

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Introduction

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, in collaboration with Fondazione Rosselli and with the support of the Italian Government, will organize an *International Symposium on International Migration and Development* in Turin, Italy, from 28 to 30 June 2006. The Symposium falls within the framework of the preparatory work of United Nations Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly will conduct from 14 to 15 September 2006.

Objectives

The purpose of the Symposium is to debate, at the substantive level, key issues that Governments, international organizations and civil society face in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by international migration. The Symposium will focus on relevant policy questions about ways of enhancing the contribution of international migration to development. The event will allow for an exchange of views between experts and representatives of governments, the United Nations, international organizations and civil society. In discussing both the technical and policy dimensions of migration issues, the Symposium will build the capacity of decision-makers, particularly from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for preparing for the High-level Dialogue at the national level.

The Symposium will focus on the topics the General Assembly has identified for consideration at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. These topics will include: (1) how to manage temporary labour migration; (2) how to facilitate the flow of remittances and improve their impact on development; (3) how to increase the benefits while mitigating the costs of the migration of skilled personnel; (4) how to engage transnational communities in the development process of countries of origin; (5) how to make return migration an asset; (6) how best to collaborate in reducing and preventing the smuggling of and trafficking in persons across borders; and (7) how to benefit from the opportunities of the globalization of education. The Symposium will also address international migration and development from the regional and organizational perspective.

Participants

Up to 300 government representatives, experts, and representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, and civil society organizations (NGOs) are expected to attend the Symposium. It is expected that a number of senior officials representing the United Nations System, the European Commission and Governments will address the Symposium. A contribution made available by the Government of Italy will make it possible for the Department to support the attendance of a limited number of delegates, particularly from least developed countries.

Organization of work

The Symposium will be three days in length and will include both plenary sessions and thematic sessions. The plenary sessions will include key note addresses and panels discussing overarching issues. The thematic sessions, which will allow for a more informal and interactive discussion of issues, will provide topical, regional and institutional perspectives on international migration and development. To make the best use of the time available, the thematic sessions will be scheduled so that at least three take place simultaneously.

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development¹

During the last decade, the prominence of international migration on the international agenda has been increasing. Since 1995, the General Assembly of the United Nations has been addressing international migration issues in relation to development every two years. In 2003, the General Assembly decided to conduct a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006. The High-level Dialogue, which will be held in New York from 14 to 15 September 2006, will discuss “the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts.”

As background for the High-Level Dialogue, the General Assembly has requested that the Secretary-General prepare a “comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education”. Within the issue of labour movements, the Report will also address short-term and seasonal workers.

The General Assembly has further decided that the report of the Global Commission on International Migration entitled *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action* will serve as an input for consideration at the High-level Dialogue. The Global Commission was an independent body set up through the cooperation of a number of Governments to provide advice to the Secretary-General on the best approaches for addressing international migration issues at the international level.

The Symposium will be well placed to provide an opportunity for participants to consider the Report of the Secretary-General for the High-level Dialogue as well as the recommendations from the Global Commission’s Report.

¹ For details on the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including the relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions, see www.unmigration.org.

Organizers

The Symposium will be organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations in collaboration with Fondazione Rosselli, with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regione Piemonte, Provincia di Torino, Comune di Torino, and Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino.

The Roselli Foundation was established in Turin in 1988 as a think tank providing policy advice to decision-makers in government and public institutions and raising awareness about emerging issues or changing trends in the economic and social fields. Today, the Rosselli Foundation is an independent research centre focusing on economic, social and political issues, with the European public space as its main focus. The Rosselli Foundation is currently engaged in the following areas of work: public institutions, administration and social policies; technology services and technological innovation; research and education; industry and finance, and cultural heritage. Research is carried out by institutes located in Turin, Milan, Rome and Palermo.

*United Nations Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
April 2006*