

ACTIVITIES OF ESCAP IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

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The topic of international migration continued to receive high priority in the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). In recognition of the complex linkages between migration and development, particularly the contribution of international migration towards poverty alleviation and overall socio-economic development, ESCAP continues to promote better understanding of the phenomenon and further cooperation in migration management at the regional level.

A. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE 2006 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE 2007 GLOBAL FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ESCAP, at its third session of the Committee of Emerging Social Issues held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 December 2006, considered regional challenges in managing migration for development as one of the agenda items, and examined key issues of international migration in the ESCAP region. The Committee reviewed the activities undertaken by ESCAP in advance of the High-level Dialogue as well as the outcome of the Dialogue. The Committee was also informed of the establishment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Committee recognized international migration as an emerging cross-border issue in the Asian and Pacific region and requested ESCAP to coordinate regional follow-up actions to the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue. It urged ESCAP to provide a forum for regional dialogue and to facilitate discussions on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its linkages with development. To this end, the Committee called for the establishment of a regional consultative process on international migration and development.

As a follow-up activity to the High-level Dialogue, the ESCAP Commission, at its sixty-third session held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007, considered the challenges and opportunities of international migration and development, with particular emphasis on the situation in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. The topic was vigorously discussed among the delegations of ESCAP members and associate members. The Commission adopted a resolution on international migration and development which re-emphasized the mandate of ESCAP in this area and called on the Secretariat to compile and analyse information on international migration, to continue to provide a forum for dialogue among members and associate members and to convene a high-level meeting on international migration and development, preferably in 2008.¹

In preparation for the first Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Belgium in July 2007, the Asia-Pacific Conference on International Migration and Development took place in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 25 to 26 June 2007. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea.

