

**TWELFTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 20-21 February 2014

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2013 HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT; AND MIGRATION AND THE POST 2015 UNITED
NATIONS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA¹**

International Organization for Migration

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2013 HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE DECLARATION AND THE 8 POINT AGENDA FOR ACTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PRESENTED IN HIS REPORT (A/68/190)

1. *Introduction*

IOM's actions to follow up and implement the outcomes of the High Level Dialogue are organized under the 8 headings appearing in the Report of the Secretary General (A/68/190), which correspond closely to the recommendations made in the CSO 8 point 5 year plan, to the key elements of the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly on 3 October at the opening of the HLD, and to IOM's recommendations to the High Level Dialogue. In addition to the specific items reported below which the Organization regards as priority actions, IOM is seeking input from all of its more than 400 field offices on a regular basis in order to map all the current activities and potential ways in which IOM can contribute to and support implementation of key measures to address the issues identified at the High Level Dialogue, and will continue to support Member States in addressing the issue of migration and development in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

2. *Protect the human rights of all migrants*

IOM will continue and intensify its work in this area through, inter alia, the development of an updated migrants' rights/protection policy for the Organization, both for general purposes and specifically in humanitarian emergency contexts. While IOM provides direct protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants, it also supports governments through capacity building, training, advice and guidance on effective implementation of the full range of international instruments and obligations relevant to migrants and migration, collectively referred to as "International Migration Law". As such, IOM facilitates concrete application of international and regional obligations and standards and national legislation. Some of the activities carried out by the Organization in this regard include, but are not limited to, facilitation of regular labour migration arrangements through its work with governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders. IOM also promotes alternatives to detention, and access by migrants to health care and other services regardless of their legal status.

3. *Reduce the costs of labour migration*

IOM is committed to facilitating safe, legal and orderly migration which aims to lower not only the financial but also potential social and human costs of migration for migrants and societies. Concretely, IOM and its partners will be launching a Public Private Alliance on Fair and Ethical Recruitment, to scale up efforts to reduce recruitment costs for migrant workers, including through the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). Key elements of IRIS will include voluntary compliance by participating employers and recruitment agents, with agreed fair recruitment standards and conduct, and measures to verify such compliance with a view to develop a fair recruitment certification system that can be relied upon by both potential migrant workers (to reduce their risk of exploitation) and by consumers wishing to make values-based purchases. With respect to remittances, IOM has begun exploring ways to lower the transfer costs of remittances, inter alia through its support to the new African Institute for Remittances and through partnerships with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and

private sector actors that can provide low-cost international money transfer services. IOM also promotes measures to reduce social costs of labour migration, such as mitigating possible negative health impacts on migrants and their families (including family members who stay behind in countries of origin).

4. *Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking*

IOM will continue and intensify its direct assistance and protection to vulnerable migrants as well as capacity building work to enhance prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships in relation to trafficking, smuggling and exploitation of migrants. IOM is working with more than 100 countries to facilitate ratification and effective implementation of relevant international obligations and standards, including the two protocols supplementing the UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention, focused on combatting trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, respectively. IOM also maintains and is working to strengthen a robust system and network for identifying and referring (potential) victims, and providing direct assistance, including access to safe houses, psychological and medical care as well as legal assistance, often in partnership with local civil society organizations, as well as facilitating voluntary repatriation in appropriate cases and assistance to sustainably reintegrate, or pursuit of more permanent relocation measures where available and appropriate. Capacity building and training of front line officers, criminal justice practitioners, specialized service providers and social services on the needs of trafficked persons or otherwise exploited migrants, in particular on protection and assistance, identification, investigation and prosecution, international law, prevention, data protection for victims, as well as inter-sectoral coordination, are a critical component of IOM's work in this field. In 2014, IOM chairs the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), the Work Plan of which is focusing on 5 main activities: a policy paper series with the next one to be published in 2014 on preventing TIP by addressing demand; joint programming; regionalization; advocacy and information on raising ICAT's visibility. IOM also supports intergovernmental efforts to forge mutual understanding and more effective cooperation to address exploitation and trafficking, through, inter alia, its secretariat and technical support to the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and other relevant regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs). These are critical fora for sharing effective practices and lessons learned and foster important cross-governmental learning and policy and practice improvements.

5. *Address the plight of stranded migrants*

Operationally, IOM will continue its efforts to provide direct assistance and protection to stranded migrants and migrants caught in crises, including in current humanitarian crises, using its Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism, Humanitarian Assistance to Stranded Migrants fund, through Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Projects from transit countries. At the policy level, IOM actively supports the initiative led by the US and the Philippines to clarify roles, responsibilities and good practices of States and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for, respond to, and protect migrants caught in countries in situations of acute crisis. Following an extensive and ongoing roll-out and training effort directed at government officials and other partners, the MCOF has been utilized as a basis for policy and strategic planning at country level in nearly 30 countries, and has been picked up by a number of regional organizations. IOM has

also produced analyses of the migration dimensions of several acute humanitarian crises. IOM's Humanitarian Assistance to Stranded Migrants (HASM) fund and Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism (MEFM), which are funded by voluntary contributions of some Member States (and replenished regularly), assisted people to return safely home to their countries and communities or origin, and many then benefit from vocational and other skills training programmes to help facilitate their productive reintegration into their host communities. The HASM fund supported some 277 people in 2013 alone. IOM is supporting the development of comprehensive migration management frameworks in transit countries where AVRR contributes to the protection of stranded migrants by enabling them to return home in a dignified way and to reintegrate sustainably through reintegration assistance and follow up by IOM missions in their home country. In 2013, IOM assisted more than 13400 persons through AVRR from transit countries. In the run-up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, IOM aims to increase awareness of the migration dimensions of humanitarian crises, specifically the vulnerabilities affecting migrants caught in crisis situations.

6. Improve the perception of migrants

Building on earlier efforts around the globe, and to aim to counteract the often uninformed and unfairly negative perceptions of migrants, IOM is launching a global information campaign on the contribution of migrants under the heading: "It's amazing what migrants bring", to improve the general perception of migrants and highlight the benefits that migrants bring to countries of origin and destination. Migrants regularly and systematically participate as speakers in IOM fora, such as its governing bodies or the International Dialogue on Migration, to put human and individual faces to audiences discussing the topic of migration, and enhance understanding of migrants' actual experiences and contributions. IOM's regular news releases and stories, as well as publications like the 2013 World Migration Report, further highlight the real life experiences and challenges that migrants face. In an effort to humanize the foreign born teachers, doctors, home health care, hotel and restaurant staff, construction and domestic workers who play an essential part of daily life and the functioning of so many societies and companies, dedicated efforts are required to root out xenophobia, racism and discrimination, particularly on the basis of the colour of the skin, religion or social class.

7. Integrate migration into the development agenda

The integration of migrants and migration in development planning at national, regional and global level is a major strategic objective for IOM. IOM and its partners advocate within the UN system and other relevant avenues for a place for migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda, including by making available the necessary evidence and proposing specific and measurable targets and indicators. At the national level, IOM aims to ensure the systematic inclusion of migrants and migration in UN Delivering as One Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), with a focus on the 2013-16 UNDAF roll-out under the UN quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR). To support this effort, IOM will continue to build governmental capacity in this area, including through a forthcoming training manual on migration and development and through the use of the IOM-developed, GMG-endorsed publication: "Mainstreaming migration into development planning: a handbook for policy makers and practitioners". In partnership with UNDP, IOM has been implementing a project in a number of pilot countries on integrating development into national development plans, and a second and larger phase of this project, covering eight countries, is

beginning this year. Equally importantly, IOM is fully committed to developing the evidenced base (and is consulting with relevant field-based experts in this regard) to help test a strategic and limited number of targets and indicators that can serve as goal posts to measure progress in their achievement, drawing the IOM's country-level field work in facilitating fair, safe and orderly labour migration, reducing the costs of recruitment and transfer costs of remittances, and other indicia to help improve how migrants are faring and to minimize situations of potential abuse, or other risks to positive financial or human development outcomes.

8. *Strengthen the migration evidence base*

IOM will continue to contribute to the improvement of evidence-based policy making, including improving the collection, analysis and sharing of existing migration data, such as Migration Profiles of individual countries. IOM is also strengthening its focus on South-South migration and increasing efforts to obtain estimates on migrant deaths in transit. Building on the partnership with Gallup, with whom IOM worked to produce the World Migration Report in 2013 on the well-being of migrants, IOM has launched the multi-year IOM-Gallup World Migration Survey Programme to provide policy makers with data on key current and expected trends in migration, starting with an inaugural International Migration Barometer in 2014, and leading to an International Migration Observatory to provide the latest and most accurate data on global migration trends. IOM will also continue to work with GMG partners in the GMG Working Group on data, as well as other research bodies, and will continue to study the linkages between environmental change and migration, inter alia through a new multi-partner project which includes six large scale country surveys in Africa, Asia Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. *Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation*

The Director General has made partnerships a cornerstone of his management and leadership of IOM. IOM will continue to foster and strengthen partnerships for regional and global consultative mechanisms on migration, with all relevant actors in migration governance, including states, agencies, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Civil Society Organizations, diaspora organizations, the private sector, the GMG, GFMD, Regional Consultative Processes on Migration, and Regional Economic Commissions. As a contribution to strengthening the GMG and implementing the outcomes of the recent internal review, IOM has made available a staff member to head the GMG Support Team which took up its functions at the beginning of 2014. One clear example of cooperation arising from the High Level Dialogue preparatory process is the partnership between IOM, the League of Arab States and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia which will support states in the region to set up a regional consultative process on migration. Another example, of this type of public-private partnerships is the IRIS ethical recruitment initiative referred to under point 2 above.

B. HOW TO INTEGRATE MIGRATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK OF THE POST 2015 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

10. *Introduction*

Since the MDGs were initially adopted, migration has become an increasingly significant issue for development, as demonstrated by the increase and robustness of migrant remittances, the inter-dependencies that follow from large-scale labour migration and the need to address migration in the context of climate change. The Secretary General's July 2013 report "A life of dignity of all" represents the UN System's main input to the post-2015 processes. This report refers to migration as one of the "transformative" issues for post-2015.

11. *Framing migration within the post-2015 discourse*

There is a strong consensus emerging that the post-2015 framework should be similar in form to the MDG's, i.e. that it will be comprised of a limited set of time-bound goals supported by targets and indicators. Additionally, the discussions on post-2015 have highlighted three important features of the new agenda, namely that it should: (i) focus on poverty eradication and tackling inequality; (ii) be a universal development agenda with goals pertaining to all States; and (iii) include robust means of implementation and a new and innovative framework for development financing.

IOM believes that migration should be included in the post-2015 goal/target structure, and not simply in a narrative chapeau. However, bearing in mind the ambition to adopt a limited number of development goals, a stand-alone goal on migration is unlikely. Instead, attention must be turned to identifying migration related targets and indicators that could feasibly support the realisation of the new development goals over the next fifteen-year period.

Integrating migration in post-2015 will be about advocating the main arguments of migration's relevance for development:

1. At household level migration demonstrably reduces poverty and increase human capital in numerous ways from increasing wages and decreasing child mortality to raising education levels and contributing to women's empowerment.
2. At national level migrants' remittances are a boon for macroeconomic stability, migrants stimulate trade and migrants contribute to innovation.
3. At regional and global level migration addresses to acute skills deficits and demographic unbalances as well as offering means of strengthening resilience in the face of climate change.

At the same time it should be stressed that positive development outcomes are not predetermined; indeed negligence or bad management on the part of governments or international cooperation does lead to serious negative consequences in terms of human right abuse of migrants or massive displacement cancelling any prospect of migrants contributing to their families or societies welfare.

IOM plays a key role in the informal group convened by the SRSG on Migration and Development that analyses the post-2015 discourse as it evolves and interacts with the academic community to synthesise the latest evidence on the relevance of migration for development.

IOM uses in its advocacy activity a "working formulation" of a new target for a revamped MDG 8 on Global Partnerships, and related indicators, as well as indicators for which data disaggregation by citizenship and/or country of birth would be relevant.

Presenting evidence on the relevance of migration for development alone is not enough. Integrating migration in post-2015 will also mean galvanising political support and above all finding common ground. When formulating concrete suggestions, IOM believes reference to existing international commitments will be preferable. Also, technical recommendations from the UNTT working group on monitoring and indicators have to be taken into consideration.

12. Entry points in relation to the post-2015 process

With the start of the series of meetings of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) and The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (Finance Committee), the post-2015 has effectively entered an inter-governmental phase. Based upon modalities adopted by UNGA, negotiations on the outcome document for post-2015 will start in autumn 2014. ECOSOC and the HLPF will play the role of “staging posts” along the course of negotiations. Added to this will be a series of PGA sponsored events on post-2015 in the spring of 2014. Therefore it will be essential to navigate a complex process and to understand what the essential entry points are for migration in post-2015, especially bearing in mind the potentially controversial nature of migration in multilateral settings.

13. Recommendations

1. The informal group convened by the SRSG M&D and other efforts need to continue to generate the most informed and best researched concrete substantive suggestions for integrating migration in post-2015.
2. The GMG should produce a “tool-box” of post-2015 advocacy materials to support its constituent organizations’ advocacy efforts at the field level.
3. GMG should continue to coordinate its position on post-2015 and convey such positions to the UNTT.
4. The GMG and/or its willing constituents should collaborate on organising side-events in the margins of high-level events at the UN with a view to advocating concrete substantive suggestions for the inclusion of migration in post-2015.

The GMG, SRSG M&D and the GFMD collaborate to give as high visibility as possible to the outcome of the GFMD meeting in Stockholm with regard to migration and post-2015