



POPULATION *Newsletter*

Number 82

December 2006

THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A. THE WAY TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

The High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development was held from 14 to 15 September 2006 at United Nations Headquarters, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005. The High-level Dialogue was the culmination of years of debate in the General Assembly about how to address international migration and its interrelations with development.

The Second Committee of the General Assembly began consideration of international migration and development in 1994, in response to the debates held on the topic at the International Conference on Population and Development. Between 1995 and 2003, the Second Committee considered five reports by the Secretary-General relating to the possibility of holding an international conference on international migration and development, all of which concluded that there was not enough support among Member States to hold such a conference. The 2001 report (A/56/167) presented the most comprehensive set of views: 47 Governments favoured convening a conference, 26 expressed reservations, five expressed only partial support, and 110 did not express a view. The subsequent report (A/58/98) showed a drop in the number of Governments expressing a favourable view about convening a conference.

In view of these results, the Second Committee decided in 2003 that the General Assembly would devote in 2006 a High-level Dialogue with the task of identifying appropriate ways and means to maximize the development benefits of international migration and minimize its negative impacts (resolution 58/209 of 23 December 2003). A Chairman's summary of the deliberations at the High-level Dialogue would be the Dialogue's

CONTENTS

The High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.....	1
International Symposium on International Migration and Development.....	4
Fifth Coordination Meeting on International Migration.....	6
United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Current Issues in the Estimation of Adult Mortality	8
Panel on the Changing Age Structure of Population and its Consequences for Development.....	9
International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision.....	10
Resolutions Adopted by the General Assembly	11
Retirement of Mr. Larry Heligman and Ms. Mary Beth Weinberger: Career Achievements.....	13

outcome and the Second Committee would include international migration and development on its 2006 agenda.

In January 2006, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Peter Sutherland as his Special Representative on International Migration and Development and requested that he assist in promoting the participation of Member States in the High-level Dialogue at the highest possible level and that he consult Member States regarding the way forward.

The report of the Secretary-General to the High-level Dialogue presented, as requested by Member States, “a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development” (resolution 60/227). It also provided recommendations for further action and proposed the establishment of a consultative Forum—led by and open to all the Member States of the United Nations—that would offer Governments a venue to discuss issues related to international migration and development in a systematic, comprehensive way (A/60/871). The proposed Forum would not produce negotiated outcomes. It would provide Governments timely exposure to promising policy ideas, as analyzed by the most relevant, qualified bodies from both inside and outside the United Nations system. The Forum would complement, and add value to, the activities of regional consultative processes.

B. THE DEBATE DURING THE HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE

During the Dialogue, high-level officials representing 127 Governments made statements. Other orators included representatives of one Observer State and 10 intergovernmental entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

The Dialogue consisted of six plenary sessions and four interactive round tables. Participants in the round tables included 162 high-level representatives of Governments, officials of 16 relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Executive Secretaries of two United Nations regional commissions, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and representatives of 12 entities from civil society and the private sector. The round tables focused on the impact of international migration on economic and social development, the centrality of human rights in advancing the development benefits of migration, the importance of remittances, and the crucial role of international cooperation and partnerships to address the challenges posed by international migration.

As the President of the General Assembly remarked at the conclusion of the event, the Dialogue proved that international migration and development could be discussed constructively in the United Nations. The Dialogue affirmed a number

of key messages contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/871). First, that international migration was a growing phenomenon and a key component of development in both developing and developed countries. Second, that international migration could be a positive force for development in countries of origin and countries of destination, provided it was supported by the right policies. Third, that it was important to strengthen international cooperation on international migration, bilaterally, regionally and globally.

The debate stressed that international migration, development and human rights were intrinsically linked. Respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all international migrants, regardless of status, was recognized as an obligation of all States. Respect for human rights was considered to be the necessary foundation for the beneficial effects of international migration on development to accrue. Many speakers noted that migrant women and some vulnerable groups, such as children or those seeking asylum from persecution, needed special protection. Many delegates underscored that the ratification and implementation of the core human rights instruments was essential. There was agreement that the Protocols against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants were key instruments in the fight against those crimes. Delegates also supported the ratification of ILO instruments and the use of the ILO’s Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration as guidelines in ensuring the respect of the rights of migrant workers.

The debate stressed that international migration, development and human rights were intrinsically linked.

Delegates recognized that international migration could not be a substitute for development. Several noted that, too often, migrants were forced to seek employment abroad due to poverty, conflict and lack of respect for human rights. They stressed the importance of peace and security, good governance, the rule of law and the provision of decent work in countries of origin to ensure that people migrated out of choice and not out of necessity. There was widespread support for incorporating international migration into the development agenda and for integrating migration issues into national development strategies, including possibly into poverty reduction strategies.

Delegates reiterated that remittances were the most tangible benefits of international migration for development. Remittances improved the lives of millions of migrant families and had a positive effect on the economy at large. It was recognized that more needed to be done to reduce transfer costs and that supporting policies were needed to maximize the development potential of remittances. Delegates stressed that remittances were private money and should not be viewed as a substitute for official development assistance, foreign direct investment or debt relief.

Many delegates expressed concern about the emigration of highly skilled workers from developing countries. They recognized that the loss of skilled workers was posing serious challenges, particularly in small and low-income countries where crucial sectors, such as health and education, were severely affected by such losses. The representatives of some receiving countries reported that their Governments had taken measures to stop the active recruitment of skilled personnel from low-income countries. Others observed that working conditions in countries of origin needed to improve in order to reduce the incentives for emigration. Mention was made of the desirability of improving international cooperation and developing partnerships with the private sector to accelerate the formation of skilled personnel in developing countries.

If established, the Forum should foster practical, evidence-based measures to enhance the benefits of international migration and minimize its negative impacts.

Delegates recognized that, increasingly, migrant communities were making important contributions to the development of their home countries. Several speakers described how their Governments were strengthening ties with their citizens abroad, thus promoting their active involvement in networks that could be a source of technology, know how and capital for communities of origin. Speakers noted that the return, be it permanent or temporary, of skilled emigrants could provide some of the skills most needed at home. Measures to support entrepreneurship and business creation were considered an incentive to promote return.

There was widespread agreement on the importance of generating more timely and accurate

data about international migration. Speakers emphasized the need for more and better research, especially about the implications of international migration for the development prospects of developing countries. They stressed that sufficient funding had to be allocated to assist developing countries in the formulation of migration policies or regulations and in the development of appropriate human resources and expertise. Many speakers called for practical initiatives to build the necessary capacity, initiatives that could be supported through intergovernmental cooperation.

Regarding the proposal made by the Secretary-General on the establishment of a Global Forum on International Migration and Development, there was widespread support for it. Participants felt that a Forum could be a useful means to achieve greater coherence and promote coordination among the various United Nations entities working on international migration, the International Organization for Migration, other international organizations and regional intergovernmental initiatives. The Secretary-General offered to extend the mandate of Mr. Peter Sutherland as his Special Representative on International Migration and Development so that Mr. Sutherland could provide the essential link between the proposed Forum and the United Nations system. The Government of Belgium offered to host the first meeting of the Forum in 2007.

Participants stressed that, if established, the Forum should foster practical, evidence-based measures to enhance the benefits of international migration and minimize its negative impacts. The Forum should be informal, voluntary, and led by Member States operating in a transparent and open manner. It would not produce negotiated outcomes or normative decisions, but it would promote closer cooperation among Governments.

The President of the General Assembly summed up the response of Governments during the Dialogue in the following words: “We have now completed the High-level Dialogue, where do we go from here? During these two days, in your plenary statements and in your remarks in the round tables, nearly all of you have expressed the wish to continue an international dialogue in some form. Many of you have embraced the Secretary General’s proposal of establishing a Global Forum on Migration and Development and the offer made by the Government

of Belgium to host the first meeting of the Forum next year. I commend your commitment to advancing this constructive dialogue on this important issue”.

C. DEVELOPMENTS AFTER THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

On 19 October 2006, the Second Committee of the General Assembly considered item 55(b) of its agenda, which focused on international migration and development. The summary of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly (A/61/515) was available for consideration of the Committee. Speakers at the meetings of the Second

Committee reiterated the usefulness of the Dialogue and stressed the need to focus on the way forward.

On 20 December 2006, the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution A/RES/61/208 on International Migration and Development which noted with interest the offer of the Government of Belgium to convene a state-led initiative, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in 2007. It also welcomed the heightened awareness achieved by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and decided to consider, at its sixty-third session in 2008, possible options for appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The International Symposium on International Migration and Development took place at the Politecnico di Torino in Turin, Italy, from 28 to 30 June 2006. The Symposium was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations in collaboration with Fondazione Rosselli as part of the preparatory activities for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development which the General Assembly conducted in September 2006. Support for the Symposium was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the Region of Piemonte, the Province of Turin, the City of Turin, the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino and the Chamber of Commerce of Turin.

The purpose of the Symposium was to debate, at the substantive level, the issues that Governments, international organizations and civil society faced in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by international migration. The Symposium focused on relevant policy questions about ways of enhancing the contribution of international migration to development and allowed for an exchange of views between experts and representatives of Governments, the United Nations system, international organizations and civil society. In discussing both the technical and policy dimensions of international migration issues, the Symposium contributed to building the capacity of

decision-makers who were preparing for the High-level Dialogue.

The Symposium focused on relevant policy questions about ways of enhancing the contribution of international migration to development and allowed for an exchange of views between experts and representatives of Governments, the United Nations system, international organizations and civil society.

In total, 323 representatives of Governments, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, and civil society organizations as well as experts attended the Symposium. Financial support from the Government of Italy permitted the participation of representatives of the Governments of the least developed countries. Senior government officials and senior officials of the United Nations and other international organizations addressed the plenary session of the Symposium. Key technical and policy issues were addressed by experts in 28 interactive working sessions. The working session addressed the following key questions: (1) how to manage temporary labour migration; (2) how to facilitate the flow of remittances and improve their impact on development; (3) how to increase the benefits while mitigating the costs of the international migration of skilled personnel; (4) how to engage transnational communities in the development

process of countries of origin; (5) how to make return migration an asset; (6) how best to collaborate in reducing and preventing the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons across borders; and (7) how to benefit from the opportunities of the globalisation of education. They also focused on international migration and development from a regional and institutional perspective, considering various aspects of capacity building.

In their welcoming remarks, regional and local officials underscored the key role that international migration played in the economic development of Italy. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Italy had benefited from the emigration of surplus labour to the other countries and from the remittances migrants sent home. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Region of Piemonte in general and the City of Turin in particular had benefited from the work of migrants from Southern Italy. Currently, the region attracted international migrants from a variety of countries, migrants who supplied needed labour, added vitality to cities, and enriched the local culture.

The proposed Forum would offer Governments a venue to discuss international migration and development issues in a systematic, comprehensive way. It would not produce negotiated outcomes, make formal decisions, or design global policies.

Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, summarized the three central messages of the Secretary-General's report for the High-level Dialogue (A/60/871). First, international migration was a key component of development in both developing and developed countries. Second, international migration was a positive force for development in countries of origin and countries of destination provided it was supported by appropriate policies. Third, it was possible and desirable to strengthen international cooperation on international migration. International cooperation was necessary to protect migrants and their families, to reduce smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, to promote legal migration, and to improve the information base on international migration.

Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, emphasized that Governments had much to gain by talking to each other, being willing to discuss international migration in a positive spirit and finding ways of collaborating on the basis of shared interests. He outlined the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a Forum on international migration and explained that the proposed Forum would be consultative in nature and open to all Member States of the United Nations. Participation in the Forum would be voluntary. The Forum would offer Governments a venue to discuss international migration and development issues in a systematic, comprehensive way. It would not produce negotiated outcomes, make formal decisions, or design global policies.

Although temporary migrant worker programmes had the potential of producing beneficial outcomes, they were only a partial response to the unmet labour demand in developed economies.

In his closing remarks, His Excellency Mr. Ali Hachani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations and President of the Economic and Social Council, observed that international migration, supported by the proper policies, could benefit countries of origin, countries of destination and the migrants themselves. Although temporary migrant worker programmes had the potential of producing beneficial outcomes, they were only a partial response to the unmet labour demand in developed economies. Regarding skilled migration, Mr. Hachani recognized that migrants acquired useful skills abroad and could benefit their home countries through the transfer of know-how and technology. Mr. Hachani noted that the High-level Dialogue that the General Assembly would conduct in September 2006 would surely benefit from the discussions that Government representatives, experts and representatives of international organizations and civil society had conducted during the Symposium.

In closing, Mr. Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, thanked the participants for their valuable contributions and extended his appreciation to the organizers of the Symposium, especially to the Fondazione Rosselli.

He noted that he had been encouraged by the extent to which the Symposium had reinforced the key message contained in the Secretary-General's report on international migration and development, namely, that international migration could be a force for development if the proper policies and measures were adopted. Mr. Civili pointed out that, in preparing for the High-level Dialogue, Governments were already devoting greater attention to the coordination of international migration and development activities, in particular

with regard to poverty reduction strategies. As the Symposium had shown, international migration required serious and sustained consideration by the international community.

More information on the Symposium, including its agenda, the presentations and official statements made, can be found on the migration website maintained by the Population Division at www.unmigration.org.

FIFTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations convened the Fifth Coordination Meeting on International Migration from 20 to 21 November 2006 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The objectives of the Coordination Meeting were: (a) to discuss the implications of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development conducted by the General Assembly on 14 and 15 September 2006 for the work on international migration of the United Nations system; and (b) to exchange information regarding activities on international migration and development by the different entities of the United Nations system.

This high level of participation in the Coordination Meeting attests to the growing importance of international migration for the United Nations system.

Eighty participants representing agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental institutions active in the field of international migration attended the Fifth Coordination Meeting. This high level of participation attests to the growing importance of international migration for the United Nations system. Aware of the increasing engagement of entities of the United Nations system in activities related to international migrant and valuing mechanisms that promote coordination, the General Assembly has called on the Population Division of DESA to continue convening annual Coordination Meetings on International Migration.

The Fifth Coordination Meeting, held just two months after the High-level Dialogue, provided the first opportunity for experts and practitioners in the United Nations system to reflect on how their respective entities would respond to the outcomes of the Dialogue. In keeping with a trend set in previous meetings, the Fifth Coordination Meeting also provided a forum for the consideration of new developments at the intergovernmental level. In this case, the meeting focused on the state-led initiative resulting from the High-level Dialogue, namely, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). A representative of the Government of Belgium, Ms. Christine Detaille, briefed participants on the strategy being pursued by her Government to ensure an inclusive and transparent preparatory process for the first meeting of the Forum. She noted that the Forum would move forward the consideration of international migration and development by focusing on best practices, the identification of innovative approaches and the development of action-oriented strategies. In choosing the themes for the first meeting of the Forum, care would be taken that they were relevant to both developed and developing countries. An open-ended group of States, called the "Friends of the Forum", would be invited to discuss and approve the themes for the first meeting of the Forum. Ms. Detaille described the efforts being made to involve as many Member States as possible in the Forum process. Each Member State of the United Nations would be asked to designate a focal point for the Forum and to suggest thematic priorities. She welcomed, on behalf of the organizers of the first meeting of the Forum, the support of United Nations entities and other relevant institutions. Representatives of the United Nations system had the opportunity to pose

questions and express views on how to ensure the success of this major endeavour.

Another important development considered by the meeting was the establishment of the Global Migration Group (GMG). The Group had started work in May 2006 after being established by the Secretary-General. It brought together the heads of nine entities in the United Nations system plus that of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was currently the chair of GMG. Representing UNHCR, Mr. José Riera talked about the work of GMG. He indicated that key objectives of GMG were to promote a wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. Mr. Riera informed participants that GMG had produced two documents under UNHCR's chairmanship. The first was a brochure on GMG, its membership and terms of reference which had been published by IOM. The second was a compendium of the activities of GMG members in the areas of policy research, data collection and publications. Mr. Riera characterized GMG as a "coalition of the willing", whose members shared information, planned joint activities and were in the process of developing synergies among themselves. Meetings at the working level had produced a number of useful recommendations, including a set of working methods, which were likely to be adopted at the meeting of GMG Principals in December 2006.

The Global Migration Group was characterized as a "coalition of the willing", whose members shared information, planned joint activities and were in the process of developing synergies among themselves.

During the meeting, participants exchanged information on recent and future activities in the area of international migration and development. Thus, the United Nations Statistics Division reported on its activities regarding the improvement of international migration statistics and the revision of the definition of remittances within the system of national accounts.

The representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presented an overview of the activities of the Committee on Migrant Workers, which was in charge of monitoring the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by States Parties. He noted that 33 States had ratified the Convention but only four had as yet presented the required report to the Committee. The representative of UNHCR noted that UNCHR worked closely with other actors to ensure that people in need of international protection were identified among general flows of migrants and their right to protection was upheld.

The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) pointed out that the migration of women on their own had a profound impact on the families they left behind.

The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) noted that, as part of its Global Employment Agenda, the ILO was exploring the causes of international migration in countries of origin and identifying strategies to reduce the pressures to migrate through the generation of decent employment, especially for women and young workers. Aware of the deficiencies of existing statistical sources on international migration, ILO was about to launch a programme of specialized household surveys.

The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) reported on the various initiatives the Fund had taken to engage transnational communities in the development of countries of origin, to reduce the costs of transferring remittances and promote decent work in rural areas in order to diminish migration pressures. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) reported that in follow-up to the High-level Dialogue, it was focusing on the developmental impact of remittances on the least developed countries.

The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that the Programme focused on three main areas: (a) formulating national policies to manage international migration; (b) encouraging the

temporary return of skilled migrants, and (c) increasing the development impact of remittances. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) remarked that the increased focus on the linkages between international migration, poverty reduction and development had important implications for the work of UNFPA in areas such as women and development, youth and migration, and human rights. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) pointed out that the migration of women on their own had a profound impact on the families they left behind. In partnership with UNDP, UNICEF was developing programmes to improve the beneficial effects of remittances on families with children.

The representative of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicated that, among other things, UNESCO was engaged in promoting the recognition of skills and qualifications across borders, and in facilitating the mobility of scientists to promote technological development and innovation in countries of origin. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) said that WHO was particularly interested

in the international mobility of health personnel. WHO was planning to launch a Health Worker Migration Policy Initiative in May 2007 to support the adoption of an International Code of Practice governing the recruitment and international migration of health workers.

The representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) drew attention to the fact that both internal and international migrants tended to flow to cities where economic opportunities were greater and that local authorities often needed support to address the special needs of migrants.

The representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlighted IOM's work in the areas of research, operational activities and intergovernmental dialogue, particularly in support of regional consultative processes.

All materials relating to the Meeting, including the papers submitted by the participating entities, are available on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON CURRENT ISSUES IN THE ESTIMATION OF MORTALITY

On 26 to 27 October 2006, the Population Division convened an Expert Group Meeting on "Current Issues in the Estimation of Adult Mortality" at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The objective of the meeting was to seek expert technical advice on the Division's programme of work in the area of mortality estimation, with a focus on efforts to revise and modernize methods for obtaining estimates of age-specific mortality and life expectancy at birth for all countries. The meeting was attended by twenty five participants, including nine experts from academic institutions or research programmes in Europe, Africa and Northern America; six representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes (UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank); and ten staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

The first part of the meeting reviewed current practices of the United Nations Population

Division and WHO in preparing estimates of mortality. Both organizations based their estimates on the evaluation of data from vital registration, sample vital registration, censuses and surveys. Data were adjusted as necessary when there was evidence that the original data sources did not achieve complete coverage or were affected by other biases. In the case of countries lacking the necessary data to produce life tables, both organizations resorted to model life tables. WHO used a modified logit life table system while the Population Division used mostly the models proposed by Coale and Demeny or the United Nations model life tables for developing countries. There were several reasons for the differences found in the estimates of life expectancy produced by the two organizations. They included: (a) different assessments of the completeness of death registration; (b) differences between the model life tables used to derive a complete life table from information on child mortality; and (c) differences

in the estimates of HIV prevalence used (they were obtained at different times from UNAIDS).

The performance of the WHO modified logit life table model was compared to that of a new model being developed by the Population Division. The comparison was made by using both models to derive a full life table on the basis of estimates of child mortality (l_5). The WHO model is a two-parameter model that yields values of l_x from known values of l_5 and l_{60} . The proposed United Nations model is a log linear model relating sm_x to two parameters: child mortality (sq_0) and a parameter k that reflects the level of adult mortality. A preliminary analysis of the two models using the complete life tables contained in the Human Mortality Database showed that the United Nations model can perform equally well if not better than the WHO modified logit model. The United Nations model has the further advantage of being more straightforward in its interpretation. Participants noted the conceptual similarities between the two models and made suggestions about how to improve the United Nations model, particularly by fitting it to male and female mortality separately.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of methods to estimate adult mortality from deficient data. Two methods were the focus of attention: the General Growth Balance method (GGB) and the Synthetic Extinct Generations method (SEG). It was noted that both methods allowed the estimation of the completeness of death registration relative to completeness of census enumeration. Both methods were sensitive to age-varying coverage of the population and changes in coverage between the two censuses, particularly those caused by non-zero migration. However, because the GGB method allowed the estimation of the relative completeness of consecutive census enumerations, it was proposed that it be used to

adjust the censuses in question so that the SEG method could then be used to estimate the coverage of death registration. This conclusion was thought to be useful for the development of a protocol to ensure the consistent application of these death distribution methods across populations, enabling both the testing of the methods involved and a systematic comparison of the estimates they yield with those obtained by other means.

Mr. John Wilmoth, Chief of the Mortality Section of the Population Division presented plans for the development of a database containing all the statistics necessary to estimate mortality and construct life tables for developing countries. An inventory of the data potentially available for this purpose was being compiled. Mr. Wilmoth outlined a proposed strategy for collaboration in the development of the mortality database envisaged. The strategy included building a web-based interface that would allow access to the data contained in the database and also permit uploading data. Once that tool was ready, it would be possible for different institutions to contribute to populating the database. In early phases of the development process, access would be restricted to institutions collaborating in the project. Eventually, access to the data contained in the database would be granted to a wider community of researchers or, perhaps, to the general public. Participants were enthusiastic about the proposed database.

The meeting also considered the state of knowledge regarding mortality levels and trends in various world regions, including Africa, Asia, Latin America and the former USSR.

The report of the meeting can be found on the Population Division's website at www.unpopulation.org.

PANEL ON THE CHANGING AGE STRUCTURE OF POPULATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

A panel entitled “Challenges of world population in the twenty-first century: The changing age structure of population and its consequences for development” was convened by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations

Headquarters in New York on 12 October 2006. The panellists included Mr. Antonio Golini, Professor of Demography of the University of Rome and member of the National Research Council of Italy; Mr. Andrew Mason, Professor of Economics of the Department of Economics at the

University of Hawaii at Manoa and Professor of Demography at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii; Mr. Naohiro Ogawa, Professor of Economics and Deputy Director of the Population Research Institute of Japan, and Ms. Elena Zúñiga, former Secretary-General of the National Population Council (CONAPO) of Mexico.

The panellists noted that many developed countries were already far advanced in the process of population ageing and therefore had older populations than ever before. In contrast, developing countries were still largely in the midst of the demographic transition and their populations, though ageing rapidly, still had high proportions of children and, more importantly, of people of working age. Nevertheless, the implications of population ageing were becoming a major concern in more and more countries and the focus of political debate, as Governments considered how best to address the expected increases in health and pension costs associated with growing numbers of older persons. Already, population ageing was having an effect on how Governments shaped policies relating to pensions, employment, health care and international migration.

Already, population ageing was having an effect on how Governments shaped policies relating to pensions, employment, health care and international migration.

Existing evidence supported the view that many countries in Eastern and South-eastern Asia had been able to capitalize on favourable age structures to spur economic growth. In those countries, the reductions of fertility that were the ultimate cause of population ageing had led, at

first, to reductions in the proportion of children, thus permitting to shift resources from the support and education of children to productive investment. Many other developing countries, however, had not been equally able to benefit from the window of opportunity that declining fertility brought about at first. Hence, it was still relevant to determine which policies were most likely to translate a favourable age distribution into sustained economic development.

A novel avenue of research focused on the levels of consumption and production by age. A consortium of researchers was developing such estimates for a variety of countries. The availability of such data allowed an assessment of the possibility that countries had of enjoying a second and long-lasting demographic dividend. As Prof. Mason explained, during the process of population ageing, younger generations became aware of the necessity to save more in order to defray consumption in old age. To the extent that institutions and regulations prompted people to save for old age, a second demographic dividend might materialize as the savings accrued became a means of deepening investment in the economy and therefore increasing productivity. As with the first dividend, realization of the second dividend depended on the existence of a financial environment that facilitated savings and investment.

The panel discussion was held in preparation for the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development that was to be held from 9 to 13 April 2007 and whose theme would be “The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development”.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FLOWS TO AND FROM SELECTED COUNTRIES: THE 2005 REVISION

DATABASE AND DOCUMENTATION

The Population Division has issued a publication entitled *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision*. It includes a short brochure describing the data presented on a CD-ROM and the CD-ROM itself. The data presented consist of time series on the number of immigrants flowing annually to 15 developed countries, namely,

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. For countries gathering and annual information on the number of emigrants departing, these data are presented as well. In such cases, annual net migration has been calculated. For most of the

countries considered, the data presented cover the period 1960-2004. Data are presented by country of origin with as much detail as possible. The data are presented in EXCEL files.

Each file in the CD-ROM contains several worksheets. The first worksheet presents data on immigrants, the second on emigrants (when available), and the third on net migration, or the difference between immigrants and emigrants when both are available. Additional worksheets are presented when countries of destination have more than one data series. Each dataset includes explicit

information on the country generating the data, the period covered, the type of data presented and the sources from which the data are drawn. Order forms for the CD and its accompanying brochure can be found at www.unpopulation.org.

For further information on this publication, please contact the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Room DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017, United States of America; fax number (212) 963-2147 or (212) 963-2638.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolution 61/208. **International migration and development**

The General Assembly

Recalling its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995, 52/189 of 18 December 1997, 54/212 of 22 December 1999, 56/203 of 21 December 2001, 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004 and 60/227 of 23 December 2005 on international migration and development, and 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹

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

Recalling its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Racial Discrimination,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁶

Recalling also Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,⁷

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

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

Reaffirming the resolve expressed by Heads of State and Government to take measures to ensure respect for and protection

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² Resolution 217 A (III).

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,⁸

Noting the efforts of Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes and international and intergovernmental organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, in respect of convening events at the national, regional and international levels with a view to advancing the dialogue on the issue of international migration and development,

Noting with interest the offer of the Government of Belgium to convene a state-led initiative, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁹

2. *Welcomes* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and the high level and broad participation that provided an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development;

3. *Takes note* of the summary of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly;¹⁰

4. *Welcomes* the heightened awareness achieved by the High-level Dialogue on the issue, and decides to consider, at its sixty-third session, possible options for appropriate follow-up to the High-level Dialogue;

5. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of Governments in the area of regional and interregional cooperation and regional consultative processes, where they exist, on migration, and encourages consideration of development dimensions in such processes, towards facilitating the dialogue and the exchange of information and experiences, fostering coordination at the regional and national levels, building common understanding, promoting cooperation, contributing to capacity-building and

strengthening partnerships among countries of origin, transit and destination;

6. *Takes note with interest* of the establishment of the Global Migration Group;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way within the broader context of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and respect for human rights;

8. *Recalls* its resolution 55/93 of 4 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 18 December International Day of the Migrant, and invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to include in the observance of International Day of the Migrant the developmental dimension of international migration, as highlighted by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York, by sharing experiences and best practices on, inter alia, how to maximize the benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”.

*83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006*

⁸ See resolutions 55/2 and 60/1.

⁹ A/60/871.

¹⁰ A/61/515.

LARRY HELIGMAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF THE POPULATION STUDIES BRANCH OF THE POPULATION DIVISION, RETIRED IN OCTOBER 2006

Larry Heligman, who served as Assistant Director and Chief of the Population Studies Branch of the Population Division for almost a decade, retired at the end of October 2006. His appointment as Assistant Director and Chief of Branch was the culmination of a long and distinguished career with the United Nations, which spanned almost 30 years and started with his recruitment in the late 1970s as Population Affairs Officer in the Population Trends and Structure Section of the Population Division. In the Population Division, his work covered a wide spectrum of activities, including model life table construction, the study of the interrelations between population and development, and the preparation of population estimates and projections. One of his crowning achievements was the development of MORTPAK, the software package for mortality estimation, which has been widely used in research institutions the world over since its first release in 1988. Under his able supervision, MORTPAK, which was initially developed for use on mainframe computers, was migrated to the PC and most recently has been adapted to work in a Windows environment. Mr. Heligman's interest in databases led to his pioneering work on the Population, Resources, Environment and Development Databank (PRED Bank). The PRED Bank brought together data on population, labour force, education, economic and social development, as well as land, water and energy use. The Population Division continues to update the PRED Bank, which is now in its fourth edition.

As Chief of the Population Estimates and Projections Section, Mr. Heligman was responsible

for a number of major innovations in the estimation and projection of the populations of the world. Under his tenure, the first models to take explicit account of the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS were introduced. While Mr. Heligman directed the Section, the world witnessed the disintegration and unification of a number of countries, including the Soviet Union. All of those changes had to be reflected in the estimates and projections produced by the Section, a challenging task carried out seamlessly under Mr. Heligman's leadership. Mr. Heligman also oversaw the transition from the use of computer tapes to diskettes as the means of distribution of demographic data.

Mr. Heligman's major task as Assistant Director of the Division was to supervise the substantive preparatory work for the annual sessions of the Commission on Population and Development, the main intergovernmental body in the United Nations dealing with population issues. Mr. Heligman devoted his energies to drafting, reviewing and editing the documentation required by the Commission for its deliberations, as well as ensuring their timely submission.

Mr. Heligman's other major responsibility, as Chief of the Population Studies Branch, was to oversee the Division's work programme on Population Estimates and Projections, Population Policy and Population and Development. In guiding the work of the branch, Mr. Heligman always stressed the importance of the timely dissemination of research findings in a manner that was understandable and accessible to population experts, Government officials, journalists and the general public.

MARY BETH WEINBERGER, CHIEF OF THE POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE POPULATION DIVISION, RETIRED IN SEPTEMBER 2006

Ms. Mary Beth Weinberger, Chief of the Population and Development Section of the Population Division, retired at the end of September 2006. Ms. Weinberger began her career at the United Nations in 1978 when she joined the Fertility and Family Planning Studies Section of the Population Division. During her time in that

Section, Ms. Weinberger pioneered the Division's groundbreaking work on the comprehensive assessment of levels and trends of contraceptive prevalence on a global basis. Her work filled a major void because, at the time, the compilation of such data and their systematic assessment were not available elsewhere. Ms. Weinberger's work

provided the basis for several United Nations publications. She is a recognized expert on the analysis of contraceptive use.

With her promotion to Chief of the Population and Development Section, Ms. Weinberger turned her talents to spearheading the Division's programme of work on the interrelationships between population and development. The research on population ageing and the resulting publications prepared under Ms. Weinberger's direction provided a solid demographic foundation for the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing held in 2002. The first United Nations wall charts to focus on the issue of population ageing as well as on population, the environment and development, were prepared under Ms. Weinberger's guidance. In recognition of Ms.

Weinberger's important contributions to the field of population ageing and development, Ms. Weinberger was honoured by the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Ageing upon her retirement.

Another of Ms. Weinberger's abiding interests was the study of the interrelationships between population, resources and development. She thus contributed to develop, expand and enhance the geographic and thematic coverage of the Population, Resources, Environment and Development Databank (PRED Bank). Other areas that benefited from Ms. Weinberger's rigorous analysis were the economic and social consequences of AIDS, population and poverty, and population and gender.