

**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
KEY ISSUES FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE 2006**

*United Nations Population Fund*

**A. KEY ISSUES FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE DURING THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2006**

International migration is not a new phenomenon. What is different now is the magnitude and complexity of migration flows. New patterns of migration have arisen as countries that had not experienced significant out-migration face an ever-increasing number of people who emigrate. Likewise,

emphasis on the human rights of migrants reflects an appreciation for the vulnerabilities of migrants to rights abuses and the necessity for national and international attention in this area. The proclamation by the General Assembly of December 18 as International Migrants Day heightened the visibility of migrants and their plight and raised awareness of the need to disseminate information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, the sharing of experiences and the need for action to ensure the protection of migrants. The continued deterioration of the human rights of migrants, especially discriminatory and exclusionary practices and the increasing tendency to restrict the human rights of migrants is cause for concern. While it is the sovereign right of States to make laws and regulations concerning the entry of aliens and the terms and conditions of their stay, international human rights instruments call on States to abide by international humanitarian and human rights laws.

#### *4. Human trafficking*

Human trafficking is on the rise and constitutes one of the fastest growing crimes, as well as one of the most profitable. It has often been characterized as a modern form of human slavery. Victims who find themselves ensnared in the trafficker's web are in great need of assistance and support. Traffickers must be brought to justice on a much more swift and consistent basis. The appointment in April 2004 by the United Nations Human Rights Commission of a Special Rapporteur on Trafficking is a major initiative to address this issue.

#### *5. Refugee Protection*

The almost 10 million people worldwide who have fled their homes in need of protection attest to the fact that the refugee problem is an international one and that addressing the issue requires an approach based on multilateral cooperation. The Agenda for Protection adopted in 2002 constitutes a comprehensive framework for global refugee policy with goals, objectives and suggested activities to strengthen refugee protection. No formal agreement has yet been concluded but a number of important issues have arisen, including ensuring a better response to mass influx; targeting development assistance to achieve more equitable burden-sharing and promoting self-reliance of refugees; and establishing multilateral commitments for resettlement. Refugee protection has become more complex in recent years due to the increasing difficulty in availing access to asylum systems resulting from heightened security considerations. Many who have been refused asylum remain in the country of destination and, together with those who have overstayed their visas or crossed borders without the proper documents, contribute to the growing numbers of irregular or undocumented migrants.

#### *6. Need for migration data/information/studies/analysis*

Reliable data on population movements are essential for sound migration policy and management. There is an urgent need for comprehensive, accurate and timely migration data to provide a solid basis for the formulation and implementation of international migration policy and programmes. More efforts are needed to harmonize definitions for the different migration categories and to help countries improve the quality of data collected. Data analysis, dissemination and utilization also pose a challenge. In addition, more studies that address migration-related issues are needed to help inform decision-making in this area.

### **B. ACTIVITIES OF UNFPA THAT ADDRESS THE KEY ASPECTS OF MIGRATION**

UNFPA's work in the area of international migration focuses on facilitating policy dialogue, research, training, advocacy, data collection and capacity building. In promoting the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development in this area, the Fund seeks to enhance countries' ability to respond to issues relating to international migration, to promote orderly migration flows and to address the needs of migrants.

