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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

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**UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
(UNITAR)**

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The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is undertaking the following migration-related work, which is of direct relevance to the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development taking place in September 2006:

A. UNITAR/UNFPA “KEY MIGRATION ISSUES” WORKSHOP SERIES

Based on requests by delegates in New York to receive greater information on international migration policy, UNITAR and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in addition to other partnering agencies, are implementing the UNITAR/UNFPA “Key Migration Issues” Workshop Series. The series, which begins in October 2005, is intended to increase New York based-delegates’ knowledge and to stimulate critical thinking regarding international migration and its various inter-linkages. Many of the topics covered by the series are of direct relevance to the proposed round table themes during the High Level Dialogue. Specifically, these include:

(1) The Workshop on International Trafficking in Human Beings organised with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations University on 18 October 2005;

(2) The Briefing on Remittances and Post Conflict Development, which is a follow-up to the UNITAR/World Bank Briefing on Remittances that took place in June 2005, scheduled for March 2006;

(3) The Workshop on Lessons Learned in Contractual Labour Mobility, scheduled for May 2006;

(4) The Workshop on Lessons Learned in Promoting Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion, including the Role of Local Actors and the Influence of the Media, scheduled for July 2006.

The series will also draw from the many recommendations of the Global Commission on International Migration in its Final Report presented to the United Nations Secretary-General on 5 October 2005.

Subject to demand, other workshops may be organised in 2006. Possible topics include: demographics and mobility; lessons learned on the migration of health care providers from health-challenged countries and regions; irregular migration; rights of undocumented migrants; circular migration; return migration.

B. COMPLETION OF THE COUNTRY REPORTING SYSTEM (CRS)

One of the central topics for the High Level Dialogue is that of governance and specifically “institutional mechanisms to enhance international cooperation for the benefit of countries and migrants alike”. One such mechanism is regional consultative processes. Between 1998-2004, the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP), the inter-agency programme of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNFPA, UNITAR and the International Labour Office (ILO), facilitated technical capacity building; legal instruction so as to promote application of international standards; awareness raising so as to foster policy coherence; information exchange on best practices; and cooperation and consultation amongst governments in regions and with relevant organizations and bodies. IMP’s work covered many parts of Africa; Central

Asia, the Caucasus and Neighbouring States (known as the “Issyk-Kul Dialogue”); and the Caribbean.

Recommendations endorsed by governments at the end of each consultation have offered clear benchmarks for progress and have served to further discussions on specific migration policy issues—both within the regions concerned and outside them. To illustrate their widespread usage and by way of example, many of the references cited in the Secretary-General’s Report on Traffic in Women and Girls to the Human Rights Commission in 2003 (E/CN.4/2003/74) emanate from IMP consultative meetings.

In 2004, UNFPA pledged its support for an evaluation of IMP through the implementation of the Country Reporting System (CRS). CRS consists of a monitoring mechanism, which explores whether IMP recommendations have been implemented in participating countries and if not, identifies obstacles to their implementation. The evaluation was undertaken by an external expert and the project was managed by UNITAR. It consisted in sending survey questionnaires to over 70 government delegates in both the AU region and the Issyk-Kul Dialogue over the span of November 2004–August 2005.

The findings have been compiled in three separate reports. The first report entitled “*Regional Consultative Processes for Migration: an Evaluation of IMP’s Work*” is an analysis of consultative processes’ strengths and weaknesses drawing mainly from IMP’s experiences. The Report highlights the value of regional consultative processes in the overall governance structure of international migration. It also presents six recommendations on how to strengthen such processes in the future so that they can effectively contribute to objectives outlined by the Global Commission on International Migration namely “capacity, coherence and cooperation”.¹

The recommendations are as follows: improve follow-up mechanisms and general role of Secretariats; increase ownership through ‘focal points’; make such processes truly ‘open’ to select non-governmental representation; incorporate a political dimension into the process to ensure follow through in capitals; ensure progression of topics discussed through effective monitoring; increase frequency and consistency of meetings to establish culture of dialogue and exchange among participants.

Two other reports are the synthesis of the findings for each of the regions covered: the AU/IMP Dialogue and the Issyk-Kul Dialogue. All three reports are available by request at unitary.ny@un.org.

¹ This Report was sent to the Global Commission on International Migration for consideration by its Commissioners in July 2005.