

**FOURTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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**RECENT IOM ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO THE UPCOMING  
HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT\***

International Organization for Migration

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



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

**Contribution to Fourth Coordination Meeting on International Migration  
(26-27 October 2005)**

**Recent IOM Activities Relevant to the Upcoming  
High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

The IOM Constitution recognizes that migration may stimulate the creation of new economic opportunities in receiving countries, and that a relationship exists between migration and the economic, social and cultural conditions in developing countries.<sup>1</sup> IOM strives to substantively contribute to the work of the international community to harness the development potential of international migration. Underlying IOM's work is its commitment to the principle that migration, if properly managed, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of all involved – countries of origin, destination and transit, as well as individual migrants. In this sense, migrants and diasporas are considered as potential agents of development, contributing to human, social and economic development through investment, remittances, expenditure, entrepreneurial activities, and the application in their home country of newly-developed skills, newly-acquired knowledge and technology.

As the sole intergovernmental organization dedicated exclusively to migration, IOM's work encompasses a variety of migration management activities throughout the world. The organization is active in areas commonly associated with the migration-development nexus, such as labour migration, remittances, diasporas, root causes of migration, return and reintegration and the role of migrants and diaporas in post-conflict reconstruction. In addition, its work extends to other areas with implications for development – for example, the intersections between migration and trade, between migration and health and between migration and the environment. In recognition of the fact that other policy domains, such as trade, labour and health, are becoming more and more relevant to migration management, IOM is increasingly exploring the intersections between international migration and related policy domains. Respect for the human rights and dignity of migrants guides IOM's work in all areas.

The scope of this paper does not permit comprehensive treatment of all of IOM's recent activities with a migration-development nexus – instead, the paper describes representative activities, beginning with activities cutting across several migration and development topics and then describing activities that are focused on the five topics proposed for the roundtables at the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (“High-Level Dialogue”).

**A. IOM'S CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES**

Several of IOM's activities are relevant to multiple migration and development topics. A representative selection of recent activities with such a cross-cutting nature follows.

## 1. *Operational programmes*

IOM has an operational budget of more than USD 1 billion (2005 estimated) and over 1300 on-going projects implemented by approximately 255 field locations. A substantial portion of these projects relate to the nexus between migration and development; their substance and structure differ depending on particular circumstances and needs.

Given the difficulty of exploring the vast number and broad range of IOM migration and development-related projects in a document of limited length, this section will briefly describe certain project categories with direct relevance to the intersection between migration and development.

### a. *Emergency and post-crisis operations assistance*

In emergency situations, such as the South Asia earthquake, the Asian tsunami, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), IOM (1) provides rapid humanitarian aid to displaced populations by supplying emergency shelter, transporting relief materials, and assisting in medical evacuations; (2) stabilizes populations through the provision of short-term community and micro-enterprise development programmes; (3) actively supports governments in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected communities by being the lead service provider of transitional shelters, health care services, counter-trafficking activities, psycho-social activities, capacity building for disaster, transportation and logistics, and registration and information management of affected populations; and (4) returns and reintegrates internally displaced persons, demobilized combatants and persons affected by national disasters. In addition, in cases where conflicts have provoked mass emigration and disrupted an area's political and administrative systems, IOM has supported structures to facilitate voting for the eligible electorate residing outside set boundaries.

### b. *Migrant integration*

Strategies to support the adjustment of migrants to their new environment in countries of destination can reinforce the positive effects of migration for origin and destination communities alike. IOM's integration activities take place not only in countries of destination but also in countries of origin, as the effectiveness of integration can be enhanced when the integration process begins in the country of origin, prior to emigration. With a view toward empowering migrants and refugees and enhancing their prospects for effective integration, IOM (1) disseminates information in home and host countries on the rights and obligations of migrants and refugees, (2) offers pre-departure cultural orientation services to facilitate their adjustment to life in a new country, and (3) provides advice and counseling related to services available to them in the host country. In addition, the organization also engages in awareness-raising activities targeting the host society, which are used to highlight the contributions newcomers bring and, in turn, to improve their perception and acceptance thereby reducing the risks of discrimination and xenophobia. At the same time, IOM extends technical support to government officials and other practitioners working with migrants through training, advisory services and other capacity building means.

### c. *Return of qualified nationals*

The return and reintegration of skilled and qualified nationals abroad can benefit the national development or rehabilitation and reconstruction process of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, or countries recovering from conflict situations. Project components

include recruitment, job placement, transportation and limited employment support. These projects can help shape the economic and social environment in countries of origin in a manner conducive to further returns.

d. *Involving diasporas in development*

Several of the organization's programmes facilitate the contributions that migrants and diasporas can make to development,<sup>ii</sup> including programmes for (1) the voluntary return and reintegration of qualified nationals, which result in the transfer of knowledge, skills and technology to countries of origin in regions including Africa, Asia, South Eastern Europe and Latin America (discussed above); (2) small-scale enterprise development; and (3) assessment surveys and database development. Recognizing that migrants make important contributions to their countries of origin through transfers of skills, knowledge, and technology, several IOM projects incorporate information and communication technologies (including the internet) as important tools for these transfers. One notable IOM programme to facilitate diaspora contributions is *Migration for Development in Africa* (MIDA), which aims to develop the potential synergy between the profiles of African migrants and the demand from countries, by facilitating the transfer of vital skills and resources of the African diaspora to their country of origin. MIDA targets African professionals, entrepreneurs and experts in diasporas who are willing and able to contribute their skills as well as financial and other resources to the development efforts of their home countries.

e. *Economic and community development in areas of high migration pressure*

Lack of economic opportunity is a primary reason for migration and underscores the close relationship between migration and development. Improving the underlying economic and social conditions in areas of high migration pressure – addressing these root causes of migration – is an important element in any comprehensive approach to migration management. IOM addresses root causes of economically-induced outbound migration by enhancing the ability of governments and other key actors to focus development actions more strategically on home country migration dynamics, to create conditions of choice so that persons have viable alternatives to migration. These activities focus on expanding economic opportunity and improving social services and community infrastructure in specific geographic areas prone to economically-induced outbound migration, or areas in need of development to sustain the return of migrants. These projects generally include one or more of the following elements: (1) livelihood enhancement activities, including micro-enterprise and job skill improvement programmes; (2) community development activities to improve local living conditions, key infrastructure and social services; (3) assessment and planning exercises; and (4) sharing of best practices and encouraging and promoting dialogue and consultation on the link between migration and development.

Certain of the projects in these categories, as well as IOM's activities in the areas of labour migration, counter-trafficking and remittances, are highlighted in other sections of this paper.

## **2. Policy dialogue**

IOM is committed to facilitating and supporting global and regional policy dialogue on migration issues, and encourages the engagement of other stakeholders in addition to governments in these dialogues. Through achievements such as the identification by States of common interests and understandings and the realization of the possibility for collaborative approaches to managing migration, these dialogues fundamentally enhance the prospects for the realization of the positive potential of migration.

a. *International Dialogue on Migration*

IOM Council's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is a forum for international dialogue on migration, where governments and IOM, together with other relevant inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are able to explore modern migratory movements and the policy opportunities and challenges that they pose. The purpose of the IDM is to contribute to a better understanding of migration and to strengthen cooperative mechanisms to comprehensively and effectively address migration issues. Details on recent activities are included in other sections of this paper.

b. *Support to Regional Consultative Processes*

Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs) are significant mechanisms for facilitating informal and non-binding inter-state dialogue and cooperation on migration issues. IOM participates in most of the major RCPs as a member, partner, or observer; provides secretariat-type services for many of the major RCPs; and contributes to RCPs in other ways at the request of participating governments (for example, through research and information dissemination, policy advice, capacity-building and technical cooperation, and project implementation).

In April, IOM and the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) jointly hosted a workshop which brought together government representatives and secretariats of nine major RCPs worldwide. This was a first-ever opportunity for the major RCPs to meet in a common forum, and the participants generally agreed that the inter-regional gathering was a very valuable experience. Among other topics, participants discussed issues such as the contribution of RCPs to the governance of migration at the national and inter-state level, similarities and differences of RCPs, determinants of success and failure, the range of involved ministries, the role of civil society, links between the various RCPs, and possible implications for the future.<sup>iii</sup>

c. *International Agenda for Migration Management*

The *International Agenda for Migration Management*, a non-binding reference system and policy framework on migration management at the international level, was finalized following the Berne II Conference (December 16-17, 2004), attended by some 300 participants representing more than 100 countries, as well as representatives from international organizations, NGOs and independent migration experts. The IAMM, which was elaborated through a consultative process enabling governments from all regions of the world to share their different policy priorities and interests in migration, contains 20 "common understandings" for the management of international migration as well as a set of "effective practices" for a planned, balanced and comprehensive approach to management of migration, covering 20 comprehensive areas of migration management, including migration and development. The IAMM has been widely disseminated among governments (including at an IDM intersessional workshop on *Building Capacity to Manage Migration* held in September 2005, at which it was presented as a key capacity building tool) and to the chairs and secretariats of several of the major RCPs. In addition, it was the basis for a capacity building workshop for the South African Development Community (SADC) States in July 2005 (organized by IOM and the secretariat of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA)), and will be the basis of a similar workshop planned for West Africa in November 2005.

d. *Engaging other stakeholders in policy dialogue and formation*

Stakeholders have differing opinions and approaches to migration management, including its connections to development. Their voices and perspectives need to be heard. The Director General of IOM has recently created a Business Advisory Board (BAB), comprised of chief executives representing a broad cross-section of industries and interests in all parts of the world, with whom he plans to identify and exchange ideas and analysis on global issues relevant to migration and business, and develop practical solutions. The BAB is expected to contribute to the development of migration policy and improvements in policy coherence on migration.

IOM has annual consultations with NGOs and arranges for group or individual meetings at other times on topics of special interest to the NGO community. IOM values its dialogue with the NGO community and looks forward to broadening and deepening the NGO community's participation in migration policy development.

### **3. Policy-oriented research and publications**

IOM has identified Migration and Development as a priority theme for its 2005-2006 research and publications, recognizing the increasing interest of its member States in identifying policies that maximize the development potential of international migration.

a. *Research*

Over half of IOM's research studies since 2002 have been conducted in developing countries. IOM's current research studies relating to development include a World Bank-funded study on "*Development-Friendly Migration Policies: A Survey of Innovative Practices in Sending and Receiving Countries*," which examines immigration and emigration policies that advance the beneficial impact of migration on development. In addition, IOM is undertaking a one-year study to investigate the potential contribution of diasporas to home country development, focused on African migrants working in the health sector in Switzerland. Research activities relating to remittances and counter-trafficking are discussed below in Sections B.3 and B.4, respectively.

b. *Publications*

Several of IOM's recent publications inform the policy dialogue on migration and development, as well as policy development. *World Migration Report 2005: Costs and Benefits of International Migration*, published in June, is the third edition in IOM's flagship series of biennial reports on international migration. It is the first-ever comprehensive study looking at the costs and benefits of international migration, and finds ample evidence that migration, if properly managed, can bring more benefits than costs. In addition to providing updated data on migration flows, stocks and trends since the last World Migration Report (2003), the Report explores several migration and development issues, with chapters on migration and poverty, migrant remittances as a source of development finance, migrant hometown associations, and enhancing the benefits of return migration for development.

In 2005, IOM published *Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction in Asia*, and in 2006 will publish a series of six papers entitled *Migration and its Contribution to Development in China*. In 2004 and 2005, five papers dealing with different aspects of migration and development were published in the IOM Migration Research Series: (1) *The Millennium Development Goals and Migration*; (2) *Migration and Development: New Strategic Outlooks and Practical Ways*

*Forward: The Cases of Angola and Zambia; (3) The Development Potential of Zimbabweans in the Diaspora; (4) Dynamics of Remittance Utilization in Bangladesh; and (5) Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective.* The titles of additional recently-released migration and development-related publications can be found in IOM's 2005 Publications Catalog.<sup>iv</sup>

## **B. IOM ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED TOPICS FOR ROUND TABLES AT THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE**

The proposed topics for the round tables at the High-Level Dialogue, and the broader context in which they are situated, are some of the most pressing issues in the area of migration and development. The following provides an illustrative sampling of IOM's recent activities related to these topics and their broader contexts.

### **1. *The effects of international migration on economic and social development***

The available evidence shows that international migration does not have a straightforward effect on development. Rather, it indicates that migration may contribute to the development of both countries of origin and destination, but it may also present challenges. The following IOM activities are illustrative of IOM's efforts to enhance understanding of the migration-development nexus, to work with governments to integrate migration management into development frameworks, and to promote individual migrants as agents of development.

a. *IDM Council session on Valuing Migration (2004)*

The overarching theme of the IDM's for 2004 was *Valuing Migration: the Costs, Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges of Migration*. At the Council session, the value of migration was explored in its many dimensions, including economic, developmental, social, cultural and political, in light of the need to identify management policies to maximize migration's value. With respect to the developmental dimension, the dialogue extended to topics including remittances, brain drain and brain circulation, and diaspora mobilization, and it was emphasized that well-formed migration policy can maximize the benefits of migration for all involved, while reducing its costs.

b. *Forthcoming conference on migration and religion*

At the request of the Moroccan Government, IOM is organizing an International Conference on Migration and Religion in Rabat in December 2005. The overall objective of the conference is to obtain a better understanding of the role of religion in the migration processes, particularly regarding the question of integration. Specific objectives are to contribute to the analysis of the relation between integration, migration, religion and globalization; to assist in identifying means for governments to propitiate and facilitate religious dialogue aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants; and to assist in identifying policies and programs to work with migrant communities in host societies. The conference will be aimed mainly at governmental and non-governmental institutions in countries of origin and destination, but also at cultural and religious entities, and the media and education sectors. An Expert Group composed of representatives from IOM, the Moroccan Government, the Ministry of Justice of the Government of the Netherlands, Metropolis, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the World Council of Churches (WCC), the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been convened to provide advice on the themes and the speakers.

c. *Forthcoming conference and workshops on migration and development*

On behalf of the Belgian Government, IOM is organizing an upcoming conference on migration and development, in close cooperation with the World Bank and the European Commission. The conference, which will take place in Brussels in March 2006, will examine many of the themes of the High-Level Dialogue. In addition, two workshops on migration and development for countries in Sub Saharan Africa will be held in October 2005 and February 2006, jointly organized by IOM and the African Capacity Building Foundation. Operating within international and regional frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), the workshops are aimed at developing a comprehensive strategy on human resource development and capacity building. The workshops will draw upon regional and country experiences to identify concrete policy, service delivery, training and research measures that can be used to help maximize the benefits of migration for development.

d. *Migration and the Millennium Development Goals*

International migration, despite its breadth and magnitude, does not feature prominently in the original framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Prior to the publication of IOM's Migration and Research Series No. 20 in 2005, *The Millennium Development Goals and Migration*, the relationship between migration and the MDGs had not been widely explored, although both the migration and development communities had become increasingly aware of the close relationship between migration and development and official UN documents and reports on the MDGs had started to reflect this shift.

In May 2005, IOM participated in a UNFPA Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals, held in Marrakech, Morocco. In September 2005, IOM and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center co-organized an International Conference for Women Leaders: Migration and Gender Issues within the Millennium Development Goals, in Haifa, Israel, attended by more than 50 senior women leaders from around the world. The conference explored changing trends in the feminization of migration, and examined migration and gender issues in relation to the achievement of the MDGs. A series of recommendations were adopted at the conference, which will be contributed to the High-Level Dialogue.

***2. The migration of highly skilled persons,  
and labour migration more generally***

IOM's labour migration activities focus on the regulation of labour movements and programmes to assist governments and migrants in the selection, recruitment, cultural orientation, training, travel, reception, integration and return of labour migrants. The organization carries out its activities in both countries of origin and countries of destination. In addition to the activities described below, IOM works to assist countries in developing mechanisms to counteract as much as possible the loss of skilled workers, and to promote brain circulation by encouraging the return of qualified nationals and their contribution to the development of the country of origin.<sup>v</sup>

a. *GATS Mode 4*

Barriers to the movement of people have been identified as continuing and substantial impediments to further global economic gains from trade liberalization, gains which are predicted



both to exceed gains from further liberalization in other sectors and to benefit developing and developed economies alike. In November 2003, IOM held an IDM intersessional workshop on *Trade and Migration: Building Bridges for Global Labour Mobility*, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank. This workshop brought trade and migration officials together in a non-negotiating environment to explore the relationship between temporary labour migration and Mode 4 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which relates to the temporary cross-border movement of people to supply services. In 2004, IOM held a follow-up workshop in partnership with the World Bank and the WTO on *Managing the Movement of People: What Can be Learned for Mode 4 of the GATS?* At this workshop, participants considered the actual, practical experiences of governments in managing the temporary movement of people to see what may be of relevance for ongoing efforts to reduce barriers to trade in services. In September 2005, IOM presented the findings of the 2004 workshop at a Special Session of the WTO Council for Trade in Services. As a result of these workshops, the trade and migration communities are developing a better understanding of each others' language, priorities and perspectives regarding global labour mobility and specifically Mode 4 movement.<sup>vi</sup>

Following up on the 2003 and 2004 workshops, IOM is engaging in research, sponsored by the World Bank, to explore how bilateral cooperative approaches can help facilitate and manage temporary labour migration. Current activities include collecting and analyzing the results of a questionnaire on bilateral approaches to managing migration; undertaking further research and literature review on this same subject; and producing a report containing an analysis of the research results.

b. *The mobility of health care workers*

As a number of countries are experiencing a shortage of health professionals, many stakeholders are resorting to international recruitment of health care workers. The migration of health care workers is increasingly a challenge in the management of health care systems, particularly for developing countries which face public health crises. In recognition of the need to incorporate migration considerations into the management of human resources for health, IOM, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have formulated and approved a joint project on the migration of health care workers. The collaborative project will pay particular attention to improving the collection, analysis and utilization of data relating to the movement of human resources for health within and between countries, and developing institutional capacity-building to support the efforts of States in managing the challenges to health systems posed by the migration of health care workers. A primary element of this project will be a series of national case studies and consultations over the course of 2006, which are planned to culminate in 2007 with an international conference. In engaging in this joint project, IOM will draw on its past experience with the migration of health care workers.<sup>vii</sup>

c. *Other labour migration activities*

The focus of IOM's labour migration activities is to facilitate the development of policies and programmes that can individually and mutually benefit concerned governments, migrants and societies by providing effective protection and support services to labour migrants and their families; fostering economic and social development; and promoting legal forms of labour mobility as an alternative to irregular migration. The organization has various programmes relating to labour migration in addition to those programmes on the migration of highly skilled persons, discussed above, and those programmes on remittances, discussed in Section B.3 below.

Notably, IOM supports regional inter-state dialogue and cooperation on the topic of labour migration. For example, IOM has organized and supported three Ministerial Consultations on overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia in response to requests from several Asian labour-sending countries. The first Ministerial Consultation was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo in April 2003. Participants were from the main labour-sending countries in Asia, namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The participating States shared experiences, discussed issues, and made 22 recommendations in three main areas: protection and provision of services to migrant workers; optimizing benefits of organized labour migration (including the development impact of remittances); and capacity-building, data collection and inter-state cooperation. At the second Ministerial Consultations, hosted by the Government of the Philippines in Manila in September 2004, additional recommendations were made in the same three areas. The third Ministerial Consultations, hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Bali in September 2005, for the first time included countries of destination. It became clear at these Consultations that both sending and receiving countries have the same primary concerns and interests in the global labour market: the construction and good management of a fair labour market system, working for the benefit of all.

In addition to supporting regional dialogue, IOM supports government efforts to enter into bilateral labour arrangements and develop special labour migration programmes. These programmes are generally designed to direct labour flows to specific areas of demand and reduce the need for irregular migration by providing legal alternatives. For example, in 2004 over 300 Guatemalan seasonal agriculture workers were selected and transferred to Canada in connection with an IOM pilot project undertaken at the request of the Guatemalan Government and in cooperation with the Fondation des entreprises de recrutement de main-d'oeuvre agricole étrangère (FERME) of the Canadian province of Quebec. IOM has also assisted in the selection and transportation of foreign workers to Spain and Italy under similar bilateral programmes.

Furthermore, IOM has programmes to help strengthen the labour migration management capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including their ability to adopt policies, legislation and structures to promote the foreign employment of part of their workforce and generate remittances, while providing safeguards to protect their migrants. The organization also helps middle-income countries find ways to better manage their labour inflows. In addition, IOM offers pre-departure orientation services to inform migrants about their future living and working environment and assists in developing language training curricula to facilitate migrant integration in destination countries.

### ***3. Actions to improve the impact of remittances on development***

Recognizing that remittances are, above all, private transfers, but ones which offer development possibilities for communities and countries, IOM's current focus in the area of migrant remittances is on data collection, dissemination of good practices and pilot project implementation. In partnership with governments, migrants, migrant associations, financial institutions and donors, IOM is also attempting to facilitate the development of policies and mechanisms to improve remittance services to migrants and enhance the development impacts of remittances; and to generate research to support the development of such policies and mechanisms.

a. *Remittances research and publications*

IOM has recently undertaken research on remittances in the Republic of Moldova, Albania, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala, with a view to assisting governments to formulate policies which enhance the contribution of remittances to development. These studies generally gather data on topics such as remittances amounts, channels and patterns of use, attitudes toward financial institutions, and potential savings/investment opportunities as well as access and obstacles to use of formal remitting channels. IOM is also developing generic tools for the design and implementation of remittance surveys to be used by IOM missions, to facilitate the collection of valuable, policy oriented and comparable remittances data. In addition, IOM is preparing a compendium of state policies and practices in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that affect and/or govern the flow and use of remittances, on the basis of a questionnaire to governments. The results of the questionnaire will inform an upcoming ministerial conference of the LDCs on the topic of remittances, to be attended by representatives of governments, financial and banking institutions, the UN system and international organizations, migrant associations and others from the private sector and civil society. The organization has also released several publications related to remittances, some of which are described in Section A.2.b above (additional recently-released migration and development-related publications can be found in IOM's 2005 Publications Catalog).

b. *Remittance-related projects*

In addition to its research activities, IOM is also implementing remittance-related pilot projects, such as those Tajikistan and Guatemala. In Tajikistan, IOM is working with migrant households, local communities and civil society actors in rural communities to enhance the development impact of remittances and promote the investment of remittances in viable livelihoods for migrant families affected by emigration. The aim of this pilot project, undertaken in partnership with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), is to create a model for community development through remittances in Tajikistan and the reintegration of labour migrants.

In addition, IOM is undertaking a pilot project in Guatemala which is based on an alliance between Guatemalan migrants in the United States, the migrants' families in Guatemala, the Government of Guatemala and IOM as executing organization. The purpose of the project is to build approximately 100 homes for families affected by emigration, approximately 55% of which will be financed by the Government of Guatemala through a grant provided by the Fondo Guatemalteco de la Vivienda (FOGUAVI) with the other 45% to be financed by Guatemalans living in the United States. This project follows on IOM's 2004 survey of the use of remittances in Guatemala, which found, among other things, that the houses inhabited by Guatemalan remittance recipient families are generally in poor condition.

***4. International cooperation to prevent  
and combat the trafficking in persons***

One of the core challenges for IOM and its member States is to proactively put in place policies and programs to combat trafficking in persons, a crime with severe consequences to victims' human rights. IOM takes a comprehensive, human rights-based approach to trafficking in persons within the wider context of managing migration. IOM's wide range of activities (research and dissemination, protection and provision of assistance, and technical cooperation and capacity building) are implemented in partnership with governmental institutions, NGOs and international organizations. In order to facilitate international cooperation on counter-trafficking approaches,

IOM supports and encourages regional strategies that enhance communication between countries of origin, destination and transit. In many regions of the world, IOM implements activities that bring together countries sharing similar trafficking problems to find common solutions.

a. *Counter-trafficking database*

IOM's counter-trafficking database aims to facilitate management of direct assistance to victims of trafficking and to strengthen research capacity and understanding of the causes, processes, trends and consequences of trafficking. It is the only known database with first-hand information on trafficking victims. Piloted based on IOM's assistance to victims of trafficking in the Balkans, the database now includes information generated from nineteen different locations worldwide, giving a perspective reflecting the trends in each region where IOM collects trafficking data.

Government officials, representatives of international organizations, academics and migration practitioners, among others, can request statistical information from the database, sorted by factors such as the following: yearly caseload breakdown; the victim's sex, nationality, age, education level, and/or marital status; the recruitment method; the sex of the recruiter; the relationship between the victim and recruiter; the country the victim agreed to work in; job promised to the victim; the victim's occupation in home country; the type of exploitation; and/or the country of destination.<sup>viii</sup> Thus, the database serves as a knowledge bank from which detailed reports can be drawn, informing research, program development and policy making on counter-trafficking.

b. *Other counter-trafficking initiatives*

IOM is currently implementing over 125 counter-trafficking initiatives at regional, sub-regional and national levels across the world and with a variety of partners. In the prevention field, IOM conducts awareness-raising campaigns in countries of origin to inform potential victims of the dangers of trafficking and irregular migration. In the field of capacity building, IOM provides technical assistance in the drafting of new counter-trafficking legislation, and assists in the review and upgrading of national policies, legal frameworks and migration management structures needed to introduce or enhance counter-trafficking systems that provide full respect for the rights of the victim. IOM also carries out training activities for government officials, national and international law enforcement agencies and NGOs to explain how trafficking works and to disseminate information on best practices to prevent and combat it and assist the victims. IOM also works with NGOs, other IGOs and government agencies to provide protection and tailored assistance to victims of trafficking, including medical and legal counseling. In addition, in order to increase the sustainability of the voluntary return of victims to their country of origin, IOM offers tailored reintegration assistance.

In 2004, there was a steady increase in the number of IOM counter-trafficking projects and activities, as well as an expansion of its geographical scope by bringing additional countries (i.e. Chile, South Africa, Germany, Canada, Belize and countries in Central Asia) into the counter-trafficking arena and engaging in counter-trafficking activities. The organization has produced several publications on the topic of trafficking; recently-released publications can be found in IOM's 2005 Publications Catalog.

c. *Regional counter-trafficking strategies*

In order to facilitate international cooperation on counter-trafficking approaches, IOM supports and encourages regional strategies that enhance communication between countries of origin,

destination and transit. In many regions of the world, IOM implements activities that bring together countries sharing similar trafficking problems to find common solutions.

For example, IOM provides coordination and technical support for the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which brings together over 50 countries and numerous international agencies to work on practical measures to help combat people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. In addition, IOM is a member of the steering group (composed of the governments of Australia and Indonesia (co-chairs of the Bali Process), New Zealand, Thailand, IOM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) that guides the monitoring and implementation of Bali Process activities and initiatives. Several of the objectives for the Bali Process, developed by the Ministers at the two Ministerial Conferences, involve international cooperation to prevent and combat people smuggling and trafficking. At a Senior Officials Meeting in June 2004, participants agreed that broad goals of the Bali Process to raise awareness of and develop greater cooperation among regional countries to combat people trafficking and smuggling had largely been met as a result of the high-level political focus generated by the Bali Process' two Ministerial Conferences and the active follow-up programme of practical workshops and activities undertaken by Ministry officials. Bali Process activities are ongoing and recent events include a workshop on *Best Practices in Operational Cooperation*, focused on cooperation among enforcement agencies; a workshop on *Enabling Electronic Exchange of Lost & Stolen Travel Document Information*, related to the objective of working towards more effective information and intelligence sharing within the region; and a workshop on *Developing a Coordinated Inter-Agency National Action Plan to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons*, which provided States with the opportunity to exchange information on practical tools for the development of counter-trafficking action plans. Upcoming activities will include a workshop aimed at mitigating Child Sex Tourism through improving law enforcement cooperation and responses on the issue, and a workshop focusing on "operationalizing immigration intelligence".

## ***5. Institutional mechanisms to enhance international cooperation for the benefit of countries and migrants alike***

### ***a. Geneva Migration Group***

IOM was a joint initiator and is an active member of the Geneva Migration Group (GMG), which brings together the heads of six agencies interested in migration: IOM, the ILO, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNHCR, UNHCHR and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The GMG's primary aim is to promote good governance of migration, in light of the importance, complexity and multi-dimensional nature of migration, and the recognition that migration, when properly managed, in full respect for the human rights and international legal principles at issue, benefits individuals and societies, and can make an important contribution to the early achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>ix</sup> To achieve its aim of promoting good governance of migration, GMG members work together to promote expanded implementation of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration. In addition, they aim to provide direction and leadership in a system-wide context to improve the overall effectiveness of the international community's policy and operational response to current and future migration issues.

IOM actively seeks to engage other partner intergovernmental and other institutions such as the World Bank, UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA), WTO, UNICEF, WHO and UNDP, to name just a few. IOM has been advocating for the enlargement of GMG

and believes this could easily be done to improve inter-agency coordination and cooperation. Reflecting its commitment to the GMG, IOM has offered to provide a secretariat if one is need.

b. *IDM intersessional workshops*

In addition to annual sessions, IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) convenes two intersessional workshops each year. Because these intersessional workshops are often structured around a theme that explores the intersections between international migration and related policy domains – a “migration and ....” approach – they are often convened in partnership with relevant organizations, institutions and government agencies active in the related domain. For example, the 2005 workshop on *Migration and Development* was held in partnership with United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; the 2004 workshop on *Migration and Health* was held in partnership with the WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and the 2003 workshop on *Trade and Migration* was held in partnership with the OECD and the World Bank, with the follow-up workshop convened in 2004 held in partnership with the World Bank and the WTO.

In addition, experts from other IGOs have participated in workshops as session chairs, facilitators and panelists, sharing their expertise with workshop participants. Examples include participation by UNDP at the 2005 workshop on *Migration and Development*; by UNCTAD and the OECD at the 2004 workshop on *Trade and Migration*; by ILO, WTO and UNCTAD at the 2003 workshop on *Trade and Migration*; and by the UN Statistics Division and UN Population Division at the 2003 workshop on *Approaches to Data Collection and Data Management*.

Several of the intersessional workshops have resulted in follow-up activities between IOM and partner organizations and institutions, such as the IOM-World Bank collaboration described in Section B.2.a above and the IOM-WHO-ILO collaboration described in Section B.2.b above.

c. *Inter-agency roundtables on migration and development*

IOM's Migration Policy, Research and Communications Department has initiated two inter-agency roundtables on migration and development, one in April 2004 and one in October 2004. The focus of the first roundtable was a discussion of the interest and activities of each organization in migration and development, while the focus of the second roundtable was the potential contribution of diasporas to the development of countries of origin. Participants have included representatives of IOM, ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, WHO and the World Bank. IOM hopes to continue these roundtables, which hold great potential for inter-agency collaboration and coordination on the topic of migration and development.

d. *Inter-agency cooperation at the regional level*

In addition to its involvement in mechanisms to achieve inter-agency cooperation at the global level, IOM is also involved in mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation at the regional level. The following example describes recent significant inter-agency cooperation in the Asia Pacific region. Within the framework of a working group on international migration in Thailand, established by the international organizations in Bangkok in September 2004, IOM commissioned a *Report on International Migration in Thailand* in collaboration with several UN agencies, which was published in August 2005.

Shortly afterwards in August 2005, IOM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians for Population and Development (AFPPD) jointly held a Regional Seminar on the Social Implications of International Migration. The seminar was attended by government officials and parliamentarians from 12 countries, as well as representatives of UN agencies and NGOs. At the end of the seminar, the participating governments adopted a series of Recommendations for Action. The Recommendations extend to subjects such as the incorporation by governments of international migration in economic and social development strategies and poverty reduction strategy papers; increased dialogue and cooperation among governments and international organizations in the region on migration and development issues; and increased policy-related research on international migration.

In September 2005, the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP convened a Regional Coordination Meeting, at which five working groups were established, including a working group on International Migration and Trafficking. This working group is co-chaired by UNESCAP and IOM and consists of the UN regional offices, IOM and the World Bank. Its first meeting will take place on 31 October 2005. The working group will focus on migration and development issues by supporting the Recommendations mentioned above.

### C. CONCLUSION

While not all of the issues worthy of exploration can be covered at the High-Level Dialogue, there are two subjects in particular which IOM believes should be well reflected in the discussions. First, the recognition that migration is closely linked to policies in the economic, social, labour, trade, health, cultural and security domains should underlie and inform the discussions. Second, regional consultations and other mechanisms on migration, which are strengthening dialogue, understanding and multilateral cooperation on migration, should receive focused consideration.

Only through comprehensive and cooperative approaches to migration management will solutions be found that benefit all involved. IOM will continue to seek networks and develop opportunities for coordination and cooperation between itself and other members of the international community whose work addresses, touches upon or is affected by migration, including the development community. IOM welcomes increased involvement in the migration domain of all members of the development community, including IGOs, government development agencies, and NGOs.

## ENDNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Constitution of the International Organization for Migration, Preamble.
- <sup>ii</sup> In addition to its programmatic work, the organization also engages in policy dialogue and research on this topic. For example, through the IDM intersessional workshop on Migration and Development (mentioned in Section B.5.b of this paper) and its follow-up activities, governments and IOM, together with other IGOs and NGOs, are engaged in dialogue on engaging diasporas in development efforts and maximizing the development effect of the financial and non-financial resources of migrants and diasporas – as a result of this dialogue, effective policy approaches are emerging. In addition, in 2006, IOM will release a publication examining the challenges involved in creating effective policies to engage diasporas as development partners for home and destination countries.
- <sup>iii</sup> The final workshop report is available on IOM's website at [http://www.iom.int/en/know/iom-gcim/iom\\_gcim\\_200504.shtml](http://www.iom.int/en/know/iom-gcim/iom_gcim_200504.shtml) and on GCIM's website at [http://www.gcim.org/news/?sec=gcimevents&lang=en\\_US&nav=&id=2005/04/15/03](http://www.gcim.org/news/?sec=gcimevents&lang=en_US&nav=&id=2005/04/15/03).
- <sup>iv</sup> The 2005 Publications Catalog, as well as a list of recent publications, is available on IOM's website at <http://www.iom.int/iomwebsite/servlet/com.crosssystems.iom.publication.servlet.ServletPrepareSearchPublication>.
- <sup>v</sup> For an overview of IOM activities in these areas, see Section A.1, above.
- <sup>vi</sup> Documents relating to these intersessional workshops, including background papers, presentations and the final reports, are available on the IOM website at [http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/tms\\_200311.shtml](http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/tms_200311.shtml) and [http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/tms\\_200410.shtml](http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/tms_200410.shtml).
- <sup>vii</sup> IOM has historically played a role in supporting the return of professional talent to contribute to development in countries of origin, and these initiatives have often involved the return of health care professionals. In addition, IOM engages in projects specifically focused on the migration of health care workers; recent and ongoing activities with such a specific focus include: (1) an orientation programme for persons migrating to Canada to work as live-in caregivers; (2) a project to monitor and evaluate the recruitment, employment and return/reintegration of Polish nurses in the Netherlands; (3) the establishment of an information website for Pakistani nurses seeking employment abroad; (4) a MIDA project to engage Ghanaians residing in certain European countries in the efforts of the Ghanaian government to reserve brain drain in the health sector; and (5) a MIDA project for the return of qualified Ethiopian health care professionals from Sweden to Ethiopia.
- <sup>viii</sup> All reports are generated without any personal information identifying individual victims.
- <sup>ix</sup> Terms of Reference of the Geneva Migration Group.