



**Contribution to Fourth Coordination Meeting on International Migration
(26-27 October 2005)**

**Recent IOM Activities Relevant to the Upcoming
High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

The IOM Constitution recognizes that migration may stimulate the creation of new economic opportunities, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of all involved – origin, transit and destination countries, as well as individual migrants. In this sense, migrants are potential agents of development, contributing to human, social and economic development through investment, remittances, expenditure, entrepreneurial activities and the transfer of newly-developed skills, newly-acquired

IOM is an international organization dedicated exclusively to migration, IOM's work covers all aspects of migration management activities throughout the world. The organization's work is commonly associated with the migration-development nexus, such as diasporas, root causes of migration, return and reintegration and migration as a factor in post-conflict reconstruction. In addition, its work extends to migration and development – for example, the intersections between migration and health and between migration and the environment. In other policy domains, such as trade, labour and health, are becoming

increasingly focused on the five topics proposed for the roundtables at the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (“High-Level Dialogue”).

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S CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Several of IOM's activities are relevant to a representative selection of recent activities with such a cross-cutting nature.

1. *Operational programmes*

IOM has an operational budget of more than USD 1 billion (2005 estimated) and over 1300 on-going projects implemented by approximately 255 field locations. A substantial portion of these projects relate to the nexus between migration and development; their substance and structure differ depending on particular circumstances and needs.

Given the difficulty of exploring the vast number and broad range of IOM migration and development-related projects in a document of limited length, this section will briefly describe certain project categories with direct relevance to the intersection between migration and development.

a. *Emergency and post-crisis operations assistance*

In emergency situations, such as the South Asia earthquake, the Asian tsunami, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), IOM (1) provides rapid humanitarian aid to displaced populations by supplying emergency shelter, transporting relief materials, and assisting in medical evacuations; (2) stabilizes populations through the provision of short-term community and micro-enterprise development programmes; (3) actively supports governments in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected communities by being the lead service provider of transitional shelters, health care services, counter-trafficking activities, psycho-social activities, capacity building for disaster, transportation and logistics, and registration and information management of affected populations; and (4) returns and reintegrates internally displaced persons, demobilized combatants and persons affected by national disasters. In addition, in cases where conflicts have provoked mass emigration and disrupted an area's political and administrative systems, IOM has supported structures to facilitate voting for the eligible electorate residing outside set boundaries.

b. *Migrant integration*

Strategies to support the adjustment of migrants to their new environment in countries of destination can reinforce the positive effects of migration for origin and destination communities alike. IOM's integration activities take place not only in countries of destination but also in countries of origin, as the effectiveness of integration can be enhanced when the integration process begins in the country of origin, prior to emigration. With a view toward empowering migrants and refugees and enhancing their prospects for effective integration, IOM (1) disseminates information in home and host countries on the rights and obligations of migrants and refugees, (2) offers pre-departure cultural orientation services to facilitate their adjustment to life in a new country, and (3) provides advice and counseling related to services available to them in the host country. In addition, the organization also engages in awareness-raising activities targeting the host society, which are used to highlight the contributions newcomers bring and, in turn, to improve their perception and acceptance thereby reducing the risks of discrimination and xenophobia. At the same time, IOM extends technical support to government officials and other practitioners working with migrants through training, advisory services and other capacity building means.

c. *Return of qualified nationals*

The return and reintegration of skilled and qualified nationals abroad can benefit the national development or rehabilitation and reconstruction process of developing countries, countries with economies in transition, or countries recovering from conflict situations. Project components

include recruitment, job placement, transportation and limited employment support. These projects can help shape the economic and social environment in countries of origin in a manner conducive to further returns.

d. *Involving diasporas in development*

Several of the organization's programmes facilitate the contributions that migrants and diasporas can make to development,ⁱⁱ including programmes for (1) the voluntary return and reintegration of qualified nationals, which result in the transfer of knowledge, skills and technology to countries of origin in regions including Africa, Asia, South Eastern Europe and Latin America (discussed above); (2) small-scale enterprise development; and (3) assessment surveys and database development. Recognizing that migrants make important contributions to their countries

a. *International Dialogue on Migration*

IOM Council's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is a forum for international dialogue on migration, where governments and IOM, together with other relevant inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are able to explore modern migratory movements and the policy opportunities and challenges that they pose. The purpose of the IDM is to contribute to a better understanding of migration and to strengthen cooperative mechanisms to comprehensively and effectively address migration issues. Details on recent activities are included in other sections of this paper.

b. *Support to Regional Consultative Processes*

Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs) are significant mechanisms for facilitating informal and non-binding inter-state dialogue and cooperation on migration issues. IOM participates in most of the major RCPs as a member, partner, or observer; provides secretariat-type services for many of the major RCPs; and contributes to RCPs in other ways at the request of participating governments (for example, through research and information dissemination, policy advice, capacity-building and technical cooperation, and project implementation).

In April, IOM and the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) jointly hosted a workshop which brought together government representatives and secretariats of nine major RCPs worldwide. This was a first-ever opportunity for the major RCPs to meet in a common forum, and the participants generally agreed that the inter-regional gathering was a very valuable experience. Among other topics, participants discussed issues such as the contribution of RCPs

d. *Engaging other stakeholders in policy dialogue and formation*

Stakeholders have differing opinions and approaches to migration management, including its connections to development. Their voices and perspectives need to be heard. The Director General of IOM has recently created a Business Advisory Board (BAB), comprised of chief executives representing a broad cross-section of industries and interests in all parts of the world, with whom he plans to identify and exchange ideas and analysis on global issues relevant to migration and business, and develop practical solutions. The BAB is expected to contribute to the development of migration policy and improvements in policy coherence on migration.

IOM has annual consultations with NGOs and arranges for group or individual meetings at other times on topics of special interest to the NGO community. IOM values its dialogue with the NGO community and looks forward to broadening and deepening the NGO community's participation in migration policy development.

3. Policy-oriented research and publications

IOM has identified Migration and Development as a priority theme for its 2005-2006 research and publications, recognizing the increasing interest of its member States in identifying policies that maximize the development potential of international migration.

a. *Research*

Over half of IOM's research studies since 2002 have been conducted in developing countries. IOM's current research studies relating to development include a World Bank-funded study on "*Development-Friendly Migration Policies: A Survey of Innovative Practices in Sending and Receiving Countries*," which examines immigration and emigration policies that advance the beneficial impact of migration on development. In addition, IOM is undertaking a one-year study to investigate the potential contribution of diasporas to home country development, focused on African migrants working in the health sector in Switzerland. Research activities relating to remittances and counter-trafficking are discussed below in Sections B.3 and B.4, respectively.

b. *Publications*

Several of IOM's recent publications inform the policy dialogue on migration and development, as well as policy development. *World Migration Report 2005: Costs and Benefits of International Migration*, published in June, is the third edition in IOM's flagship series of biennial reports on international migration. It is the first-ever comprehensive study looking at the costs and benefits of international migration, and finds ample evidence that migration, if properly managed, can bring more benefi

Forward: The Cases of Angola and Zambia; (3) The Development Potential of Zimbabweans in the Diaspora; (4) Dynamics of Remittance Utilization in Bangladesh; and (5) Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective. The titles of additional recently-released migration and development-related publications can be found in IOM's 2005 Publications Catalog.^{iv}

B.

c. *Forthcoming conference and workshops on migration and development*

On behalf of the Belgian Government, IOM is organizing an upcoming conference on migration and development, in close cooperation with the World Bank and the European Commission. The conference, which will take place in Brussels in March 2006, will examine many of the themes of the High-Level Dialogue. In addition, two workshops on migration and development for countries in Sub Saharan Africa will be held in October 2005 and February 2006, jointly organized by IOM and the African Capacity Building Foundation. Operating within international and regional frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), the workshops are aimed at developing a comprehensive strategy on human resource development and capacity building. The workshops will draw upon regional and country experiences to identify concrete policy, service delivery, training and research measures that can be used to help maximize the benefits of migration for development.

d. *Migration and the Millennium Development Goals*

International migration, despite its breadth and magnitude, does not feature prominently in the original framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Prior to the publication of IOM's Migration and Research Series No. 20 in 2005, *The Millennium Development Goals and Migration*, the relationship between migration and the MDGs had not been widely explored, although both the migration and development communities had become increasingly aware of the close relationship between migration and development and official UN documents and reports on the MDGs had started to reflect this shift.

In May 2005, IOM participated in a UNFPA Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals, held in Marrakech, Morocco. In September 2005, IOM and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center co-organized an International Conference for Women Leaders: Migration and Gender Issues within the Millennium Development Goals, in Haifa, Israel, attended by more than 50 senior women leaders from around the world. The conference explored changing trends in the feminization of migration, and examined migration and gender issues in relation to the achievement of the MDGs. A series of recommendations were adopted at the conference, which will be contributed to the High-Level Dialogue.

***2. The migration of highly skilled persons,
and labour migration more generally***

both to exceed gains from further liberalization in other sectors and to benefit developing and developed economies alike. In November 2003, IOM held an IDM intersessional workshop on *Trade and Migration: Building Bridges for Global Labour Mobility*, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank. This workshop brought trade and migration officials together in a non-negotiating environment to explore the relationship between temporary labour migration and Mode 4 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which relates to the temporary cross-border movement of people to supply services. In 2004, IOM held a follow-up workshop in partnership with the World Bank and the WTO on *Managing the Movement of People: What Can be Learned for Mode 4 of the GATS?* At this workshop, participants considered the actual, practical experiences of governments in managing the temporary movement of people to see what may be of relevance for ongoing efforts to reduce barriers to trade in services. In September 2005, IOM presented the findings of the 2004 workshop at a Special Session of the WTO Council for Trade in Services. As a result of these workshops, the trade and migration communities are developing a better understanding of each others' language,

Notably, IOM supports regional inter-state dialogue and cooperation on the topic of labour migration. For example, IOM has organized and supported three Ministerial Consultations on overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia in response to requests from several Asian labour-sending countries. The first Ministerial Consultation was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo in April 2003. Participants were from the

destination and transit. In many regions of the world, IOM implements activities that bring together countries sharing similar trafficking problems to find common solutions.

For example, IOM provides coordination and technical support for the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which brings together over 50 countries and numerous international agencies to work on practical measures to help combat people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. In addition, IOM is a member of the steering group (composed of the governments of Australia and Indonesia (co-chairs of the Bali Process), New Zealand, Thailand, IOM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) that guides the monitoring and implementation of Bali Process activities and initiatives. Several of the objectives for the Bali Process, developed by the Ministers at the two Ministerial Conferences, involve international cooperation to prevent and combat people smuggling and trafficking. At a Senior Officials Meeting in June 2004, participants agreed that broad goals of the Bali Process to raise awareness of and develop greater cooperation among regional countries to combat people trafficking and smuggling had largely been met as a result of the high-level political focus generated by the Bali Process' two Ministerial Conferences and the active follow-up programme of practical workshops and activities undertaken by Ministry officials. Bali Process activities are ongoing and recent events include a workshop on *Best Practices in Operational Cooperation*, focused on cooperation among enforcement agencies; a workshop on *Enabling Electronic Exchange of Lost & Stolen Travel Document Information*, related to the objective of working towards more effective

and believes this could easily be done to improve inter-agency coordination and cooperation. Reflecting its commitment to the GMG, IOM has offered to provide a secretariat if one is need.

b. *IDM intersessional workshops*

In addition to annual sessions, IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) convenes two intersessional workshops each year. Because these intersessional workshops are often structured around a theme that explores the intersections between international migration and related policy domains – a “migration and” approach – they are often convened in partnership with relevant organizations, institutions and government agencies active in the related domain. For example, the 2005 workshop on *Migration and Development* was held in partnership with United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; the 2004 workshop on *Migration and Health* was held in partnership with the WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and the 2003 workshop on *Trade and Migration* was held in partnership with the OECD and the World Bank, with the follow-up workshop convened in 2004 held in partnership with the World Bank and the WTO.

In addition, experts from other IGOs have participated in workshops as session chairs, facilitators and panelists, sharing their expertise with workshop participants. Examples include participation by UNDP at the 2005 workshop on *Migration and Development*; by UNCTAD and the OECD at the 2004 workshop on *Trade and Migration*; by ILO, WTO and UNCTAD at the 2003 workshop on *Trade and Migration*; and by the UN Statistics Division and UN Population Division at the 2003 workshop on *Approaches to Data Collection and Data Management*.

Several of the intersessional workshops have resulted in follow-up activities between IOM and partner organizations and institutions, such as the IOM-World Bank collaboration described in Section B.2.a above and the IOM-WHO-ILO collaboration described in Section B.2.b above.

c. *Inter-agency roundtables on migration and development*

IOM's Migration Policy, Research and Communications Department has initiated two inter-agency roundtables on migration and development, one in April 2004 and one in October 2004. The focus of the first roundtable was a discussion of the interest and activities of each organization in migration and development, while the focus of the second roundtable was the potential contribution of diasporas to the development of countries of origin. Participants have included representatives of IOM, ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, WHO and the World Bank. IOM hopes to continue these roundtables, which hold great potential for inter-agency collaboration and coordination on the topic of migration and development.

d. *Inter-agency cooperation at the regional level*

In addition to its involvement in mechanisms to achieve inter-agency cooperation at the global level, IOM is also involved in mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation at the regional level. The following example describes recent significant inter-agency cooperation in the Asia Pacific region. Within the framework of a working group on international migration in Thailand, established by the international organizations in Bangkok in September 2004, IOM commissioned a *Report on International Migration in Thailand* in collaboration with several UN agencies, which was published in August 2005.

Shortly afterwards in August 2005, IOM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Constitution of the International Organization for Migration, Preamble.