

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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**INPUT OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH TO
THE TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

UNITAR's engagement in the field of international migration dates back to the early 1990s when UNITAR spearheaded the first inter-agency training task force with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Labour Office (ILO), providing capacity-building on migration and refugee issues to governments from developing countries around the world.

Since 2006, UNITAR hosts the main policy platform for migration stakeholders at United Nations Headquarters in New York. With its partners, the MacArthur Foundation, IOM and UNFPA, its "*Migration and Development Seminar Series*" (Migration Series) trains close to one thousand beneficiaries annually in preparation for key debates in the General Assembly including the second High Level Dialogue on migration and development taking place in 2013, and also the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development (<http://www.unitar.org/ny/international-law-and-policy/migration-and-development-series>).

On 22 November at the 51st session of UNITAR's Board of Trustees, it launched its "Human Mobility Programme" (HMP) whose main axes of activity for 2012-2013 are: strengthening local migration governance; supporting a more integrated approach to capacity development on migration and development; (continuing) to facilitate global policy dialogue at the United Nations and elsewhere; and implementing online learning tools in the field of international migration.

Support to GFMD

As it has done since the inception of the GFMD in 2007, UNITAR has supported each GFMD Chair by convening a meeting at the UN in New York to share information and stimulate debate in preparation for the annual GFMD. In addition, in June 2011 during the Swiss Chairmanship, UNITAR and its partners assisted by hosting a workshop on Migration Profiles in collaboration with the Chair. Through the GMG, UNITAR has contributed to the substantive discussions of the GFMD, most recently contributing to the GMG Publication on Migration and Youth, with a chapter on Engaging with Local Authorities.

In 2012, UNITAR intends to support the Government of Mauritius by extending the same platform to the Chair at the UN in New York in order to inform delegates and other interested stakeholders on the progress and orientations of the GFMD 2012. Moreover, UNITAR will support the GMG and JMDI in implementing training activities for local authorities through its network of training centres for local authorities (www.unitar.org/ldp). The topics addressed will tie into many of the themes covered by the GFMD in 2012. Finally, the Migration Series will cover topics which tie into the GFMD themes for 2012 including: migration and the right to access to education (July 2012), reintegration of migrants into the labour market in countries of origin (August 2012), in addition to international migration law (June 2012).

Preparations for HLD

In preparation for the HLD, and through the Migration Series, UNITAR will assist in training delegates and other interested stakeholders on themes which are likely to be broached by the HLD including migration and sustainable development (April 2012), and a workshop on the Preparations for the HLD (October 2012).

New activities in field of international migration

I-Strengthening local governance: UNITAR is introducing migration capacity development projects through its existing network of local training centres (*Centres Cifal*) in a priority area

which is currently under serviced, namely that of migration training for municipal and regional governmental authorities. It will work in areas of high relevance to cities and municipalities including migration and: environmental sustainability, integration, employment, education, transportation, social services, health, human security and inter-cultural dialogue. Such activities are planned in 2012-2013 for: South East Asia, North America and Western Europe.

UNITAR intends to launch an initiative to foster partnerships between traditional and recent cities of immigration. Through online communities of practice, regional and inter-regional workshops, as well as study visits and training (i.e. on leadership, mediation and negotiation skills) the initiative will facilitate cross-cultural and professional exchanges and build local capacities pertaining to inclusive migration.

II-An integrated approach to capacity development: UNITAR has proposed to spearhead effective capacity development within the context of a more integrated approach to research, knowledge acquisition and capacity development by the United Nations (the “Knowledge Platform on Migration and Development” conceived by the World Bank).

Moreover, modeled on the UN platform hosted by UNITAR “UNCC:Learn”, membered by 22 agencies, which supports country-driven climate change learning (www.unccllearn.org), and in line with a comprehensive approach in the area of capacity development on migration, UNITAR is seeking to develop an integrated training service platform to meet migration training requests and to offer professional migration training services.

III-Online learning: UNITAR is developing two online courses on migration which will be added to its extensive e-learning catalogue (<http://www.unitar.org/event/>). UNITAR delivers close to 200 online courses annually in the fields of public trade and finance, environmental law, sustainable urbanization, diplomacy, peacekeeping, knowledge management, and ICT skills. The online migration courses will be developed with thematic experts, vetted by a highly knowledgeable advisory board, and result in certification and accreditation.