in more developed regions and less developed regions, 1970-1999



Source: UNHCR, *The State of the World Refugees 2000*, Annex 3.

E. UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION

The magnitude of undocumented migration, by its very nature, remains difficult to quantify. The exact dimension of the undocumented migration phenomenon is therefore difficult to define. Nevertheless, it is widely believed that undocumented migration has been on the rise since the mid-1970s, particularly in developed countries. All other things being equal, this upward trend in undocumented migration has been the outcome of both increasingly restrictive admission policies in receiving countries and the fact that a large number of countries have relaxed emigration/exit controls following the end of the Cold War.

A relatively new and salient dimension of undocumented migration is that of trafficking. Trafficking ranges from small-scale operators who provide transport across a border to, increasingly, international criminal networks that provide an entire range of services, including bogus documentation, transportation and assistance in crossing borders, places for transit and residence in receiving countries and illegal employment.

In a context of growing anti-immigrant feelings in receiving countries and politicization of migration, most Governments have repeatedly placed the clamping down on smuggling at the top of the migration policy agenda. Measures adopted to combat undocumented migration include information campaigns, visa requirements, carrier sanctions, document and border controls and sanctions against undocumented foreigners, smugglers and employers.

Information campaigns aimed at deterring undocumented migrants have been launched by major receiving countries in both source and transit countries. Information is considered to be particularly important in the case of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation. In this context, there is some evidence that information about the situation in the receiving countries can have a considerable impact on deterring trafficking in women and also the migration of women generally.

Governments have used the visa system to prevent as well as to respond to undocumented immigration flows. Many Governments have introduced more stringent requirements for granting visas. Also, a number of States have (re)imposed visa requirement for nationals of countries that had consistently produced undocumented migrants.

A further attempt at interdiction is the use of carrier sanctions. Increasingly, sanctions are applied to commercial carriers, even in the event that the carrier was unaware of the presence of smugglers. In line with carrier sanctions, a number of countries have conducted training programmes for airline staff and foreign immigration officials on ways of preventing the transportation of inadmissible passengers. While pre-boarding checks have proved to be a successful preventive measure to deter undocumented migration, a recent inquiry conducted at the initiative of the Italian Government in five European countries points to the fact that international airports in both destination and transit countries remain the most vulnerable entry points used by undocumented migrants. While carrier sanctions were initially developed in the context of air transportation, a growing number of countries have extended them to sea and ground transportation, including trains.

In recent years, large numbers of “undocumented” migrants are believed to have entered countries using bogus documents—consisting of counterfeit or altered documents, as well as forged, unissued passports stolen from consular facilities. To combat the problem of bogus documentation, a number of countries introduced counterfeit-proof visa stamps and adopted passports with enhanced security features. Following a recommendation adopted by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a number of Governments have introduced machine-readable travel documents, a technology that is considered to offer strong safeguards against the tampering of official travel documents. Within the European Union, agreement has been reached on the principle that every person applying for asylum in an EU member State should have their fingerprints taken and stored in a common automated fingerprint register (EURODAC). Furthermore, a proposal has been put forward to extend EURODAC to include fingerprints of other categories of non-nationals.

While the end of the Cold War and the establishment of regional, free-movement areas such as the Schengen Zone resulted in many national borders becoming undefended and unpatrolled, renewed priority has recently been accorded to tightening border controls. Concerns with border controls go beyond controlling undocumented migration and include issues of national security, sanitary safety and the prevention of illegal imports and crime. In developing countries, particularly those with large borders, border controls remain difficult unless the country is prepared to use the military, which is costly. As for the efficiency of border controls, evaluations of two major operations carried out along the southern border of the United States of America in 1993 and 1994 found that whereas the visible presence of large numbers of border patrol officers and the use of sophisticated detection and communication equipment did significantly disrupt illegal crossing locally, it had little impact in the longer term as undocumented migrants shifted to other routes. In addition, it had an unintended effect, in that individuals who successfully entered the United States without authorization appear to remain longer than they otherwise would have done. Within the Europe Union, the Commission has put

forward a proposal establishing a common European corps of border guards, as part of the future integrated management system of its external borders.

Since the mid-1990s, many countries have either introduced new sanctions or increased the severity of those dealing with undocumented foreigners, smugglers and employers. A major development in this area has been the criminalization of smuggling which, until recently was not considered a crime in many countries. Increasingly, sanctions also target any third-person who provides assistance to undocumented migrants. A growing number of Governments of receiving countries have negotiated bilateral readmission agreements with their counterparts in countries of origin under which these countries are obliged to readmit their nationals who lack proper documents to be admitted as visitors or migrants or whose documents are no longer valid. These agreements are aimed at facilitating expulsion.

F. REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

The acceleration of regional economic integration during the 1990s has had a profound bearing on migration policies. A number of regional instruments, including treaties, agreements and consultative processes have been developed that have led to an internationalization of migration policies. To some extent, these developments have echoed the fact that, despite an increase in south-to-north migration, international migration still occurs mostly within a regional context.

The most extensive regional processes of cooperation and integration in the field of migration have been implemented in Europe. Following the adoption of the Treaty of Amsterdam, the European Union became a zone of free movement for EU nationals in 1998. Furthermore, the Treaty establishes that a common asylum and immigration policy shall be adopted within five years of the entry into force of the Treaty and that, decision-making on asylum as well as many other immigration issues shall be transferred from the national to the regional level (i.e., the Commission) after 1 May 2004. This regional framework, however, shall not apply to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom unless these countries decide otherwise. Four years into the Treaty application, little progress has been made towards common standards for the admission of asylum seekers beside the adoption of two specific programmes: the EURODAC common automated fingerprint register and the Odysseus training programme.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has been in place since 1989 between Canada. In Europe, the Budapest Process, which started in 1991, includes 43 States and 10 international organizations, with the aim of preventing undocumented migration in Eastern or Central Europe. The Budapest Process also provides a forum for dialogue and cooperation in the context of the enlargement of the European Union. The Commonwealth of Independent States Conference Process, which was launched in 1994 by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly and initially provided the framework for addressing population movements in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republic has now shifted its focus to combating undocumented migration through and from the Russian Federation. The Puebla Process initiated by Mexico in 1996, brings together migration experts, foreign policy officials and representatives from non-governmental organizations, from Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America to address issues such as return, reintegration and rights of undocumented migrants within a regional perspective. The Puebla Process has been credited with enhancing regional coordination on immigration and building a better common understanding of migration issues. In Asia, the Manila Process and the Inter-Governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees and Displaced Persons were both initiated in 1996 but have not yet developed into an active forum.

G. CONCLUSION: MIGRATION DATA AND MIGRATION POLICIES

This chapter offers an overview of migration policies. However thoroughly documenting the whole gamut of current migration policies remains a major challenge. The information needed to describe, monitor and assess the impact of migration-related policies requires both policy information and migration statistics. Yet in many countries this information is neither available nor produced on a regular basis. Furthermore, responsibility for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of international migration policies as well as the collection of migration statistics, at both the national and international levels, is often diffused among several Government bodies or international organizations that focus on one aspect of migration, such as labour migrants or refugees. Moreover, statistics on undocumented, short-term and return migrants, which are assumed to be significant are often not included in migration statistics.

However, perhaps the greatest challenge lies in designing an appropriate analytic framework for international migration. Documenting the measures Governments have adopted to influence migration flows is only the first step towards an in-depth consideration of migration policy. The second step includes: making an assessment of whether the migration measure is effectively and consistently implemented and, if not, whether this is due to a lack of commitment or a lack of capacity. The last step consists of comparing the policy objectives with their actual impact or consequences.

Even if all the information needed was available, analyzing the impact of changes in immigration laws, regulations, treaties and enforcement procedures on immigration trends raises a host of difficulties. This chapter has provided ample evidence that migration policy since the 1970s can have both a short-term and longer-term impacts on migratory movements, not all of which are anticipated. For example, the increase in family immigration, the increase in the number of asylum seekers and the emergence of transit countries during the 1990s were unintended consequences of the decision by many labour-importing countries to drastically reduce the recruitment of migrant labour in the 1970s. Given the current climate of intense political debate on the consequences of migration, especially security concerns, an important issue is the extent to which migration flows can be managed in an orderly manner, while halting or significantly reducing the movement of undocumented migration.

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III. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On a variety of occasions, the United Nations General Assembly has addressed the issue of international migration and development. For example, following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly has considered the subject of international migration and development four separate times.

The most recent report of the Secretary-General (A/56/167) considered at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly is entitled “International Migration and Development, including the possibility of convening an international conference on international migration and development”. The report summarises the views of governments on the topic and describes recent activities in the area of international migration carried out by the relevant organisations at the regional and international levels. The report and the General Assembly resolution 56/203 that resulted from the debate on this topic are reproduced below. As indicated in the resolution, the subject of international migration and development will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in 2003.

A. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 54/212 of 22 December 1999. It was drafted in consultation with relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations in the field of migration and development. The report summarizes national policies on international migration and the views of Governments regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development; describes recent activities carried out by the relevant organizations at the regional and international levels, taking account of the lessons on migration management and policies that they have learned through their activities; and addresses the possible mechanisms within the United Nations system to examine the issues related to international migration and development.

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/212 of 22 December 1999, requested the Secretary-General to submit at its fifty-sixth session “a report that will, inter alia, summarize 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”. It also requested the Secretary-General to “recommend for the consideration of the Assembly policy actions that could be pursued at the international level”. These actions should take into account, inter alia, the following: (a) the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its examination of the issue of migration and development; (b) the work of the relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of international migration and development; (c) the possible mechanisms within the United Nations system to examine international migration and development in a comprehensive and integrated manner; and (d) the need to provide, in consultation with relevant United Nations bodies, an analysis of data relating to migration within and between the various regions.

2. The present report has been prepared in response to that request, and in consultation with relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations in the field of migration development. The report summarizes national policies on international migration and the views of Governments regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development; describes recent activities carried out by the relevant organizations at the regional and international levels, taking account of the lessons on migration management and policies that they learned through their activities; and

addresses the possible mechanisms within the United Nations system to examine the issues related to international migration and development.

II. National policies on international migration and the views of Governments regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development

3. International migration has been receiving increasing attention at the policy level, as a global phenomenon involving a growing number of countries. According to the data available from the Population Policy Database of the Population Division (Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat), in the mid-1970s international migration was a topic of secondary concern for many Governments;¹ their intervention was mostly confined to the administrative regulation of national borders. Over the past decades, the number of Governments adopting measures to control these flows has increased. The percentage of countries with policies to lower immigration had reached 35 per cent by 1995, as compared to only 6 per cent in 1976. During this period, the percentage of Governments which adopted measures aimed at maintaining their levels of immigration or non-intervention policies decreased from 87 per cent to 61 per cent. In particular, developed countries showed the strongest inclination towards restricting immigration.

4. With regard to emigration policies, between 1976 and 1995, the percentage of countries seeking to lower emigration had increased from 13 per cent to 20 per cent. As of 1995, three quarters of the countries aimed at maintaining their existing level of emigration or not to intervene, a decline from 83 per cent in 1976. Both developed and developing countries showed similar trends in the evolution of their views.

5. Reflecting the growing concern about international population mobility and the weak understanding of its relationship to development, the possibility of convening a conference on international migration and development has been pursued. Since 1995, the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat has solicited on three occasions the views of Governments regarding this possibility, as a follow-up activity to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/127 of 19 December 1994, the first letter to seek views about objectives and modalities for the convening of such a conference was sent to all permanent representatives to the United Nations in February 1995. By April 1995, responses had been received from 37 Governments. These responses constituted the basis for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (E/1995/69). Because of the high level of non-response, however, it was not possible to assess views representing all Governments.

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/123 of 20 December 1995, a second letter was sent in April 1997 to all permanent representatives to obtain the additional views of Governments on the proposed conference. Consequently, based on the views of 65 Governments that responded to either the 1995 or the 1997 letter, the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/314) was prepared, and discussed by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

8. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/189 of 18 December 1997, requested further solicitation of views on the possibility of convening a conference on international migration and development. Hence, a third letter was sent in March 1999 to all permanent

representatives, especially inviting those Governments that had not responded to the letters sent in 1995 and 1997 to express their views. By June 1999, responses had been received from 34 Governments. Based on the responses received from 76 Governments that had expressed their views since 1995, the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/207) was prepared and submitted at its fifty-fourth session. There were two Governments whose response arrived in 1999, but too late to be included in the report. Incorporating these additional responses, the following section summarizes the views expressed by these Governments.

9. Altogether, there are 110 Governments that have never replied to the letter. Out of the 78 Governments whose responses were received through the past three surveys, 47 were generally in favour of convening a conference on international migration and development and 26 expressed reservations about holding such a conference; the remaining 5 Governments expressed only partial support for convening a conference. While these Governments are somewhat more open to the possibility of convening a conference, they considered that other options should first be pursued to address the issue of international migration and development.

10. Among the 47 Governments that favoured holding a conference, the majority proposed that it should be of a technical and analytical nature. However, there existed a variety of views regarding its possible objectives and the issues to be addressed. Many Governments envisaged the conference as a forum to explore key aspects of international migration and development, such as the causes and consequences of international migration, the levels and trends of international migration, and the positive and negative aspects of international migration in relation to development for countries of origin, destination, and those in transit. Others showed an interest in holding a conference in order to consolidate the rights of migrants, especially of migrant workers and refugees in host countries. A few other objectives of a conference addressed by a number of Governments included the development of strategies or policies to better manage migration flows, and facilitation of dialogue between countries concerned to enhance bilateral or multilateral cooperation.

11. With regard to types of migrants that a proposed conference should deal with, there was considerable agreement among the 39 Governments that commented on the question. The majority of them considered that a comprehensive approach was required and that all types of migrants should be taken into account. A number of Governments also favoured a one-week duration of the proposed conference. The main outcome of a conference most frequently mentioned was a plan of action which countries could follow. Several other Governments were of the opinion that the conference should produce a declaration, recommendations, resolutions or agreed principles.

12. As for the preparatory process for a proposed conference, virtually all Governments that expressed an opinion on the issue considered that regional meetings would forge a first level of consensus over such complex issues as international migration and development. Thus, according to this view, convening regional or even subregional meetings prior to a global conference would be necessary. These meetings were also thought to be necessary to facilitate the efficient operation of the conference. Most Governments expressing a view also supported the idea of holding a meeting of a preparatory committee leading towards a global conference, but with varying frequency and duration.

13. Regarding the possible composition of the secretariat for the proposed conference, the views varied considerably among the Governments. A number of Governments suggested that the secretariat be constituted by personnel from different United Nations bodies and

relevant organizations. Some Governments also mentioned the possibility of including in the secretariat representatives or experts from States Members of the United Nations, while others suggested that the secretariat should have balanced regional representation and allow the participation of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

14. With respect to the funding for a conference, the majority of Governments suggested that the United Nations finance the conference, although they did not always make clear whether funding should come from the regular budget of the Organization. Many mentioned the United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations as possible sources of funding. Special contributions from donor countries, at least in part, was also a commonly mentioned source of funding. A few countries specified that such donor Governments included mainly the industrialized developed countries.

15. Among the 26 Governments that did not favour the holding of a conference, a widely shared view was that international migration and development issues had already been the object of discussion in several United Nations conferences and that, especially in the face of United Nations budgetary constraints, scarce resources would be better used to ensure the implementation of the commitments made at those conferences than in convening another one. A number of Governments further expressed the view that the issue of international migration and development should be addressed through the existing mechanisms. Several Governments also considered that the complex issues of international migration could be most productively addressed through regional negotiations, so that conditions particular to the region can be factored into concrete policy responses.

16. The five Governments that expressed only partial support for the convening of a conference felt that more work was necessary to clarify and define its objectives. They generally considered that regional or bilateral negotiations were more likely to lead to meaningful ways of dealing with the issue of international migration, as did some of the Governments that did not favour the holding of a conference.

17. In summary, a total of 78 Governments have expressed their views since 1995 regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development. The responses from the Governments represent 41 per cent of the full membership of the United Nations. Although the majority of the responding Governments appeared to be in favour of holding a conference, there was a lack of consensus on its objectives, its funding and the composition of its secretariat. Furthermore, a number of Governments expressed serious reservations about convening such a conference, given the current financial constraints of the United Nations. Generally, these Governments appeared more in favour of adopting a regional or subregional approach in considering the issues of international migration and development.

III. Recent work of the relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of international migration and development

18. As the following inventory shows, within the United Nations system, different United Nations departments and programmes, specialized agencies, and other bodies deal with various aspects of international migration, either directly or indirectly in terms of its relation to development. In addition, a number of intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system as well as many NGOs deal with migration issues and provide assistance to migrants of different types. The following overview of the relevant activities of different bodies and organizations highlights their specific areas of expertise and

activities carried out primarily at the regional and interregional levels during the past two years. When the information is available, the lessons learned on migration management and policies emerging from their activities are also summarized.

A. United Nations Secretariat

1. Population Division

19. Under the guidance of the Commission on Population and Development, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs carries out studies on levels and trends of international migration, on international migration policies, and on the interrelations of international migration and development. In March 2000, the Population Division issued a working paper entitled “Replacement Migration: Is it a Solution to Declining and Ageing Populations?”² to address various implications of the changes in population size and age structure that low-fertility countries will be likely to experience. It examined the situation for eight countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; as well as Europe and the European Union, highlighting in each case, the impact that various levels of immigration might have on population size and population ageing. The study concluded, inter alia, that the level of migration that would be needed to offset population ageing is unreasonably large, and would entail vastly more immigration than occurred in the past, hence immigration cannot be a realistic solution to population ageing. This exploratory study has widely drawn the attention of scholars, policy makers and journalists, and stimulated the discussion on the role of immigration as a policy option.

20. As a follow-up to the study, the Division convened an Expert Group Meeting on Policy Responses to Population Ageing and Population Decline, in New York, 16 to 18 October 2000. Influencing the level of migration was one among the various policy options that experts examined to cope with such unprecedented demographic challenges. In June 2001, the Division also released the database “International migration from countries with economies in transition, 1980-2000”. It contains time series data on migration flows from and to countries in Eastern Europe, all successor States of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania and the former Yugoslavia. The database also includes the data on migrant stock in these countries.

21. Throughout its activities, the Population Division attaches importance to international migration as a major component of population change. At the global level, international migrants continue to be concentrated in and originate from a moderate number of countries, but their movements have significant socio-economic as well as demographic implications. In particular, the impact of international migration is likely to be significant in developed regions where low fertility tends to create a shortage of labour in the working age groups.

2. Statistics Division

22. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues to collect data on international migration for publication in the *Demographic Yearbook*. The Division routinely gathers statistics on major categories of inflows and outflows of international migrants as well as on migrant stock in a country. The Division also continues to disseminate the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1*.³ The Recommendations, published in 1998, provide a framework for the characterization of

different categories of international migration and reviews the major types of data sources yielding statistics on international migration flows.

B. United Nations regional commissions

23. Over the past years, the United Nations regional commissions have been engaged in a growing number of activities in the field of international migration and development. For example, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in collaboration with other relevant organizations, such as Eurostat and the Council of Europe, regularly collects international migration statistics among ECE countries. It has also organized intergovernmental meetings and training workshops on international migration statistics. The most recent one, the ECE-Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics, held in May 2001, enabled Governments to exchange experiences on best practices in this field of statistics, and to assess difficulties countries are encountering in complying with the latest set of the United Nations *Recommendations on International Migration Statistics*.

24. Most activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) regarding international migration and development are undertaken by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE). The collection of international migration statistics in the region and their compilation in a data bank, known as Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA), have been regular activities of the Centre. In addition, CELADE has been active in organizing and participating in national and regional technical meetings on international migration. In September 2000, it organized a Symposium on International Migration in the Americas. The findings of the Symposium were used as inputs for the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, held in April 2001. In June 2000, CELADE also organized a Workshop on Best Practices relating to Migrant Workers. As international migration is one of the emerging issues in the region, CELADE also carries out research on the consideration of international migration in economic integration agreements and on the movement of skilled human resources.

25. In October 1999, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), through the Population Section of the Social Development Issues and Policies Division, organized an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration in the Middle East: Patterns and Implications for Sending and Receiving Countries. The meeting focused on the socio-economic and political forces influencing the current process of migration, taking into consideration changes brought by the 1991 Gulf War, and proposed a framework for policies that serve both sending and receiving countries. The Population Section collects migration data and estimates the migration rates for countries in the region. However, the lack of adequate statistical information and meagre number of researchers on international migration are among the serious concerns chronically expressed in the region. ESCWA emphasizes the need for a regional survey on migration for better formulation of policies, because the size and characteristics of international migrants in the region have changed tremendously during the past decade.

C. Committee for Development Policy

26. The Economic and Social Council reconstituted in 1998 the Committee for Development Policy, the former Committee for Development Planning, with a new work programme.⁴ The Committee is an independent expert subsidiary body of the Council, comprising 24 independent experts who are drawn from the fields of economic development, social development and environmental protection and are able to contribute

to emerging issues and to the multilateral process. To date, the issue of international migration and development has not yet been directly examined by the Committee.

D. Other organizations within the United Nations system

1. Commission on Human Rights

27. The Commission on Human Rights is responsible for reviewing the follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 23 June 1993,⁵ and for addressing all issues related to the realization of the rights recognized in international human rights instruments or to the violation of such rights. Thus, the Commission is the body best suited to deal with human rights issues in relation to international migration. Since the International Convention on the Protection of the Right of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, the Commission has urged Member States to consider the possibility of signing and ratifying or acceding to ratify the Convention as a matter of priority. In resolution 2001/53, adopted during its fifty-seventh session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the active promotion of the Convention. As of 18 May 2001, 10 countries were signatories to the Convention and 16 countries ratified it, becoming parties to it. The Convention will enter into force after 20 States have accepted it.

28. In accordance with its resolution 1999/44 of 27 April 1999, the Commission appointed a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to examine ways and means of overcoming existing obstacles to the full and effective protection of the human rights of this vulnerable group, including those who are non-documented or in an irregular situation. The Rapporteur studies issues of concern, and, if necessary, informs Governments about the gaps in their policies that can cause violations of migrants' human rights, and urges countries to ratify international mechanisms that address migrants. The Commission welcomed the reports of the Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants at its fifty-sixth session (E/CN.4/2000/82 and Add.1) and at its fifty-seventh session (E/CN.4/2001/83 and Add.1).

29. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/93 of 4 December 2000, 18 December has been proclaimed as International Migrants Day. Member States, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to observe the day through, inter alia, the dissemination of information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, the sharing of experience and the design of actions to ensure their protection.

2. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

30. In recent years, trafficking in human beings and its close linkage to transnational organized crime have arisen as new challenges to migration management. Setting out an international strategy to fight against transnational criminal activity, including trafficking in persons, has become one of the main agendas for the Commission. On 15 November 2000 in its resolution 55/25, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the purpose of which is to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking; and to promote cooperation among States parties to meet these objectives; and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by

Land, Sea and Air, which provides an effective tool to combat and prevent the smuggling of human cargo, reaffirming that migration in itself is not a crime, but migrants may be victims in need of protection.

3. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

31. 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 programme co-sponsored by UNITAR, UNFPA, ILO and IOM. It has sought to strengthen the migration management capacity of Governments and to foster regional and international cooperation towards orderly migration and protection of migrants. By mid-2001, IMP had organized eight regional meetings in Central and Eastern Europe, southern Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia and the Caribbean, for migration capacity-building, practice-oriented training and cooperation, involving some 400 senior to middle-level government officials from over 70 countries. Each of these exercises was held in a specific regional context, and under this regional approach, IMP maintained its focus on developing countries and countries in transition where national migration management, intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation need to be strengthened. IMP is also partnering with the ILO Turin International Training Centre (ITC) in a global three-year project aimed at providing training on all aspects of migration to junior government officials from developing countries and countries in transition.

32. It appears that IMP's interdisciplinary and inter-agency approach has provided Governments with a comprehensive picture of the complex nature of international migration and on best practices concerning migration and human displacement. Because of different perspectives and interests regarding migration and its close link to national security, migration is still regarded as a highly sensitive issue. The experience of IMP is that the provision of venues for open dialogue can help Governments to achieve a level of familiarity and confidence that is necessary for migration management cooperation.

4. United Nations Population Fund

33. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provides assistance to developing countries in dealing with their population problems; promotes awareness about the implications of population problems; and plays a leading role in promoting population programmes, particularly relating to reproductive health. In collaboration with ILO, IOM and UNITAR, UNFPA has been supporting IMP. UNFPA has also provided funds for the collection of data on migration and policy-oriented studies on international migration. In November 2000, the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of UNFPA, through its regional programme, in collaboration with IOM and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, organized a Regional Seminar on Caribbean Migration in the Dominican Republic in November 2000, attended by government officials, experts and representatives of regional and international organizations. The specific objectives of the seminar were to: promote a better understanding of Caribbean migration and migration trends as they relate to economic development and regional integration; contribute to the exchange of knowledge on migration policies within international interdependence and regional integration; and discuss issues such as temporary or regular labour migration, irregular migration, use of remittances and migrant smuggling and trafficking and explore ways to address them.

5. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

34. The mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees

and to seek solutions for refugee problems. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, and return home voluntarily. Until recently, UNHCR had made a conscious effort to maintain a sharp distinction between refugees and other types of migrants, so as to emphasize the special legal status and protection needs of its beneficiaries. Increasingly, however, it has recognized the relevance of development issues to the tasks of refugee protection and assistance. It became clear that refugee flows and migratory movements could not always be strictly separated. Refugee movements, which appeared to be the result of political, religious or ethnic persecution, might be more fundamentally rooted in the problems of poverty, underdevelopment and the competition for scarce resources among social groups. Furthermore, when long-standing armed conflicts came to an end and refugees were finally able to return to their own countries, an evident need arose for the immediate implementation of rehabilitation activities, bridging the gap between the short-term assistance provided by humanitarian agencies and the longer-term development programmes of Governments, bilateral donors and international organizations.

35. Thus, UNHCR has become more directly involved in the issues of international migration and development. Its activities related to development consist of: (a) establishing community-based, multisectoral reintegration and rehabilitation programmes in countries and areas receiving large numbers of returning refugees and internally displaced persons; (b) undertaking legal and institutional capacity-building initiatives in countries that are receiving substantial numbers of asylum-seekers but that lack the capacity to process their asylum applications and meet their material needs; and (c) drawing attention to the linkages between refugee movements, international migration and development, thereby encouraging the international community to pursue a proactive and preventive approach to the problems of human insecurity and displacement.

36. In terms of migration management, recent UNHCR experience has shown that restrictive approaches, based on efforts to obstruct or deter people from moving from one country and region to another, are bound to have negative consequences. On the one hand, they are likely to violate internationally recognized human rights principles and the norms of refugee protection. On the other hand, they are likely to force prospective migrants and asylum-seekers into the hands of unscrupulous human traffickers. An effective migration management strategy should create organized opportunities for regular and legal migration, while recognizing that many bona fide refugees will continue to arrive in countries in an “irregular”, “illegal” and “spontaneous” manner.

6. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

37. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) formed the Secretariat for the Inter-Agency Task Force on the United Nations Response to Long-Term Food Security, Agricultural Development and Related Aspects in the Horn of Africa in 2000. This collective effort strives to reduce the extent of conflict and the threat of famine in the region, thereby mitigating the “push” factors which fuel international migration. FAO is also involved in efforts to tackle crisis migrations in the Balkans. Two projects, namely, the Emergency Farm Reconstruction Project and the Irrigation Rehabilitation Project in Kosovo, are aimed at attracting returnees from Western Europe and help them to restore their livelihoods by restocking farms, repairing machinery and restoring irrigation services. Through these projects, FAO learned that technical or vocational training tailored to the local economic situation and livelihoods contribute to stabilizing populations and fostering return flows of people. A more general type of training, by contrast, often stimulates out-migration towards urban or foreign locations.

7. International Labour Organization

38. The protection of workers employed in a country other than their own, through formulation of international standards for the treatment of migrant workers, has always been an important activity of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It has adopted a number of labour standards that apply equally to foreign workers and to nationals. In addition, ILO has adopted two international conventions on the rights of migrant workers, 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 of Migrant Workers, 1975 (No. 143), both of which are in force.

39. ILO has contributed towards adherence to these standards by monitoring laws and practice in the treatment of migrant workers, providing advisory services to its tripartite constituents on many aspects of migration policy and administration, organizing training seminars, conferences and meetings on the many problems of protection and development issues raised by labour migration for both labour-sending and -receiving States. Inter-country meetings that ILO has recently organized include the Subregional Conference on Labour Migration in the Countries of Central Asia, in Dushanbe, in 2001; the High-Level Tripartite Meeting on Achieving Equality in Employment for Immigrant Workers, Geneva, in 2000; and the Subregional Conference on Employment and Protection of Migrant Workers in Europe, Hungary, in 2000.

40. The technical assistance provided by ILO is designed to meet a variety of needs of Member States, from strengthening the national administration to helping countries of origin cope with the repatriation and absorption of return migrants, especially under crisis conditions. ILO also assists Governments in evaluating their policies, focusing especially on the effectiveness of measures to prevent abuses in recruitment and to combat discrimination against foreign workers. Technical assistance is provided to Governments negotiating bilateral or multilateral agreements on labour migration. ILO also undertakes research on a wide range of topics related to international labour migration, many of which are relevant for the understanding of migration's relationships with development. Statistics on international labour migration and migrant workers have been collected and have been made accessible to the general public through an Internet web site since 2000.

41. ILO draws lessons regarding migration management from the wide range of activities carried out. For example, ILO observed that many Governments, even though they had not ratified the ILO Conventions, used them as models or reference points in state policy on the equal treatment of migrant workers. Thus, promotion of the Conventions plays a bigger role than is suggested by numbers of ratification. Furthermore, the task of promoting integration of migrants is a complex one that requires action at many levels starting with legislation at the state level to voluntary codes of practice adopted by firms. It is important to have goals and targets with which to measure the effectiveness of various initiatives.

E. Organizations outside the United Nations system

1. International Organization for Migration

42. IOM, which marks its fiftieth anniversary in 2001, is an intergovernmental organization composed of 86 member States and 41 observers. The activities of IOM can be largely grouped into six main service areas, namely: movements; assisted returns;

technical assistance and capacity-building; public information campaigns; counter-trafficking; and medical services.

43. The transportation of migrants and the preparations for their safe travel are at the core of the organization's activities. IOM continues to play an important role in providing migration assistance in emergency situations both for evacuation, when required, and for voluntary return, when circumstances permit. Its mandate also allows it to arrange the movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) when required. The organization has approached return movements of people from a broad developmental and humanitarian perspective. Thus, IOM works on programmes, notably in Africa, to facilitate the return of qualified nationals to developing countries, attempting to mitigate some of the effects of the brain drain. IOM also carries out programmes to support the voluntary returns of other migrants, including rejected asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, notably in the Balkans.

44. Through its technical cooperation programmes, IOM offers advisory services and training on migration to Governments with the aim of assisting in the development and implementation of migration policy, migration legislation and migration administration. Of growing importance is the organization's support for regional intergovernmental migration management processes such as the Puebla Process in North and Central America, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa, and the Dakar Declaration process in West Africa. In many cases, such dialogues specifically deal with the link between migration and development, among other issues.

45. IOM has accumulated valuable experience in the conduct of mass-media campaigns as an indispensable component in efforts to manage migration situations. For instance, its anti-trafficking projects in Central and Eastern Europe and in South-East Asia have included multimedia outreach to warn potential victims in countries of origin about the risks of involvement with traffickers, as well as to sensitize local populations in transit and receiving countries to the issue. IOM has also continued to carry out and to publish research on trafficking, especially trafficking of women, and has increased the number and scope of programmes to assist victims of trafficking. Moreover, IOM has addressed the health needs of migrants and societies impacted by migration. In particular, there has been a growing focus on the link between HIV/AIDS and migration, and creation of awareness-raising activities. In May 2001, IOM and UNAIDS jointly published a paper "Migrants' Right to Health",⁶ outlining best practices in relation to the rights of migrants to health, with a particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS/STD and reproductive health matters.

46. A number of valuable lessons can be drawn from the wide range of activities carried out by IOM. First, it is increasingly important in this globalized world to have explicit national migration policies, including some mechanism for legal immigration or labour migration. The recent experience of many industrialized countries illustrates that control measures alone cannot regulate migration. Orderly, managed migration offers a viable alternative to irregular migration and can counter some negative consequences of migration. Secondly, better mechanisms are required for policy consultation among countries grappling with similar situations, and/or among "clusters" of countries dealing with a particular migration flow at different points along the way. As various regional consultation processes have shown, consensus on policy measures encourages cooperation at the time of policy implementation. Thirdly, anti-trafficking assistance programmes and research suggest that public information campaigns should be conducted regularly and more widely. At the same time, provisions in trafficking legislation that recognize trafficked persons as victims, provide assistance for them, and incorporate witness protection features in exchange for testimony against traffickers will help to bring victims forward and obtain convictions of traffickers. Lastly, voluntary return programmes will be

more successful if greater resources are dedicated to sustainable reintegration in countries of origin, through cooperation between the host country and the origin country.

2. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

47. International migration has long been a concern of OECD member States and such concern is reflected in the activities of the organization. For example, in November 1998 the OECD organized in Lisbon, the International Conference on Globalization, Migration and Development. It was a follow-up to the regional seminars organized between 1996 and 1998 on the theme of migration, free trade and regional integration in Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean Basin and North America. The OECD has also issued the Development Assistance Committee Guidelines on Poverty Reduction, in which development cooperation policies in support of increasing employment opportunities in developing countries are encouraged to prevent outflows of skilled labour from poor countries. With regard to the data collection, the organization has instituted a continuous reporting system on international migration (SOPEMI) which allows the exchange and dissemination of statistical information on international migration to the OECD countries. The data collected are used to analyse the economic and social aspects of international migration and published annually in *Trends in International Migration*.

48. Based on these activities, the organization reiterates the position that there is a need to accelerate economic convergence in order to better manage migration flows. It is important to promote and improve the efficiency of public and financial institutions in developing countries, while facilitating their sustainable development and employment creation. It was also considered that migration policy could play a critical role in accelerating economic convergence, by encouraging the exchange of skilled workers and facilitating free movement of persons, in particular business executives and employees, through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

3. Council of Europe

49. The Council of Europe, consisting of 43 member States, is an intergovernmental organization which aims at promoting human rights, developing intergovernmental cooperation, and helping to consolidate democratic stability in Europe. Its activities in the field of migration are initiated and supervised by the European Committee on Migration (CDMG), a forum within which government experts and representatives of NGOs discuss migration at the pan-European level. The activities of the Council in this field centre around the issues of integration and community relations, migration management, and status of migrants. For example, in 2000, the Council published the reports "Diversity and Cohesion: New Challenges for the Integration of Immigrants and Minorities" and "Framework of Integration Policies". Over the past years, the Council has also extended its activities concerning clandestine migration, and will organize a conference on irregular migration and migrants' dignity in October 2001 in Greece. Furthermore, the Council has promoted the protection of long-term migrants, persons admitted for family reunification, as well as migrant workers, through adoption of recommendations, guidelines and principles, or facilitation of ratification of conventions.

50. The Council considers that many of the migration problems now confronting Governments resulted from a piecemeal approach to specific problems, such as asylum, irregularity or return, and therefore suggests a strategy which is comprehensive and applicable over the long term. Furthermore, migration policy should be open and transparent and must be pursued in a consistent manner. Policy makers should be well informed, so that they can formulate clear rules and regulations. Any strategies should be manageable in terms of the resources, including those of finance, information and time.

4. European Union

51. Migration and asylum have occupied an increasingly prominent place on the political agenda of the European Union and its member States over the last two years. Following the Amsterdam Treaty, which entered into force in 1999, efforts of the European Commission have been devoted to the development of common policies in the field of asylum and migration. The Treaty sets out a five-year programme in this field including the adoption of criteria and mechanisms for deciding which member State is responsible for examining an asylum application, of minimum standards for the reception of asylum-seekers, of procedures for granting or withdrawing refugee status, and of standards for giving temporary protection to displaced persons from third countries. It also seeks to define the rights and conditions under which nationals of third countries may enter and reside in member States. In line with this agenda, the Commission has published a number of proposals and the draft instruments, including *Proposal for a Council Directive Laying Down Minimum Standards on the Reception of Applicants for Asylum in Member States*⁷ and *Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Community Immigration Policy*.⁸ The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) gathers annual statistics on international migration flows on the basis of a joint questionnaire with the Statistical Division of ECE, the Council of Europe and the Statistical Division of the United Nations. Since 1998, data on illegal migration and asylum have also been collected.

52. Hence, the EU's legislative programme and projects represent a unique model for dealing with migration at a regional level. The EU considers that an integrated and comprehensive approach is highly desirable for the better management of migration. States should lay down clearly the conditions under which nationals of other States may enter and stay, setting out their rights and obligations and ensuring that concerned persons have access to this information and that there are mechanisms in place to see that it is applied fairly. General policies on access to information would greatly enhance transparency.

5. International Centre for Migration Policy Development

53. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), established in 1993, is an intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Geneva. A major task of the Centre is to promote comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for Governments and organizations on mainly European migration issues. ICMPD, as a secretariat for the Budapest Process, has assisted a regional consultative process on harmonization of entry control for the broad European region, involving more than 40 countries. In this context, since 1995 the Centre has organized more than 70 intergovernmental meetings. ICMPD also maintains a very extensive data-gathering system on migration, asylum and border control in Central and Eastern Europe, with regular overviews and analysis. Between 1997 and 2001, it also carried out return programmes of migrants with microcredits for small entrepreneurs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo.

6. Metropolis

54. The International Metropolis Project, launched in 1996 by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, is a set of coordinated activities carried out by a membership of research, policy and non-governmental organizations which share a vision of strengthened migration policy by means of applied academic research. The Metropolis members are now from over 20 countries and a number of international research, policy, and intergovernmental organizations, representing a wide range of policy and academic

interests. The underlying idea is that the members will work collaboratively on issues of immigration and integration, always with the goal of strengthening policy and thereby allowing societies to better manage the challenges and opportunities that immigration presents. To this end, Metropolis has stimulated and funded empirical research on important policy issues, some of it international and comparative; organized major international, national and regional conferences on migration issues, involving representatives from policy, research and civil society; organized highly focused seminars, round tables and workshops; and disseminated research results and policy discussions in the Metropolis publication, *The Journal for International Migration and Integration*, and in other print and electronic media.

55. The Metropolis Project has, over the years, developed a large body of knowledge of relevance to migration policy at all levels of government. Their policy-research discussions point to the necessity to accept that migration is a long-term feature of modern societies. Successful migration management must include participation of all levels of government and other civic stakeholders, including NGOs. Successful management also requires the integration of many government policies and activities; it cannot be centralized in one department or Ministry. Regular migration programmes ought to be managed with the purpose of maximizing economic and social benefits and not solely for reducing irregular entry. These programmes may use selection systems that respond to the economic and social needs of the host country or region. The entry of highly skilled migrants tends to create favourable public reactions to immigration and to enhance social tolerance. However, illegal migration is not likely to diminish by increasing regular admissions.

IV. Possible mechanisms to examine international migration and development

56. Over the past decade, the mobility of people crossing borders has increased in magnitude and complexity. International migration is now considered a global phenomenon involving a growing number of States as origin, recipient or transit countries of migrants, and it has become an issue of growing concern to the international community. Consequently, different organizations within and outside the United Nations system have increased the number and scope of activities to deal with this issue, with varying degrees of relevance to development.

57. The interlinkages between international migration and development are extremely complex. Efforts continue to explore to what extent international migration is a response to the dynamics of development and the extent to which migration itself can affect the development process. However, it may be observed from recent activities carried out by relevant organizations that there is a growing awareness that policies and programmes that seek long-term solutions for migration problems have to take into account social, economic and cultural settings of the countries or areas of concern. In particular, return movements should be seen from a broad humanitarian and developmental perspective. At the same time, it has been increasingly recognized that development programmes in migrant-sending countries and areas can be geared to maximize the benefits that international migration can possibly generate. Such emerging directions call for improved and strengthened cooperation and coordination of work among different offices of the United Nations system, other relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs.

58. A number of important lessons have been drawn from a wide range of activities carried out by various organizations within and outside the United Nations. Valuable experience collectively points to some mechanisms that the United Nations system may use

to better address and examine the issue of international migration and development in the coming years.

59. First, international migration and development could be an issue of central concern in the work of the United Nations system. In particular, migration issues need to be integrated in a more coherent way within a broader context of economic and social development frameworks, especially when designing strategies and programmes for development. This issue may be incorporated in the regular work programmes of relevant offices, especially in each regional commission.

60. Secondly, the United Nations, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and agencies, may wish to intensify its efforts to support the multilateral forums in which Governments, international organizations and the civil society participate directly to address the issues of international migration and development. International migration remains a politically sensitive subject-matter and there is a lack of consensus to address this issue at the international level. However, recent evidence indicates that a provision of venues for a dialogue may effectively generate the trust and cooperation necessary for migration management. Experience has shown that convening such consultative forums at the regional level is likely to lead to meaningful ways of dealing with the issue.

61. Thirdly, as seen in the review of activities above, the collection and compilation of data on international migration have become a part of regular activity in various organizations within and outside the United Nations system. Statistics that allow characterizing accurate migration flows and monitoring changes over time are still far from complete. Considerable heterogeneity also exists in terms of the nature of data and definitions used. Statistics often serve as a solid basis for the formulation and implementation of international migration policy and programmes. The dynamics of international migration cannot be fully understood without the guidance of migration statistics. The United Nations continues to pursue and broaden its efforts to collect reliable data on international migration and to compile various kinds of statistics in a complementary manner. To assist in such efforts, the United Nations could further promote the implementation of the *Recommendations on International Migration Statistics*.

62. A great deal remains to be explored regarding the interrelationships between international migration and development. In relation to data collection, another request frequently mentioned was an expansion of empirical research on the cause and patterns of migration as well as its social, economic and demographic impacts in order to better understand the mechanism. Furthermore, in view of the fact that irregular migration and trafficking are a growing worldwide phenomenon, research could go beyond standard analyses of migration and explore the plight of migrants, which had been largely neglected in past research. Documenting and disseminating information on successful migration management programmes based on recent experience may also contribute to a better understanding of the interrelationships between migration and development.

63. Finally, the United Nations could continue to exercise its leadership in promoting the ratification of various existing international instruments related to international migration. In its resolution S/21/2 of 2 July 1999, adopted at the twenty-first special session, the General Assembly urged Governments to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and becoming parties to the 1951 Convention⁹ and the 1967 Protocol¹⁰ relating to the Status of Refugees. Most recently, as noted above, the General Assembly adopted 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, and opened them for signature. Other United Nations instruments, while having indirect relevance but of potential importance to international migration and development, include the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,¹¹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹² and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹³ The United Nations may play a more vigorous role in encouraging States to comply with such instruments to ensure the protection of the human rights and dignity of migrants.

Notes

¹ See *World Population Monitoring 1997: Issues of International Migration and Development*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XIII.4.

² ESA/P/WP/160.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XIII.4.

⁴ Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, annex I, sect. B.

⁵ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁶ UNAIDS/01.16E.

⁷ COM (2001) 181 final of 3 April 2001.

⁸ COM (2000) 757 final of 22.11.2000.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

¹¹ Resolution 2016 A (XX), annex.

¹² Resolution 34/180, annex.

¹³ Resolution 44/25, annex.

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
[on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/563)]

56/203. International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,¹ 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,² the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,³ the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women⁴ and the outcome documents of the twenty-fourth⁵ and twenty-fifth⁶ 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 and 54/212 of 22 December 1999 on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the international instruments regarding the protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁷ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁸ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁰

Recalling that heads of State and Government, gathered at the United Nations Millennium Summit from 6 to 8 September 2000, committed themselves to respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development,¹¹

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,

¹ *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.

² *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.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁴ *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.

⁵ Resolution S-24/2, annex.

⁶ Resolution S-25/2, annex.

⁷ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁸ Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

⁹ Resolution 34/180, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 44/25, annex.

¹¹ See resolution 55/2.

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, as well as by the relevant United Nations conferences of the 1990s, 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,

Noting 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 ensure that migration contributes to development,

Recognizing the diversity of views expressed by the respondents to the survey regarding the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda,¹² which represented 41 per cent of the full United Nations membership, and that forty-seven respondents were in favour of convening a conference, five were partially in favour and twenty-six were against,

Noting in particular the need for more migration data, analysis of factors influencing international migration and of its impact, and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,

Noting the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development, including through the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee for Development Policy, the International Labour Organization and other relevant key organizations,

Noting with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development,¹³ in particular in the context of regional cooperation,

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 national and regional levels and thus to foster greater cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

Noting also the work of the Secretariat in the field of migration and development,

Aware that, among other important factors, both domestic and international, the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and the

¹² See A/54/207.

¹³ 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; and 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.

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 make further efforts to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are respected and protected and that it is desirable to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

Recognizing the importance, from an analytical and operational point of view, of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development and of the need for comprehensive, coherent and effective policies on international migration based on the spirit of genuine partnership and common understanding,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁴
2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;
3. *Encourages*, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;
4. *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 and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of agreed economic and social development programmes;
5. *Encourages* Governments of countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination to increase cooperation on issues related to migrations and to engage in further dialogue, including through relevant subregional, regional and international processes and organizations, as appropriate, including on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development;
6. *Calls upon* the United Nations, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and agencies, to provide support for dialogue involving Governments and other relevant stakeholders on international migration and development issues;
7. *Encourages* the international community, including donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant international organizations and the private sector to provide support, including financial and technical support, for data collection and greater empirical research by Member States, in particular developing countries, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations on the causes and patterns of migration, including on irregular migration and trafficking, as

¹⁴ A/56/167.

well as its social, economic and demographic impacts, and for documenting and disseminating information on the successful management of all aspects of migration;

8. *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;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to solicit, one additional time, the views of Member States that have not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of resolution 52/189, as well as those of the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, and their views on his report submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,¹⁴ bearing in mind various regional processes, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to initiate or continue appropriate action in consultation with regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, inter alia, the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution that will, inter alia, 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;

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

*90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001*

PART TWO: PROFILES

IV. DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

This chapter provides information on each of the indicators and concepts used in the international migration profiles for countries, areas and regions presented in part II of this report. In addition to definitions, sources of the data and methodology used are also given.

For many of the countries, information on international migration is sufficient to provide a reasonable basis for levels, trends and policies. For some countries, however, the information is very limited or unavailable, and in such cases, imputations were made.

Population:

- *Number*: The total mid-year de facto population, as of 1 July of the reference year.
- *Rate of natural increase*: Average annual (exponential) rate of change in population size due to births and deaths. Excludes change due to migration.
- *Rate of growth*: Average annual (exponential) rate of change in population size, including change due to migration.
- *Source*: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables*, Sales No.E.01.XIII.8. 2002. Data available online at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

Migrant Stock:

- *Number*: For 158 countries, the mid-year estimate of the number of people who are born outside the country. For 52 countries that did not have data on place of birth but had data on citizenship, the estimated number of non-citizens. In both cases, migrant stock also includes refugees, some of whom may not be foreign-born. The letter code indicates the type of data underlying the estimates: B (Birth place): indicates the data refer to the foreign-born; C (Citizenship): indicates the data refer to non-citizens; I (Imputed): indicates no data were available and the migrant stock estimated using a model. The estimates presented are based on census data classified by place of birth or citizenship, as the case may be.
- *Per cent of population*: the migrant stock as a percentage of the total population.
- *Source*: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. Data available online at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

Refugees:

- *Number*: Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 Convention relating to the status of Refugees or the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; those granted refugee status in accordance with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Statute; and those granted humanitarian status or temporary protection by the State in which they find themselves. Also included are Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency (UNRWA).
- *Per cent of migrant stock*: the percentage of total migrant stock which is refugees.
- *Sources*: UNHCR, *Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR, 2000 Statistical Overview*. Data available online as of 29 August 2002 at: <http://www.unhcr.ch/statistics>; UNRWA, Public Information Office, Figures as of 31 December 2000, data available online as of 29 August 2002, at: <http://www.un.org/unrwa/pr/index.htm>.

Net migration:

- *Number*: Net average annual number of migrants during the period, that is, the annual number of immigrants less the annual number of emigrants, including both citizens and non-citizens.
- *Rate per 1,000 population*: The net number of migrants during the period, divided by the average population of the country. It is expressed as the net number of migrants per 1,000 population.
- *Number per 100 births*: The ratio provides an index of the relative role of migrants and births for explaining a country's population growth. The ratio is calculated as net migrants divided by births during the period and expressed per 100 births.
- *Source*: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables*, Sales No.E.01.XIII.8. Data available online at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

Workers' remittances:

- *Total*: Current monetary transfers made by migrants who are employed or intend to remain employed for more than a year in another economy in which they are considered residents. The data adhere to international guidelines; workers' remittances shown here may differ from national practices. This item shows receipts by the reporting country. Data are in current U.S. dollars.
- *Per cent of gross domestic product*: the percentage of the gross domestic product attributable to workers' remittances.
- *Per capita*: workers' remittances divided by population.
- *Source*: International Monetary Fund, *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook, 2001* (Washington, D.C., 2001). See: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/bop/bop.htm>; Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat. See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/default.htm>.

Government views and policies on immigration levels:

- *Views and policies*: Governments assessment of the current level of overall immigration into the country. It is divided into three categories: too low; satisfactory; too high. Policy refers to Government policies towards the current level of immigration for permanent settlement. It is divided into four categories: to raise the level of immigration; to maintain the level of immigration; to lower the level of immigration; and no intervention. The major sources of information used to document Governments' international migration views and policies may be classified into four broad types. The first type of information comprises official Government responses to the United Nations Population Inquiry Among Governments, of which eight rounds were conducted between 1963 and 1998. The second type of information consists of documents and statements issued by Governments, including laws, regulations and bi- and multi-lateral agreements. The third type of information comprises materials prepared by international organizations, such as regional commissions, funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations. The fourth type of information consists of non-governmental materials, including clippings from the world press, articles in academic journals, proceedings of conferences and seminars, reports prepared by research centres and non-governmental organizations, as well as correspondence and personal communications with experts.
- *Source*: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, *National Population Policies 2001*, Sales No. E.02.XIII.2. Data available online at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

Government views and policies on emigration levels:

- *Views and policies:* Governments assessment of the current level of overall emigration from the country. It is divided into three categories: too low; satisfactory; too high. Policy refers to Government policies towards nationals leaving for residence outside the country. It is divided into four categories: to raise the level of emigration; to maintain the level of emigration; to lower the level of emigration; and no intervention. The major sources of information used to document Governments' international migration views and policies may be classified into four broad types. The first type of information comprises official Government responses to the United Nations Population Inquiry Among Governments, of which eight rounds were conducted between 1963 and 1998. The second type of information consists of documents and statements issued by Governments, including laws, regulations and bi- and multi-lateral agreements. The third type of information comprises materials prepared by international organizations, such as regional commissions, funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations. The fourth type of information consists of non-governmental materials, including clippings from the world press, articles in academic journals, proceedings of conferences and seminars, reports prepared by research centres and non-governmental organizations, as well as correspondence and personal communications with experts.
- *Source:* Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, *National Population Policies 2001*, Sales No. E.02.XIII.2. Data available online at: <http://www.unpopulation.org>.

Parties to United Nations instruments:

- *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugee*
- *1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugee*
- *1990 International Convention of the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families*
- *2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*
- *2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*
- Indicates whether a country has ratified the relevant instrument and if so, the year ratified. The relevant instruments are: the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951C); the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967P); and the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990C). In addition, two Protocols supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; namely, the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000P). Excepting Venezuela, all countries which ratified one Protocol, ratified the other Protocol and on the same date. Ratification includes acceptance; approval, accession or succession. Ratification is the act whereby a State indicates its consent to being bound to a treaty if the parties intend to show their consent by such an act.
- *Source:* United Nations Treaty Collection. Data available online, as of 1 September 2002, at: <http://untreaty.un.org>.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY MAJOR AREA AND REGION OF THE WORLD

Africa

<i>Eastern Africa</i>	<i>Middle Africa</i>	<i>Northern Africa</i>	<i>Western Africa</i>
Burundi	Angola	Algeria	Benin
Comoros	Cameroon	Egypt	Burkina Faso
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Cape Verde
Eritrea	Chad	Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire
Ethiopia	Congo	Sudan	Gambia
Kenya	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Tunisia	Ghana
Madagascar		Western Sahara	Guinea
Malawi	Equatorial Guinea		Guinea-Bissau
Mauritius	Gabon	<i>Southern Africa</i>	Liberia
Mozambique	Sao Tome and Principe	Botswana	Mali
Réunion		Lesotho	Mauritania
Rwanda		Namibia	Niger
Seychelles		South Africa	Nigeria
Somalia		Swaziland	St. Helena
Uganda			Senegal
United Republic of Tanzania			Sierra Leone
Zambia			Togo
Zimbabwe			

Asia

<i>Eastern Asia</i>	<i>South-central Asia</i>	<i>South-eastern Asia</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>
China	Afghanistan	Brunei Darussalam	Armenia
China, Hong Kong SAR	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Azerbaijan
China, Macao SAR	Bhutan	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste	Bahrain
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	India	Indonesia	Cyprus
Japan	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Georgia
Mongolia	Kazakhstan	Malaysia	Iraq
Republic of Korea	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Israel
	Maldives	Philippines	Jordan
	Nepal	Singapore	Kuwait
	Pakistan	Thailand	Lebanon
	Sri Lanka	Viet Nam	Occupied Palestinian Territory
	Tajikistan		Oman
	Turkmenistan		Qatar
	Uzbekistan		Saudi Arabia
			Syrian Arab Republic
			Turkey
			United Arab Emirates
			Yemen

Europe

Eastern Europe

Belarus
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Hungary
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Ukraine

Northern Europe

Channel Islands
Denmark
Estonia
Faeroe Islands
Finland
Iceland
Ireland
Isle of Man
Latvia
Lithuania
Norway
Sweden
United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

Southern Europe

Albania
Andorra
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Gibraltar
Greece
Holy See
Italy
Malta
Portugal
San Marino
Slovenia
Spain
The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia
Yugoslavia

Western Europe

Austria
Belgium
France
Germany
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Monaco
Netherlands
Switzerland

Latin America and the Caribbean

Caribbean

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
Montserrat
Netherlands Antilles
Puerto Rico
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos Islands
United States Virgin
Islands

Central America

Belize
Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
French Guiana
Guyana
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Uruguay
Venezuela

Northern America

Bermuda
Canada
Greenland
Saint-Pierre -et-Miquelon
United States of America

Oceania*Australia/New Zealand*

Australia
New Zealand

Melanesia

Fiji
New Caledonia
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu

Micronesia

Guam
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
(Federated States of)
Nauru
Northern Mariana Islands
Palau

Polynesia

American Samoa
Cook Islands
French Polynesia
Niue
Pitcairn
Samoa
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Wallis and Futuna Islands

List of least developed countries

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Bhutan
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Democratic Republic of the
Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia

Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic
Republic
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal

Niger
Rwanda
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Togo
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu
Yemen
Zambia

**V. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PROFILES
BY MAJOR AREA, REGION AND SPECIAL GROUP**

**VI. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PROFILES
BY COUNTRY OR AREA**