Economic & Social Affairs

THIRTHEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

New York, 12-13 February 2015

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

THIRTHEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

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New York, 2015

DESA

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PREFACE

The thirteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 12 to 13 February 2015. It was the latest in a series of annual coordination meetings on international migration convened since 2002 by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat.

The coordination meetings on international migration are convened with the purpose of reviewing the latest evidence on emerging topics in the field of international migration, exchanging information on current and ongoing migration projects, and enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence on migration. The thirteenth coordination meeting on international migration was organized in response to General Assembly resolution 58/208 of 13 February 2014 and considered progress of relevant entities of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: (a) in integrating migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, including ways to leverage migration within the renewed framework on financing for development; and (b) on activities to follow-up and, where relevant, implement the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

For further information on the present publication, please contact the Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, by telephone (+1 212 963 3179), fax (+1 212 963 2147) or e-mail (migrationp@un.org). This report as well as informational materials, contributed papers and presentations from the thirteenth coordination meeting on international migration may be accessed at http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/13/index.shtml.
Other migration-related publications of the Population Division may be accessed at www.unmigration.org.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

AFL-CIO	American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organizations
CMS	Center for Migration Studies
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FfD	Financing for Development
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
GMPA	Global Migration Policy Associates
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMR	International Migration Review
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JMHS	Journal on Migration and Human Security
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
MADE	Migration and Development Civil Society Network
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICIC	Migrants in Countries in Crisis
MoI	Means of Implementation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OWG	Open Working Group
PICUM	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SIMN	Scalabrini International Migration Network
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAFs	United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNU	United Nations University
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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REPORT OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The thirteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 13 February 2015. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN DESA). The meeting had two main objectives. First, the meeting considered progress in integrating migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, including ways to leverage migration within the renewed framework on financing for development. Second, it aimed to focus on activities to follow up the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/68/4) as well as the eight-point agenda for action of the Secretary-General presented in his report to the 2013 High-level Dialogue (A/68/190).

The meeting was attended by some 130 participants, including representatives of Member States, Observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations regional commissions as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field of international migration. Also present were invited migration experts.

I. OPENING

Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, observed that the annual coordination meeting had evolved from a limited technical event to a major multi-stakeholder platform on international migration. While technical discussion had played a central role since the inception of the coordination meeting in 2002, the meetings also provided a useful venue for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for International Migration as well as leading figures from civil society to engage in an interactive dialogue and to identify key areas for synergy and collaboration. The coordination meeting also provided a space to disseminate the latest research findings on international migration and development. Ensuring that policy making and the public discourse on migration were informed by facts and sound evidence was of great importance, particularly in light of the need to monitor and assess progress in the proposed migration-related targets in the post-2015 development agenda.

II. MIGRATION AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

In his remarks, Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, emphasized the importance of the annual coordination meeting for promoting interagency cooperation and dialogue on migration. Migration was a key element in the global landscape of interdependence, mobility and cultural diversity. The loss of life of migrants and refugees at international boarders or at sea represented major challenges that required urgent action by the international community. Mr. Eliasson advocated for a two-pronged approach on migration and development that would both unlock the development potential of migration as well as ensure the dignity and rights of all migrants and their families. Mr. Eliasson thanked the representatives of GFMD Troika for their hard work and expressed his appreciation to SRSG Sutherland for his

engagement in promoting the integration of migration in the post-2015 development agenda. He also observed that the GMG was well positioned to provide coherent responses to migration and thanked the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for their important role in addressing humanitarian situations. Although the 2013 High-level Dialogue had marked an important step forward in forging global cooperation on international migration, more work was needed to protect migrants, reduce the human and financial costs of migration, improve regulated migration, counter xenophobia, and reduce inequalities. In closing, Mr. Eliasson observed that creating decent work was essential to ensure that people migrated out of choice, not necessity.

In moderating the first panel, Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, emphasized the historic opportunity presented by the United Nations summit in September 2015, when Heads of States and Governments were scheduled to endorse a new universal agenda for sustainable development. He noted that the consensus reached at the 2013 High-level Dialogue had both forged the political will and produced the evidence to support the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda. The proposal, put forward by the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals had proposed several targets related to migrants, migration and mobility, including the need for well-planned migration policies as well as for measures to maximize the benefits of migration and reduce its costs. The OWG had also called for disaggregating data by migratory status in line with the goals of promoting more equitable and inclusive societies. The set of migration-related targets proposed by the OWG constituted a solid basis for monitoring the multidimensional aspects of migration. In closing, Mr. Gass noted the timeliness of the thirteenth Coordination Meeting, given the urgency of identifying robust indicators to monitor the proposed migration-related targets.

Ms. Amina Mohammed, the Secretary- General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, commended the organizers of the coordination meeting for drawing attention to migration within the context of the sustainable development goals. Given that migration had not been mentioned explicitly in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it was all the more important that the proposals of the OWG included various migration-related targets. A major challenge was to define appropriate indicators, including on inclusion of migrants, and to link migration to the discussion on Financing for Development (FfD). Ms. Mohammed identified two areas that were particularly relevant for migrants and migration, namely: (a) the aspect of justice and rule of law as reflected in the proposed target on access to legal identity, and (b) partnerships under proposed goal 17 of the OWG proposal. Partnerships had to go beyond traditional private-public partnerships to include parliamentarians, civil society and academia. In addition, the discussion on means of implementation should focus on how to unlock and scale up innovative sources of finance. She emphasized the need for a robust accountability mechanism to ensure that everyone–not just Member States–was held accountable for implementing the post-2015 development agenda. In closing, Ms. Mohammed underscored the importance of 2015 as a year for ensuring that migration was included in the agenda of different fora.

Mr. Peter Sutherland, the SRSG for International Migration, thanked the Population Division for convening the coordination meeting and drew attention to recent deaths in the

Mediterranean Sea, which illustrated the urgency of addressing the humanitarian crisis with regard to migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. He observed that migration was a global issue, which was inevitably linked to development. However, anti-immigrant and populist sentiments in countries of destination prevented the mainstreaming of migration in domestic policies. Countering negative perceptions about migration was therefore an important task at hand. Mr. Sutherland reiterated his commitment to improve international cooperation on migration. In particular, he highlighted the role of Member States in supporting the state-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and in launching the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC). In closing, Mr. Sutherland recognized the role of the two high-level dialogues, organized by the General Assembly, as well as the GFMD in laying the foundation for integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda.

In the subsequent discussion, participants stressed the need to reflect the multi-dimensional aspects of migration not only in the post-2015 development agenda but also in the third international conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. There was a call for enhanced international cooperation to save the lives of migrants who undertook risky journeys. Long-term policy responses to the challenges of migration should ensure a life of dignity for all migrants, protecting their rights and offering them opportunities for inclusion and participation. Yet, a major challenge was that governments often had little interest in defending the rights of migrants for fear of raising labour costs. Several participants stressed the need to reduce labour migration costs, both in human and economic terms, as well as to combat the role of criminal networks in migrant smuggling. Ms. Mohammed underscored the importance of involving parliamentarians in fostering understanding and mobilization of domestic resources for the new development agenda. In order to unlock such resources, participants agreed on the need to include in the discussion on financing for development the positive contributions of migration to development through financial inclusion, diaspora capital savings and technology transfers.

III. Integrating migration in development: The role of dialogue, cooperation and partnership

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and 2016 Chair of the GFMD, noted that his country had fully integrated international migration in its five-year development plan. He observed that, since its inception in 2007, the role of the GFMD had changed from promoting informal dialogue to fostering concrete collaboration and partnerships. Ambassador Haque observed that the preparatory process for the third conference on financing for development provided several entry points where the contributions of migration and migrants could be included, in addition to remittances. He called on the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to provide Member States with technical support and advice during the intergovernmental negotiations.

Ambassador Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs of Turkey, representing the GFMD Chair-in-Office, thanked DESA for organizing the coordination meeting and for providing the Government of Turkey with the opportunity to present the objectives of the 2015 Global Forum. The theme of the eighth meeting of the GFMD was “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development”. The purpose of this year’s GFMD

was to (a) enhance migrant-focused migration management, (b) recognize the development impact of migration in public policies, and (c) engage all relevant stakeholders in order to strengthen the linkages between migration and development. Ambassador Samsar underscored that well-managed mobility could bring significant benefits. Turkey stood ready to share its wealth of experience in the area of migration from the perspective of a country of origin and destination as well as transit. In preparation for the eighth global meeting of the Forum, to be held in Istanbul from 14 to 16 October 2015, the Turkish Chair would convene three thematic meetings addressing migration in the post-2015 development agenda, the role of communication in recognizing the benefits of migration and improving perception of migrants, and the contribution of female migrants to economic and social development, respectively.

Recalling key elements from the eight-point plan for action, presented by the Secretary-General to the 2013 High-level Dialogue, Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM, outlined three pre-conditions to integrate migration into national development plans, namely (a) saving and protecting migrants' lives, (b) reducing the human and financial costs of migration, and (c) improving the perception of the contributions of migrants. Mr. Swing also called for greater efforts to prevent criminalization of irregular migration, to promote alternatives to detention of migrants, and to increase channels for legal migration. A major challenge was the lack of rapid responses to human trafficking in crisis situations, where migrant women, girls and children were particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and gender-based violence. More concerted efforts were also needed to combat migrant smuggling. IOM was planning to convene a mayoral forum in Geneva in October 2015 with a view to improving the linkages between migrant and local communities. In closing, Mr. Swing observed that the prevailing migration policies were inadequate to address current realities and that future policies needed to balance national sovereignty and security with human rights and individual freedoms.

Ms. Michele LeVoy, Director of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), thanked DESA for the opportunity accorded to civil society to address the coordination meeting. The first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in 2006, was the starting point for civil society to increase its cooperation on migration. The annual meetings of the GFMD and its civil society days had provided further impetus to refining messages and coordinating action, which had culminated in a five-year action plan presented at the second High Level Dialogue in 2013. During the 2014 Global Forum, civil society had adopted the "Stockholm Agenda", reflecting its joint position on the proposed migration-related targets for the post-2015 development agenda. Ms. LeVoy underscored the need to formulate indicators in an inclusive manner, in particular in relation to the targets of the OWG document where migrants had not been explicitly mentioned. She stressed the need for accurate data in order to monitor the proposed targets on migration and migrants and for involving civil society in monitoring the implementation of the sustainable development goals. In this regard, human rights indicators for migrants and their families, developed with the support of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), as well as indicators proposed by civil society during the 2014 Global Forum meeting should be taken into account. In closing, she reiterated the need for an aspirational post-2015 development agenda ensuring the human rights of all.

In her presentation, Ms. Sonia Plaza outlined the priorities of the World Bank as the current Chair of the Global Migration Group, which focused on enhancing the linkages between migration and development and strengthening collaboration within the GMG. The World Bank also intended to expand partnerships with relevant entities and processes in the context of the preparations for the post-2015 development agenda and the third financing for development conference, including the GFMD, the G-20 as well as the SRSG for International Migration. Ms. Plaza reported that the GMG had updated its multi-annual work plan during a recent retreat. A joint communiqué on migration and the post-2015 development agenda, which had been recently issued, was available on the GMG website. The GMG would provide inputs on the measurement of migration-related targets in the post-2015 process by organizing a side event during the United Nations Statistical Commission on 4 March 2015. In addition, the GMG was planning to convene a symposium on integrating migration in the post-2015 development agenda and on migration as a source of financing for development (New York, 26 and 27 May 2015) and to hold a side event in the margins of the third conference on financing for development (Addis Ababa, July 2015). Ms. Plaza also presented recent work of the various GMG working groups. She reiterated the commitment of GMG to provide substantive support to the GFMD Chair in organizing roundtables and preparing thematic meetings.

In the discussion, participants welcomed the close collaboration between the GFMD, the GMG, the SRSG for migration, and civil society. Within the context of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the importance of labour migration and remittances for development was emphasized as was the need to include durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The need for better integrating migration into national development plans, including the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), was highlighted. Reference was also made to the usefulness of regional consultative processes as platforms for informal discussions on regional migration dimensions.

IV. LEVERAGING MIGRATION WITHIN A RENEWED FRAMEWORK ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Director of DESA's Financing for Development Office, called attention to the third international Conference on Financing for Development, which would be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015. The Addis Conference had three main objectives, namely (a) assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, (b) addressing new and emerging issues, including the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and (c) reinvigorating and strengthening the process of development financing. The conference was expected to attract high-level representatives, including Heads of State and Government, as well as relevant institutional stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and business sector entities. The General Assembly was currently in the process of negotiating an outcome document.

Mr. Trepelkov noted that the total amount of remittances far outpaced that of official development assistance. Nevertheless, the impact of migration on development was far greater than the total volume of remittances suggested. In addition to their total volume, Mr. Trepelkov identified four aspects which should be considered within the context of financing for

development, namely (1) the private nature of remittances, (2) their role in promoting human development and strengthening human capital, (3) the challenges presented by high transfer costs, particularly in Africa, and (4) the linkages between remittances and financial inclusion. His opening remarks were followed by the screening of a short video, produced by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), featuring ways to maximize the use of remittances to promote sustainable development.

Mr. Pedro De Vasconcelos, manager of IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances, explained that the goal of the fund was to develop innovative remittance and financial services for the rural poor and to promote the productive investment of migrant savings. By creating an enabling environment for the productive use of remittances, the facility allowed for the scaling up of local projects. The activities of the facility focused on (a) establishing appropriate policies to lower the transaction costs of remittances, (b) promoting competition between remittance transfer agencies and other actors operating in the remittance market, (c) linking remittances to financial inclusion and the financial literacy of migrants, and (d) supporting public-private partnerships, diaspora investments, diaspora bonds as well as trade between countries of origin and destination of international migrants.

Ms. Mina Mashayekhi, Head of the Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy Branch at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), shared some findings of a recent report published by her agency on remittances and financial inclusion, focusing in particular on women and youth. The report had found considerable heterogeneity among and within developing countries in terms of financial inclusion. The main obstacle for financial inclusion, in particular opening bank accounts, was a lack of disposable money combined with physical or administrative barriers. These barriers adversely affected the poor, women, youth, rural populations, workers in the informal sector, and migrant workers. New technologies, such as mobile banking, and innovative business models could promote financial inclusion if combined with the right policies and regulatory frameworks. In closing, Ms. Mashayekhi stressed that financial inclusion was key in implementing the post-2015 development agenda due to its impact on poverty reduction, economic development, inclusiveness and gender equality.

During the ensuing discussion, participants cautioned that remittances should not replace the responsibility of governments to provide social protection floors. Questions were also raised about efforts to ensure greater equity in trade within the post-2015 development agenda. The need for creating decent work in countries of origin to ensure that people seeking to migrate would do so out of choice rather than necessity was also highlighted. In response, Mr. De Vasconcelos reiterated the need to increase financial opportunities for migrants and their families as well as the importance of scaling up projects aimed at promoting financial literacy and the productive investment of remittances and migrant savings. Ms. Mashayekhi observed that goal 17 of the proposed sustainable development goals called for an international multilateral system that was fair and equitable. She also called for greater emphasis on South-South cooperation and trade and for integrating mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) into the post-2015 development agenda.

V. MEASURING MIGRATION RELATED TARGETS IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

By way of introduction, Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of DESA's Population Division, presented five indicators, proposed by the GMG working group on data and research, for inclusion in the monitoring framework of the post-2015 development agenda. These indicators included (1) the amount of remittances spent on transfer costs, (2) the number of victims of human trafficking, (3) the recruitment costs borne by workers, (4) the number of refugees and internally displaced persons who found a durable solution, and (5) human mobility index. He also highlighted the need to disaggregate targets which were relevant for international migrants to access basic services, including health, education, and decent work. Lastly, he suggested operationalizing migratory status, mentioned in target 17.18 of the proposed sustainable development goals, in three ways, namely nativity status (native-born/foreign-born), citizenship status (citizen, foreigner, stateless), and legal status (regular/irregular).

The presentation of Mr. Frank Laczko, Head of IOM's Migration Research Division, focused on the proposed SDG target to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility. While the target provided an historic opportunity to monitor progress towards better migration governance, the main challenge was the lack of agreed definitions. Sources such as international migration law, the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and various United Nations' resolutions on migration provided some guidance, however. One approach to capture the different dimensions of the proposed target was to develop a composite index measuring different dimensions of migration policy. Given the paucity of data, it was essential to increase budget allocations for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and statistics on international migration.

Mr. Massimo Cirasino, Head of the Payment Systems Development Group at the World Bank, reported that while the G-20 had made progress in reducing the costs of sending remittances, the so-called "5 by 5 initiative", the objective of reducing the global average cost of sending remittances by five percent over a five-year period had not yet been reached. Indeed, the transfer costs in a number of remittances corridors, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, remained high. Mr. Cirasino concurred with previous speakers that remittances could be a useful vehicle to promote financial inclusion. While welcoming proposed SDG target 10.c to reduce remittance transfer costs, he underscored the need to strengthen the methodology for measuring its implementation.

Mr. Ryszard Cholewinski of the International Labour Organization (ILO) made a presentation on potential indicators to measure proposed SDG target 8.8 on protecting the rights of all workers, including migrant workers. Decent work encompassed the promotion of employment, the fundamental principles and rights at work, social protection, and dialogue and cooperation between governments, employers, and workers. In order to monitor the implementation of the proposed target, the ILO suggested several indicators, taking into account the following aspects: (a) international labour standards, (b) employment, (c) wages and working conditions, (c) social security coverage, (d) skills and qualifications recognition, (e) recruitment costs, and (f) social dialogue. He then provided an overview of how the indicators could be operationalized and of potential data sources.

Ms. Tejal Jesrani, representing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), made a presentation on the measurement of proposed SDG targets 5.2 and 16.2, which were related to trafficking of women and children. Age and gender as well as other factors, such as economic deprivation, level of organized crime, weak criminal justice systems, and conflict, influenced the exposure to trafficking in persons. Sexual exploitation and forced labour were the most commonly detected forms of exploitation. Since 2004, the number of children falling victim to human trafficking had increased. In closing, she stressed the need to improve data collection and indicated that UNODC was developing a standard methodology for measuring victims of human trafficking.

Lastly, Ms. Jessica Espey of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) presented an overview of SDSN's work related to measuring the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda. SDSN was proposing a system of national reporting combined with a maximum of one hundred global indicators in order not to overburden national statistics offices. She underscored the value of thematic monitoring, including for the migration-related targets of the post-2015 development agenda. There was a need to explore migration-related indicators as well as ways of disaggregating targets by migratory status. While extending her appreciation to the GMG for developing indicators, she cautioned against the use of composite indices, given their complexities.

In the discussion, participants welcomed the presentations and underscored the importance of existing bodies within the United Nations, such as the functional commissions, in monitoring and reviewing the post-2015 development agenda. With respect to the work of the GMG on indicators, participants inquired about how best to promote coherence in the work of different agencies. In relation to questions about the inclusiveness of the process to develop indicators, the Statistics Division of DESA explained that an inter-agency expert group would be established, linked with thematic groups that included inputs from civil society. The representative of SDSN observed that, given the limited number of indicators compared to the targets, indicators that addressed multiple targets across the agenda and were available across countries should be prioritized. SDSN had started the process of selecting a limited set of indicators based on inputs from national statistics offices. She reported that the outcome of this work, namely a comparison between the indicators and the targets, would be available in the course of February 2015.

VI. Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

Mr. François Crépeau, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, who acted as moderator for the session, noted that following the Declaration of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development there had been a positive change in the collective attitude towards migration as well as a realization of the need to protect the human rights of migrants. While there was a greater awareness of the complexity of migration-related issues, both at the policy level and in the media, there were still considerable barriers to articulating a more positive discourse on migrants and migration, however. Mr. Crépeau encouraged participants to reflect on how to improve the public discourse on migrants

and migration ahead of the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development which would take place no later than 2019.

Protecting the human rights of all migrants

Ms. Carolina Hernandez Paramo, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), identified four areas where progress had been made since the convening of the 2013 High-level Dialogue, namely (1) the attention accorded to the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, (b) the decision made by the General Assembly to convene a third High-level Dialogue, (c) the recognition of the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants in an irregular situation, and (d) the use of the term "irregular" instead of "illegal" in relation to migration. As major challenges, she listed the lack of recourse to justice for international migrants and their vulnerability to human rights violations, discrimination and arbitrary detention, noting that these challenges were most chronic at international borders. To ensure that border governance measures complied with international standards for human rights, she encouraged Member States to implement the recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders published by OHCHR.

Ms. Sarah Gammage, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), highlighted four recent initiatives that had improved access to decent work and social protection for migrants. These initiatives included (a) the adoption of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189), which had improved the work and living conditions of domestic workers; (b) the creation of the Federation of Domestic Workers; (c) various initiatives undertaken by local authorities such as the New York Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights, adopted in 2010, and (d) legislation in several European countries to support victims of human trafficking and provide access to justice to all migrants regardless of their migration status. As major challenges she identified the continued exploitation and abuse of migrants, lack of access to decent work for migrants, excessive recruitment costs, and barriers to the portability of migrant workers' accrued benefits. Other challenges included the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers and the protection of migrant rights in countries of transit.

Ms. Catherine Tactaquin of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights considered the State-led "Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC)" as useful, although its current focus was too narrow. Another encouraging measure was a programme to defer deportations of undocumented migrants in the United States of America. However, Ms. Tactaquin noted that many challenges were yet to overcome, including the criminalization of migrants, the militarization of international boarders, the lack of channels for legal migration, and the detention of migrants, particularly children.

During the discussion, participants welcomed the increased emphasis on the human rights of migrants and the recent creation of several government-led initiatives. Several governments had included the protection of the human rights of migrants in their national policies and development plans. Despite the progress made, participants agreed that major challenges remained. The link between human rights standards and development needed to be strengthened, including by selecting appropriate indicators to measure and monitor the proposed SDG targets. Participants called for a rights-based approach to labour migration that matched labour market

needs, at various skills levels, including through temporary admission schemes. In many countries, visa restrictions limited access to family unification.

Reducing the costs of labour migration

Ms. Michelle Leighton, representing the International Labour Organization (ILO), noted that although reducing the costs of labour migration featured in the Secretary-General's eight-point plan of action, it had received insufficient attention in the context of financing for development. This was a considerable oversight given that reducing recruitment costs could lead to even greater savings than by reducing the costs of transferring remittances. Reducing the wage gap between migrant and native workers was another priority. There were many barriers to reducing the costs of labour migration, including fragmented normative systems and the lack of capacity to govern mobility and migration at the national, regional and global level. In addition, there was often a mismatch between jobs and skills, especially for migrants. The most critical challenge was to create decent jobs in countries of origin.

Ms. Patricia Pittmann of George Washington University concurred with ILO on the need to reduce recruitment fees and close the wage gaps between migrant and native workers. While some progress in reducing recruitment fees had been made, in practice such fees were often replaced by other costs, such as debt bondage. A major challenge was to understand the complex recruitment practices of for-profit agencies, which were increasingly employed by employers. There was a need to end predatory practices of the recruitment industry in hiring migrant workers by introducing and enforcing regulations. There was also a need for greater transparency in contracts offered to migrant workers, as well as in the recruitment fees charged to them.

Mr. Charlie Fanning, representing the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), pointed to the empowerment of migrants through unions as an important accomplishment. Examples from various countries illustrated that migrant workers had significant bargaining power to claim their rights if collectively organized. He suggested that such efforts could affect policy reform, including banning recruitment fees charged to migrant workers and improving transparency in the recruitment process. Many challenges with regard to recruitment costs were common to industrial relations and did not solely apply to migrants workers. The most effective solution was direct hiring, which would hold employers responsible for any abuse. States also had a role to play in preventing predatory behaviour of recruitment companies.

In the discussion, participants emphasized the need to improve regulation of recruitment firms and to increase transparency in contracts even though the implementation of such reforms remained difficult in practice. In this regard, attention was drawn to the Domestic Workers Convention and other relevant international human rights standards, as well as to the crucial role played by civil society in monitoring their implementation. While participants welcomed the ILO's fair recruitment initiative, the lack of robust data on the socio-economic well-being of migrants was an obstacle to assessing progress. Participants recommended that reducing the costs of labour migration should figure in the post-2015 development agenda.

Stranded migrants, migrants in crises and protection at sea

Ms. Sumbul Rizvi, representing the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), drew attention to the large number of migrants and asylum-seekers who had attempted to cross international sea borders during 2014, as well as to the unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons. Protection challenges which required urgent solutions included inadequate access to asylum, lack of socio-economic opportunities for refugees in protracted situations, the complexity of mixed migration flows, as well as the exploitation by smugglers and traffickers. Other concerns included finding solutions to the problem of statelessness and ending the practice of arbitrarily detaining migrant children. With a view to the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, she called for (a) comprehensive responses to protection challenges including during search-and-rescue operations, (b) improved post-disembarkation reception and treatment, (c) improved data on migrants, migration and human mobility and (d) expanded partnerships.

Ms. Michelle Klein Solomon, heading the newly established secretariat of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), highlighted the need to reduce the vulnerability of migrants prior to the onset of crises, as well as to develop guidelines describing the roles and responsibilities of actors involved in assisting migrants in crisis situations. Priorities for the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development included (a) ending deaths of migrants in transit, (b) opening channels for safe and legal migration at all skill levels, (c) strengthening the protection of migrants, particularly the most vulnerable, (d), ensuring non-discriminatory treatment and social inclusion of all migrants, (e) promoting a greater role of the private sector in the migration process, (f) increasing prosecution of smugglers and traffickers, (g) integrating migration into disaster risk reduction strategies, (h) adopting and adequately implementing guidelines for migrants in countries in crisis, (i) making migration a matter of genuine choice, and (g) ending xenophobia and migrant discrimination.

Participants concurred with the urgency of improving migration governance to prevent human tragedies at sea and elsewhere. Collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination offered the potential to save lives and to address root causes of migration, while the current lack of governance put an adverse burden on many stakeholders, including the shipping industry. Solutions to address displacement from a longer term development perspective were viewed as crucial. It was suggested to develop common standards for the collection of data on migrant casualties. Participants observed that the third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development offered an opportunity to assess progress in implementing the migration related goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda.

VII. TOUR-DE -TABLE

The representative of UNHCR informed the meeting that the annual NGO consultation in June 2015 would focus on protection at sea, including creative approaches of information gathering and data collection by NGOs. The annual High Commissioners' dialogue, to be held in December 2015, would have as its theme the root causes of migration. The dialogue would not only focus on refugees but also on issues related to statelessness and the risks of migration.

The representative of United Nations University (UNU) presented recent work on the perception of migrants and prejudices. Prejudice was a judgment that people formed without rationalizing the basis of their assumptions. Key causes of prejudice included labour market competition, anxieties, waves of immigration as well as class-based discrimination. To counter prejudice and negative perception of migrants it was important for governments to invest in education, to integrate migrants in the labour market, to ensure the participation of migrants in the political system of the host country, to reduce class-based discrimination and to address negative stereotyping of migrants and migration in the media.

The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was interested in collaborating with the GMG on the root causes of migration. In 2015, the FAO would focus on migration challenges in Ethiopia and Tunisia.

The delegate from the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) briefed the meeting on the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) initiative, which was led by consortium of six civil society groups and regional coordinators in Africa, the Americas and Asia. The thematic working groups of the initiative focused on (a) governance of migration, (b) migrant labour recruitment, and (c) diaspora and development. MADE had also contributed to the Stockholm Agenda, a tool for integrating migrants and migration-related goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda at the national and global level.

Recent work of the NGO Committee on Migration had focused on (a) a pilot survey on migrants in countries of transit and crisis, designed in collaboration with Georgetown University, (b) improving public perception of migrants and advocating for the contribution of migrants to development, and (c) supporting the work on migration-related indicators for the post-2015 development agenda.

The Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) had recently published two volumes of the International Migration Review (IMR). The first, a thematic edition on South-South migration, covered migration trends and policy issues. The second, released for the fiftieth anniversary of IMR, featured articles on diaspora institutions, diaspora governance, and transnational money transfers. CMS had also launched the Journal on Migration and Human Security (JMHS), a peer-reviewed, public policy publication devoted to policy debates on migration in the United States of America and abroad. In 2015, CMS would expand its work on migrant integration and on data collection on unauthorized immigrants in the United States.

The delegate from the Russian Federation outlined recent policy developments on migration in his country. As the second largest host country of migrants in the world, Russia was committed to maximizing the benefits of migration for development. According to the World Bank and the Central Bank of Russia, the system for transferring remittances in Russia was one of the least expensive worldwide, offering transfer costs as low as two per cent. The Russian Federation was committed to protecting the human rights of migrants and had recently enacted a new migration law to create more channels for legal migration.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) drew attention to the role of education in empowering migrants, fighting stigma and improving the

perception of migrants. Of particular importance were international norms on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education, which had the potential of reducing the human costs, or "brain waste", of labour migration. Important recent activities by UNESCO included the Global Citizenship Initiative, which formed part of the Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative, as well as the work on indicators of student mobility by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) gave an overview of its work on integrating migration in the post-2015 development agenda. In the humanitarian area, UNFPA focused on the protection needs of women and girls as part of training and technical assistance on gender-based violence provided to partner organizations. UNFPA had also seconded a staff member to work with SRSG Sutherland on migrants in countries in crisis. Further, UNFPA was involved in a KNOMAD project on measuring the impact of fertility and mortality in selected migration corridors.

A representative from the Statistics Division of UN DESA presented the Division's work on statistical standards and methods, data collection and capacity building. To improve capacity for data collection on international migration, the Statistics Division together with the Population Division had convened a workshop in Addis Ababa in November 2014, which was attended by policy makers and statisticians from 13 sub-Saharan African countries. A major finding was that existing data was often under-utilized and that more guidelines for national statistics offices were needed. The Division was also finalizing a handbook to measure international migration using population censuses.

The U.S Census Bureau called attention to its annual statistics on international migrants and their characteristics collected through the American Community Survey, a nation-wide survey carried out in the United States of America and Puerto Rico. Using various rounds of survey data, the socio-economic well-being of international migrants, including their levels of educational attainment, language proficiency and income, could be monitored. This approach could be useful for monitoring the targets of the post-2015 development agenda with regard to inequality.

The representative of the International Organization on Migration (IOM) highlighted a few of the Organization's migration activities. IOM was planning to launch an oral-history project featuring migrants' personal stories. In cooperation with Gallup, IOM had presented the first joint publication on public attitudes towards migration at the 2015 World Economic Forum in Davos. The aim of the presentation was to address the question of why policy makers often ignored facts and evidence on migration. She also reported that IOM had established a migration data analysis unit in Berlin, Germany. In closing, the IOM representative briefed participants on a project that was seeking to establish a set of principles for humane and orderly migration. In the future, parliamentarians, mayors and local authorities would be involved in the development of the framework.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented its new strategy on human mobility and migration, which focused on: (a) mainstreaming migration into development programmes, including by developing guidelines for United Nations Development Action

Frameworks in partnership with IOM, (b) expanding the joint migration and development initiative, based in UNDP Brussels, and (c) collaborating with UNHCR in the Solutions Alliance, focused on identifying development solutions to displacement. In collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNHCR, UNDP was also building resilience in countries hosting Syrian refugees.

The representative of Global Migration Policy Associates welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the coordination meeting. Established in 2011, the group provided expertise and advisory services on migration-related issues, including the protection of migrants' rights, human development, and social cohesion. In 2013, the organization had prepared a migration study for a meeting organized by the African Union. This meeting contributed to the launch of the Labour Migration Governance for Development and Integration in Africa, a project carried out by the AU, ECA, ILO and IOM.

The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) reaffirmed its commitment to an ethical approach to migration and the human dignity of migrants. Scalabrini's work focused on providing safe shelters and other services to vulnerable migrants, in particular deportees and IDPs, as well as to victims of human trafficking and migrants in countries in crisis. The organization advocated for integrating migration in the post-2015 development agenda and for strengthening collaboration and partnership on migration with all relevant stakeholders.

The Population Division of UN DESA reported on its ongoing work. The Division was planning to issue the 2015 revision of the international migrant stock during the third quarter, including various associated reports and fact sheets. The Population Division would continue its efforts to promote capacity building on the production and use of migration data through a series of workshops. The Division was involved in producing a Handbook on measuring international migration and its impact on development, which was scheduled to be released in 2015. The Division was involved in organizing various side events on migration and the post-2105 development agenda. The Division would also convene an expert group meeting on the implications of the post-2015 development agenda for global research on population and development, featuring a panel on international migration. The forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) would focus on integrating population issues, including migration, into sustainable development.

IX. CLOSING

In his closing remarks, the Director of the Population Division stressed the added value of the annual coordination meeting in bringing together organizations and individuals active in the field of international migration policy, data, research and advocacy. The importance of the meeting had been underscored by lively debates on migration and the post-2015 development agenda, and the need to protect the rights of migrants. Improving the data and evidence base on international migration and development and strengthening cooperation between different stakeholders remained key priorities of the meeting. In closing, Mr. Wilmoth thanked participants for their presentations and contributions.