

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO
THE SEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING

International Organization for Migration (IOM) This paper builds on the previous coordination meetings. It highlights developments in the activities and programming of IOM in the area of migration and development since the Sixth Coordination Meeting in November 2007. The paper focuses on several key migration and development issues, and provides examples of recent work by the IOM.

A.

SUPPORT FOR INTER-STATE DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

1. Global level

As reported at previous coordination meetings,

promote the common position of the IGAD member States and the African Union (AU) as provided in the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and will also facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation on migration policy issues among IGAD member States. With the emergence of these two processes, RCPs now cover virtually all regions of the world.

In 2008 IOM began preparations for a meeting of the chairing governments and secretariats of the major RCPs, to be held in 2009. The consultation will provide a forum for: (a) sharing experiences and information on migration and development-related activities and achievements in addition to activities and achievements in other migration-related areas; (b) exploring what the GFMD and RCPs could learn from each other about best practices in migration governance, and (c) considering how opportunities for greater cross-fertilization of ideas among RCPs and between the GFMD and RCPs might be harnessed.⁴

B. MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PLANNING

IOM encourages the international community to view migration as an important component of development policies and planning. The organization works to identify migration policies that are development-friendly and include a stronger development perspective in pursuit of targets such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

IOM is collaborating with Ghana and other countries to support their efforts to mainstream

One recent IOM capacity-building initiative focuses on Western and Middle Africa. The objective of this initiative is to enhance governmental capacities to more effectively manage migration by preparing national migration profiles for strategic policy development bringing together all information relevant to migration and development in the region. A template and guidelines provide basic frameworks for collection and analysis of migration-related data, allowing for comparisons with key economic sectors and their corresponding indicators to better understand how migration affects national development. Capacity-building seminars are organized for participants in technical working groups in each of the participating countries, including representatives of various ministries dealing with a specific aspect of migration and representatives from local research and statistic institutes.

2. *Human rights*

Respect for human rights is a key component of migration governance. Respect for human rights of migrants is the foundation for the positive contribution of migration to the development of countries of origin and destination. Equally important, ensuring protection of human rights of migrants is key to making migration a safe, dignified and enriching experience for all migrants and their families.

Since its establishment in 1951, IOM has been concerned about the well-being of migrants, reflected in its activities, projects and programmes. For example, IOM promotes awareness and understanding of international migration law, including human rights of migrants. In this regard, IOM recently published a *Compendium of International Migration Law Instruments*, a comprehensive compilation of universal instruments focusing on the rights and obligations of states and rights and duties of migrants. IOM also published *Human Rights of Migrant Children*, a book which provides an overview of the international legal framework relevant to the protection of child migrants.

In 2008, IOM began preparations for its 2009 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)⁵, which will focus on the following theme: Human Rights and Migration: Working Together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration and which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26 February 2009. The discussions will draw on the research and programmatic experience of IOM gained in preparation for and during the 2008 GFMD held in Manila, the Philippines.

D. LABOUR MIGRATION

1. *Temporary and circular labour migration*

A growing number of governments in countries of origin and destination have shown interest in facilitating temporary and circular migration, in part because of potential development benefits. The sharing of experiences is vital to identify which schemes work, how these work in practice—particularly at the operational level—and how to address the challenges that such schemes can pose. The following paragraphs provide an overview of two recent examples of the efforts of IOM to facilitate inter-state dialogue on this topic. Another recent example, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, was mentioned above.

Under the leadership of the Governments of Morocco and Spain and in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), IOM recently developed a *Compendium of Good Practice Policy Elements in Bilateral Temporary Labour Arrangements* as a follow-up activity to the first GFMD.⁶ The Compendium and its complementary analytical paper⁷ provide an overview of policy elements in bilateral temporary labour arrangements that can be identified as good practices. Specifically, these are practices which contribute to

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has recently begun focusing on migration and displacement as a result of climate change and environmental degradation leading to future humanitarian emergencies. During its seventy-first meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 20 June 2008⁹, the IASC Working Group acknowledged the work undertaken by IOM to improve the understanding of the links between climate change, environmental degradation and population movements. Following a request from the IASC Working Group, IOM, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and other interested IASC organizations, convened an Informal Group on Migration, Displacement and Climate Change. IOM hosted two meetings of the Informal Group in 2008 to consider appropriate terminology and typologies on migration, displacement and climate change, and to identify possible operational and analytical gaps in the context of the humanitarian response to such emergencies caused by environmental disasters. The outcomes of these consultations, including a set of recommendations, will feed into the formal discussion at the seventy-second IASC Working Group meeting scheduled to take place in Rome, Italy, from 19 to 21 November 2008¹⁰ and will contribute to a better understanding of humanitarian action, population movement and climate change.

NOTES

¹ IOM has provided support to most RCPs since their inception. At the requests of governments, IOM has organized meetings from which RCPs developed. In addition, IOM provides administrative support for many of the major RCPs and offers substantive support at the request of participating governments –for instance in the areas of research and information dissemination, policy advice, capacity-building and technical cooperation and project implementation.

² For more information on the Colombo Process, see <http://www.colomboprocess.org/#> (accessed 26 February 2009).

³ For the Abu Dhabi Declaration, see [http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/b0.6\(n\)-990 Tc0ies. plem](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/b0.6(n)-990 Tc0ies. plem)

REFERENCES