

**SEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

New York, 20-21 November 2008



United Nations



**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Population Division

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United Nations  
New York, 2009

# DESA

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## **PREFACE**

Since 2002, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat has been organizing annual coordination meetings on international migration. The purpose of these meetings, which bring together representatives of all entities of the United Nations system working on international migration, other relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as the research community, is to review the latest evidence on emerging topics as well as to exchange information with a view to informing the migration debate, enhancing coordination and achieving system-wide coherence.

Since the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which was



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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

MPI	Migration Policy Institute
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe
RCP	Regional Consultative Process
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## **PART ONE**

### **REPORT OF THE MEETING AND INFORMATION PAPERS**



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

## REPORT OF THE MEETING

The Seventh United Nations Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 to 21 November 2008. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat. The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development; to assess the consequences of the financial and economic crisis on international migration and development, and to exchange information on current and planned activities in the area of international migration and development.

Some eighty participants attended the meeting, including representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental institutions active in the field of international migration. Also present were invited experts and representatives of United Nations Member States.

### I. OPENING

Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director of the Population Division of UN/DESA, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. She noted that more people lived outside their country of birth today than at any time in history and that the numbers of people who moved across international borders was expected to continue to increase in the future. International migration had moved to the forefront of national and international agendas. The annual coordination meeting on international migration, convened by the Population Division, was the only system-wide forum where representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could share information on international migration and discuss emerging issues. The 2008 Coordination Meeting provided an opportunity within the United Nations system to review specific implications of the economic and financial crisis for international migration. The meeting also enhanced coherence between the United Nations system and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an informal, State-led process.

Ms. Zlotnik informed participants that the General Assembly, at its sixty-third session, was expected to adopt a resolution on the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development conducted by the General Assembly in 2006.<sup>1</sup> The report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development, prepared for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, would be presented during the second half of the morning.

Ms. Zlotnik then outlined the meeting agenda and introduced the first speakers, Mr. Esteban Conejos Jr., Under-Secretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Chair of the Second Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and Mr. Athanassios Nakos, Vice-Minister of the Interior of Greece and Chair of the Third Meeting of the Global Forum.

### II. THE

Philippines, Mr. Esteban Conejos, addressed the meeting and, in his capacity as Chair of the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), made a presentation of the outcomes of that meeting, which was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 27 to 30 October 2008. The



The Special Session on the Future of the Forum had been chaired by the Special Representative to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on International Migration and Development, Mr. Peter Sutherland. Given that Greece, Argentina, Spain and Morocco had already offered to host future meetings of the Global Forum, the immediate future of the GFMD was secure. In addition, in 2008, a light support unit would be established within IOM in order to



international migration could contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. To do so, it was crucial to ensure that people migrated out of choice and not because of necessity.

In closing, Vice-Minister Nakos pointed out that Greece was a most suitable host for the Global Forum because its history and development were closely tied to international migration. From being a major country of origin for migrants going to all corners of the world, Greece had passed to be an important country of destination. International migration, being a global phenomenon, required a holistic approach, particularly if the synergies between international migration and development were to be leveraged. International migration had to be an integral part of the international development agenda as well as of national and regional development strategies. He expected the third meeting of the Forum to focus on these and other issues and invited participants to provide to the organizers their full support in advancing the substantive agenda of the Forum.

During the discussion, participants thanked Under-Secretary Conejos and Vice-Minister Nakos for their detailed presentations. The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) asked about the follow-up process to the Global Forum. Under-Secretary Conejos replied that the Forum was neither a decision-making nor an operational body. Therefore it was up to interested Governments to follow-up on whatever ideas or suggestions emanated from the Forum. In doing so, Governments would benefit from the expert assistance of entities in the United Nations system and other international organizations. Under-Secretary Conejos added that the full report of the second meeting of the Global Forum, detailing all the conclusions and suggestions emerging from the meeting, would be available by the end of February 2009 and would then be submitted to the Secretary-General for distribution among Member States and the United Nations system at large.

### III. FOLLOW UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Philip Guest, Assistant Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the 2008 report by the Secretary-General on “International Migration and Development”. The report’s contents were guided by General Assembly resolution 61/208, calling for a report outlining appropriate follow-up options to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and resolution 62/270 that requested an evaluation of existing cooperation mechanisms on international migration and development. The report surveyed the work of relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system on international migration and development, and concluded that, as a result of the 2006 High-level Dialogue, work on international migration and development had become more prominent in the work programme of many of the entities surveyed and such work was increasingly being focused on the migration-development nexus. Mr. Guest thanked all participants for providing valuable input for the preparation of the report.

In order to identify follow-up options to the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the Population Division canvassed Member States of the United Nations and observers using a short questionnaire that was distributed through the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and through the national focal points designated for the Global Forum. As of the 15 July 2008, the deadline for submission of replies, 64 Member States had responded. On the basis of the responses received, three main follow-up options were identified: (a) to continue including an item on international migration and development on the agenda of the General Assembly; (b) to give special consideration to ideas and initiatives generated by the Global Forum on Migration and Development in the deliberations of the General Assembly on international migration and development; and (c) to conduct periodically a high-level dialogue on international migration and development in the General Assembly so as to take stock of advances made





Days in Manila. The representative of ICMC noted that his organization had become involved rather late in the preparation process, so that by the time it joined the organizing committee, most of the decisions regarding the structure of the Civil Society Days, including the designation of paper writers and chairs for

Mexico remained as the top three remittance recipient countries, attracting more than US\$20 billion each in 2008. Yet none of them had an economy heavily dependent on remittance. In contrast, in smaller economies, such as Moldova, Tajikistan or Tonga, remittances accounted for more than 30 per cent of GDP in 2007 and changes in their volume could have severe economic effects on them.

Mr. Ratha confirmed that total remittances to Mexico had declined in recent months, owing in part to the slowdown in the construction sector in the United States. However, the average amount sent to Mexico per worker had remained at about US\$340 to US\$350 per month. In times of crisis entrepreneurs generally did not lay off first low skilled workers earning low wages. Furthermore, even during an economic downturn, migrants might consider that they were better off in the countries of destination where they had more opportunities to earn money to help their families than back home. Tighter border controls also reduced their propensity to repatriate.

Mr. Ratha concluded by saying that the global economic and financial crisis would affect remittances, but that the depth and extent of the crisis remained uncertain and that its impact would likely vary by country, geographic region and employment sector.

During the discussion, Mr. Ivo Havinga of the United Nations Statistics Division said that official remittance data tended to underestimate the actual size of remittance flows. Following a request from the G7 countries in June 2004, an international working group was created to improve the quality of remittance data. This working group, known as the “Luxembourg Group”, had recommended that three new categories of remittances—personal remittances, tota



## V. RESPONDING TO POLICY CHALLENGES: ESTIMATING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FLOWS

Mr. George Lemaitre of the OECD described one of the recent initiatives of OECD regarding the improvement of international migration data and estimates. He noted that in many of the OECD Member States, migration statistics were generated from population registers and disseminated classified by place of birth, citizenship, sex or age. However, those statistics lacked comparability across countries because of the differences in regulations establishing who could register or deregister. In Germany, for instance, people establishing themselves in the country could register if their stay was longer than 7 days. In Belgium the lower limit for registration was three months and it was four months in Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Such differences produced flow statistics on international migration that were misleading when compared among countries.

comparability in terms of a duration of stay criterion, thus following the spirit of the 1998 United Nations *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision I*. She remarked that permit data only reflected the legal component of migration flows whereas population registers could include migrants who were not necessarily in a regular situation. She concurred that the analysis of temporary migration flows and of migrants adjusting their status was important and asked whether OECD would make its estimates available to researchers. Mr. Lemaitre replied that the estimates would be posted on-line after they were analysed to ensure they were correct.

The representative of IUSSP asked about the impact that the adjustment of foreign students to permanent or potentially permanent status had on the OECD estimates. Mr. Lemaitre replied that student retention rates were low: Japan had the highest rate of retention of foreign students after they had completed their studies but in other countries, only between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of students gained permanent or potentially permanent status after they completed their studies. The representative of the ICMC suggested that estimates of migrant workers should include whatever data might be available on undocumented migrants. Mr. Lemaitre replied that only the United States regularly published estimates on the flow of undocumented migrants. In European countries, data that might shed some light on the inflows of undocumented migrants were usually scattered in different ministries or agencies and there had been no attempt to bring them together.

VI.



Migration and Development, which gave rise to the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development whose first meeting had been held in Brussels, Belgium, in 2007.

Ms. Thouez said that UNITAR supported follow-up to the High-level Dialogue through a number of initiatives, such as its collaborative work with ILO, IOM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in carrying out the International Migration Policy Programme. This programme, which ran from 1998 to 2005, was aimed at building the capacity of Governments of developing countries to address migration and refugee issues. During 2004-2005, UNITAR provided secretariat support for GCIM. In 2005, the Migration and Development Seminar Series was launched to promote policy debate on various facets of international migration among New York's diplomatic community in preparation for the High-level Dialogue. The success of the Series kept it going even after the Dialogue had passed. Looking to the future, Ms. Thouez informed participants that, with the support of the Government of Spain and IOM, UNITAR would extend the Seminar Series to other United Nations duty stations. UNITAR was also offering international migration law courses at United Nations Headquarters and in other United Nations locations. Those courses provided diplomats and other stakeholders with in-depth knowledge of relevant international legal instruments as well as with practical skills on how to implement them. UNITAR was also planning to organize regional workshops to follow-up on the outcomes of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Lastly, UNITAR was considering developing internet-based learning tools on international migration (e-learning).

The Commission, supported by the Center for Global Development and funded by the MacArthur Foundation, focused on the state of migration statistics and what types of data were needed to provide researchers and policy-makers an adequate empirical basis from which to assess the impact of international migration on countries of origin and those of destination. Mr. Massey said that despite numerous efforts, international migration statistics remained weak and that there were more reliable statistics on the movement of goods and services than on the movement of people. The Commission had adopted five key recommendations:

1. That censuses include questions on place of birth, country of citizenship and place of residence



do so became available immediately. In the absence of such funding, it was more expedient to study migration from Africa using the data gathered by countries of destination in the developed world.

30 experts to discuss the linkages between international migration and development in the region. Papers prepared for the meeting and presentations made at it had been posted on [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).

The representative of the United Nations Statistics Division of DESA said that the Division developed statistical methods and standards, carried out the compilation and dissemination of data, assisted in building statistical capacity, and coordinated statistical programmes and activities throughout the United Nations system. Two key outputs of the Division were the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1* published in 1998, presenting recommendations on how to improve statistics on international migration flows and on the stock of international migrants, and the report entitled *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, published in 2008, that defined the core international standards for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. The Statistics Division had also published the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* in 2002, providing guidelines for the compilation and dissemination of statistics on international trade in services. The Division was currently working on a technical report on the use of censuses and surveys for the generation of statistics on international migration, which also presented best practices for using censuses and surveys to study international migration. The Division compiled data on international migrant stocks primarily via questionnaires sent to national statistical offices. The census data gathered were available through the Demographic Yearbook database, accessible on-line. In regard to capacity-building and coordination of statistical activities, the Division had held a series of workshops on core census topics. Specialized workshops on the measurement of international migration based on a forthcoming handbook were being planned.

The representative of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa noted that international migration had become an important issue for Africa, especially since reports of African migrants seeking to enter Europe became common in the media. He underscored the importance of dialogue on international migration across regions, adding that a dialogue between Northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa was under way but noting that the dialogue between the European Union and the African Union seemed to be a “dialogue of the deaf”. What began as a relatively small flow of Africans migrating to Europe had become a large stream. Healthcare professionals, in particular, were leaving Africa for OECD countries in significant numbers. The irregular situation of migrants from Africa and the participation of women in all types of migration flows from the continent made the consideration of the respect for human rights and a gender perspective mandatory. The representative stressed that African countries required assistance to develop the systems that would yield relevant and timely data on international migration and to conduct the necessary research on international migration.

The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said that the Office continued to work with Member States, migrants and civil society to defend the human rights of international migrants and secure ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. As of 2008, the Convention had been ratified by 39 Member States, most of which were developing countries, and ratification by a few more Member States was expected. In November 2007, the Committee on Migrant



family members of migrants who remained in the country of origin, especially children, adolescents and women. Also of interest to UNICEF was the migration of unaccompanied minors. The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy, was conducting research on the independent migration of minors between and within developing countries and was carrying out work on the improvement of statistics by age in OECD countries.

The representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) noted that that women and men were affected differently by the migration experience. Women were more likely to face discrimination throughout the migration process in both countries of origin and destination. UNIFEM was implementing a multi-year programme to empower female migrant workers in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Indonesia, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand. UNIFEM was an active advocate for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other instruments to safeguard women migrants' rights. In particular, UNIFEM ensured that concern for migrant women was part of the CEDAW review process. At the regional level, UNIFEM provided technical assistance to the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to ensure that gender was mainstreamed in the recently adopted Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.<sup>3</sup> UNIFEM was working with recruitment agencies in Asia to develop a Covenant of Ethical Conduct and Good Practices of Overseas Employment Service Providers<sup>4</sup> that set standards for the recruitment of migrant workers. At the country level, UNIFEM had worked with the Governments of Indonesia and Nepal to implement policies on female migrant workers. UNIFEM supported associations of female migrant workers in advocating for the protection of their rights. A High-level Forum on Women Migrant Workers, organized by UNIFEM and with the participation of representatives of Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon and the United States and Women's March (n)-8( )TJ0.120

expected to urbanize rapidly in the future. Internal migrants moved to cities in search of work but, in many developing countries, they usually found it only in the informal sector. Generally, municipal governments were responsible for providing basic services, but they often lacked the financial resources to do so and could not count on the support of central governments. Inadequate housing and lack of basic services were among the most important problems faced by both internal migrants and international in the areas of destination. There was a need for research of the urban dimension of international migration that could be translated into practical strategies to improve outcomes for migrants. The representative concluded by noting that the next Global Urban Forum would be held in Brazil in 2010.

### C. Regional Commissions of the United Nations

The representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reported that the number of international migrants in the region had increased from 21 million in 2000 to almost 26 million in 2005, constituting 13.6 per cent of the nearly 190 million international migrants in the world in 2005. CELADE, the Population Division of ECLAC, was working on the following migration-related topics: (a) follow-up to the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2006; (b) follow-up to the high-level Ibero-American meetings held in Spain (2005), Uruguay (2006) and Chile (2007), and (c) implementation of a Development Account project on international migration and development in collaboration with all other regional commissions and the Population Division of DESA. The project aimed at strengthening national capacities by improving the quality and availability of data on international migration; enhancing capacities to design and implement migration policy, and promoting cooperation through effective intra-regional and inter-regional networks involving migration experts and government officials in countries of origin and destination who would benefit from the exchange of information, studies, experience and best practices.

The representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported that the Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on International Migration and Development was the highlight of its 2008 activities. The meeting, jointly organized with the United Nations Population Division and IOM and hosted by the Government of Thailand, took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in September 2008 and brought together representatives of 22 ESCAP Member States. The meeting served to build the capacity of Member States planning to attend the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development that took place in Manila, the Philippines, at the end of



assessment of thematic issues relevant to the region. In 2009, ESCAP was planning to organize an Expert Group Meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as the outcome document of the Asia-Pacific Population

The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said that FAO carried out technical projects and published reports and policy guidelines on migration related to agriculture, agricultural policy and rural development. FAO was particularly interested in the role of remittances in supporting rural livelihoods and access to land; on the sustainable management of natural resources to improve food security in rural communities; on ways of strengthening rural enterprises; on measures to safeguard the rights of migrants, including the right to food and the prevention of abuse and exploitation when engaged in agricultural labour; on the productive use of remittances, and improving coherence between policies fostering rural development and migration policies.

The representative of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) reported that UNWTO focused increasingly on the relationship between international migration and tourism. Thus, it

one regional consultative process. In 2008, IOM had published a number of studies and reports, including the flagship publication *World Migration Report*, which focused on managing labour mobility. A second publication, entitled *Migration and Development: Achieving Policy Coherence* promoted development-friendly migration policies. The *Compendium of International Migration Law Instruments* provided a comprehensive compilation of universal instruments focusing on the rights and obligations of international migrants as well as those of States. The publication entitled the *Human Rights of Migrant Children* provided an overview of the international legal framework for the protection of child migrants. IOM had also published a report entitled *Migration and Climate Change*, which presented possible future scenarios for on the effects of climate change on natural disasters and migration. IOM was working with the Government of Mauritius and the European Commission to establish a circular migration programme between France and Mauritius. In 2009, IOM expected to undertake research on forced migration and humanitarian concerns and the on the effects of the economic and financial crisis on international migration.

The representative of the League of Arab States (LAS) noted that migration was a subject of great importance to the region. Member States included countries of origin, destination and transit of migrants, and therefore faced different challenges and opportunities. The Population Policies and Migration Department (PPMD) of the LAS had established an Arab Observatory for International Migration in order to collect migration data and support capacity-building in Arab countries. In 2008, LAS and IOM had convened the Arab Regional Governmental Experts Meeting on International Migration in preparation for the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The LAS also organized the Arab Ministerial Meeting for Migration and Expatriates in 2008 to coordinate labour mobility between Arab countries and held an annual capacity-building workshop for Arab government officials working on



The project had three stages. Mapping: what formal and informal mechanisms existed and how did they relate to each other and to wider governance? Consultations: how did States use different institutions and what were the main strengths and weaknesses of those institutions? Dissemination: how could the results of the project be best disseminated to have an impact? Working papers, reports and a book would summarize the findings from the project and be presented at various policy briefings and workshops.<sup>6</sup> Mr. Betts cited two working papers already published: *Towards a 'Soft Law' Framework for the Protection of Vulnerable Migrants* (Betts, 2008a) and *International Cooperation in the Global Refugee Regime* (Betts, 2008b).

#### IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

In her concluding remarks, the Director of the Population Division thanked all participants for their presentations and contributions to the discussion. She noted with gratitude the wealth of information presented and requested that participants identify key messages that could be easily conveyed to Governments. She also expressed concern about a certain tendency to suggest that the economic benefits of international migration were antithetical to human rights. International migration did not occur in a vacuum: it was a response to the human desire to earn better wages, accumulate wealth and improve one's living conditions. Respect of the rights of migrants made destination countries more attractive to them. Without fully safeguarding the rights of migrants, the full economic benefits of migration could not be achieved. She added that international migration presented challenges and opportunities for development and that there was no single solution to the challenge.









## **INFORMATION PAPERS**



## **AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**



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## **LIST OF PAPERS**

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**PART TWO**

**CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**



OVERVIEW OF WORK CONDUCTED BY THE  
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

## *1. Causes and consequences of migration*

When addressing the causes and consequences of migration, it became clear that the links between migration, development and environmental factors are varied. Two years after the High-level Dialogue, which stressed the win-win-win potential of migration for countries of origin, destination and migrants alike, discussions at the series in 2008 converged around the message that migration should not be overplayed as a factor in the development process and migration should be considered a symptom rather than a cause of development failure. It was underlined that the responsibility for development remains with states, not migrants. Migration cannot be the driver of development; rather, policy needs to create other options, including the option not to migrate. This skepticism was partly based on the observation that the transfer of economic and social capital from individual migrants to the wider society remains largely uncertain. Indeed, experts were cautious regarding the degree to which micro-level development gains deriving from migration, i.e. through remittances to individual households, translate into macro-level development and a transformation of society in countries of origin.

Targeted investments in migrants' skills and capacities under temporary labour migration programmes were considered a promising approach if combined with reintegration assistance in countries of origin. In addition, countries of destination should tackle the problem of underemployed migrants outside of managed migration programmes. Measures to reduce the costs for sending and receiving remittances, and support for pooled and matched remittance flows should be accompanied by incentives to reduce dependency behaviour and to create jobs in countries of origin.

While the interlinkages between development and climate and environmental factors are widely recognized, migration remains a mostly unknown variable in this equation. Indeed, the Migration and Development Seminars Series' discussion of this topic highlighted the need for further research on the ways in which environmental factors affect migration, and how migration can have an effect on environmental conditions. Current scenarios about future climate-induced mass migration flows were deemed highly speculative.

Evidence suggests that migration decisions are usually not mono-causal, but influenced by multiple factors. Socio-economic and political conditions in both the country of origin and destination, as well as intervening factors such as immigration policies and transport infrastructures shape migration decisions and outcomes. Since migration is already part of individual and collective adaptation strategies to climate change and environmental hazards, legal frameworks and policies should be designed to accommodate this reality and to ensure that it can happen in a legal and safe manner.

## *2. Rights, protection and the principle of shared responsibility*

A major concern in the debate was the need for greater clarity about the legal frameworks applying and affording protection to those affected by environmental hazards. Human rights instruments and other standards such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement<sup>1</sup>, identify relevant rights and obligations of states and other actors. However, despite the frequent use of terms such as “environmental refugee” or “climate change refugee” in academic and public discourse, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees does not apply in these cases.

In this context and others, the core responsibility of governments to guarantee, implement and



migration. In addition, governments should exercise oversight of international recruitment agencies through a licensing and monitoring mechanism. This could help end abusive bond practices by ensuring that recruitment fees are being charged to employers and not to the prospective migrant employee.

While legal instruments should be gender-neutral, policies should be gender-sensitive and take the different situations and needs of male and female migrants into account. In the case of labour migration, this should translate into labour laws

In addition, a number of country-level pilot projects are envisioned. The pilots will explore new areas of activity and innovative approaches based on, and leading to, the development of long-term and large-scale projects at the country level. In addition, it is planned to transfer and apply existing initiatives and good practices from one implementation context to another. Areas for exploration include:

DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

*United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the  
Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)*

A. FOLLOWING UP THE HIGH-LEVEL D

The project of UN-INSTRAW on Gender and Remittances: Building Gender-Sensitive Local Development was set up in the following countries: Albania, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal and South Africa, and produced reports focusing on female migrants and their families, including an analysis of remittance transfers and the impact of remittances on local rural development. In order to carry out these projects, UN-INSTRAW established partnerships with other United Nations agencies and civil society institu

important to consider marital status, offspring, education, relationships within the household, sexual division of labour and other sources of income available to the household in order to understand remittance patterns. These factors are part of the social, economic and political contexts in which the household is placed and which influence the different roles each society attributes to men and women.

*c. Sending patterns of remittances*

The sex of the migrant affects the volume, frequency and sustainability of remittances over time. Although the amount sent by men and women is often the same, women send a larger part of their salary than men. For all of the cases analysed, this implies a greater effort by women, given the wage discrimination which they often suffer in the destination countries. Women's remittance strategy is sustained by keeping a tight control over expenses, while men reserve greater amounts of money for personal spending, and often requires perseverance in their jobs as live-in domestic workers in order to save as much as possible. This strategy of women might be detrimental to their overall well-being negatively affecting advances in their careers as professionals, investments in education or capacity-building or construction of social capital which would allow them to access other labour sectors outside of domestic service and would also allow them be more integrated into the host society. Hence, this strategy implies high costs for migrant women in terms of their personal well-being, even more so than their male counterparts, and respond 0 Twc5vi for mctcJ0nterparearms of their hc005 entalrkers0st soc2(re soein-1.153 ,a000



POLICY AND PROGRAMME WORK ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT BY  
THE UNITED NATIONS C





awareness of the need for holistic legal and policy frameworks and investment in order to assure the human rights of children and adolescents in at-risk communities.

UNICEF, in moving forward on the mandates of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is also supporting capacity-building and advocacy on the social protection and human rights dimensions of migration as it affects children and adolescents. This includes exchanges between policymakers, stakeholders and other partners in countries of origin, transit and destination (i.e. South-South exchanges). These policy activities have raised the profile of child migration issues at country and regional levels and have strengthened institutional support for sustainable human development and the protection of the rights of children affected by migration processes.

of Mexico. UNICEF along with other stakeholders stressed that policy must be shaped in accordance with human rights principles as well as the best interests of the child; it must be developed and implemented via effective inter-institutional coordination, and additionally, an adequate legal framework is essential in protecting the rights of children affected by migration.

#### *5. Research and policy initiatives on the rights of children affected by migration*

UNICEF is examining the effects of migration on children from a human rights-based perspective. Within the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other human rights instruments, the research conducted by UNICEF promotes the protection of the rights of child migrants and children left behind, as well as the prevention of child trafficking. This policy research and exchange of experiences among countries in the South will contribute to the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks as well as support the efforts of governments and civil society in upholding legislative reform for the realization of the rights of children affected by migration. This also includes working on protecting and respecting the human rights of migrant children, irrespective of their migration status as well as assessing deprivations and inequities by focusing on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In countries of transit and destination, UNICEF is collaborating with the United Nations country team in South Africa and local authorities to address acts of racism, xenophobia and other forms of related intolerance directed at migrants, particularly migrant children and adolescents. In this regard, information and awareness-raising campaigns are being promoted in various countries together with local partners, for instance in Senegal and South Africa.

#### *6. Independent child migration between and within developing countries*

Children who migrate and live away from their parents or legal or customary adult guardians are often termed independent child migrants. In seeking livelihoods and other rewards from migration, independent child migrants adopt many adult responsibilities. Although seemingly adult in purpose, they are children with respect to many of their individual attributes, their legal rights and status and in terms of the social protections or restrictions that may apply to them. Research conducted by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy explores the circumstances of such children in developing countries, and analyses the social and economic significance of their migration.

#### *7. A statistical portrait of children in migrant families in selected OECD countries*

Migrant children in more developed countries can experience substantial social exclusion, suggesting the need for more strongly inclusive policies and programmes. A study by the Innocenti Research Centre, involving Australia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, considers the situation of children in immigrant families of different origin based on data from censuses and population registers. The study focuses on the social situation of children with regard to language, civic participation, education, employment, poverty and housing. Through review of existing literature, the initiative also takes stock of factors that may lead to the social exclusion of children in immigrant families.

#### *8. Research and advocacy to fight trafficking of children and women*

Many children and women leave their homes in search of a better life only to find themselves deceived or forced by traffickers to work in the sex industry. UNICEF and partners aim to expose the reality of human trafficking and to encourage legal and policy action as well as social mobilization to prevent and address human rights violations.



## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> See the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on this unit, see <http://tcdc.undp.org/> (accessed 27 February 2009).

<sup>3</sup> For more information on this fund, see <http://www.undp.org/mdgf/docs/MDGF-FrameworkDocument.doc> (accessed 27 February 2009).

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## REFERENCE

Context  
At

## *Component 1: Estimating the Number of International Migrant Children*

The scarcity of reliable national-level data on international migration has motivated UNICEF to establish a partnership with UN/DESA to estimate the incidence and magnitude of child migration internationally. At the operational level, this initiative continues to benefit from a fruitful collaboration with the World Bank and the University of Sussex, primarily through the contribution of data.

### Data Collection

Data collection is a vital part of the project, ensuring that the maximum amount of empirical data is taken into account when estimating the

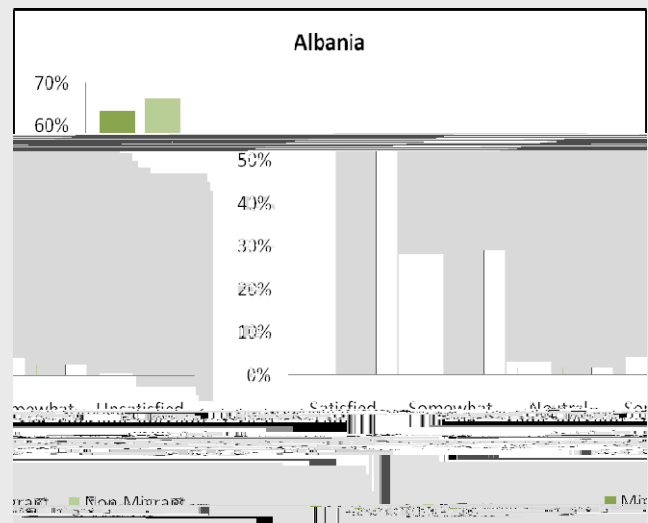
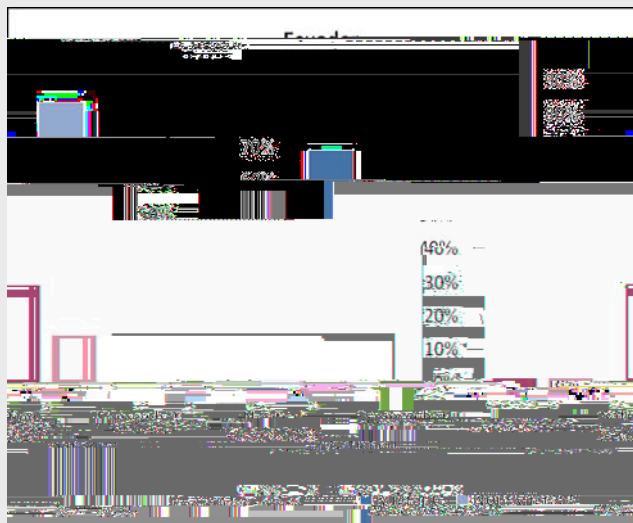
## *Component 2: The Impact of International Migration on the Left behind*

UNICEF pilot surveys implemented in Ecuador and Albania constitute the first efforts to measure the number of children left-behind. Also, in gathering quantitative and qualitative data on the impact of migration on these children's well-being, we have made important strides in comprehensively assessing the impact of migration on sending-country households, particularly on children left behind.

An important feature of the instrument used in these measurement efforts is that it is grounded in UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) methodological scaffolding, and hones in on international migration's material and psycho-social impact on the left-behind. This instrument and the methodology it espouses complement traditional MICS modules focusing on other important issues (such as education, child

## Preliminary Results of the Pilot Surveys in Ecuador and Albania

The following graphs illustrate the impact that migration has on child life-satisfaction for children of migrant and non-migrant households. Overall, the results of the pilot survey in Ecuador suggest that migration, on average, has significant impacts on child life-satisfaction. On the other hand, in Albania, the data suggest that children from migrant households seem to be less satisfied; however the differences are not statistically significant. The pilot study's small sample size was not sufficient to extrapolate general findings for the overall population. Yet the hints of significant patterns are recognizable and justify further research in the hope that definitive conclusions – with major implications for policy – may be drawn.



### Preliminary Results

In Ecuador, nearly equal numbers of the focus group's participants recognized that migration has both positive and negative impacts. Children between and 10 years of age were more inclined to point to the positive impacts of migration than dwell on its negative impacts. By contrast, older participants were more likely to reference migration's negative impacts than its positive impacts.

The positive impacts of migration were linked to the material benefits resulting from remittances. As with their Ecuadorian counterparts, children in Albania between the ages of 8 and 12 were more likely to highlight the positive economic aspects of migration than its negative impacts. Although older participants mainly highlighted migration's economic benefits, they were more specific in describing its negative impacts on the left-behind.

### Next Steps

These methodological results, which are being validated by a group of experts on the subject, point to the need to assess migration's material and psychosocial impacts on the left-behind among migrant families – as compared to conditions in non-migrant households. Thus far, there is substantial evidence to suggest that the impact of international migration extends beyond purely material



POLICY AND PROGRAMME WORK ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION BY THE  
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

*United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)*

This paper is divided into three parts. The first provides an overview of the work of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the second highlights its body of policy and programme work on international migration in Asia, and the third situates the work of UNIFEM in the context of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York in 2006, the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Brussels, Belgium in 2007 and in Manila, the Philippines in 2008.

A. OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION

The United Nations Development Fund for Women is the women's fund at the United Nations. It is mandated to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the national, regional and international agendas and in the work of the United Nations system. The goal of UNIFEM in its strategic plan for 2008-2011 is to facilitate the implementation and accountability on national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in three core areas: (a) promoting women's economic rights and security; (b) eliminating violence against women, including halting the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and (c) promoting gender-responsive democratic governance in stable and politically fragile countries.

B. THE PROGRAMME ON EMPOWERING WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS IN ASIA

*1. Background*

Given its mission and mandate, and in response to the feminization of migration flows in Asia, UNIFEM has been implementing the UNIFEM Asia Pacific and Arab States Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia since 2001. The programme seeks to empower women migrant workers by strengthening policies and institutional and social environments in favour of women migrant workers—especially female domestic workers—to claim their rights and entitlements. Currently in its second phase, the programme works in partnership with national governments, regional intergovernmental mechanisms, civil society, the private sector and other international organizations in nine countries in the region—Bangladesh and Nepal in Southern Asia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand in South-Eastern Asia, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China in Eastern Asia, and Jordan in Western Asia.

*2. Key results of the programme*

At the global level, UNIFEM advanced the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and various other non-CEDAW mechanisms which address women migrants' rights. In particular, CEDAW adopted general recommendations on migration due to advocacy work by UNIFEM, such as convening regional and global multi-stakeholder meetings, including the involvement of the then Special Rapporteur on Migration, Ms. Gabriella Rodriguez, and providing technical assistance to the drafting of the recommendations. UNIFEM also made sure that

concern for women was integrated into the CEDAW review process. Seven of the nine programme countries (whose reporting cycle to the CEDAW Committee coincided with the programme time frame) reported on women migrant concerns, and these concerns were followed up by the CEDAW Committee. Addressing women migrants' concerns was new to the CEDAW review process and resulted from programme advocacy and capacity-building with governments and non-governmental organizations on the use of CEDAW to address women migrants' concerns. The programme also developed two important publications on CEDAW and migration. The first was a review of how migration was addressed within the CEDAW process and the second showed how the Convention could be effectively invoked to address the rights of women migrants. Lastly, governments and non-governmental organizations in Asia were trained on how the Convention could be effectively invoked to address the rights of women migrants. In the next step, training modules will be developed with national partners to ensure that these training modules are used in national institutions.

At the regional level, UNIFEM was involved in a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue among and between countries of origin and employment focusing on the protection of women migrant workers. The following lists examples of this work:

- (a) ASEAN Declaration on Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families was engendered. UNIFEM supported consultations among countries in Asia in this regard and provided technical assistance to engender the Declaration;
- (b) UNIFEM, in collaboration with the ASEAN Task Force on Migration ensured that gender concerns were adequately mainstreamed into the human rights instrument that is being developed for migration;
- (c) Labour Ministers of four Governments in Western Asia —Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates— publicly committed to introduce a Special Unified Working Contract for Migrant Domestic Workers at the High-level Regional Governmental Forum on Women Migrant Workers, Human Trafficking and Labour Reform co-organized by Jordan's Ministry of Labour and the United Nations Development for Women–Arab States Office held in Amman, Jordan, from 27 to 28 March 2007. This working contract is to be modeled on the legally enforceable Special Unified Working Contract for Migrant Domestic Workers introduced by the Ministry of Labour in Jordan;
- (d) Upon request from the Thai Ministry of Labour, UNIFEM assisted in preparing a draft amendment to existing labour contracts for migrant workers in Thailand. The collaboration between UNIFEM and the Thai Government was the result of a regional meeting of South-Eastern and Western Asian countries of employment organized by the Thai Ministry of Labour and UNIFEM in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to share good practices on protecting women migrant workers; advocacy efforts are currently underway for adoption of this proposed contract;
- (e) The Regional Consultation of Recruitment and Placement Agencies on Good Practices to Protect Women Migrant Workers, supported by UNIFEM, was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 14 to 15 November 2005. The participating national associations of recruitment and placement agencies adopted the Covenant of Ethical Conduct and Good Practices of Overseas Employment Service Providers.<sup>1</sup> The Covenant commits agencies to support human rights instruments, uphold laws and adopt good practices for recruitment. Follow-up to implement this covenant is under way;
- (f) UNIFEM contributed to engendering the report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) through active participation in the regional hearings of the Global Secretariat

on Migration for the Asia Pacific and the Arab region and the Expert Group Meeting on Gender and Migration organized by the Secretariat of GCIM in Geneva.

At the national level, UNIFEM was involved in the following projects:

- (a) UNIFEM analysed trends in female migration, including policy reviews and published its findings for five of the eight programme countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal);
- (b) Based on the before mentioned studies, gender-sensitive national legislation promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers passed in two countries (Indonesia and Nepal), gender-sensitive provincial bills and draft village ordinances were passed in one country (Indonesia) and government consensus on the need for legislation to protect women emigrant workers was reached in two countries (Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- (c) UNIFEM assisted the Jordanian Government to amend its labour laws to recognize domestic labour as work and incorporate the protection for migrant domestic workers into the new law;
- (d) Jordan introduced a Special Unified Working Contract for Migrant Domestic Workers with

C. PARTICIPATION OF UNIFEM IN PREPARATION FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK IN 2006

As part of the regional preparations for the High-level Dialogue, UNIFEM made a presentation on Asia's Perspectives on the Gender Dimensions of International Migration at the sixty-second Commission meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 6 to 12 April 2006.

UNIFEM also participated in the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector on international migration and development, held in New York on 12 July 2006 as part of the preparatory process of the High-level Dialogue. The interventions by UNIFEM during the General Assembly hearing focused on promoting a

As a prelude to the Second Global Forum in Manila, the Philippines, in 2008 UNIFEM co-organized an International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities and Upholding Rights in Manila, the Philippines, from 25 to 26 September 2008. The meeting was co-organized with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, the Government of the Philippines and other organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Lola Grande Foundation, the Migrant Forum Asia, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Women and Gender Institute.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- (a) Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice in promoting opportunities and gender equality for women migrants, enhancing their contribution to development and upholding their rights and those of their families;
- (b) Infuse a gender perspective and rights-based approach to policies, programmes and services on migration;
- (c) Contribute to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the deliberations and outcomes of the Second Global Forum of Migration and Development held in Manila, the Philippines, from 27 to 30 October 2008.

The specific role of UNIFEM at the Second Global Forum was to: (a) initiate partnership between UNIFEM and the Government of the Philippines, i.e. through the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW); (b) forge partnership with other interested agencies; (c) provide financial and technical assistance (such as drafting the concept note, programme and conference statements, making plenary presentations on CEDAW and migration, and consulting with co-convenors, such as the -1.153 Tedhe objeea ts,

like domestic work were not defined as work and domestic workers were denied labour protection. Large numbers of women were recruited into sectors providing intimate services which invaded a woman's privacy and well-being in ways different from men working at construction or manufacturing sites. Convergence of living and work sites, the privatized nature of work and work linked to criminal networks enhanced surveillance of women, curtailed rights to privacy and liberty, lengthened the workday and reduced access to external assistance in comparison to men. Lower-paying jobs, debt bondage, lack of rest days are some of the other violations female migrant workers often endured. Many of these women had limited access to health services or reproductive health care and suffered injuries resulting from physical and sexual violence, domestic accidents and trauma from abuse; some even had to undergo compulsory pregnancy and HIV/AIDS testing. The statement further said that upon return to their countries of origin, their relationship with their husbands or family had often suffered as a result of migration and they were at times stigmatized within their communities. Many lacked access to and control over savings and remittances, spent their savings on conspicuous consumption or invested in productive assets in the name of male family members.

In light of the above, the statement urged governments to take immediate action in the following areas:

- (a) Pre-departure: build capacity of women migrants to cope with potential exploitation through awareness-raising on migration realities for women and pre-departure orientation programmes; provide rights-based, gender-sensitive pre-departure training; adopt and enforce regulations for recruitment agencies using incentives and disincentives and introduce compulsory registration for outgoing migration using incentives appropriate to men and to women;
- (b) On-site: enforce minimum labour standards that protect national and overseas migrant workers; include domestic workers under existing national laws or introduce protective legislation and legally enforceable government contracts for them, with appropriate monitoring and grievance redress mechanisms; reduce restrictions on migrant workers to socialize, associate and organize; ensure migrants' access to emergency health and legal services; ensure participation of migrants in social security and health insurance schemes; and improve services of diplomatic and consular missions to protect and assist migrants, especially women migrant workers;
- (c) Return and reintegration: provide socio-economic, legal and emotional support services to women migrant workers; establish remittance channels that are safe, simple, accessible and affordable to both women and men migrants; enhance returnee migrants' skills and productive investment opportunities that are gender- and market-responsive; provide support services to children and families left behind; and ensure that women migrants are represented on policy making bodies.

#### *1. Strategy to engender GFMD outcomes*

Strategies forged with the Filipino Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Filipino Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) to influence outcomes of GFMD included:

- (a) ICGMD Manila Call to Action received at the closing ceremony by the Chair-in-Office of the GFMD with the public commitment to include it in the Filipino statement and present a paper in Round table 1.1 of the GFMD on Protecting the

- (c) One-page summary of ICGMD issues and key recommendations prepared by UNIFEM for incorporation into the speech of the Filipino President and Vice-President at the GFMD;
- (d) Advocacy with governments to ensure that gender concerns were addressed in statements, round table discussions and recommendations;
- (e) Advocacy with and support to specific civil society events on gender.

## *2. Participation in the GFMD*

UNIFEM participated in the Global Forum in Manila, the Philippines, in 2008. The strategy for participation developed by the ICGMD in consultation with the Filipino DFA and DOLE a month prior to the Global Forum, yielded the following recommendations:

- (a) The speech of the President and Vice-President of the Philippines should include strong references to the ICGMD and the key recommendations of the Manila Call to Action;
- (b) The key note statements and the official paper of the Filipino Government at Round table 1.1 should call attention to gender issues and should make gender-sensitive recommendations;
- (c) Official government statements and interventions from France, Greece, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway and the Philippines should include references to the protection of women migrant workers;
- (d) The statement of the civil society at the Global Forum should focus on gender-sensitive policies, especially legal protection to migrant domestic workers;
- (e) The Manila Call to Action should be distributed at the Global Forum.

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### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> For the Covenant, see <http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/projects/migrant/Docs/Covenant%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct.pdf> (accessed 26 February 2009).

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9. Develop and implement gender responsive programmes for socio-economic and psychological support for sustainable re-integration of returning migrants to capitalize on skills they have gained and promote the evolution of gender roles and improve the status of women in the family. For returning migrants with a business orientation provide market information on the demand for services or products for sound business decisions on investments. Provide training on project management and leadership, skills needed to run a business and on how to develop and manage community based programmes. Make it easier for communities to access capital through links to funding sources from social entrepreneurs and public development funds;

10. Recognize and prepare gender responsive programmes for the relocation and re-integration of persons displaced by climate change;

5. Strengthen capacity of governments, in particular ministries such as labour, immigration, foreign affairs, the interior and labour inspectorates to screen and monitor employer/employee contracts and to address gender issues specific to migrant workers bearing in mind the multiple discrimination experienced by women migrant workers and their con



psycho-social support programmes for children of absent parents and raise awareness and capacities of fathers to effectively engage on domestic work and child care;

21. Reduce restrictions on migrant workers in destination countries to socialize, associate, organize and join trade unions and migrant organizations. Support partnerships between trade unions, migrant and Diaspora associations of sending and receiving countries and ensure they are gender responsive;

22. Examine laws and policies to ensure that there is a balance of both reward to good practice and cost to bad practice, with the end goal of enabling good CSR practice. Develop policies that hold corporations accountable for their supply chains – especially in respect to forced labor and trafficking – such as annual reporting on labor conditions in the supply chain and oversight to ensure accurate reporting. Address the relationship between trade, women and migration issues in order to develop further policy. Promote multi stakeholder partnerships between governments, NGOs, corporations, trade unions and academia to further the research agenda related to corporate social responsibility and its relationship to migrant women, forced labor and human trafficking and engage more strategically with corporations to address these issues;

23. Strengthen organizations of migrants and trade unions of migrant workers. Provide for their legal registration and recognition and ensure freedom by migrants', workers' and civil society organizations to operate, represent and promote the rights of migrants.



POLICY AND PROGRAMME WORK ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION F

UNFPA is supplementing its Policy Guidance Note on International Migration, which outlines the Fund's strategic direction in addressing international migration and suggests a number of future activities of UNFPA in this area. Concept notes are being prepared to address the linkages between international migration and gender, human rights, population ageing, HIV/AIDS and climate change.

Globally, UNFPA supports initiatives towards increased availability, dissemination and utilization of disaggregated data on migration for evidence-based policy dialogue, development planning and programme formulation. At the country level, UNFPA encourages its country offices to support activities that promote the establishment and maintenance of reliable databases on international migration and development. It also supports the enhancement of national capacity to integrate migration policy issues into national and sectoral development policies, strategies and programmes, including poverty reduction strategies.

UNFPA encourages its country offices to support operational research that fosters understanding of migration processes, including female migration, and addresses the needs of migrants, especially sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as well as studies that focus on: (a) the relationship between migration and development; (b) the root causes of migration; (c) the impact of migration on gender equality and women's empowerment; (d) measures to prevent human trafficking, especially of women and girls; (e) the human rights of migrants; (f) the challenges of irregular migration, and (g) the impact of migration on the environment.

UNFPA continues its collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and offers seminars on key migration issues for government delegates at the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York. These seminars are intended to provide government officials with a better understanding of the relationship between migration and development and a forum for discussion of important topics of concern to countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Fund is participating in the new European Commission–United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMEDI)<sup>1</sup>, which supports small-scale actors to contribute more fully to linking migration and development in line with international policy frameworks. The Joint Initiative seeks to help these groups, including local authorities, non-governmental organizations and transnational community organizations, to become more active and effective and to ensure that key stakeholders are fully informed of best practices in this area. It will provide an open forum to share news and information, collate information about existing migration and development initiatives, develop skills and provide mutual support.

### C. EMERGING ISSUES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Among the issues of concern to UNFPA are the following:

- (a) Migration as a force for development. Migration is increasingly seen as a development force, not a development failure. Remittances sent by migrants to their families often exceed official development assistance (ODA) and constitute the single largest source of financial flows to developing countries, exceeding foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in many countries. Migrants are also important "vehicles" for transmitting social remittances including new ideas, products, information and technology. However, while migration can aid development and reduce poverty, it can also broaden social inequity, particularly in sending countries. Discussions of the benefits and costs of migration typically focus on economic aspects. However, there are significant social costs of migration that are not always obvious: children without mothers,







ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA ON INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION: FOLLOW





migrants and considers them an integral part of national human resources. The NEPAD illustrates the ability of governments in Africa to put forth an innovative regional development framework. The framework document acknowledges the link between international migration and development in Africa and calls for improvements in health and education services, as well as for harnessing financial resources, including remittances, for Africa's development.

ECA focuses on the role of international migration in regional integration and development cooperation between countries. Research undertaken by the Commission defines international migration as part of regional integration, which calls for alleviation of the obstacles to trade liberalization, markets and the free movement of people between countries (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2004). Regional integration through the regional economic communities is an integral part of the AU Charter.

Some measures to promote labour mobility and free movement of people between countries have been undertaken by some of the Regional Economic Communities. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) —all have protocols and treaties on free movement of people and the right of residence in any of the member countries. ECOWAS has ratified its protocol on the free movement of persons, residence and establishment<sup>3</sup> and SADC countries allow their citizens visa-free entry for 90 days. However, the implementation of these protocols requires political will, which is largely lacking. Moreover, cooperation between countries and economic communities on free mobility of labour has been hindered by security considerations, lack of employment opportunities and competition for limited job opportunities.

The thinking of ECA on international migration and development is conditioned by the need to uphold the following key elements:

1. The human rights of international migrants and their families. Bilateral and multilateral agreements between sending and receiving countries must promote respect for human rights, including the right to affordable and accessible health services and healthy working and living conditions;
2. Cohesion and tolerance nurtured through highlighting the importance of integration and respect for diversity and multiculturalism;
3. Contribution to development, which extends beyond economic gains to include social welfare, cultural enrichment, health promotion and political stability;
4. Constructive engagement of member States. International migration should be brought to the arena of international development cooperation;

#### D. EMERGING ISSUES

As a result of the High-level Dialogue, human rights and regional integration have emerged as important topics directly related to migration. The High-level Dialogue has triggered demand for constructive engagement in dialogue on the links between international migration and development, to bring this nexus closer to the area of national development, regional economic and development integration and international development cooperation. Constructive engagement between countries and regions will lead to harmonization of national policies and regional frameworks. Also, the countries need to initiate programmes on human capital development, especially in the areas of health and education, in addition to partnerships in the areas of trade and financial systems.

Such initiatives can enhance the development impact of migration. For instance, transfer costs of remittances can be reduced by enacting agreements between the different parties involved and by establishing an integrated payment infrastructure. Developments of human and institutional capacities are essential for regional integration and development in Africa. Building such capacities requires long-term investment and the implementation of regional mechanisms and frameworks embodied in the NEPAD initiatives.

Development in Africa requires peace and stability, for which cohesion and tolerance are important. International migration involves people of different cultures. Therefore, the countries will need to formulate programmes to nurture respect for human rights, including the rights of international migrants and their families, multiculturalism, tolerance and social integration. This is important for achieving social harmony, peace and stability at the sub-regional and regional levels.

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ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION,  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*

Based on extensive experience conducting research, providing assistance and engaging in capacity-building, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) —Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)— has drawn up a work plan on international migration, human rights and development in line with the following objectives:

1. Following up resolution 615 (XXXI)<sup>1</sup> adopted at the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development in Uruguay in 2006;
2. Following up the mandates established at the high-level Ibero-American meetings;
3. Leading the development account project on migration and development in collaboration with the other regional commissions and the Population Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

A. FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 615 (XXXI) OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF  
THE COMMISSION MEETING OF ECLAC IN 2006

The documents presented at the thirty-first session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 20 to 24 March 2006 were summarized in the publication *International Migration, Human Rights and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Summary and Conclusions*<sup>2</sup>. The papers compiled in this document investigate the trends and problems associated with international migration and provide advice to governments in the region on how to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of international migration for development, within a human rights framework. The main message from ECLAC to the governments in the region is that international migration is both a development and a human rights issue, which requires implementing integrated actions within the Latin American and Caribbean context, broadening the free movement of people, maximizing the positive aspects of migration and protecting the human rights of all migrants.

Resolution 615 (XXXI) of the thirty-first session of the Commission supports the work done by ECLAC and calls for the countries in the region to ratify and adhere to international instruments related to international migration. It also establishes the creation of an inter-institutional group, coordinated by ECLAC, to monitor topics related to international migration and development in the region. The preparations for the implementation of this mandate started in 2007 and several United Nations agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were invited to participate.

ECLAC also published the book *International Migration, Human Rights and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*<sup>3</sup> that was presented in a preliminary form at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development held during the thirty-first session of the Commission of ECLAC in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2006.

## B. FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL IBERO-AMERICAN MEETINGS

ECLAC, through CELADE, has actively followed the Ibero-American Summits of Heads of State and Government, including those of Salamanca, Spain (2005), Montevideo, Uruguay (2006) and Santiago de Chile, Chile (2007). Those meetings recognized the importance of international migration within the Ibero-American community. ECLAC has established a relationship with the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), particularly through agreements and collaboration. In response to its mandate, ECLAC provided support for the organization of the Ibero-American Meeting on Migration and Development held in Madrid, Spain in July 2006, and the Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD) held in Cuenca, Ecuador, from 10 to 11 April 2008, which resulted in the launch of a migration plan known as the Cuenca Plan. At both events, the Commission proposed to place human rights at the core of the discussions on international migration among origin, transit and destination countries. This proposal recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to development, promotes full respect for migrants' human rights and advocates a central role for migrants in the migration process. It also calls for the identification and dissemination of best practices in the field of international migration.

At the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit held in Santiago, Chile, in 2007, the Heads of State and Government decided to include the following paragraph in the Declaration of Santiago, "... in accordance with the agreements of the fifteenth and sixteenth Ibero-American Summits, the member countries hereby adopt the text of the Multilateral Convention for Social Security and commit themselves to carrying out the internal procedures necessary for its prompt entry into effect".<sup>4</sup> ECLAC presented a study at this Summit on the estimated number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Convention. This document was well received and approved by the attending Heads of State and Government. The Programme of Action agreed at the seventeenth Summit instructed the Cuenca Forum to "devise an action programme on migration that, in keeping with the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development, promotes the protection of the human rights of migrants".<sup>5</sup> Article 48 of the same document requests that ECLAC, "in the framework of its powers and mandate, continue to support the Ibero-American Secretariat in the implementation of that Programme of Action".

In compliance with the provisions of the Montevideo Commitment and in close coordination with the Ibero-American Secretariat, CELADE conducted two studies that were presented at the 2008 Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development: a diagnosis of international migration in Ibero-America, with special emphasis on the marked increase in international migration in recent years and its demographic effects; and a study of the social and economic effects of migration in three destination countries in Ibero-America (Argentina, Costa Rica and Spain).

Some 400 people participated in FIBEMYD, including delegates of 22 Ibero-American countries and other countries, such as the Philippines and the United States of America, experts, academics, and representatives of international organizations and civil society. Senior officials of the Government of Ecuador, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat, the Director of CELADE and the Director of the Ibero-American Social Security Organization attended and spoke at the opening ceremony, which also included recorded greetings from the Presidents of Honduras and Spain. A tripartite agreement among SEGIB, ECLAC and IOM to follow up the Forum was signed.

In October 2008, ECLAC, together with SEGIB and IOM, presented the book entitled *I Foro Iberoamericano Sobre Migración y Desarrollo: Unidos por las Migraciones* (Ibero-American Secretariat, 2008). This book summarizes the work and results of the FIBEMYD meeting. The launch was held in

Madrid and attended by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.<sup>6</sup> The book was also presented at the eighteenth Ibero-American Summit held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 29 to 31 October 2008, at which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Cuenca Plan.

#### C. THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

During the 2009-2010 biennium, ECLAC, through CELADE, will lead the development account project *Strengthening National Capacities to Deal with International Migration: Maximizing Development Benefits and Minimizing Negative Impact*. The regional commissions (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)) and the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) will execute the project.

The objective of the project is to strengthen national capacities to incorporate international migration in national development strategies in order to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative effects of international migration. At the end of October 2008, upon receipt of the first allocation of funds, preparations started with the regional commissions and United Nations' partners for the initial meeting to launch the project.

The specific objectives of the project include a focus on female migration and promoting cooperation through an intra- and interregional network for the exchange of information, studies, policies, experiences and best practices between countries and regions.

The project's expected beneficiaries are governments, international and intergovernmental agencies, research centres, academic institutions, non-government organizations and civil society organizations working in migratory affairs.

#### D. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In recent years the number of Latin American and Caribbean migrants has increased from a total estimated 21 million migrants in 2000 to almost 26 million migrants in 2005, representing 13 per cent of the 200 million international migrants in the world estimated for 2005.

International migrants represented about one per cent of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2005 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2006). Latin American and Caribbean emigrants represented four per cent of the total population in the region in 2005. That is to say, for every international migrant in the region, four emigrants are found outside of the region. The exceptions to this pattern are Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Costa Rica in Latin America, and Bahamas, Barbados and Puerto Rico and other island states in the Caribbean. In these countries, the proportion of international migrants in the total population is close to 10 per cent and in some Caribbean island states, the proportion is even higher.

The statistics indicate that a high proportion of Latin American and Caribbean people are residing outside their country of origin. Many Caribbean countries have more than 20 per cent of their populations living abroad, while in Latin America, these percentages fluctuate between 8 per cent and 15 per cent.



STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES  
(OCTOBER 2008)

<b>Country</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>
Albania		2007	Jamaica		2008
Algeria		2005	Kyrgyzstan		2003
Argentina		2007	Lesotho		

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of the initiatives flourishing today: agreements need to be reached to establish







FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE 2006 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON



Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, whose members consist of 16 United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations.<sup>2</sup> The group met four times each in 2007 and 2008 and shared information on recent activities undertaken by the various organizations.

Under the leadership of ESCAP, the Regional Thematic Working Group produced the *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia*, which identified recent levels and patterns of international migration at national and subregional levels in the region (Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, 2008). The report, launched in October 2008, provides an overview of the multidimensional aspects of international migration. It provides a regional perspective on migration, including comparative information and statistics and covers cross-cutting topics such as gender, health and regional cooperation.

#### D. EMERGING ISSUES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

##### *1. Robust flows of migrant workers and remittances*

Key source countries of labour migration in the region have registered sharp increases in the outflows of migrant workers since the turn of the century (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2008b). In 2006 alone, over one million migrant workers left the Philippines. Annual labour migration from Bangladesh, mainly to the countries in Western Asia, some of them members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and Malaysia more than doubled, from 103,000 persons in 1990 to 252,000 persons in 2005, while in 2007 the numbers surged to over 800,000 persons. Indonesia sent over 712,000 workers abroad in 2006. Between 2000 and 2006, an annual average of 204,000 labour migrants left Sri Lanka, the majority of whom for a destination in the GCC countries. It is likely that such robust outflows of migrants are associated with the recent construction boom in the GCC countries, especially in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and the ensuing demand for workers.

In tandem with the increase in the demand for labour migrants, the Asian and Pacific region also experienced notable increases in remittance flows. The region remains one of the largest recipients of recorded remittances. In 2007, remittances sent by migrants to countries in the ESCAP region exceeded US\$121 billion, up from US\$110 billion in 2006, and more than twice the level reached in 2000 (The World Bank, 2008). In 2007, of the top 10 remittances recipient countries in the world, three were from the ESCAP region —China, India and the Philippines. Remittances to these countries accounted for more than half of the remittances received in the entire region. Significant remittance flows were also recorded in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Viet Nam. As a share of GDP, remittances were significant in several countries of origin, particularly in smaller economies such as Tajikistan (36 per cent), Tonga (32 per cent), Kyrgyzstan (27 per cent), Armenia (18 per cent) and Nepal (18 per cent). According to the World Bank (2008), after several years of strong economic growth, there has been a slowdown in remittance flows to developing countries, and it is expected that this trend will deepen further in 2009.

##### *2. The global financial crisis and international migration*

The recent global financial crisis is likely to affect cross-border mobility of people living in the region, but the empirical data to study such impact are not yet available. The effects may depend on the length of the crisis and may differ by sectors and sub-region.

Once the financial crisis leads to significant job losses, demand for foreign labour might decrease or governments might facilitate the return of migrants upon the completion of their contract. A slowdown in the economies of the GCC countries may occur with decreasing oil prices and might in turn lead to a decline in the number of construction projects being pursued, hence decreasing the demand for migrant

workers. Furthermore, employers may take advantage of the situation to reduce migrant workers' wages or benefits to alleviate their financial burden.

However, it may be useful to remember that the Asian economic crisis in 1997 did not change the fundamental trend toward greater mobility within the region. The labour recipient countries which were affected by the crisis (for instance, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand) continued to rely on unskilled migrant workers in export-oriented industries.

The impact of the financial crisis on the volume of remittances is also not straightforward. It is known that remittance flows tend to be more stable than capital flows and that they tend to be counter-cyclical, i.e. increasing during economic downturns or after a natural disaster in the migrants' countries of origin. The study also shows that the volume of remittances depends more on the stock of migrants than on the flows. Hence, even if the flows would decline due to the financial crisis, the volume of remittances may not be affected.

### *3. Marriage migration on the rise*

Migration for the purpose of marrying a foreign partner, known as "marriage migration", is on the rise in the region. Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China have all experienced a significant increase in international marriages, often between foreign women and local men. For example, in the Republic of Korea, 14 per cent of marriage ceremonies performed in 2005 took place between a Korean national and a foreign spouse (Kim, 2007). Many foreign brides come to the above countries from neighbouring developing countries —China, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

One important factor contributing to this trend is the sustained level of urbanization, coupled with impending depopulation of rural areas owing to low fertility and population ageing. In countries affected by these trends, men living in rural areas and involved in farming are often unable to find brides because local women increasingly prefer urban lifestyles. It is thus becoming more common for rural men to search for foreign brides.

However, the complexities of finding a foreign bride are myriad. The involvement and proliferation of brokers and private agencies fostering marriage migration has raised concerns over fraudulent marriages and the trafficking of women. Facing restrictive policies, aspiring migrants may use marriage to gain residence in another country. Employers may also use marriage as a recruitment strategy. For receiving countries, the existence of spouses and children of internationally married couples often raises questions about settlement, integration and the future of multiculturalism.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> More information on the meeting and a copy of the Chairman's Summary are available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20080> (accessed 22 January 2009).

<sup>2</sup> The Regional Thematic Working Group consists of the following international and intergovernmental organizations: ESCAP (Co-chair), International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Co-chair), International Labour Organization (ILO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

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FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA  
RELATED TO THE

The bulletin also explained how international migration can be viewed as an opportunity for equitable social and economic development.

- Fact-sheet on *International Migration and Development in the Arab Region*

This fact-sheet was issued in 2007. It briefly examined current and projected international migration trends in the region, addressing labour migration to the Gulf countries, the impact of migration on the age and sex structure of the population, the impact of migration remittances and the causes and implications of the emigration of highly skilled workers in the Arab region.

- Paper on *Labour Migration in Arab Countries*

This paper was presented at the Sixth Session of the Social Development Committee, held in Amman, Jordan, from 5 to 7 March 2007. It focused on the economic and social implications of Arab labour migration and analysed national migration policies adopted by labour sending and labour receiving countries.

- Paper on *The Demographic and Socio-economic Implicati*

ESCWA will contribute to a paper on *International Mobility of Arab Youth in a Globalized World: Trends, Challenges and Potentials*. This paper, prepared by IOM, will analyse the underlying demographic, economic and social factors impacting migration in the Arab region, with special emphasis on youth. An analysis of the characteristics of young Arabs and their propensity to migrate will be provided, with a focus on gender, skills and levels of education. Main sending countries, such as Egypt, and receiving countries, such as Kuwait, will be analysed looking at factors such as education, duration of stay, as well as the role of youth in transnational communities. A section of the paper will analyse the impact of migration of young people on development in the Arab region, including the emigration of highly skilled workers. The paper will conclude with policy options for better management of migration of young people, including formulation of integrated policies that build on the individual capacities of migrant youth and address youth participation in the development process and their integration into public life. This paper will be presented during the Expert Group Meeting on Reinforcing Social Equity: Integrating Youth in the Development Process, to be organized by ESCWA in Doha, Qatar, on 8 January 2009.

Lastly, ESCWA and the International Organization for Migration are planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the near future. The MOU will explore various ways of collaboration between ESCWA and IOM in the area of international migration and development.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div\\_editor/Download.asp?table\\_name=other\\_ar&field\\_name=ID&FileID=376](http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other_ar&field_name=ID&FileID=376) (accessed 26 February 2009) (in Arabic).

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Working together with the private sector

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT LOAN AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Country	Project name	Project number	Approval date	IDB contribution (in US\$)
Argentina	Expansion and Strengthening of a Microfinance Institution FIE	TC0305019	19-Nov-03	2,590,640
Bolivia	Development of Services to Improve Remittances Access and Management	BO-M1006	28-Oct-05	291,610
Brazil	Remittances and Training for Brazilian Migrants and their Beneficiaries	BR-M1032	27-Apr-06	470,000
Brazil	Investment Fund – REIF	TC0004002	16-May-01	4,374,000
Brazil	Dekassegui Entrepreneurs	BR-M1021	3-Mar-05	3,100,000
Colombia		CO-M1022	47a 0.0.M4c0ariMC ces and 57a 11	15.76 6



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CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL O

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.<sup>4</sup>

B. M



complementary analytical paper<sup>7</sup> 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 development and give access to foreign labour markets, at all skill levels, while controlling irregular migration and protecting the human and social rights of migrants.

In addition, IOM recently contributed to a workshop focusing on development benefits through circular migration, organized by the Government of Mauritius and the European Commission (EC). Participants from all over the world participated and exchanged experiences and good practices of concrete policies, legislation and programmes to manage circular migration. Concrete opportunities for the establishment of operational projects involving countries of origin and destination were identified. IOM is working with the EC, the Government of Mauritius and other partner agencies to further develop experience and analysis on circular migration.

## 2. *World Migration Report 2008*

The flagship publication of IOM entitled *World Migration 2008: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy*, provides an overview of current migration flows, with a particular emphasis on economically-motivated movements and discusses policy strategies contributing to the effective management of international labour mobility. The report argues that what is needed for effective migration management are planned and predictable means of matching labour demand with labour supply in a safe, legal and orderly manner in which the rights and the dignity of individuals are also respected. The report both draws on and feeds into other activities and programmes of IOM, including the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), which in 2007 was guided by the same theme (i.e. Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy)<sup>8</sup>.

## E. INTER-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP

IOM is mandated by its member States to address migration in its multiple facets. The Organization recognizes the expertise of other agencies and entities on various aspects of migration and welcomes their involvement in this debate. Especially the GMG can play a key role in emphasizing the benefits of migration, for example by optimizing coherence and complementarities in policies and programming. In 2008, the GMG agencies jointly published a report entitled *International Migration and Human Rights. Challenges and Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as a contribution to the second GFMD. In addition to cooperation with other agencies in the framework of the GMG, IOM also separately undertakes projects in collaboration with individual agencies and organizations depending on the topic under consideration (see above).

## F. THE EMERGING ISSUE OF MIGRATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

IOM has addressed linkages between the environment and human mobility for a long time. The growing certainties regarding the realities of climate change prompted IOM to devote greater attention to migration and environment issues and to their strong links with the Organization's other areas of work, in particular migration and development. In 2008, the work of IOM on migration, the environment and climate change included policy and research activities, direct humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters and community projects in areas of high migration pressure, many of which helped communities to strengthen their coping capacity once affected by environmental degradation. These activities were carried out in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental partners from the humanitarian, environment and development communities.

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 2008<sup>9</sup>, the

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## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE ARAB REGION

### *League of Arab States (LAS)*

#### A. BACKGROUND

The Arab Observatory for International Migration was launched by the Population Policies and Migration Department of the League of Arab States (PPMD/LAS) a few years ago with the goal to execute the Arab Declaration for International Migration, adopted by the Arab Social and Economic Council in 2006, with the objectives to:

1. Filling the gap in migration data in the Arab region by continuously compiling and updating such data;
2. Capacity-building and sustaining the technical capabilities of the bodies dealing with migration in Arab countries;
3. Contributing in knowledge transfer in the international migration field;
4. Finding mechanisms to enhance the benefits of migration of highly-skilled migrants to promote the development in Arab countries and the Arab regional integration.

#### B. ACTIVITIES 2007-2008

##### *1. Advocacy and regional coordination activities*

PPMD, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized a Coordination Meeting on Fostering More Opportunities for Legal Migration in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 9 October 2008. The meeting was opened by Ms. Aisha Abdel Hadi, the Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Migration and attended by governmental representatives from 15 Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen), ambassadors from Asian and European countries and representatives from international and regional organizations<sup>1</sup>, in addition to a number of Arab experts interested in the field of international migration. The meeting's goal was to exchange information and experience and coordinate and unify the Arab position in preparation for the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Manila, the Philippines, in October 2008.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- (a) Evaluate the achievements and follow-up of the first meeting of the GFMD, held in Brussels, Belgium, in 2007, and highlight the different and successful experiences in the field of migration at the regional level;
- (b) Exchange information and discuss the most significant developments in the field of migration at the global level as well as in the Arab region;
- (c) Summarize common views, suggestions and perceptions on regional issues in preparation for the second meeting of the GFMD, held in Manila, the Philippines, in 2008;

- (d) Make suggestions to support the roles and activities of the Arab Observatory for International Migration implemented by PPMD/LAS.

The main outcome from this meeting was the adoption of a text, which was presented in Manila, the Philippines. The paper called for:

- (a) Inviting PPMD/LAS to convene an annual Arab Regional Governmental Experts Meeting on International Migration in order to discuss the GFMD's themes, coordinate the Arab vision for the Global Forum and identify best practices, policies and projects related to migration;
- (b) Enhancing flexible forms of migration and labour mobility, including creating opportunities for regular migration tailored to the needs and specific demands of economies and labour markets in receiving countries;
- (c) Implementing bilateral agreements and collective agreements for mobility of workers, as well as signing new agreements suitable to the needs and objectives of both sending and receiving countries, including new countries of destination;
- (d) Supporting partnership with organizations working in the field of migration in countries of origin in the Arab region, including collecting reliable data and assisting in their dissemination. Raising awareness through the media to inform about opportunities for regular migration and the dangers of irregular migration, and strengthening the capacity of institutions which benefit from the revenues of migration and to combat adverse effects of migration;
- (e) Encouraging the participation of migrants in development projects and programmes in their countries of origin through facilitating financial remittances, investment opportunities and making use of the skills acquired in the countries of destination.

The LAS organized the Arab Ministerial Meeting for Migration and Expatriates in Cairo, Egypt, from 17 to 18 February 2008. The meeting was opened by Mr. Amre Mousa, Secretary-General of the LAS and Ms. Aish Abdel Hadi, Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Migration. The meeting was attended by migration and labour ministers, parliamentarians and other officials in charge of migration in the Arab countries.

The meeting aimed at:

- (a) Informing participants about recent research in the field of migration and development as observed at the global and regional level;
- (b) Gaining support of decision-makers for more effective policies to magnify the benefits of migration, especially the migration of experts, and to confront its negative repercussions;
- (c) Presenting experiences in the field of migration in Arab countries and supporting coordination, cooperation and exchange in this regard;
- (d) Approving strategic and common charters and resolutions to remedy migration issues in the Arab region.

The meeting adopted the following recommendations and decisions:

- (a) Request PPMD/LAS to prepare a study on the regional aspects of migration of highly-skilled workers;
- (b) Establish an Arabic network for the labour market, which will be implemented by the Arab

- (b) Causes of skilled emigration. How are skilled persons encouraged to migrate to another country? Are they directly attracted through job offers or through other channels? Did this migration result from Arabs studying abroad?
- (c) Current situation of transnational communities and their involvement in the development of countries of origin. In which ways do transnational communities participate in the development of their countries of origin? What relationships do skilled labour migrants maintain abroad with local communities and home countries? What role do the following factors play in linking countries of origin and destination: remittances, investments, joint ventures, promotion of exports, outsourcing, return for short periods to serve in academic institutions or research centers, participation in think tanks, political participation, etc.
- (d) What is needed so that Arab skilled migrants remain involved in the national development and regional integration of their countries of origin? What are the learned lessons from the successful international experiments?
- (e) Strategies and policies to mobilize transnational communities. How can a country of origin benefit from its transnational communities abroad and how can it integrate these communities into global development initiatives? What role do civil society institutions, especially Arab professional associations, play abroad? What is the role of professional and scientific organizations and Arab expatriate researchers in technology and knowledge transfer, in national development and regional integration and in bringing transnational communities and countries of origin together? How can one enhance their roles in order to serve local communities?
- (f) What are the strategies at the Arab regional level aiming at strengthening Arab scientific transnational communities and regional development? What is the role of destination countries in helping to establish and strengthen transnational communities?
- (g) How can one improve the knowledge and information base of scientific transnational communities?

### *3. Arab Labor Organization (ALO)*

The ALO, in its thirty-fifth General Assembly of the Arab Labor Conference, which took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 23 February to 1 March 2008, recommended the following:

- (a) To support Arab temporary migration to Europe and to protect Arab migrants through: (i) the Barcelona process<sup>2</sup>, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which started in 1995 to strengthen relations between the European Union and the Mashriq<sup>3</sup> and Maghreb<sup>4</sup> regions; (ii) Arab migrant associations in countries of destination, and (iii) non-governmental organizations and other institutions which support migrants;
- (b) To organize a forum for those involved in labour mobility in both Arab receiving countries and countries of origin in order to discuss and implement temporary bilateral or multilateral mobility projects;
- (c) To adopt the Abu Dhabi Declaration<sup>5</sup> of 2008 on overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origin and destination in Asia, including countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Further, to implement partnerships between sending and

receiving countries to ensure labour rights and interests of receiving countries as well as a multilateral framework for circular labour mobility;

- (d) To draw attention to the issue of irregular migration flows in Arab countries, and support the international effort to combat human trafficking;



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: A PERSPECTIVE  
FROM THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

between developed and developing countries. Although the type of movement considered in this study is wider in scope than Mode 4, the benefits from greater liberalisation of Mode 4 are nevertheless likely to be significant.

Amongst the potential beneficial effects of liberalising Mode 4 for the country of origin are: (a) reduced pressure on the labour markets and wages caused by high levels of unemployment; (b) inflows of remittances, which are likely to be boosted by the temporary nature of Mode 4 movement, given the inverse relationship between the amounts remitted and the duration of time spent abroad, and (c) technology transfer and development of human capital, as temporary service suppliers make their experiences acquired abroad available to the country of origin upon returning (thus averting some of the costs of “brain drain”, typically associated with permanent migration).

Beneficial effects for the receiving country could include: (a) the possibility of addressing labour shortages, while averting some of the social and political costs of permanent migration; (b) alleviating the demographic challenges caused by an ageing population, and (c) reducing the pressure of undocumented migration by providing an alternative through temporary movement.

Mode 4 liberalisation is also expected to generate significant indirect effects on merchandise trade and services trade through other modes of supply, by facilitating cross-border trade as well as investment by skill and technology transfers, development of specific knowledge, creation of networks and overseas



categories of natural persons not associated with the establishment of a commercial presence, such as independent service professionals and “contractual service suppliers” (i.e. persons employed in their home country and sent abroad to supply a service pursuant to a services contract between their employer and a local consumer).

Until the end of 2005, the negotiations in Mode 4, as in all other services areas, proceeded on the basis of bilateral request-offer exchanges. The bilateral negotiating process, however, was considered by many commentators to have yielded very modest results.<sup>3</sup> Out of a total of 70 offers (counting the European Communities as one entity), only just over 30 proposed upgrading Mode 4 commitments.

In spite of the lack of commitments by members, services talks were brought back by the Sixth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, from 13 to 18 December 2005. In Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China members agreed to intensify negotiations in accordance with a set of objectives, some of which relate specifically to Mode 4 and foresaw the possibility of pursuing the request-offer negotiations also on a plurilateral basis.

In keeping with this mandate, a plurilateral Mode 4 process was launched in March 2006 through the submission of a collective request sponsored by 15 developing countries and addressed to nine developed country members. The focus of the request is on better commitments for categories of natural persons whose movement is unrelated to the establishment of a commercial presence abroad. Least developed countries also submitted a collective Mode 4 request, with a largely similar focus.

The plurilateral negotiating format is presently exhausted. In order to assess its impact on the Mode 4 negotiations, it will be necessary to wait for a new round of offers, for which there is currently no timeline.

Meanwhile, a Services Signalling Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26 July 2008. About 32 Ministers exchanged ideas on how their governments’ current services offers might be improved in response to requests that had been received, as well as on the contributions they expected from others. Overall, most participants indicated their readiness to improve access conditions for Mode 4. In several statements, these signals were linked to the development character of the DDA negotiations.

#### E. OTHER MODE 4-RELATED ACTIVITIES

As is the case with many services activities, the measurement of Mode 4 flows poses significant challenges. Even if no clear statistical framework is currently in place to assess the size of Mode 4 trade, conceptual work on the issue is under way by the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services, in which the WTO participates. The Task Force is currently revising the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (United Nations, 2002). Based on the GATS definition, the revised draft manual introduces the statistical conceptualization of Mode 4, proposes a number of relevant transactions in individual services sectors to measure the value of Mode 4 trade and indicates how existing migration and tourism statistics could be used to assess the physical movements and presence of persons.

In addition, at WTO members’ request, a symposium on the movement of natural persons was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 23 September 2008. The symposium, titled Mode 4 of the GATS—Taking Stock and Moving Forward, provided a platform for information exchange and discussion on Mode 4, with contributions from government officials, representatives of international organizations, academic researchers and private sector experts.<sup>4</sup>

## F. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mode 4 occupies a small place on the international migration agenda. The GATS is an agreement concerned with trade in services, not with migration. It covers the cross-border movement of persons only to the extent that such movement relates to the supply of services.

However, the implementation of Mode 4 commitments occurs within the regulatory framework governing migration. One of the major obstacles towards greater liberalisation of the movement of natural persons in the GATS lies precisely in the lack of adequate reflection of Mode 4 concepts in domestic immigration regimes. Trade is not an area that labour or immigration experts would normally be concerned with, the GATS is a relatively complex agreement and there is a conceptual and terminology gap between Mode 4 definitions and immigration regimes. Fostering a better-informed dialogue between the trade and migration communities would be valuable in providing impetus towards greater Mode 4 liberalisation.

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The MFN obligation may be waived under certain conditions. These include the listing of MFN exemptions (a one-off possibility at the time of the GATS entry into force or, if later, of WTO accession) and the membership in economic integration agreements.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the Doha Development Agenda, see [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dda\\_e/dda\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/dda_e.htm) (accessed 21 January 2009).

<sup>3</sup> The Chairman of the WTO body overseeing the services negotiations summarized the prevailing sentiment about progress in the negotiations after two rounds of offers by stating that “it was widely acknowledged that the overall quality of initial and revised offers is unsatisfactory. Few, if any, new commercial opportunities would ensue for services suppliers” (WTO document TN/S/20, dated 11 July 2005).

<sup>4</sup> The programme and the material presented at the symposium are available at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/serv\\_e/mouvement\\_persons\\_e/sy](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/mouvement_persons_e/sy)

PROJECTS ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND

The Institute reaches out to researchers from universities in the United States of America to foster exchange of research and to undertake cooperative projects. Ms. Susan Martin, Director of ISIM, served as President of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. ISIM provides secretariat services to the association. Ms. Martin is also on the steering committee of the Migration Network of Jesuit Universities. She has also contributed to past and ongoing activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Ms. Elzbieta Gozdzia, Research Director of ISIM, served two terms as Secretary and Contributing Editor of the Society for Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology (SUNTA) and is an executive committee member of the Committee on Immigrants and Refugees (CORI) in the American Anthropological Association. She is editor of *International Migration*, one of the few peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journals in the field of migration.

#### A. ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2008, ISIM completed the following publications:

- *Mexico-U.S. Migration Management: A Binational Approach* (Escobar Latapí and Martin, 2008) with chapters on the causes, impacts and policy responses to migration in Mexico and the United States.
- *Migration in the Lusophone World*, based on a conference held at Georgetown University, with chapters on migration from Mozambique and Cape Verde to Portugal and South Africa.
- Publications on the impact of gender and education on migration patterns, including *A Gendered Assessment of the Brain Drain* (Docquier, Lowell and Marfouk, 2008); *Remittances by the Highly Educated* (Lowell, 2008); *Gender-Specific Determinants of Remittances and Gender-Specific Remittance Mechanisms* (Lowell and Orozco, 2006); and *Women, Migration and Development* (Martin, 2007).

Recently, ISIM was involved in the following research activities:

- Establishment of the Research Consortium on Remittances in Conflict and Crisis, which has stimulated research on the impact of remittances and transnational communities in Haiti, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan, and hosting a meeting on research methodologies, which brought together researchers from more and less developed regions to discuss potential collaborations.
- Ongoing projects on the mobility of health care professionals and social care workers, temporary workers programmes and trafficking in persons.
- A forthcoming report by a nine-person team from Canada, Haiti and the United States for the Inter-American Development Bank on the contributions of Haitian transnational communities to health and educational development in Haiti.
- The journal *International Migration* has recently included articles on transnational families, migration and HIV/AIDS, migration and child labour, return and circular migration, gender and migration, remittances, emigration and foreign policy responses to migration of source countries.

## B. ACHIEVEMENTS RELATED TO GOVERNANCE

In the area of migration governance, ISIM undertook the following:

- Organized a major symposium in October 2007 at Georgetown University's Law Center to examine the role international human rights might play in strengthening the domestic protection of the rights of non-nationals.
- Provided expert support to the Global Forum on Migration and Development by: (a) moderating the session on the Civil Society Day at the Brussels Global Forum in 2007; (b) organizing a preparatory experts' meeting to discuss background papers prepared for the Manila Global Forum in 2008; (c) preparing background papers on policy coherence, rights of migrants and irregular migration for the Civil Society Days of the Manila Global Forum; (d) preparing a background paper on policy coherence for the Manila Global Forum; (e) participating in the Civil Society Days and the Global Forum in Manila, Philippines, and (f) serving as Rapporteur for Session 3.2 on Policy and Institutional Coherence on Migration and Development within Government at the Global Forum in Manila, Philippines on 27 October 2008.
- Presented the research agenda stemming from the Global Forum at a symposium organized by the Center for Migration Studies and the International Organization for Migration.
- Published a paper on global governance issues in the Proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law.
- Participated in three major projects on global governance organized by the University of Toronto and the International Organization for Migration (with Mr. Randall Hanson and Mr. Jobst Koehler), Oxford University (with Mr. Alexander Betts) and the University of Albany (with Mr. Rey Koslowski).

## C. ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Migration from Mexico to the United States. ISIM plans to continue its partnership to conduct binational research on migration between Mexico and the United States with three partner institutions in Mexico: Universidad Iberoamericana, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) and Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE). Having just published the book *Mexico–U.S. Migration Management: A Binational Approach* (Escobar Latapí and Martin, 2008), ISIM will update the data and analysis on migration patterns, characteristics and impacts on both countries with annual meetings and shorter publications.
- Migration in the Caribbean and Central America. ISIM expects to continue its research and disseminate the findings of previous research on the impact of migration on countries in the Caribbean. Future research will focus on the impact of remittances and transnational communities on Haiti.
- Migration and India. ISIM is advancing its research in India by establishing working relationships with Indian academic institutions, including the Research Programme on International Migration at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), the American Institute of Indian Studies in New Delhi (AIIS), the Centre for the Study of Developing

- Societies (CSDS) and the Calcutta Research Group. Meetings are scheduled with each of these institutions in December 2008. ISIM seeks to advance current research on the impact migration from India has had on economic and political institutions in both India and receiving countries.
- Child labour and migration from developing countries. ISIM is designing a project on the effects of development initiatives, including educational programmes, to reduce child labour, particularly those that result in irregular migration and human trafficking.
- Remittances. ISIM plans to continue its work on the role of remittances in war-torn countries, disaster-prone regions and fragile states. ISIM proposes to continue to serve as Secretariat to the Remittances in Conflict and Crisis Consortium. Research by ISIM in this area focuses on the Americas, including Haiti (as described above). Following the example of Haiti, ISIM plans to investigate the extent to which remittances are used in restoring homes and livelihoods after disasters in other countries in the region.
- Mobility of highly-skilled migrants. ISIM has been undertaking a multi-site study to examine migration of health care workers from Jamaica, the Philippines and Poland to Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The study has examined patterns of recruitment and the

will continue to monitor, assess and analyse the impa





## WORK ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### *International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)*

#### A. BACKGROUND AND RECENT ACTIVITIES

As the international professional association of demographers, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) works to advance understanding of international population trends and their determinants and consequences. In recent years, international migration flows have increased in scale and now involve many countries as senders and receivers of migrants. Most international migrants are legally admitted by receiving countries for reasons considered in the national interest —family reunification, permanent settlement, temporary work, skills and capacity, humanitarian, refuge, study and

- (c) Case studies obtain heuristic data on immigrant communities that are difficult to capture with standard statistical indicators. Quantitative and qualitative data can complement each other and improve understanding;
- (d) The evaluation of integration processes in host countries requires specification of the pertinent mainstream population. Although integration is treated as a one-way process, mainstream populations also undergo change in response to immigration and globalization and studies are needed of that process as well;
- (e) The relative importance of the three main theories of integration (straight line theory, segmented assimilation theory and pluralist integration theory) may differ across countries depending on policy and structural factors;
- (f) Although census and survey statistical indicators

presenting papers in each of these sessions. In addition, the IUSSP will host a debate at the conference on the pros and cons of international migration and the Moroccan National Organizing Committee is preparing several sessions on international migration to, from, and within the Arab region.

### *3. Migration and co-development*

In 2006, the IUSSP launched a new initiative on international migration and co-development. In background proceedings for the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and in a number of other events sponsored by international, regional and national organizations, the argument has been advanced that international migration can be mutually beneficial to both sending and receiving countries. The United Nations Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly in 2006 that “There is an emerging consensus that countries can cooperate to create triple wins, for migrants, for their countries of origin and for the societies that receive them” (United Nations, 2006, p. 5). While there is room for optimism regarding the positive impacts of international migration on sending and receiving countries, the empirical and theoretical basis for these contentions is weak.



INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY

*The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*

While migration is an age-old phenomenon, its current scale and particular characteristics make it an issue of rising global concern at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Immigration to the United States of America and Western Europe is part of



## ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### *Migration Policy Institute (MPI)*

#### A. BRIEF BACKGROUND ON THE MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) was established in 2001 as an independent think tank dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. Formerly a programme of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP), MPI is now an independent migration policy research organization. The Institute aims to meet the rising demand for pragmatic responses to the challenges and opportunities that migration, whether voluntary or forced, presents to countries, communities, and institutions in this ever more integrated world.





## *2. Events*

In preparation for the first GFMD, MPI organized several events. In February 2007, MPI, together with the German Marshall Fund of the United States, organized a brainstorming session in Brussels, Belgium attended by the Belgian organizing team for the Global Forum, including the Forum's Executive Director, Ambassador Regine De Clercq, and representatives of key governments and the European Commission. The discussion focused on remittances and human capital issues associated with migration. It was based on four briefing papers commissioned by MPI, including one on circular migration and one on remittances to India. Other Global Forum-related events sponsored by MPI include a breakfast briefing with Ambassador De Clercq and a telephone briefing with participants from outside the United States.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, MPI organized two major conferences on migration and development. The World Bank, the OECD Deve

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## B. HUMAN RIGHTS AND ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

There is a strong consensus within civil society, including migrant organizations, non-governmental organizations and trade unions, on the need to address the root causes of migration, including the violation of human rights (United Nations, 2006b). These violations take the form of violent conflict, racism and other forms of discrimination that force people to emigrate. In addition, the growing economic disparity between rich and poor countries, and between the rich and poor within countries, has also led to a sharp increase in the number of international migrants worldwide (United Nations, 2006b). In this discussion it is essential to include the question of workers' responsibilities<sup>4</sup> in addition to rights, and also to distinguish between political refugees, victims of violence and overt discrimination on the one hand and economic migrants on the other. At the same time, one has to recognize that migration born of economic necessity cannot be viewed as purely voluntary if it means that the migrant must leave his or her family behind, often for years at a time. Indeed, economic desperation is a violation of human rights as expressed in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health, and well-being of himself and of his family.

It is therefore inadequate to ask the question "what are some key effective practices by governments to maximize the potential of migrants to contribute to the development of their countries of origin?"<sup>5</sup>, in order to address the root causes of migration, one must also ask: (a) how is globalization contributing to migration? and (b) what policies, including trade, agricultural subsidies, and others, are in place, particularly in receiving countries, that are exacerbating the growing international economic disparity, increasing rates of poverty, and rising international migration?

Lastly, there are signs that the growing disparity in wealth between sending and receiving countries will only increase in coming years as it is exacerbated by the environmental degradation caused by climate change and other factors. Unless they

- (b) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work;
- (c) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity

beneficial when these workers often have no other choice but register so that they can obtain work. In order to respect the international requirements as embodied in international labour law and human rights law, temporary worker programmes need to be fundamentally reformed to: (a) grant workers full rights under law equal to all other workers; (b) provide full access to courts and other systems of redress of grievances; (c) not tie employment of the worker to one sole employer, and (d) provide for a path to long term residency and citizenship for those workers who desire it.

The strict enforcement practices by receiving countries are an additional example of the increasing trend to punish and place the blame on migrants who have crossed borders out of economic necessity and who also make a valuable contribution to the economies of receiving countries. Workplace raids, lengthy detentions that fail to distinguish between irregular and other foreigners who have committed a crime, lack of consular access, inadequate medical care for detained migrants, the separation of parents from young children and excessive prison terms all represent an increasing criminalization of migrant workers and their families, and must be reversed.<sup>9</sup>

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> See [http://government.gfmd2008.org/index2.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_view&gid=132&Itemid=45](http://government.gfmd2008.org/index2.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=132&Itemid=45) (accessed 24 April 2009).

<sup>2</sup> See <http://government.gfmd2008.org/roundtable1.html> (accessed 13 January 2009).

<sup>3</sup> See Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Preamble, paragraph 1.

United Nations (2006b). *Summary of informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector*. Note by the President of the General Assembly. A/61/187.

United Nations (2008). *International Migration and Development*. Report of the Secretary-General, 11 August 2008. A/63/265.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (2008). *Seminar Report: Migration and Development Series – Climate change, environmental degradation and migration: Preparing for the Future*. Available from [http://www.unitar.org/mm/file/Migration/2008/Summary%20report\\_9%20May\\_final.pdf](http://www.unitar.org/mm/file/Migration/2008/Summary%20report_9%20May_final.pdf) (accessed 13 January 2009).



**PART THREE**

**ANNEX**





## General Assembly

Distr.: General

*Recalling* its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>2</sup> and recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling*

*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

*Acknowledging also* the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

*Reaffirming* the resolve expressed by Heads of State and Government to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,<sup>8</sup>

*Noting* the efforts of Member States, relevant United Nations bodies, organizations, funds and programmes and international and intergovernmental organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, in respect of convening events at the national, regional and international levels with a view to advancing the dialogue on the issue of international migration and development,

*Noting with interest* the offer of the Government of Belgium to convene a state-led initiative, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>9</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the convening of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and the high level and broad participation that provided

agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and respect for human rights;

8. *Recalls* its resolution 55/93 of 4 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 18 December International Day of the Migrant, and invites Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to include in the observance of International Day of the Migrant the developmental dimension of international migration, as highlighted by the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York, by sharing experiences and best practices on, inter alia, how to maximize the benefits of international migration and reduce its negative impacts;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".

*83rd plenary meeting  
20 December 2006*





*Considering* that the report of the Secretary-General of 18 May 2006 on international migration and development, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 59/241 of 22 December 2004 and 60/227 of 23 December 2005, highlighted the fact that, within the United Nations system, there is no entity mandated to systematically address all matters related to international migration,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* that Member States participating in the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development expressed interest in continuing the dialogue on migration and development, and that there was widespread support for the proposal of the Secretary-General to create a global forum to address, in depth and in a systematic manner, all topics related to international migration and development,

*Taking note* of the summary report of the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels from 9 to 11 July 2007 under the auspices of the Government of Belgium,<sup>4</sup> and the generous offer of the Government of the Philippines to host the second meeting, from 27 to 30 October 2008, in Manila,

*Noting with appreciation* that the convening of the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development has already resulted in the establishment of official focal points on migration and development at the national level,

*Recognizing* that the Global Forum on Migration and Development currently functions under the Guiding Principles of the Forum of 2007 and as a State-led initiative, and that it should be strengthened with the aim of addressing the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development with a comprehensive approach,

1. *Recognizes* that exchanges of information and expertise, consultation and closer cooperation between the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the United Nations could have a positive impact, and in this regard:

(a) Welcomes the transmission to the Secretary-General by the Government of Belgium of the summary report of the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, circulated as a document of the General Assembly,<sup>4</sup> and invites organizers of subsequent meetings of the Forum to continue this practice;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report called for in resolution 61/208 an evaluation of the existing cooperation mechanisms on migration and development and to make it available to the Global Forum on Migration and Development, at its second meeting, in 2008;

(c) Encourages Member States to participate actively in, and the organizations that are members of the Global Migration Group, within their respective areas of expertise, to contribute and to provide technical support to the Global Forum on Migration and Development;

(d) Notes that the Global Forum on Migration and Development, through its Steering Group, maintains links with the Secretary-General, notably through his Special Representative on International Migration and Development;

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<sup>3</sup> See A/60/871.

<sup>4</sup> A/C.2/62/2, annex.



2. *Takes note with interest* of the agenda prepared for the discussions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the title of the second meeting of the Global Forum, “Protecting and empowering migrants for development”, and particularly welcomes the inclusion of the topic of the human rights of migrants;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*109th plenary meeting  
20 June 2008*





*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>8</sup> and the invitation to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention,

*Recalling also* the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, and the eight fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization,

*Recalling further* Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,<sup>9</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,<sup>10</sup>

*Acknowledging* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness of the issue,

*Acknowledging also* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

*Acknowledging further* the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

*Recognizing* that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>11</sup>
2. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including

6. *Invites* the countries of origin and destination, in accordance with domestic legislation, to undertake appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;

7. *Recognizes* the need for Member States to continue considering the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts;

8. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to undertake such action, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance, debt relief or other public sources of financing for development;

9. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries;

10. *Acknowledges* the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary migration, circular migration and return migration on the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as on migrants themselves;

11. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective in all policies and programmes on international migration in order to, inter alia, reinforce the positive contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen the protection of women migrants from all forms of violence, discrimination, trafficking, exploitation and abuse by promoting their rights and welfare, while recognizing in this regard the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels;

12. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

13. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way, within the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their efforts to address migration issues within their respective development strategies in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. *Decides* to hold, within existing resources, a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013, the focus and modalities of which will be decided upon at its sixty-seventh session;

17. *Also decides* to convene, within existing resources, at its sixty-fifth session, in 2011, a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development;

18. *Further decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”;

19. *Invites* the regional commissions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with respective mandates and within existing resources, to the report of the Secretary-General on this item;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*72nd plenary meeting  
19 December 2008*