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**INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT***

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

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Although economic motivations of migration have long been recognized, the economic development effects of migration on countries of origin and destination are only recently coming into focus. The consensus has long been that emigration remains either neutral in balancing labor market supply and demand or results in loss to sending countries or a gain to receiving countries, particularly with regard to skills and labor power. But more recently, publicized calculations of remittances and competition for high skilled migrants have led commercial enterprises, international banks, and governments to identify and consider more broadly how migration's positive economic contributions to investment, growth, and income distribution might be enhanced. Determining the development implications not only of capital and labor flows but also of migrants' other financial and social capital requires consideration of their complicated social lives, which shape how these resources are employed. Placing a migrant family's income generating power, consumption needs, investment options, and career paths in the multi-sited social, political, and cultural matrices within which they earn their livelihoods is necessary in order to understand and predict how migrants deploy skills and resources gained and distributed through migration. Despite some significant recent advances, substantial research and analysis is still necessary before efforts to enhance migration's development effects are likely to be successfully targeted.

One of complicating difficulties in developing new research assessments of the migration's economic outcomes or potential has been the division of migration studies into three separate spheres as if they were disconnected circuits: internal migration (usually rural-to-urban), forced migration (largely the international flight of refugees but increasingly including the internally displaced), and voluntary international migration (including economic migrants seeking employment and social migrants seeking family reunification). While such distinctions might be useful for governmental management and legal administration, they do not necessarily reflect the livelihoods of migrants. Not only can one person or different family members fit into each category, serially or simultaneously, but also movement in one sphere can affect that in another. For example, rural migrants are forced by persecution into urban poverty and conflict, which they feel compelled to leave behind and follow social networks abroad in search of protection better opportunities. Then forced and voluntary emigrants remit funds back home to relatives who invest in businesses that attract a surplus of rural migrants to seek work in the cities only to be discouraged and move on -- internal and international migration in a mutually reinforcing cycle.

In recent years the Social Science Research Council has sought to build upon its decade-long Program on International Migration, which at first focused largely on immigration to the United States, to support research and migration studies more broadly within an international framework. One of the Program's foci has become migration and development and currently we are convening migration scholars, practitioners, and policy makers in a number of fora to consider how they might guide future research and policy development. An upcoming conference, co-sponsored by the International Organization on Migration and the Center for Migration Policy and Society, will consider how internal and international migration are related to economic development. We will compare the two processes as well as to look at their interrelationships through remittances of earnings back home, investments from afar, return home and entry into self-employment, high-skilled employment circulation, and the impact of

return migration but also questions of brain drain from sending regions and the impact of migrants on receiving economies. Migrants who settle in the receiving place present similar issues regarding social and civic incorporation and the future of the “second generation.”

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