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**Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development  
in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities**  
Beirut, 15-17 May 2006

**PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

MONDAY, 15 MAY 2006

*Morning session*

**09.00 – 09.30 Registration**

**09.30 - 11.00 Opening of the meeting**

*Opening statement (Executive Secretary, UN/ESCWA)*

*Opening statement (Director, Population Division, UN/DESA)*

**I. International migration trends and policies in the Arab region**

*a. International migration in the Arab region (United Nations Population Division)*  
Discussion

**11.00 – 11.30 Break**

**11.30 – 13.00 I. International migration trends and policies in the Arab region (continued)**

*b. Migration in the Arab region: A policy perspective (Issam Al Zaim, Centre for Arab Studies)*

*c. International migration in the Arab region: Trends and policies (Philippe Fargues, Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration)*  
Discussion

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break**

*Afternoon session*

**14.00 – 15.30 II. International migration and socio-economic development**

- a. Demographic transition, employment and labour migration in the Mashreq countries (Heba Nassar, American University, Cairo)*
  - b. The impact of international migration on the economic development of countries in the Mediterranean basin (Andrea Gallina, Roskilde University)*
- Discussion

**15.30 – 16.00 Break**

**16.00 – 17.30 III. Temporary labour migration in the Arab region**

- a. Migration policies and their effectiveness in GCC countries (Nasra Shah, Kuwait University)*
  - b. Governing labour migration in GCC countries (Mohamed Dito, Economic Development Board, Bahrain)*
  - c. Labour policies in GCC countries: Lessons for the future (Maitha Al Shaimsi UAE University)*
- Discussion

TUESDAY, 16 MAY 2006

*Morning session*

**09.30 - 11.00 IV. Highly-skilled migration: Challenges and opportunities**

- a. Education levels and skills of Arab emigrants in OECD countries (Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD)*
  - b. Skilled labour migration and development: The Maghreb experience (Mohammad Mghari, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Démographiques, Morocco)*
  - c. Brain drain in the Arab countries (Caglar Ozden, World Bank)*
- Discussion

**11.00 – 11.30 Break**

**11.30 – 13.00 V. Transnational communities and return migration**

- a. The role of transnational communities in fostering development in countries of origin: The case of Lebanon (Boutros Labaki, Institute for Economic and Social Development)*
  - b. Arab entrepreneurs and labour market demand in the European Union (Abdel Kader Latreche, Qatar Planning Council)*
  - c. The role of circular and return migration in local development (Mohammed Charef, Observatoire Regional des Migrations Espaces et Societies)*
- Discussion

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break**

*Afternoon session*

**14.00 – 15.30 VI. Remittances: development impact and policy responses**

*a. Migration, remittances and development in the Arab region (Richard Adams, World Bank)*

*b. The macro-economic impact of remittances in Egypt, Jordan and Syria (Mahmed Lamine Fares, ESCWA)*

**15.30 – 16.00 Break**

**16.00 – 17.30 VI. Remittances: development impact and policy responses (continued)**

*c. Remittances and socio-economic development: The Maghreb experience (Mohamed Khachani, Faculty of Law, Mohammed V University)*

Discussion

WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2006

*Morning session*

**09.30 – 10.30 VII. International migration in the Arab region: prospects for governance and management**

*Presentation by His Excellency Ambassador Reda Ahmed Shehata, former Commissioner of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)*

Discussion

**10.30 – 11.00 Break**

**11.00 – 12.00 VIII. International migration in the Arab region: the role of international organizations**

*a. The role of the International Labour Office (Ibrahim Awad, ILO)*

*b. The role of the International Organization for Migration (Mr. Luigi Carta, IOM)*

*c. The role of the League of Arab States (Khaled Louhichi, LAS)*

*d. The Mediterranean Transit Migration Informal Dialogue (Abdel Mawla El Solh, ICMPD)*

Discussion

**12.00 – 13.00 Closing of the meeting**

*Summary and conclusions (UN/ESCWA)*

*Closing remarks (Director, Population Division, UN/DESA)*