

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO
THE SEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

This paper builds on the submissions of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to previous coordination meetings. It highlights developments in the activities and programming of IOM in the area of migration and development since the Sixth Coordination Meeting in November 2007. The paper focuses on several key migration and development issues, and provides examples of recent work by the IOM.

A. SUPPORT FOR INTER-STATE DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

1. Global level

As reported at previous coordination meetings, IOM supported governments in their preparations for the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and related follow-up activities. The Organization views the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as an important platform for dialogue and identification of practical and action-oriented ways to address the links between migration and development. IOM is firmly committed to supporting the GFMD and its continued success, as pointed out by the Director General at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila, the Philippines, in October 2008. IOM seconded a migration expert to the taskforce for the GFMD meetings in 2007 and 2008, and will send an expert to the GFMD meeting in Athens, Greece, in 2009. In 2008, IOM responded positively to invitations from the Chair-in-Office and several other governments to contribute to the GFMD meeting in Manila by, *inter alia*, preparing working papers for round table discussions and organizing other input in close collaboration with governments. IOM has offered its full support and cooperation to the Government of Greece, the host of the 2009 GFMD, both in its individual capacity and as a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG).

2. Regional level

In 2008, IOM continued to encourage inter-state dialogue on migration at the regional level, including through its support for several regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs).¹ In 2008, IOM helped establish two new RCPs, both of which focus on migration and development. The first, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 22 January 2008 and brought together 11 Asian labour countries of origin (all of them member countries of the “Colombo Process”²) and nine countries of destination in the Gulf and elsewhere in Asia. This ministerial-level gathering resulted in the Abu Dhabi Declaration³ in which the participating countries agreed to launch a collaborative approach to improve the governance of temporary labour migration and to maximize its benefits for development.

IOM also helped establish the regional consultative process for the Horn of Africa consisting of six East African countries constituting the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD-RCP). This RCP was established during an intergovernmental meeting of countries in East Africa which met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 15 May 2008. The meeting was hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and IOM. This RCP will

promote the common position of the IGAD member States and the African Union (AU) as provided in the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and will also facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation on migration policy issues among IGAD member States. With the emergence of these two processes, RCPs now cover virtually all regions of the world.

In 2008 IOM began preparations for a meeting of the chairing governments and secretariats of the major RCPs, to be held in 2009. The consultation will provide a forum for: (a) sharing experiences and information on migration and development-related activities and achievements in addition to activities and achievements in other migration-related areas; (b) exploring what the GFMD and RCPs could learn from each other about best practices in migration governance, and (c) considering how opportunities for greater cross-fertilization of ideas among RCPs and between the GFMD and RCPs might be harnessed.⁴

B. MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PLANNING

IOM encourages the international community to view migration as an important component of development policies and planning. The organization works to identify migration policies that are development-friendly and include a stronger development perspective in pursuit of targets such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

IOM is collaborating with Ghana and other countries to support their efforts to mainstream migration into their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national development planning strategies. In addition, together with partner agencies, IOM is preparing a handbook to guide policymakers through the process of mainstreaming migration into poverty reduction and development strategies. Publication of the handbook is anticipated for spring 2009. Given that migration is a cross-cutting issue, the handbook is targeted at policymakers from different backgrounds whose work affects or is affected by migration. The handbook will also serve as an important reference tool for other stakeholders (e.g. academia, donors, non-governmental organization (NGOs), employers and trade unions) interested in learning more about the interplay between migration and development.

In 2008, as part of its Migration Research Series, IOM published *Migration and Development: Achieving Policy Coherence*. This study focuses on working-level policies and programmes in eight countries of destination and origin, showing how positive migration and development linkages can be realized in practice. The book looks at initiatives taken at different stages of the migration cycle—from departure to return and reintegration back home—which promote coherence and ensure that migration is development-friendly.

IOM also recently published *Migration and Development: Perspectives from the South*, which presents case studies from five major emigration countries (India, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines and Turkey) and analyses the consequences of emigration for their economies, societies and political systems.

C. CAPACITY-BUILDING, MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Capacity-building

Helping governments develop the capacity to realize the development potential of migration is fundamental to good governance. As in previous years, a substantial part of the activities of IOM in 2008 has been devoted to programmes which assist governments to develop the capacity to manage the multifaceted aspects of migration.

One recent IOM capacity-building initiative focuses on Western and Middle Africa. The objective of this initiative is to enhance governmental capacities to more effectively manage migration by preparing national migration profiles for strategic policy development bringing together all information relevant to migration and development in the region. A template and guidelines provide basic frameworks for collection and analysis of migration-related data, allowing for comparisons with key economic sectors and their corresponding indicators to better understand how migration affects national development. Capacity-building seminars are organized for participants in technical working groups in each of the participating countries, including representatives of various ministries dealing with a specific aspect of migration and representatives from local research and statistic institutes.

2. Human rights

Respect for human rights is a key component of migration governance. Respect for human rights of migrants is the foundation for the positive contribution of migration to the development of countries of origin and destination. Equally important, ensuring protection of human rights of migrants is key to making migration a safe, dignified and enriching experience for all migrants and their families.

Since its establishment in 1951, IOM has been concerned about the well-being of migrants, reflected in its activities, projects and programmes. For example, IOM promotes awareness and understanding of international migration law, including human rights of migrants. In this regard, IOM recently published a *Compendium of International Migration Law Instruments*, a comprehensive compilation of universal instruments focusing on the rights and obligations of states and rights and duties of migrants. IOM also published *Human Rights of Migrant Children*, a book which provides an overview of the international legal framework relevant to the protection of child migrants.

In 2008, IOM began preparations for its 2009 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)⁵, which will focus on the following theme: Human Rights and Migration: Working Together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration and which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26 February 2009. The discussions will draw on the research and programmatic experience of IOM gained in preparation for and during the 2008 GFMD held in Manila, the Philippines.

D. LABOUR MIGRATION

1. Temporary and circular labour migration

A growing number of governments in countries of origin and destination have shown interest in facilitating temporary and circular migration, in part because of potential development benefits. The sharing of experiences is vital to identify which schemes work, how these work in practice—particularly at the operational level—and how to address the challenges that such schemes can pose. The following paragraphs provide an overview of two recent examples of the efforts of IOM to facilitate inter-state dialogue on this topic. Another recent example, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, was mentioned above.

Under the leadership of the Governments of Morocco and Spain and in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), IOM recently developed a *Compendium of Good Practice Policy Elements in Bilateral Temporary Labour Arrangements* as a follow-up activity to the first GFMD.⁶ The Compendium and its complementary analytical paper⁷ provide an overview of policy elements in bilateral temporary labour arrangements that can be identified as good practices. Specifically, these are practices which contribute to

development and give access to foreign labour markets, at all skill levels, while controlling irregular migration and protecting the human and social rights of migrants.

In addition, IOM recently contributed to a workshop focusing on development benefits through circular migration, organized by the Government of Mauritius and the European Commission (EC). Participants from all over the world participated and exchanged experiences and good practices of concrete policies, legislation and programmes to manage circular migration. Concrete opportunities for the establishment of operational projects involving countries of origin and destination were identified. IOM is working with the EC, the Government of Mauritius and other partner agencies to further develop experience and analysis on circular migration.

2. World Migration Report 2008

The flagship publication of IOM entitled *World Migration 2008: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy*, provides an overview of current migration flows, with a particular emphasis on economically-motivated movements and discusses policy strategies contributing to the effective management of international labour mobility. The report argues that what is needed for effective migration management are planned and predictable means of matching labour demand with labour supply in a safe, legal and orderly manner in which the rights and the dignity of individuals are also respected. The report both draws on and feeds into other activities and programmes of IOM, including the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), which in 2007 was guided by the same theme (i.e. Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy)⁸.

E. INTER-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP

IOM is mandated by its member States to address migration in its multiple facets. The Organization recognizes the expertise of other agencies and entities on various aspects of migration and welcomes their involvement in this debate. Especially the GMG can play a key role in emphasizing the benefits of migration, for example by optimizing coherence and complementarities in policies and programming. In 2008, the GMG agencies jointly published a report entitled *International Migration and Human Rights. Challenges and Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as a contribution to the second GFMD. In addition to cooperation with other agencies in the framework of the GMG, IOM also separately undertakes projects in collaboration with individual agencies and organizations depending on the topic under consideration (see above).

F. THE EMERGING ISSUE OF MIGRATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

IOM has addressed linkages between the environment and human mobility for a long time. The growing certainties regarding the realities of climate change prompted IOM to devote greater attention to migration and environment issues and to their strong links with the Organization's other areas of work, in particular migration and development. In 2008, the work of IOM on migration, the environment and climate change included policy and research activities, direct humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters and community projects in areas of high migration pressure, many of which helped communities to strengthen their coping capacity once affected by environmental degradation. These activities were carried out in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental partners from the humanitarian, environment and development communities.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has recently begun focusing on migration and displacement as a result of climate change and environmental degradation leading to future humanitarian emergencies. During its seventy-first meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 20 June 2008⁹, the IASC Working Group acknowledged the work undertaken by IOM to improve the understanding of the links between climate change, environmental degradation and population movements. Following a request from the IASC Working Group, IOM, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and other interested IASC organizations, convened an Informal Group on Migration, Displacement and Climate Change. IOM hosted two meetings of the Informal Group in 2008 to consider appropriate terminology and typologies on migration, displacement and climate change, and to identify possible operational and analytical gaps in the context of the humanitarian response to such emergencies caused by environmental disasters. The outcomes of these consultations, including a set of recommendations, will feed into the formal discussion at the seventy-second IASC Working Group meeting scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, from 19 to 21 November 2008¹⁰ and will contribute to a better understanding of humanitarian action, population movement and climate change.

NOTES

¹ IOM has provided support to most RCPs since their inception. At the requests of governments, IOM has organized meetings from which RCPs developed. In addition, IOM provides administrative support for many of the major RCPs and offers substantive support at the request of participating governments –for instance in the areas of research and information dissemination, policy advice, capacity-building and technical cooperation and project implementation.

² For more information on the Colombo Process, see <http://www.colomboprocess.org/#> (accessed 26 February 2009).

³ For the Abu Dhabi Declaration, see http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/brochures_and_info_sheets/abu_dhabi_declaration_eng.pdf (accessed 5 January 2009).

⁴ The organization of such a consultation was proposed at the 2007 GFMD during Round table 3.3 on regional migration consultation processes and at the 2008 GFMD during Round table 2.2 on managing migration and minimizing the negative impacts of irregular migration and during Round table 3.3 on regional consultative processes.

⁵ The IDM provides a forum for governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the field of migration, in order to explore policies of common interest and the means to cooperate in addressing them.

⁶ For the compendium see http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/studies_and_reports/compendium_version_2.pdf (accessed 5 January 2009).

⁷ For the analytical paper accompanying the compendium, see http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/studies_and_reports/analytical_paper_for_compendium.pdf (accessed 5 January 2009).

⁸ For more information on the 2007 IDM, see <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research/pid/1915> (accessed 5 January 2009).

⁹ For more information, see <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/IASCWeb2/pageloader.aspx?page=content-calendar-calendardetails&meetID=1471> (accessed 5 January 2009).

¹⁰ For more information, see <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/IASCWeb2/pageloader.aspx?page=content-calendar-calendardetails&meetID=1472> (accessed 5 January 2009).

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