



AUSTRALIA



Australian Mission to the United Nations

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.AustraliaUN.org



Over the past decade, we have welcomed nearly one million people as permanent settlers. Reflecting our migrant heritage, nearly 25 per cent of our population was born outside the country.

We are pleased to have been recognised by the OECD as “an immigration country *par excellence*”.

Our experience convinces us that well managed migration is the best way to ensure that the process of migration results in the greatest benefits for all concerned and, importantly, to reduce many of the tragic abuses now associated with irregular migration.

Well managed migration goes well beyond the concept of border control and means that permanent and temporary migration is carefully facilitated through legal channels.

This is the best way to protect both the legitimate interests of states and the human rights of migrants. When states are able to facilitate legal migration, the scope for exploitation of migrants by people smugglers, traffickers and unscrupulous employers is vastly diminished.

The Australian experience also convinces us that well designed national migration policies, backed by effective administrative capacity, will do the most to open up opportunities for nation-building and development.

Migration policies based on labour market research, analysis, wide consultation with all stakeholders and follow-up evaluation ensure that migration is successfully geared to the needs and capacities of a State.

Migration policies can also take into account humanitarian considerations - as Australia does through our offshore resettlement program which has brought 100,000 refugees and humanitarian entrants to Australia in the last decade.

By fostering orderly humanitarian migration, where possible, we have been able to make a commitment to seek out those most in need and maintain a resettlement program, with generous post-arrival help in all those things required to establish a new life in another country, supported by ‘whole of government’ funding of A\$2 billion every four years.

Well designed migration policies that include post arrival support for individual migrants, including integration and citizenship for permanent migrants, will greatly contribute to a positive experience for individual migrants through respect, self-sufficiency and participation in society.

The development challenges and benefits of migration flowing from return migration, recirculation of skills, remittances and diaspora-related investment have been well documented.

Development plans and strategies would clearly benefit from much stronger linkages with the effective management of migration.

The contribution that migration can make in achieving development goals will not be possible without effective administrative capacity to deliver.

Capacity building needs to be tackled on a carefully targeted basis.

We believe that the International Organisation for Migration, with its unparalleled breadth and depth of experience in migration matters and its worldwide reach, is ideally placed to be the prime vehicle for worldwide capacity building.

In our own region, some states have strong capacities in this area and others do not.

Australia conducts a number of programs with partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region to help build capacities to reap the benefits of orderly migration

and utilise the expertise of bodies such as the International Organisation for Migration.

We favour bringing together the heads of regional migration processes on an annual basis as the most effective form of global dialogue, rather than creating any new, and possibly artificial, forum.

Thank you, Madame President.