

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON MIGRATION, REMITTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

*United Nations Office of the High Representative for the
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries and Small Island Developing States*

The Regional Consultation on Migration, Remittances and Development in Africa was the second in the series of such consultations organized jointly by UNDP, UN-OHRLLS and the Government of Ghana and was held in Accra, from 4 to 5 September 2007.

The regional consultation was preceded by national consultations in a selected number of the sub-Saharan African countries, including six least developed countries.

A. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the consultation were the following:

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- Improve the knowledge base to determine the role of remittances in development by focusing on:
 - Ø Tracking migration flows and examining remittance flows, patterns, corridors and channels;
 - Ø The effects of remittances on households in countries of origin regarding poverty, education, health, gender equity, as well as human trafficking;
 - Ø The costs of migration by targeting sectors that are impacted by the emigration of skilled labour;
 - Ø Remittance transfer agencies, including transfer costs, security, competition and exchange rate policies.
- Invest in capacity-building and training initiatives to promote financial education of migrant communities, their families and financial services sector professionals in recipient countries.
- Provide support to reforming the banking sector by addressing cost, convenience, competition, and confidence and trust issues.
- Engage expatriate communities in local development initiatives through multi-stakeholder meetings and engagement in national development issues.
- Develop legislative frameworks to promote linkage of money transfer products with new technologies such as “m-payments” and increase competition among service providers.