

MIGRATION POLICY AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

International Organization for Migration

Research and Forum activities have been a part of International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s work for many years. In June 2001, a Migration Research and Policy Programme (MPRP) was set up in response to IOM Member States' requests for the Organization to take a stronger leadership role in the intellectual debate and provision of policy guidance on migration issues, and to promote co-operation and co-ordination of efforts in the field of international migration. MPRP contributes to the better understanding of migration issues and strengthening of the capacity of governments in their efforts to manage migration in a more comprehensive and effective manner.

A. MIGRATION AND POLICY RESEARCH MANDATE

1. To contribute to a better global understanding of migration issues and to enhance the longer-term global capacity for collection, analysis, use and sharing of migration information and experiences.
2. To strengthen the capacity of governments to manage global migration more effectively and co-operatively and develop relevant approaches in the form of migration policies, legislation and procedures.
3. To identify and share "effective practices" in migration management drawing from the experiences of IOM and others and to ensure that IOM is a reliable resource for governments in their development of coherent policies on migration issues.

B. PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

Given the scope of MPRP's mandate, and the complexity of the policy issues surrounding international migration, six priority areas provide focus for MPRP's activities:

1. IOM Council International Dialogue on Migration

As part of MPRP's mandate to contribute to a better understanding of international migration, MPRP paved the way to reinforce the IOM Council as a global forum for dialogue on international migration. In IOM's Constitution, Article 1(e) sets as one of the primary purposes and functions of the Organization to "provide a forum to States as well as international and other organisations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of co-operation and co-ordination of efforts on international migration issues, including studies on such issues in order to develop practical solutions".

Now, with 101 Member States and some 31 observer States from every region of the world plus the participation of partner intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, MPRP works with IOM's membership to prepare the policy dialogue through extensive consultations to identify themes, experts and formats for discussion. In facilitating the discussion, MPRP has produced a number of background and policy papers, analysing a range of migration policy issues.

The theme for the International Dialogue on Migration for 2003 is *Migration in a Globalized World*. MPRP will convene three informal Steering Group meetings as well as two inter-sessional workshops on (a) migration data management, and (b) trade and migration prior to the Council session. The 2003 Council policy dialogue in December will include a presentation on trends in international migration and migration policy, an update on significant regional migration developments, a plenary discussion of *Migration in a Globalized World* and workshops for policy-makers.

Through its exploration of the theme *Partnerships in Managing Migration*, IOM's December 2002 Council helped foster a greater understanding of global international migration issues in a presentation on migration trends and migration policy trends; a plenary discussion of elements of a managed migration system; and three workshops for policy-makers: (a) integration, (b) comprehensive and solutions-oriented approaches to irregular migration, and (c) diaspora support to migration and development. As preparation for the Council dialogue, MPRP held a June roundtable discussion on "Managing Migration at the Regional Level", focusing on the development of strategies for effective regional consultation.

The International Dialogue on Migration was launched at the 50th Anniversary Council in November 2001 with a focus on *Migration Challenges for the 21st Century*. In preparation, MPRP promoted an active exchange of views among IOM's membership through several informal Steering Group meetings. At the Council sessions, presentations from experts on demographic trends affecting migration, trade and migration, cultural and ethnic diversity and integration as well as keynote addresses by Ministers from different regions of the world stimulated the policy dialogue.

Red book series: To support its objective of enhancing the understanding of migration, MPRP introduced the "red book series", which captures the results of the dialogue at each relevant Council session, and takes the analysis a step further. Additional issues in this series are produced to facilitate the Council's dialogue. It is anticipated that at least one issue in this series will be produced annually to correspond to the Council's International Dialogue on Migration, and other thematic volumes will be produced periodically.

2. *World Migration Report*

The report entitled *World Migration 2003: Managing Migration, Challenges and Responses for People on the Move* presents the most complete record of reference data and background analysis on population movements. With contributions from internationally renowned practitioners and scholars in the area of international migration, the report provides an in-depth analysis of the current state of international migration and the policy implications of managing the phenomenon in both thematic and regional chapters.

In response to the interest of Member States in developing the report as a resource for policy-makers with themes of direct policy interest and improved supporting data, MPRP led the production of the second volume of IOM's flagship publication *World Migration 2003*. An IOM official assigned to MPRP served as editor-in-chief, working with an IOM Steering Committee with representatives of all parts of the organization, and relied on IOM's Academic Advisory Board, among others.

3. *Facilitation of Regional Dialogues on Migration*

MPRP seeks to strengthen the capacity of governments to manage migration through contribution to and participation in regional dialogues on migration. In addition to the June 2002 roundtable on Managing Migration at the Regional Level, significant new developments in this field, and in which MPRP has played and continues to play an important role are:

5 plus 5: The Western Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Migration in October 2002, bringing together the five countries of the southern shore of the Western Mediterranean with the five countries of the northern shore, marked the start of a ground breaking inter-regional dialogue process on migration.

MIDWA: The Migration Dialogue for West Africa (Dakar follow-up) is now a fully functioning Regional Consultative Processes, combining political level commitment and discussions with technical workshops for migration practitioners.

Asian Labour Migration Ministerial Consultations: In coordination with the IOM's Labour Migration Services area, MPRP contributed to planning and facilitating the first Asian Labour Ministerial Consultation for countries of origin, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in April 2003.

Bali Conference: Together with other IOM colleagues, MPRP is advising the chairs of the two working groups growing out of the Bali Conference in February 2003 on their follow-up activities.

4. The Berne Initiative

Unlike the international refugee protection regime, there is no comprehensive framework regulating international migration to promote movements in a co-operative, orderly way, combining efficiency, equity and respect for the interests of all countries. With this in mind, the Swiss Federal Office for Refugees launched, in 2001, the Berne Initiative as the first broad-based initiative to open up a dialogue between countries of origin, transit and destination on the full range of migration issues with the objective of identifying common understandings and enhancing migration management at the global level. The Berne Initiative seeks to engage the active participation of States from every region of the world, representing a wide-range of migration perspectives, through a broad-based consultative process. This process is exploring the development of an international framework of common understandings and effective practices on migration.

The Berne Initiative follows a similar orientation to IOM's International Dialogue on Migration. The Swiss Federal Office for Refugees nominated the Migration Policy and Research Programme to act as Secretariat for the Berne Initiative. In 2002, MPRP developed and co-ordinated an expert study on international legal norms on migration. In addition, MPRP created a thematic compilation of the *Significant International Statements on Migration*. Moreover, it contributed to raising global consciousness about the Berne Initiative through regional consultations and worked with States to identify areas of migration which might benefit from the formulation of international guiding principles on migration management. For example, MPRP convened workshops on the Berne Initiative for the Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla Process) and Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA). The year 2003 will be the time for the establishment of the Berne Initiative as a States' owned process through a series of planned conferences and seminars with participation of senior governmental experts, representatives from international organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as independent migration experts.

5. Strengthening of Partnerships in Managing Migration

In support of its efforts to further understanding of migration and to foster greater cooperation in migration management, MPRP is working to strengthen the linkages between IOM and other relevant migration stakeholders.

6. Enhanced Cooperation with other Inter-Governmental Organizations

MPRP deploys considerable effort in developing and maintaining relationships with UN agencies and other inter-governmental organizations in order to pursue effective avenues of interagency collaboration. For example, MPRP led IOM in four important initiatives of this sort:

MPRP has contributed to enhancing co-operation with UNHCR by organizing the on-going Action Group on Asylum and Migration (AGAMI) and participation in the 3 plus 3 consultations between the leaderships of UNHCR and IOM.

Together with IOM's Labour Migration Service area, MPRP is developing relationships with the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD and OECD on trade and migration issues and represented IOM at the 2002 WTO's Symposium on the Movement of Natural Persons.

In co-ordination with IOM's Migration Management Services, MPRP is pursuing a joint project with UNDP to strengthen EU member Government's policy approaches to migration and development.

In September 2002, MPRP represented IOM in the Knowledge Network Meeting on International Migration of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation organised by ILO.

7. Enhanced IOM-NGO Consultation

MPRP has revitalized and institutionalized IOM's consultations with the non-governmental community by organizing regular consultations with the umbrella NGO groups represented in Geneva and encouraging NGO participation in the Council's International Dialogue on Migration. In connection with this, MPRP prepared for the Council in 2002 a background document on *IOM's Partnership with NGO's in Managing Migration*, which presents IOM's policy approach to NGOs and a current picture of the range of IOM's cooperation with NGOs throughout the world. MPRP is now in the process of broadening and deepening these consultations, for example, through expanded consultations with field-based and operational NGOs.

8. Establish Links with the Private Sector and the Broader Migration Public

MPRP is working to establish links with the private sector and the broader migration public through activities such as participating in the regional and annual activities of the World Economic Forum, through establishing linkages with private migration institutions such as the Migration Policy Institute, the Institute for the Study of International Migration, the Migration Policy Group, among others, as well as through working in partnership with the European Institute of the Mediterranean on the preparations for the Barcelona World Migration Congress of 2004.

9. Capacity Building and Training

In support of its efforts to enhance the capacity of governments to manage migration, MPRP is pursuing the following capacity-building and training activities:

10. Overview of International Migration, Module and Trainer's Guide

In co-ordination with IOM's Staff Development and Training unit (SDT), Migration Management Services (MMS) and other relevant offices, MPRP is coordinating the production of an updated and expanded Overview of International Migration Module and Trainer's Guide. The Module will provide an accurate interactive framework of reference and instruction on contemporary migration dynamics, policies and trends and is intended to expand the knowledge and facilitate the work of government policy-makers, practitioners, students, academics, humanitarian workers, NGO activists, and other international organizations.

11. Research Projects and Publications

The Research and Publications Division is responsible for conducting and managing research on current migration policy issues as well as initiating new studies designed to enhance and improve IOM's programme delivery. The Research unit assists IOM field offices' management of research projects by endorsing project proposals, providing technical support and guidance, and reviewing final reports for publication. More than 60 research studies were prepared by IOM field offices during 2002-2003. Details of these studies can be found in a new IOM Research Directory, at www.iom.int.

During 2002-2003 several research projects have been completed by the Division, including:

- A study on the changing pattern of migration from China to Europe for the European Commission. Two expert seminars involving researchers and policy makers from Europe and China were organized in Madrid and Brussels in 2002. The findings of the study were published as a special issue of the Journal "International Migration", 1/2003.
- A study was prepared for the United Kingdom's Home Office entitled: "Irregular Migration Flows in Europe: data sources, patterns and trends". The final report was submitted in February 2003.

- Upon the request of the Spanish Government, the Division conducted an in-depth study comparing the treatment of migrants from Maghreb and Mashreq countries residing in Europe and the Gulf States. A report was submitted in July 2002.
- A study and an expert workshop on the subject of the “Return and Re-integration of Irregular Migrants” was prepared for the European Commission. A final report based on fieldwork carried out in Albania, Romania and Russia, was submitted to the EC in April 2003.
- A joint research project on current migration policy challenges in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe was conducted together with ICMPD on behalf of the government of Switzerland. In 2002 IOM/ICMPD published a book entitled “New Challenges for Migration Policy in Central and Eastern Europe”, Asser Press, the Hague.
- At the request of the Korea Labour Institute, a think tank of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Division conducted a comparative study on labour migration management in selected North American and European countries. The study is expected to directly contribute to the Government’s development of foreign labour policy and the preparation of comprehensive new labour migration legislation. A draft report was submitted in September 2003.

The Division will organize in 2004 international expert meetings on the subjects of human trafficking (Rome) and government approaches to migration research (Geneva). New studies planned for 2004 include a “Global Research Report on Human Trafficking”, and publication comparing the ways in which governments manage migration research and its contribution to policy-making.

The Research and Publications Division ensures that research findings are widely disseminated in the form of books and working papers, and via the Internet, through the *Migration Research Series*, quarterly journal *International Migration* and the quarterly bulletin *Trafficking in Migrants*. Since year 2001 more than a dozen papers have been published in the *Migration Research Series*, on topics such as the *Migration-Development Nexus*, the role of regional consultative processes in managing international migration, and irregular migration in Europe and North America.

The Publications unit is responsible for formulating the overall publishing policy and together with the Research unit producing many of IOM's main publications. It provides services to Headquarters and field entities for the drafting, editing, designing, layout, printing, distribution and sales of publications. The Research and Publications Division is also responsible for managing IOM’s specialist library on international migration.

The latest publications catalogue prepared by the Publications Unit in September 2003 lists over 190 titles prepared by IOM field offices and HQ departments. Recent titles include: *The Migration-Development Nexus*, *Elusive Protection*, *Uncertain Lands: Migrants’ Access to Human Rights*, *Migration and Development: A Perspective from Asia*.