

**Remarks by Richard Morgan, Director, Policy and Practice, UNICEF
on behalf of the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG)**

17 February 2011

Check against delivery

Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

I am very pleased to speak on behalf of the Global Migration Group (GMG) today at the *Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration* and wish to thank the Population Division of UN/DESA for organizing this very important event.

As the Chair of the GMG, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the current and former Chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Mexico and Switzerland, as well as the Office of the President of the General Assembly for their presentations this morning.

In 2011, the GMG will continue to promote a practical approach to mainstreaming migration in national development planning, with an emphasis on capacity development and support to institutions and government stakeholders. Furthermore, in accordance with its terms of reference, the GMG will continue to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional human rights instruments and norms relating to migration. The GMG will also focus on common policy issues of interest to all stakeholders, through analysis, advocacy and the dissemination of good practices.

We would like to inform Member States and civil society stakeholders that the GMG Chairs for 2011, UNICEF and UNESCO, will have a single workplan this year, including the follow up of key priorities and outcomes of the 2010 GFMD held in Puerto Vallarta last November. We are also thankful for the contributions of OHCHR, the former Chair of the GMG, to the workplan.

Thematic focus of the GMG in the first half of 2011

In light of the current International Year of Youth (12 Aug 2010 – 11 Aug 2011), the GMG will be focusing on adolescents and youth during the first half of 2011, aiming to bring greater attention to this particular age group within the discussion on international migration. This theme will be considered from an equity, human rights, human development and gender perspective.

As part of this effort, the GMG will be preparing an analytical report drawing together available data, research and analysis on the issue of youth, adolescents and migration which will be made available during the UNESCO Chair. This report will include contributions from all GMG agencies, ensuring the inclusion of a range of relevant perspectives, including education, health, employment, remittances, urbanization, and environmental change.

Planned activities and outputs

As mentioned this morning by Ambassador Heidi Schroderus-Fox of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF, has been invited by the PGA to speak at the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development, as Chair of the GMG. Mr. Lake is looking forward to working closely with the PGA office and Member States as well as all of the GMG agencies for the preparation of the informal debate. The GMG hopes to support preparations leading up to the informal debate and highlight some key areas, including human development, human rights and gender issues, that deserve special consideration in the international migration dialogue.

In order to support the Member State process, the GMG is hoping to host a two-day Practitioners Symposium, in advance of the informal thematic debate in the General Assembly. This Symposium will be convened on the cross-cutting topic of: *“Migration and Development: Taking Joint Action Now on Challenges and Opportunities for the Future”*.

The Symposium would bring together decision makers, representatives, practitioners and stakeholders working on migration and development—including international organizations, governments, civil society and private sector—to provide practical solutions and policy recommendations while addressing future challenges in the context of migration and development. The Symposium will aim to improve cooperation and coordination between and within countries of origin and destination, emphasising the point that timely and effective migration and development policies can have a positive impact on future development challenges.

The GMG will make a special effort to ensure broad and diverse representation from civil society at the Symposium on the understanding that civil society should be considered a key actor in the migration-development debate.

I am also pleased to announce two GMG working groups:

- a) Working Group on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies, co-chaired by IOM and UNDP; and
- b) Working Group on Data and Research, co-convened by UN/DESA and IOM.

Further information on the activities of these two working groups will be shared with you very shortly.

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

In closing, I would like to reiterate the GMG’s commitment to working effectively with Member States, civil society and partners to identify comprehensive strategies and operational responses to address the challenges, and maximize the positive impacts, of migration on development as well as of development on migration. The GMG will also be working further on strengthening policy advocacy, capacity development and mapping specific activities and gaps.

As Chair of the Global Migration Group during the first half of 2011, I would like to thank UN/DESA once again for organizing this very important meeting. The GMG looks forward to the recommendations that will stem from this Ninth Coordination Meeting and trusts that these will be pertinent to the Member State discussion during the General Assembly Informal Debate as well as the Practitioners Symposium that we hope to organize, with your support, in May.

Thank you.