

**ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 21-22 February 2013

**INPUT TO THE ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION BY THE CENTER FOR MIGRATION STUDIES¹**

Center for Migration Studies n (CMS)

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

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) is a New York-based educational institute devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants. CMS has made substantive contributions to the theme of the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development through its programmatic work in four principal areas. First, the Center publishes cutting-edge journals, books and policy-related articles on international migration, including scholarship focused on migration and development. Second, CMS sponsors conferences, meetings, briefings, and seminars on migration-related issues and policies. Additionally, CMS has actively participated in international dialogues under the theme of migration and development. Third, the global dimension of CMS is reinforced through its affiliation with the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a faith-based network which links 270 programs for migrants worldwide. This network is focused on the protection of human rights of migrants, the theme of the second roundtable of the High-Level Dialogue. Fourth, CMS makes a significant contribution to migration-related scholarship through maintaining an extensive archive of immigration history.

A. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PUBLICATIONS

1. *International Migration Review*

The Center's signature publication, the *International Migration Review (IMR)*, is a leading social science journal covering the field of international migration. By providing a forum for interdisciplinary perspectives on migration and development, *IMR* has supported and strengthened the growing body of policy-relevant research on this theme. Over the past decade, *IMR* has published over 40 articles, book reviews and conference proceedings specifically focused on migration and development. Among these publications are the address of United Nations (UN) former Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan to the first High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 and the Chairperson's Summary of the High-Level Dialogue. CMS is in the process of publishing a special, thematic edition of *IMR* on South-South migration that will likely feature articles addressing the potential development impact of migration on developing destination countries. The *IMR* editorial board involves leading scholars of migration and development, including two members— Dr. Graeme Hugo, Director of the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre and Kathleen Newland, Director of the Migrants, Migration and Development Policy Program at the Migration Policy Institute— who presented at the 24 January thematic discussion in preparation for the High-Level Dialogue held by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and the UN Population Fund (UN/FPA).

2. *Journal on Migration and Human Security*

CMS has recently initiated a peer-reviewed public policy publication titled the *Journal on Migration and Human Security* (“*the Journal*”). *The Journal's* theme of “human security” is meant to evoke the widely shared goals of creating secure and sustaining conditions in migrant sending communities; promoting safe, legal migration options; and developing immigration and integration policies that benefit receiving communities and allow newcomers to lead productive, secure lives. Under this theme, *the Journal* seeks to feature issues, perspectives and policy ideas that receive insufficient attention in the national and global immigration debate. The editors are currently pursuing opportunities to cover under-examined aspects of migration and development. For example, a commissioned paper from an attorney specializing in global

corporate immigration law will address the need to involve corporations in the migration and development dialogue. An additional forthcoming essay by CMS Executive Director Donald Kerwin will make the case for more active involvement by faith groups in pursuing development in relationship to migration. *The Journal* will be published and disseminated online to public officials and others who influence policy, with particular attention to representatives of UN and other international organizations, governments, and civil society engaged in migration and development discussions.

B. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

1. *Dialogues on International Migration Issues*

CMS holds events on a bi-monthly basis that serve as fora for the dissemination of research, policy analysis, information and ideas between a broad range of stakeholders on international migration issues. In the past year, CMS has hosted multiple dialogues that explore specific concerns for the human rights of migrants.

In November 2012 CMS held a dialogue on the updated American Bar Association's (ABA) Civil Immigration Detention Standards. The standards, developed by the ABA Commission on Immigration to provide guidance to the Department of Homeland Security in carrying out its civil detention authority, support ongoing efforts to increase access to justice and humane treatment for individuals in immigration detention.

In March 2012, CMS hosted a dialogue on the impact of birth registration within and across borders with participation by the BE Foundation, whose work is focused on Mexican birth registration. The discussion addressed the international implications of lack of birth registration for unauthorized migrants who, without proof of their citizenship status in their country of origin, are vulnerable to exploitation and may become stateless persons.

In January 2012, CMS convened a dialogue addressing the recent surge in migration to the United States by unaccompanied minors, spurred by gang violence, crop failure, domestic abuse, and other factors. The discussion explored issues facing unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children in the United States from the perspective of social and legal service providers from United States government and non-governmental agencies and the immigration court system.

In January 2012, CMS and SIMN hosted a gathering with Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, C.S., the Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and other International Organizations. Fr. Tomasi, who co-founded CMS, spoke on the migration-related challenges and priorities faced by the international community.

2. *The IOM and CMS Conference on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: Assessing the Evidence, Continuing the Dialogue*

In May 2012 CMS and IOM, in partnership with the UN Development Programme (UN/DP) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), held a two-day conference in New York on "Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: Assessing the Evidence, Continuing the Dialogue." The discussion helped to bridge the gap between the May 2011 UN General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development and the 2013 UN High-Level

Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The event allowed the international community to begin reflecting on the post-2015 development agenda and was attended by roughly 100 civil society leaders, academics, UN colleagues, and delegates from diplomatic missions.

The conference explored the benefits and impact of migration on development while highlighting methods for integrating migration into development planning. Panels were presented on the following topics:

- Data, Migration Profiles and How to Evaluate Migration's Impact on Development;
- First experiences in use of the GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning;
- Diaspora Engagement, Economic and Social Remittances;
- Adaptive National Migration Governance; and Integration of Migrants for Development.

3. Conference in advance of the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in collaboration with the Migration Policy Institute

CMS and the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) are currently implementing a project with support of the Open Society Foundations to cull lessons for senior officials around the world that have emerged from the migration and development dialogue over the past decade. The project is producing a series of policy memoranda that offer specific recommendations on programs and policies related to migration and development that policymakers should consider. Recommendations produced by the project will also address how to make migration a greater focus for development agencies and be reflected in the post-2015 UN development framework.

The initiative will culminate in an international conference in New York in June 2013 with the goal of contributing practical, policy-oriented recommendations to the September 2013 High-Level Dialogue. This convening aims to attract 80-100 policymakers from around the world, with a core audience comprised of the UN diplomatic community and international organizations. The national representatives for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) will also be invited to take part in the conference, thereby ensuring that its recommendations are incorporated into future policy discussions at the GFMD. Following debate by key stakeholders at the conference, the policy memoranda and recommendations will be synthesized and distributed to participants in the 2013 High-Level Dialogue and the 2014 GFMD.

4. Participation in international dialogues on migration and development

In November 2012, CMS Executive Director Donald Kerwin participated in the Sixth Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Mauritius, where he co-moderated panel discussions on protection of vulnerable migrant workers and migrants in dire humanitarian situations.

Additionally, CMS actively participates in migration and development-related discussions at the UN Headquarters. These have included Mr. Kerwin's participation on a panel convened in November 2012 by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly on the causes of migration and its impact on development.

C. SCALABRINI INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION NETWORK

CMS was established in 1964 by the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians, and is a member of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a global network of more than 270 organizations that provide diverse programs and services to migrants, including shelters in border communities and welcoming (integration) centers in receiving communities. Through these shelters, SIMN serves victims of human trafficking, women and unaccompanied minors. The network is also engaged in advocacy to promote the dignity and rights of migrants worldwide. As such, the work of SIMN is salient to the High-Level Dialogue roundtable theme of “measures to ensure protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well as to prevent and combat trafficking and to ensure safe migration.” CMS draws upon the knowledge and experiences of SIMN to ground analysis and recommendations in its research on such topics as US and global refugee protection. Therefore, CMS offers a uniquely informed perspective on this important theme.

D. ARCHIVES

CMS maintains a collection of 2,500 square feet of archives that document history of immigration to the United States from the mid-19th century to the present. Its extensive holdings include:

- Case histories of immigrants assisted by agencies working on Ellis Island;
- Papers of individual immigrants who became successful in the United States through the arts, business, entertainment, labor organizing, the law, politics, and service to their communities;
- The records of immigrant advocacy groups and community institutions;
- The voluminous records of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Bureau of Immigration;
- More than 5,000 photographs of the immigrant experience, including books capturing the orphaned offspring of American servicemen and Korean and Japanese women;
- Correspondence between Catholic leaders strategizing over possible responses to anti-Catholic bigotry and nativism; and
- The largest surviving collection of material including photographs related to displaced persons in transit through New York after World War II.

The collection tells a powerful story of how past immigrants have been welcomed and integrated and have become successful in the United States. The collection also offers insight into the early associational activity of immigrants in New York and the historical development of diaspora groups. The early linkages of migration to development in migrant-sending communities are documented through the establishment of groups to deploy collective remittances, including in response to natural disaster.

CMS hopes to make this collection more available to scholars, researchers and policymakers. Plans are underway for the organization to move to a permanent location that will not only place the archives in an accessible facility, but also provide opportunities to host gatherings and engage in on-site collaboration at a larger scale.

In conclusion, while CMS is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014, it is in the process of expanding its publications, events, research, and public policy work, of which migration and development will continue to be a centerpiece.