

**EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

New York, 16-17 November 2009



United Nations

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

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New York, 16-17 November 2009



United Nations  
New York, 2011

# DESA

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Suggested citation:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2011).  
Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration.  
Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP.217

ESA/P/WP.217

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Printed in the United Nations, New York

## PREFACE

The Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 16 to 17 November 2009. It was the latest in a series of annual coordination meetings on international migration convened since 2002 by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat.

It was attended by some eighty participants, representing agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, including the regional commissions and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Also present were invited experts and representatives of United Nations Member States.

The coordination meetings on international migration are convened with the purpose of reviewing the latest evidence on emerging topics in the field of international migration, as well as to exchange information, enhance coordination and achieve system-wide coherence. By inviting the outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the meeting also provides a unique opportunity for dialogue between the State-led Global Forum process and the United Nations system, enabling participating entities to contribute to the preparations, implementation and outcomes of the Global Forum.

The Eighth Coordination Meeting included a special presentation on the 2009 Human Development Report *Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development*. It also focused on the impact of the financial and economic crisis on international migration, and reviewed recent efforts to strengthen the evidence base on international migration and development. Participants also exchanged information regarding current and planned activities in the area of international migration and development.

The Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations presented the achievements of the third Global Forum meeting held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009, while a representative from the Government of Mexico presented plans for the forthcoming fourth annual meeting of the Global Forum, which would be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 11 November 2010.

Nineteen organizations reported on their current and ongoing migration activities during the coordination segment. The large number of presentations during the coordination segment signaled the strong involvement of the United Nations system in international migration, validating the request of the General Assembly to the Population Division of UN/DESA to continue to convene annual coordination meetings on international migration (A/58/208).

This volume contains the report of the meeting's presentations and deliberations as well as papers prepared by participants.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
ACS	American Community Survey
AfDB	African Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ALO	Arab Labor Organization
AOIM	Arab Observatory for International Migration
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre
CPS	Current Population Survey
EC	European Commission
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIBEMYD	Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally displaced person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
JMDI	European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative
LAS	League of Arab States
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	United Nations 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
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
RCPs	Regional Consultative Processes
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SICREMI	Continuous Labour Migration Reporting System for the Americas
SOPEMI	OECD Continuous Reporting System on Migration
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UN-INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNU-CRIS	United Nations University-Comparative Regional Integration Studies Programme
UNU-EHS	United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security
UNU	United Nations University
WFP	United Nations World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## **PART ONE**

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

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## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

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## REPORT OF THE MEETING

The Eighth United Nations Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 to 17 November 2009. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat. The main objectives of the meeting were to assess the impact of the economic and financial crises on international migration; to review initiatives to strengthen the evidence base on international migration and development, and to exchange information on current and planned activities in the area of international migration and development.

The meeting attracted nearly 80 participants, including representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, the regional commissions, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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 the annual coordination meetings on international migration had become essential for promoting dialogue and coordination among United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. This coordination was all the more useful given the increasing number of planned events on international migration. Those events included the annual meetings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the informal thematic debate on international migration and development that the General Assembly would conduct in 2011 and the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that the General Assembly would organize in 2013.

Ms. Zlotnik highlighted the main items on the meeting's agenda. The first was a special presentation by the Director of the UNDP Human Development Report Office of the report entitled *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*,<sup>1</sup> the first report in the Human Development Report series that focused on migration as an integral part of development. Next, the meeting would focus on the impact of the economic and financial crises on international migration. Preliminary research findings indicated that migrants were especially vulnerable to the consequences of the economic downturn and that xenophobia was on the rise. It was therefore more urgent than ever to ensure that migrants' rights were protected. During the meeting's coordination segment, participants would present their recent and expected activities on international migration. On the second day, the meeting would consider the latest developments in the collection and analysis of data on international migration. It would also hear presentations from representatives of the governments of Greece and Mexico on the outcomes of the 2009 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Athens, Greece in November 2009, and the plans for the 2010 meeting, which would take place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in 2011, respectively.

### II. THE 2009 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Ms. Jenny Klugman, Director of the UNDP Human Development Report Office, presented the 2009 Human Development Report entitled *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*. The rich evidence presented in the Report demonstrated that migration could be beneficial to migrants

themselves as well as to countries of origin and countries of destination and that those benefits could be increased by reducing the costs of and the barriers to migration. There was considerable scope for achieving those reductions and, therefore, for expanding the potential gains to human development flowing from migration.

The Report showed that most people moved within countries rather than internationally. Thus, in 2010 there were at least 740 million internal migrants (persons who moved between states or provinces within countries) compared to 214 million international migrants (persons born outside the country where they lived). International migrants tended to move to countries with higher human development, measured by the human development index (HDI), than their own (75 per cent did so). When countries were classified according to the HDI, only 37 per cent of all international migrants had moved to the most advanced countries (countries with an HDI of 0.9 or higher) from countries with lower levels of human development (every other country).

The Report corroborated that most economically active migrants, whether internal or international, had higher incomes at destination than those they had before migrating and that income gains increased over time. Generally, the migrants who benefited the most were those from low-income countries, yet their people were also the least likely to migrate internationally. Migration also resulted generally in higher educational attainment among migrant children, better access to healthcare and improved living conditions. Migrant families tended to have fewer and healthier children than families who had not migrated. Migrants also gained from social learning, improving their bargaining skills and bargaining power, enhancing their self-respect and dignity, or gaining from the empowerment of women.

In countries of origin, families with migrants abroad were the most directly affected by migration but so were their communities. Remittances improved the welfare of the migrants' families and allowed them to improve their nutrition, health and overall living conditions. However, remittances from migrants abroad did not necessarily reach the poorest segments of society because international migrants tended to be selected from better-off segments of the population.

In countries of destination, the evidence showed no significant adverse effects of international migration on labour markets or on the fiscal sector. Those most likely to be affected by the presence of migrant workers were other recent migrants and citizens whose skills closely matched those of new migrant workers. The competition between those groups and any displacement effects associated with migration, which were small, could be addressed by appropriate policies or regulations. As for the fiscal effects of international migration, they were found to be negligible.

Although the global recession that began in 2008 had severely affected the main countries of destination, international migration continued. It was expected that, over the medium-term, the advanced economies, whose populations were ageing and would be declining were it not for migration, would continue to attract migrants from the developing world. Reducing barriers to migration would therefore be beneficial for them.

In order to realize the potential gains from migration, the 2009 Human Development Report proposed a set of measures. They included liberalizing and simplifying migration procedures, especially those governing seasonal migration, circular migration and the admission of low-skilled workers. Such admissions could be made conditional on employer demand and it would be useful to allow for visa extensions permitting longer stays. It was crucial to ensure the basic rights of migrants, including equal remuneration for equal work, decent working conditions, health protection and safety, the right to collective bargaining, the prohibition of forced labour, access to due process in deportation procedures and the possibility of returning to the country of origin without being subjected to arbitrary detention. Reducing the costs associated with migration was beneficial to migrants and the countries of origin.

Countries allowing the long-term stay of migrants should provide them access to health and education on a similar basis as citizens. Governments should remove barriers to internal migration, provide access to educational and health services to internal migrants, and provide fiscal support to major areas of destination. Lastly, migration should be included in human development strategies.

The Report had been launched in over 60 countries and had been widely distributed. As of November 2009, the Report's website had had over three million visitors from 223 countries and territories and had been downloaded 150,000 times in full or in part. Media coverage and government reactions to the report suggested that the time was ripe to advance the debate on migration and its contribution to development.

During the discussion, participants noted that some issues were not sufficiently addressed by the Report, including the role of transnational communities, the distinction between labour, humanitarian and family migration, and the linkages between migration and climate change, human rights and gender. Questions were also raised about the suggestions made on circular migration and on immigration quotas. One participant inquired about the apparent difference between public opinion polls, which showed that many people were concerned about migration, and research findings showing that migration was beneficial for receiving countries. A participant remarked that attention to migration by the Human Development Report might signal greater engagement of the development community with migration. Lastly, it was noted that the generally positive message of the report was at odds with the increasing tightening of migration triggered by the economic and financial crises.

Ms. Klugman noted that the presentation had focused only on the highlights of the Report, which itself covered many other issues, offering a more detailed and nuanced analysis in many cases. She added that, although the Report did not cover transnational communities in detail, the beneficial effects of "social remittances" on countries of origin were discussed. She said that the majority of recommendations made were relevant regardless of the current economic situation. Only the recommendation regarding liberalization and simplification of migration procedures was likely to be controversial during an economic recession. She acknowledged that the emphasis of the Report was on labour migration and said that circular migration was potentially beneficial to migrants and countries of origin and destination. However, from a human development perspective, the gains for migrants were greater if they were permitted to stay for longer periods. She felt that employers should have a greater say in the admission of foreign workers. Ms. Klugman said that the Report had not found a clear connection between accession to human rights instruments and migration levels. The Report emphasized that, in addition to the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, other human rights treaties were also relevant in protecting the rights of migrants. Importantly, the Report had also found that many internal migrants lacked full enjoyment of their rights, as when they were denied the right to vote or to obtain public education for their children. As to the linkages between migration and climate change, Ms. Klugman noted that the 2007/2008 edition of the Human Development Report had been devoted to climate change and discussed migration in that context. She added that gender issues had been mainstreamed in the 2009 Report. Ms. Klugman agreed that there was an apparent disconnect between government policies and public perceptions regarding migration. While the 2009 Human Development Report could not address all misconceptions, it had tried to make a contribution to reasoned public discourse. She hoped that the Report had raised the interest of the development community to pay more attention to international migration and noted that UNDP was exploring various avenues for follow-up to the 2009 Report.

In closing, Ms. Zlotnik congratulated Ms. Klugman and her team on a very insightful and valuable Report. She noted that successful development strategies were necessary to maximize the benefits from migration and reiterated one of the key messages of the Report, namely, that migration was no substitute for development. Nevertheless, migration, especially internal migration, was an integral part

of development because without it, expanding economies could not make efficient use of the labour force. Unfortunately, Governments still tended to disregard the role of internal migration in promoting development.

### III. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: ONE YEAR LATER

Mr. Ibrahim Awad, representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), talked about the impact of the global economic crisis on migrant workers. He observed that, given the variety of economic situations around the world, one could not generalize about the effects of the economic and financial crises on migrant workers globally. In the countries most affected by the crises, however, the impact on migrant workers had been particularly harsh, as in Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Migrant workers were less affected in countries experiencing continued economic growth, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Qatar. Furthermore, the crises had affected some sectors of the economy more than others. Thus, construction, manufacturing and tourism, sectors in which migrant workers were often concentrated, tended to be more seriously affected than healthcare and education. The impact of the crisis also varied according to the time migrants had spent in the countries of destination, their migration status, their occupational background and the occupational distribution of the native labour force. Migrants in an irregular situation might decide to weather the crisis in the country of destination if their economic prospects in the country of origin were uncertain and return to the country of destination was difficult. Migrants working in sectors shunned by native workers might be less affected by the crisis, provided those sectors were still productive.

Although massive return flows to countries of origin had not occurred, higher unemployment and lower pay in countries of destination had reduced remittances. The World Bank had estimated that remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries could have declined by up to 10 per cent from 2008 to 2009. However, remittance trends differed significantly among countries. Thus, whereas remittances had declined markedly to Mexico, Morocco and Tajikistan, those to Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan and Sri Lanka had changed little or even increased. The relative stability of remittances corroborated their countercyclical nature: in times of crisis, migrant workers tended to remit more to help their families during difficult periods even if they themselves faced adverse labour market conditions at destination. The World Bank expected that global remittance levels would recover in 2010.

Mr. Awad noted that xenophobia and discrimination directed at migrant workers were on the rise. According to a recent Financial Times/Harris Poll, a large percentage of citizens of the European Union (EU) favoured the repatriation of unemployed migrant workers. According to the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights, the number of racially motivated attacks on foreigners and ethnic minorities had increased in 2008. Yet, despite those negative indications, xenophobia and discrimination were not a generalized response to the crisis. Although some countries of destination had enacted policies encouraging the voluntary return of migrant workers and were tightening their admission rules, the impact of such measures had been small. Countries of origin, including Bangladesh, the Philippines and Tajikistan, had responded to the crisis by strengthening mechanisms to protect their migrant workers abroad, exploring new labour markets and facilitating the reintegration of returnees into the national labour market. The effectiveness of such measures was not yet known.

Measures to address the effects of the crises that could also benefit migrants included: promoting job creation, including through stimulus packages; allowing resident migrant workers access to those new jobs, and proactive measures to protect migrant workers and their families from xenophobia and discrimination. Mr. Awad argued that migrant workers should not be deprived of unemployment and other benefits just because of their migrant status. He suggested that countries of origin could support

migrant workers by offering pre-departure training and providing protection in the countries of destination. Countries of origin would also benefit from establishing long-term plans to develop their human resources by taking into account both their own future labour needs and those of countries of destination.

Mr. Jean Christophe Dumont, representative of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), spoke about the effect of the economic crisis on migrants in OECD countries. He said that average unemployment in OECD countries had risen four percentage points between September 2008 and September 2009, with Ireland, Spain and the United States experiencing the most significant increase. Because international migrants were highly concentrated in the economic sectors that were more sensitive to fluctuations in the business cycle, such as construction and tourism, and they had less secure contractual arrangements and less job seniority, they were especially vulnerable to lay-offs during economic downturns. Yet, despite the crisis and the policies fostering return adopted by some countries of the European Union, no massive return flows had occurred within the European Union. Some countries had enacted policies to curb migrant inflows. Thus, Italy, the Republic of Korea and Spain had reduced the numerical limits for certain migrant categories. Some countries had introduced or enforced labour-market tests for migrant workers, while others had restricted the renewal of temporary visas. Mr. Dumont expected that some of the temporary migrant workers who lost their jobs would nevertheless try to stay even without proper documentation rather than return to countries of origin that were also suffering from the crisis. At the same time, irregular migration inflows were expected to decline because jobs were scarce. Indeed, between 2008 and 2009, attempted entries to the European Union by persons lacking proper documentation had declined along with those from Mexico to the United States. As in other economic downturns, some migrants who could not secure entry as workers might attempt to gain entry by applying for asylum.

In order to address the negative impacts of the economic crisis on international migration, Mr. Dumont suggested that OECD countries maintain, if not strengthen, integration programmes for foreigners and reinforce efforts to combat discrimination against international migrants. He noted that temporary labour migration schemes allowed countries to have greater flexibility in adjusting migration intakes to labour-market conditions. Assisting both new entrants into the labour market and those who had lost jobs, including migrants, to find employment could be cost-effective. Rather than providing financial support to migrants who decided to return to their country of origin, Governments could make it easier for migrants to move back and forth between their country of origin and the host country, so that a decision to return would not seem as definitive. Developing countries experiencing major reductions of remittances required special attention, because the crisis could increase the push factors leading to irregular migration.

Ms. Batool Shakoori, representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), focused on the impact of the crisis on international migration in the Arab region. Ms. Shakoori noted that economic growth in the Arab region was primarily driven by oil revenues, real estate investment, tourism and foreign aid. Hence, a decline in the global economy affecting one or more of those sectors would immediately affect the economies in the region. When the 2008 economic crisis first started, surpluses in oil revenue had appeared to insulate the region from its adverse effects. In time, however, the effects of the crisis made themselves felt although their impact could not yet be fully gauged. Recent reports indicated that unemployment was rising, remittances declining and return migration increasing. The projected decline in GDP growth from 6 per cent in 2007 to 4 per cent in 2009 was expected to affect employment and remittances in the Arab region. According to the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), 17 million persons, representing 14 per cent of the total workforce in the Arab region, were unemployed. Employment opportunities in the banking and investment sectors had fallen and the demand for labour in the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was expected to decline. The crisis had also affected remittance flows. According to the World Bank, Algeria, Egypt,

Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen, the nine largest remittance receiving countries in the Arab region, were all expected to experience reductions in remittances during 2009. A fall in remittances would particularly impact the economies and the living conditions in countries where remittances constituted a large portion of GDP, including Lebanon (24 per cent), Jordan (22 per cent), and Morocco (9 per cent). The crisis also threatened to make migrants more vulnerable to the violation of their rights. Among the Member States of ESCWA, only Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic had ratified the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Yet, the crisis could also create new opportunities. Thus, countries of origin could benefit from the skills of returning migrant workers and countries of destination would need to provide services for fewer newly arriving migrants. The return of migrants could also reduce the imbalances in the age and sex distribution of some Arab countries.

Certain economic sectors had benefited at the onset of the global economic downturn. For example, the banking sector in Lebanon had experienced a 21 per cent increase in deposits in 2009 as compared to 2008 because mistrust of foreign financial institutions had returned some business to local banks. The crisis also presented opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation among countries in the Arab region. Such cooperation was deemed essential by Ms. Shakoori if the region were to remain competitive in the global economy.

With regard to female migration, Ms. Shakoori noted that the impact of the crisis depended on the economic sectors in which migrant women were employed. In the Arab region, they were primarily working in healthcare and domestic work, both of which were less affected by lay-offs. Nevertheless, domestic workers had limited protection against discrimination and exploitation.

Ms. Shakoori summarized the situation in the Arab region saying that because of surplus oil revenues it had at first weathered the economic crisis but, with time, more Arab countries were seeing their unemployment rise, remittances fall and increasing vulnerability of migrants to violations of labour and human rights. To discuss how best to address the negative effects of the crisis, ESCWA was planning to host an expert group meeting on the social impact and policy responses to the global financial and economic crises in Beirut, Lebanon, in December 2009. ESCWA stood ready to assist countries engaging in regional consultative processes on international migration.

During the discussion, the complexity of the interrelations between the effects of the financial and economic crises and international migration was stressed and it was argued that such complexity resulted in unexpected outcomes. For instance, it appeared that the increases in return migration that were expected had generally not materialized. Moreover, not all types of migration flows could be limited by policymakers. Family reunification, for instance, could not be stopped without infringing the rights of citizens or established migrants. Furthermore, because laws and regulations took time to come into effect, in some countries, measures to facilitate international migration designed before the onset of the crisis had only recently come into force. Discretionary migration flows, that is, those that could be changed rapidly, represented a relatively low proportion of the migrant inflows to the major receiving countries.

Participants asked whether there was evidence of increases in human trafficking or whether social protection for migrant workers had improved as a result of the crisis. There was also interest on whether dialogue on migration among the countries in the Arab region had expanded and some participants said that it seemed unlikely that return migration in the Arab region had been sizeable enough to change the imbalances in the age and sex distributions of countries in the region significantly.

In response, Mr. Awad indicated that there was no evidence that human trafficking or migrant smuggling had increased. He noted that, because of the economic downturn, potential migrants had less money to pay the costs of smuggling and less certainty to get jobs abroad. Although social protection took

time to become effective, some countries of origin had established programmes to offer social protection to migrants living abroad who had been seriously affected by the crisis. Mr. Dumont added that one indication of whether host countries had extended social protection to migrant workers was to review whether migrants could have access to the jobs generated by the stimulus packages that countries had adopted in response to the crisis.

Mr. Dumont agreed that several of the recent policy changes on international migration were the result of policies adopted before the onset of the economic downturn, as in Sweden and the United Kingdom. Yet, the point was that those policies had not been abandoned because of the crisis. He added that, with the exception of Italy, OECD countries had generally not restricted family reunification because of the crisis. Most policy responses related to the crisis involved recent migrants. He emphasized that generalizations were misleading because the effects of the crisis varied among countries and, consequently, their responses were also different. Thus, the impact of the crisis in countries experiencing a recession, such as Ireland or Spain, was more severe than in countries where GDP growth had dipped but remained positive.

Ms. Shakoori noted that the Abu Dhabi Dialogue involved both countries of origin and destination in Asia, including members of the GCC. Because there was no yet a similar process bringing together members of the GCC and labour-sending Arab countries, ESCWA was offering to host a dialogue among them that would also address the high unemployment among young people in the region.

#### IV. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

During this part of the meeting, representatives of United Nations offices, funds and programmes and other organizations exchanged information regarding their work in the area of international migration. Twenty speakers took the floor. A summary of their interventions is provided below.

##### A. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT AND OTHER ENTITIES

The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said the Office continued working to ensure that the human rights of all migrants were part of any discussion on international migration and development. The Office continued to promote ratification of the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. In 2009, the Human Rights Council adopted two resolutions related to migration. Resolution A/HRC/RES/11/9, adopted on 17 June 2009, addressed the human rights of migrants in detention centres. Resolution A/HRC/RES/12/6, adopted on 1 October 2009, requested OHCHR, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to prepare a study on challenges and best practices in protecting the rights of the child in the context of international migration.

In preparation of the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Athens, Greece in November 2009, OHCHR had organized an expert meeting exploring the linkages between human rights, inclusion, acceptance and the integration of migrants in host societies as well as the contribution of migrants to development in both countries of origin and those of destination. The meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8 October 2009. OHCHR had also participated on a panel discussion on migration, discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights co-hosted by the ILO, IOM and UNHCR during the Durban Review Conference, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 24 April 2009. OHCHR continued to assist Governments and civil society organizations in

developing international human rights standards for migration and had contributed to the preparation of a handbook on the human rights of migrants. OHCHR worked with the Global Migration Group<sup>2</sup> (GMG) to mainstream a rights-based approach into the work on international migration of the United Nations system and had recently appointed a special adviser on international migration.

The representative of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) said that the Office was working on documenting the impact of the global economic and financial crises on development, with a special focus on remittances.

The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) reported that, during UNITAR's chairmanship of the GMG from June to December 2009 it had successfully established an annual workplan for the Group, improved its working methods and developed joint outputs. In addition, the Head of UNITAR had delivered the joint GMG statement at the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens, Greece, in November 2009. The statement's key messages were: (a) the global economic downturn should not undermine the progress made since the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in recognizing the development gains associated with international migration; (b) migration policies and practices should be rooted in human rights, and (c) the evidence-base for policymaking should be strengthened. UNITAR had also initiated the preparation of fact sheets by GMG members on the impact of the crisis on migration. The fact sheets were distributed among participants in the meeting of the Global Forum held in Athens, Greece.<sup>3</sup> With support from IOM, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, UNFPA and UNITAR continued the Migration and Development Seminar Series at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The series aimed at informing and training policymakers and stimulating debate among the diplomatic community in New York. Since February 2009, the Series had covered the following topics: (a) migration, "brain drain" and care-giving; (b) the challenges faced in trying to achieve policy coherence through an alignment of migration and development goals; (c) the role of diasporas in peace-building, and (d) migration and the economic crisis. In December 2009, the Series would focus on migrant youth. In 2010, UNITAR was planning to organize seminars on female migration, the integration of immigrants in host societies, and climate change and migration. In addition, UNITAR, in collaboration with IOM and with support from the Government of Spain, was carrying out a project to strengthen capacities in the field of international migration and development. The project included four activities: (a) extending the Migration and Development Seminar Series to other locations, (b) following up the recommendations emanating from the Global Forum on Migration and Development, (c) enhancing the development dimensions of regional migration dialogues, and (d) building capacities at country level. The seminar "Africa-EU 7th Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment: Moving forward by Involving Non-State Actors" was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 4 June 2009<sup>4</sup> and a follow-up seminar would be organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2010.

## B. UNITED NATIONS FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said that UNICEF was engaged in research, policy advocacy, operational support and evidence-building. It continued to collaborate with Governments and civil society to protect children, adolescents and women who were affected by migration. UNICEF was collaborating with the Population Division of UN/DESA to produce a set of estimates of the global migrant stock by age, including children and adolescents, that would enable Governments to formulate evidence-based policies on migrating children. In December 2009, UNICEF was planning to host a meeting on improving migration information using household surveys. The Fund had assisted in the preparation of the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and was planning to collaborate with OHCHR in implementing resolutions that were recently



adopted by the Human Rights Council concerning children and migration. UNICEF, together with IOM, Save the Children and UNHCR, had developed recommendations for the European Union regarding the treatment of unaccompanied children and the respect of their human rights. UNICEF continued to advocate against human trafficking and for the social protection of migrants and their families. In 2009, UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre had completed a report on the integration of children of migrants in eight developed countries. UNICEF had conducted surveys and studies assessing the impact of the economic and financial crises on migrant children and their families. UNICEF, in collaboration with IOM, was advising the Governments of several countries on the formulation of social protection policies for the families of migrants. UNICEF had prepared a fact sheet on the impact of the economic crisis on migration and children's rights and another on the economic crisis and migration, remittances and children left behind. UNICEF was working with the ILO, IOM and UNDP on the preparation of a handbook on mainstreaming of international migration in national development strategies.

The representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) reported that UNIFEM had been working on issues pertaining to migrant women since the 1990s. At the global level, UNIFEM was focusing on mainstreaming gender concerns into national development plans and national action plans to prevent violence against women and was promoting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as well as Recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers. UNIFEM was working with nine countries in the Asia-Pacific and Arab regions in formulating migration policies related to migrant women, advocating for the rights of female migrant workers, establishing a gender perspective in the management of migration, building the capacity of service providers who work with female migrants, and working with recruiting agencies to ensure that their services are gender sensitive. With support from the Government of Spain, UNIFEM was planning to launch the third phase of the Regional Programme to Empower Women Migrant Workers in Asia. In several countries, including Nepal, UNIFEM collaborated with partner organizations to reintegrate returning migrants. In 2009, UNIFEM, in partnership with ILO, had organized meetings on the impact of the economic crisis. UNIFEM was planning to carry out a global programme advocating gender-sensitive policies, capacity development and knowledge management on gender and migration. A newly appointed global adviser on gender and migration would oversee the implementation of the programme.

The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that the Human Development Report had been the most visible activity on migration and development by UNDP in 2009. The lack of reliable data on international migration by country of destination and origin had made it difficult to conduct a global analysis of migration levels and trends. While the OECD compiled detailed information, their data pertained only to OECD Member States. The Human Development Report Office had used the origin-destination matrix developed by the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty of the University of Sussex.<sup>5</sup> The representative expressed her thanks to all agencies that had made their data available for the preparation of the 2009 Report.

The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported that migration induced by climate change had been the subject of a high-level mission to the Sahel by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Conflict in June 2008. The mission had found that vulnerable communities in the region were affected by a combination of factors, including climate change, disputes over scarce natural resources, and increasing migration pressures due to disasters and conflict. Following the mission, UNEP, in collaboration with the Comité permanent inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS), IOM and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), had conducted an assessment of the implications of current and anticipated environmental changes on conflict dynamics and migration patterns in the region. A project

proposal on climate change, environment and migration, focusing on Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Mauritania was being developed. The aim of the project was to develop solutions and adaptation measures to address migration induced by climate and environmental change in the Sahel region.

In 2006, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had adopted a Ten-Point Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration that provided practical guidance to Governments and international organizations to develop strategies in situations where refugees were at risk of refoulement, human rights violations or hazardous onward movement.<sup>6</sup> The Ten-Point Plan was being implemented at the global and regional levels. The first meeting on refugee protection and international migration in the Gulf of Aden had been held in Sana'a, Yemen, from 19 to 20 May 2008. The second meeting, dealing with refugee protection and international migration in West Africa, was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 13 to 14 November 2008. UNHCR had also organized two roundtables on the Ten-Point Plan. The first roundtable on "Controlling borders while ensuring protection", had been organized in cooperation with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 21 November 2008. The second roundtable, entitled "Different people, different needs", organized together with ILO and IOM, had been held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 8 July 2009. The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 11 December 2008, had addressed the issue of protracted refugee situations. According to UNHCR, there were 5.7 million refugees in protracted refugee situations in 2009. Five major cases of protracted refugee situations were identified and specific plans of action were formulated for each of them. UNHCR was also focusing on refugees in urban settings and had issued policy guidelines to protect and assist them. UNHCR was encouraging the integration of refugee support programmes into national development strategies in order to ensure the sustainability of durable solutions and to avert irregular movements. Refugees could usefully join the labour force if they were allowed to work and move freely within the country.

The representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) stated that the organization addressed migration by focusing on the impact of migrants on cities. Although city governments had limited say on national policies, they were at the frontline addressing the consequences of migration to urban centres. The forthcoming *2009/2010 State of World Cities Report* would examine the impact of South-South and South-North migration on cities. UN-HABITAT would also work with the European Forum on Urban Safety (EFUS) and the UNDP Office in Côte d'Ivoire on a project assisting cities in protecting and integrating international migrants, whether they were the origin, destination or point of transit of those migrants. In 2010, UN-HABITAT would organize, with the support of the Government of Italy, an international conference to review policies aimed at integrating migrants in cities, with the goal of identifying best practices.

The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) briefed the meeting on the organization's collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in organizing the seminar "People on the move", held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 June 2009. The seminar had called attention to the barriers migrants faced in gaining access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and examined successful policies and programmes which provided access to culturally appropriate HIV-related services to mobile populations. As one of the entities implementing the United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI), financed by the European Commission, UNFPA had collaborated in the preparation of a "virtual fair" at the 2009 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens, Greece. The fair had enabled virtual visitors to watch interviews featuring civil society leaders and policymakers discussing migration issues, to explore an on-line exhibit of projects illustrating good practices and to participate in a daily blog. For the Global Migration Group, UNFPA had prepared a fact sheet on the impact of the economic crisis on female migration. UNFPA had collaborated in a study on "Regional and inter-regional processes and fora" prepared for the 2009 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and had been represented at a meeting of the

Suitland Working Group whose objective was to develop guidelines for the use of household surveys to study international migration.

### C. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The representative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) said ESCWA was collaborating with other regional commissions and the Population Division on the implementation of a UN/DESA development account project on migration and development. The project sought to improve the quality and availability of data on international migration; enhance the capacity to design and implement migration policy, and develop networks involving migration experts and government officials in countries of origin and countries of destination so as to improve the exchange of migration information and experiences. As part of the project, ESCWA was planning to carry out a study on labour mobility, remittances and development, transnational communities and development. The study would also address “brain drain” and circular migration. ESCWA was planning to collaborate with the League of Arab States and other relevant partners to assess the situation of Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

### D. THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) called for greater interagency cooperation and for better management of national resources, particularly in light of projected linkages between climate change and migration. Interagency cooperation and investment were critical to assist rural areas to maximize the impact of migrants’ remittances and to address the effects of population ageing. He anticipated that a new institutional framework for rural and agricultural development would be adopted at the World Summit on Food Security that was to be held in Rome, Italy, from 16 to 18 November 2009. The representative of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) added that remittances were an important indicator related to food security. He stressed the need to collect remittance data in real time and disaggregate them by type of destination (rural or urban) so that their differentiated impact on urban and rural communities in countries of origin could be assessed.

The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) reported that in 2009 IFAD had published a commissioned report entitled *Sending Money Home to Africa: Remittance Markets, Enabling Environment and Prospects*. The report focused on the regulations governing international money transfers, market competition among service providers and access to financial institutions in 50 African countries. In addition, on the basis of survey data, the study described the profile of remittance recipients. The report estimated that African migrants sent about US\$ 40 billion annually to families and communities in their countries of origin. Thus, remittances exceeded total official development assistance (ODA) to Africa and, in many African countries, they exceeded foreign direct investment (FDI). Although remittances had a direct and positive impact on the lives of recipients, their full development potential had yet to be reached. Remittance transfer costs remained high, competition among service providers was limited and access of newcomers to the market was restricted. Based on the report, the Global Forum on Remittances, organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and IFAD in Tunis, Tunisia, from 22 to 23 October 2009, had formulated a number of recommendations, including the promotion of competition among service providers, ways to empower market actors, the need to adopt effective and efficient regulation, the use of new technologies and ways of expanding access to financial services in rural areas so as to make financial services available to the rural poor. IFAD had established a multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), with the aim of helping to develop and expand remittance services by reducing transfer costs, develop institutional partnerships and promote innovative remittance and financial services. IFAD was also sponsoring a project on migration, remittances and

development in Africa, initiated by the World Bank. This project aimed to improve the understanding of the linkages between migration, remittances and development in sub-Saharan Africa and to build the capacity of local partners. Lastly, IFAD had contributed to the preparation of a background paper on ways of engaging diasporas and migrants in developing policies and implementing programmes fostering development in countries of origin. The paper was contributed to the 2009 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) noted that ILO continued to advise countries on the management of labour migration and on ways of ensuring the social protection of migrant workers. The ILO was in the process of testing the use of migration modules in labour force surveys in several countries and was preparing a paper on the results so far. The ILO had also begun to provide advice on the labour reintegration of returning migrants.

The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said that UNESCO had started two research projects in 2009. The first focused on migration and climate change and would be published in 2010. The second dealt with skilled migration, with special emphasis on migration from Africa. Its results would be published in 2011 and would include an analysis of the ethical aspects of recruiting skilled migrants, the linkages between education policies and highly-skilled migrants, and the future of skilled migration from Africa. Lastly, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics had released an online database on the international mobility of tertiary-level students.<sup>7</sup>

During the discussion the issue of migration, natural resources and climate change dominated. The representatives of both the FAO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) foresaw increases in spatial mobility caused by conflicts over resources and by environmental change. They underscored the need for interagency collaboration to address those challenges. The representative of IOM responded that internal migration was generally caused by factors other than climate change. Ms. Zlotnik said that a better understanding of internal movements in general would advance the debate over the extent to which internal migration was caused by climate change. Although Governments were hesitant to address internal migration, internal migration and development were closely linked, and she suggested that it would be useful to map out what different entities in the United Nations system were doing in regard to internal migration, perhaps by convening an interagency meeting on that topic.

#### E. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) during 2009 had largely focused on the effects of the global economic and financial crisis on international migration. In addressing these effects, IOM, in consultation with partner organizations, had defined the following key messages for policymakers: (a) migrants should not be made scapegoats of the crisis; (b) the crisis and its impact on migrants requires a long-term perspective, and (c) the dialogue between employers and labour migrants should include migrants' rights. The relationship between climate change and migration remained high on the organization's agenda despite the weak evidence on the interrelations between the two. The United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance, had carried out a series of informal interagency meetings and consultations to develop an appropriate terminology and typology on migration, displacement and climate change, and to identify possible operational and analytical gaps in the humanitarian response to displacement resulting from climate change.

In 2009, IOM's International Dialogue on Migration had focused on the human rights of international migrants and would address migration and social change in 2010. IOM had been working on a series of Migration Profiles, with financial support from the European Commission. Among the

30 country profiles completed thus far, 14 were accessible on IOM's website. The profiles used a common template and provided information on the migration situation in a given country based on a range of statistics related to immigration, emigration, return migration, remittances, labour migration and irregular migration, including human trafficking and smuggling. They also included an analysis and assessment of the institutional and policy framework governing migration in the country under consideration. It was important to keep the profiles updated and to distribute them widely.

IOM had continued its collaboration with partner organizations on the preparation of a *Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies*. IOM's 2010 *World Migration Report* would focus on migration scenarios and capacity-building.

The representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that OECD had organized a high-level policy forum entitled "Towards responsive, effective and fair migration policies," which was held in Paris, France, from 29 to 30 June 2009.<sup>8</sup> At the forum, ministers and other senior officials in charge of migration and integration had discussed the current economic crisis and its impact on international migration; the management of skilled and low-skilled migration, and the integration of immigrants and their children into the labour market. The forum had made a number of recommendations: (a) countries were urged to recognize explicitly their need for low-skilled workers in certain sectors and open legal channels for their admission in order to avoid irregularity; (b) countries should improve the access of migrants to employment opportunities in small and medium-sized enterprises; (c) employers should be more actively involved in migrant recruitment and in identifying the actual demand for migrant labour; (d) the costs of migrant training should be shared between countries of origin and countries of destination; (e) enforcement of return had to be accompanied by better portability of pensions and other social protection schemes, and (f) countries should combat all forms of discrimination against migrants and their families.

In 2007 and 2008, the OECD had produced a two-volume report entitled *Jobs for Immigrants* that discussed the integration of migrants into the labour markets of several OECD countries. In addition, OECD, in collaboration with the European Commission, had organized a conference on "The labour market integration of the children of immigrants" which was held in Brussels, Belgium, from 1 to 2 October 2009. Together with Eurostat, the OECD had produced a paper on indicators to measure the integration of immigrants. In 2010, OECD would organize a conference on the effects of naturalization for immigrant integration and was planning a study on the entrepreneurship of migrants in countries of destination.

The representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) reported that the main activities of OAS in regard to international migration aimed at building information systems, strengthening human and institutional capacity, and enhancing dialogue among OAS Member States. Specifically, OAS was developing an information system, named "Continuous Reporting System on Migration for the Americas (SICREMI)", whose objective was to disseminate timely and reliable information on international migration. The SICREMI was modelled on the "Système d'observation permanente sur les migrations" (SOPEMI) developed by OECD. OAS was also mapping temporary worker programmes for migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, and was building a database on migration laws, programmes and public policies in the Americas. OAS was carrying out training activities in Central America aimed at building capacity to identify, protect and assist victims of human trafficking and it was collaborating with the Young American Business Trust to help young and low-income entrepreneurs develop local businesses as an alternative to emigration. OAS also had a programme to assist migrant women who were victims of violence in the border areas between Mexico and the United States. Lastly, OAS was committed to promoting dialogue among OAS Member States on migration issues and would continue to organize seminars to enhance understanding of international migration and its causes.

The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) said that its main objective was to support development and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB assisted Member States in developing and implementing migration and development programmes, including those related to social and labour-market aspects, and supported research and technical activities related to international migration, remittances and development. IDB provided loans and grants, conducted research, supported national surveys and censuses, and carried out campaigns to raise awareness. IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) had launched a programme to increase awareness of the economic and development impacts of remittances and had led an effort to reduce remittance-transfer costs. In 2009 and 2010, the Fund would continue its periodic survey of remittance flows in the region. The Fund had also partnered with IFAD to build the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) that supported remittance services and promoted innovative financial services. In Honduras, the IDB had launched a pilot project with the Ministry of Labour to provide jobs to Honduran citizens who had been deported from the United States. In addition, IDB was planning to develop migration modules for household surveys and to study the human capital of migrants in the region.

#### F. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The representative of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) said that the Commission supported the Global Forum on Migration and Development and that it was looking forward to collaborating with Mexico, the chair and host of the fourth meeting of the Global Forum. ICMC had already met with the Government of Mexico to discuss how participation by civil society organizations at the forthcoming meeting of the Global Forum could be increased. He suggested that civil society should identify its own topics for the Civil Society Days and that civil society should be more involved in events leading up to the annual meeting of the Global Forum. He also recommended greater interaction between Governments and civil society during the meeting itself. Regarding ICMC activities, its representative said that ICMC had launched the series entitled "Conversations on the Global Governance of Migration", an initiative to promote dialogue among governments representatives, civil society, international organizations and academics regarding the governance of international migration.

#### V. STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Four presentations were made in this part of the meeting. The first two focused on the collection of data on international migration and ways of improving the data. The next two documented recent advances in estimating international migration globally.

Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, representing the Statistics Division of UN/DESA, provided an overview of the status of implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. The Statistics Division had collaborated with Governments and partner organizations to ensure that the relevant questions for the study of migration were included in census questionnaires. The *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2*, published in 2008, recommended that countries collect data and produce tabulations on 25 core items. Three of them were relevant for the analysis of international migration, namely, country of birth, country of citizenship and year or period of arrival in the country. The Statistics Division assisted countries in planning and conducting censuses, facilitated the dissemination of census results, and monitored country progress in census activities. Seventy-five countries had carried out a census between 2005 and November 2009, 63 would conduct a census in 2010 and 54 more would do so in 2011. Only 10 countries had not yet scheduled a census, as compared to 26 countries during the 2000 round of population and housing censuses. It was expected that 98 per cent of the world population would be counted as part of the 2010 round of population censuses. An analysis of the questionnaires used in 62 of the 63 censuses already carried out showed that 74 per

cent or 46 countries had included a question on country of birth, 71 per cent a question on citizenship and 37 per cent a question on year or period of arrival. Only 35 countries had collected information on both country of birth and country of citizenship. Countries in Asia were more likely to gather information on country of citizenship than on country of birth, whereas countries in Oceania preferred the question on country of birth to that on country of citizenship. National statistical offices were expected to publish, release and disseminate the collected information in a timely manner, but dissemination of data relevant for the study of international migration generally had a lower priority than dissemination of other data. The Statistics Division had created a website to promote the exchange of information and the provision of guidance on census-taking activities.<sup>9</sup> In collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA, the Statistics Division had developed a free software package, CensusInfo, to assist countries in disseminating census data in a timely manner.

During the debate, the need to include questions on country of birth and country of citizenship in every census was stressed. Information on country of citizenship was judged important to guide discussion on migrants' rights. National statistical offices were urged to carry out special information campaigns to ensure that migrants understood the benefits of being enumerated and to allay any fears about being included in a census. It was also noted that information on the educational attainment and occupation of migrants was critical in understanding the relationship between international migration and development. The Statistics Division was requested to compile data on educational attainment on the foreign-born classified by country of birth as part of its work in compiling statistics for the Demographic Yearbook. In response, Ms. Osaki-Tomita said that the Statistics Division had encouraged countries to collect information on both country of birth and country of citizenship and that her Branch was planning to carry out a more persistent follow-up among national statistical offices to get the data generated by censuses on a timely basis. She was optimistic that the data for the 2010 round of censuses would be generated earlier than for other rounds because Governments realized the importance of such data for their policy work.

Ms. Elizabeth M. Grieco of the U.S. Census Bureau briefed the meeting on the 2010 population census of the United States, whose questionnaire consisted of only 10 questions and did not include any questions related to international migration. She said that detailed socio-economic information on the population, including information on country of birth, would be obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS), which had the advantage of producing data at shorter and more frequent intervals than the census but was based on a sample of the population living in the United States. Ms. Grieco also presented an overview of the activities of the Suitland Working Group, a task force set up to improve data on international migration and remittances generated by household surveys and other sources. The group intended to coordinate initiatives aimed at generating guidelines for the use of specialized household surveys to study migration. The group was linked to the work of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) on the improvement of statistics on international migration. The U.S. Census Bureau held the chair of the group and in 2009, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Eurostat, the United Nations Population Division and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, had organized the first meeting of the group in Suitland, Maryland, from 16 to 17 March 2009. During that meeting, the group had agreed to pursue seven projects.<sup>10</sup> Ms. Grieco said that the group was ready to accept new members wishing to work toward the improvement of statistics on international migration and remittances.

During the discussion, it was noted that the ACS lacked the universal coverage that a census had and that its sample size was not large enough to reflect accurately the information on small migrant communities, such as migrants from certain countries. Participants asked about the role of the U.S. Census Bureau in estimating the number of migrants in an irregular situation or in collecting information on remittances. Ms. Grieco explained that the ACS would generate different sets of data. She spoke of three different files: a one-year file covering one out of every 40 people; a three-year file covering three

persons out of every 40 people, and a five-year file covering one out of every eight people. That is, after five years, the cumulative five-year file would provide coverage similar to that of the long-form in the 2000 census. She noted that the response rate to the migration supplement included in the ACS had been good, indicating that migrants were not avoiding being interviewed. Since the U.S. Census Bureau was prohibited from collecting information on the legal status of migrants, it did not provide estimates on the number of migrants in an irregular situation. To ensure that all migrants, regardless of their legal status, participated in the 2010 population census, the U.S. Census Bureau was carrying out outreach campaigns involving community leaders. In regard to remittances, the Current Population Survey (CPS) supplement on migration included questions on the private use of remittances and the response rate to those questions was high.

Ms. Costanza Giovannelli of the United Nations Population Division made the third presentation, which focused on the main findings of *Trends in the international migrant stock: The 2008 Revision*.<sup>11</sup> The *2008 Revision* updated the estimates last issued in 2005 on the number of international migrants by sex in each country or area of the world. Estimates were produced for every year multiple of five between 1960 and 2010 and for 230 countries or areas. International migrants were generally persons living in a country other than that in which they were born. However, when countries lacked information on the foreign-born, data on the number of foreigners were used instead if available. Estimates for 179 countries or areas were derived from data on the foreign-born and for a further 42 countries they were based on data on foreigners. For an additional nine countries or areas lacking data altogether, the estimates presented were the result of imputation.

According to the *2008 Revision*, there were 214 million international migrants globally in 2010, up from 156 million in 1990. Accounting for mortality, the overall increase in the number of international migrants between 2005 and 2010 was estimated at 24.4 million. In 2010, 128 million migrants lived in developed countries<sup>12</sup> and 86 million in developing countries. International migrants accounted for 3.1 per cent of the world population in 2010, up from 2.9 per cent in 1990. In developed countries, however, international migrants represented 10.3 per cent of the population in 2010. In contrast, they accounted for a low 1.5 per cent of the population of developing countries in 2010.

Female migrants constituted almost half of all international migrants (49 per cent in 2010). The percentage female among international migrants was highest in Europe (52.3 per cent), followed by Oceania (51.2 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (50.1 per cent) and Northern America (50.1 per cent). Female migrants constituted relatively low proportions of all migrants in Africa (46.8 per cent) and Asia (44.6 per cent).

The number of refugees in 2010 was estimated at 16.3 million, up from 15.6 million in 2000. The recent increase in the refugee population was due to the inclusion of persons in refugee-like situations. Refugees constituted 8 per cent of all international migrants in 2010.

The United States was the main country of destination, with 42.8 million migrants in 2010. It was followed by the Russian Federation with 12.3 million migrants, Germany with 10.8 million, Saudi Arabia with 7.3 million and Canada with 7.2 million. The number of countries with more than one million inhabitants where international migrants constituted more than 10 per cent of the population had increased from 29 in 1990 to 38 in 2010. In 2010, the countries where international migrants accounted for the highest proportion of the population were Qatar, where international migrants accounted for 87 per cent of the population, United Arab Emirates (70 per cent) and Kuwait (69 per cent).

Mr. Çağlar Özden of the World Bank presented estimates of the number of international migrants living in each country by country of origin. Such estimates were consistent with the *2008 Revision* prepared by the Population Division of UN/DESA. They were derived mostly from data on the number of



foreign-born persons enumerated by censuses and classified by country of birth. When data on the foreign-born were not available, data on foreigners were used. The input data were obtained from the Global Migration Database maintained by the Population Division of UN/DESA. Because the estimates derived covered the period 1960 to 2000, several challenges were faced in processing the data. They included elaborating a master “country list”, the imputation of missing data, and the harmonization of reference dates. Just 44 per cent of the estimates obtained were derived from “observed” data. The rest were the result of imputations. The full set of estimates included complete migration matrices by origin and destination for 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 by sex.

According to the *2008 Revision*, the number of international migrants had more than doubled between 1960 and 2000, passing from 76 million to 159 million. The United States and Western Europe had absorbed about half of that growth, while the disintegration of the former USSR into 15 independent States and the resulting transformation of certain internal migrants into international migrants accounted for another quarter of that increase. The remainder was associated with the emergence of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries as key destinations, the growth of migration among countries in Africa and migration towards Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Disaggregating the world into the North (that is, the “high income” countries according to the World Bank) and the South (all other countries), South-to-South migration dominated global trends between 1960 and 2000 partly because of the effects of the disintegration of the former USSR. North-to-South and North-to-North migration remained fairly stable over the 1960-2000 period, but South-to-North migration increased significantly in the 1980s. Thus, the number of international migrants from the South living in high-income countries (the North) increased from 11 million in 1960 to 55 million in 2000.

The estimates presented by Mr. Özden showed that Mexico and the Philippines were major countries of origin of migrants to the United States and that Turkey was a major country of origin for Germany. Among developing countries, the number of migrants from Pakistan in India had declined in importance, while those from Burkina Faso and Mali to Côte d’Ivoire had increased over time. Mr. Özden noted that generating the complete set of bilateral estimates of the migrant stock inevitably involved trade-offs between accuracy and pragmatism. Despite the paucity of data, the estimates obtained provided a useful source of information to understand better the migration linkages between countries.

During the discussion, participants observed that the “developed” and “developing” classifications used by different organizations just as the “North” and “South” groups used in the presentation by the World Bank did not seem to coincide and, therefore, the results presented could cause confusion. Interest in the bilateral matrices prepared by the World Bank was high and participants requested that they be made available for further analysis. Some participants queried the estimates for particular pairs of countries.

There was interest on further explanation on how the estimates by sex were derived, on whether there were plans to estimate the matrices by age, and on whether and how the existence of refugees had been taken into account. One participant noted that environmental refugees and internally displaced persons had not been mentioned in any of the presentations and added that, in countries such as Bangladesh, millions of people were at risk of losing their homes because of environmental change. Another participant recalled that a recent Gallup poll on migration intentions<sup>13</sup> had shown that 16 per cent of the world’s adults intended to move to another country permanently and inquired whether such findings had been taken into account in deriving the estimates presented. Some participants doubted on the usefulness of data on intentions, given that intentions were not a reliable predictor of future behaviour.

Mr. Özden replied that the estimates on bilateral stocks would be released to the general public only after they were evaluated in more detail. When released, the estimates would be accompanied by

detailed documentation on the sources used and the methodology employed. He noted that refugees had not been taken into account explicitly in preparing the estimates presented. However, as Ms. Zlotnik corroborated, because the estimates were made consistent with the results of the *2008 Revision of Trends in the international migrant stock* for each country, refugees were included.

Mr. Özden added that data referring to sub-regional levels had been used, as appropriate, to fill data gaps at the country level. With respect to extending the estimates by including age, he thought such extension would not be feasible given the paucity of data. He reiterated that the redrawing of national boundaries caused discontinuities in the data on international migration because of reclassification issues.

Ms. Zlotnik added that it was pertinent to note that different organizations used different criteria to classify countries as “developed” or “developing”, “North” or “South”. Those differences were responsible for the apparently different estimates of migration among advanced and less advanced countries. It was therefore crucial for each organization to make explicit the classification being used. Lastly, she noted that the Global Migration Database maintained by the Population Division could be accessed via the Division’s migration website at [www.unmigration.org](http://www.unmigration.org).

## VI. THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of the Population Division of UN/DESA, introduced H.E. Ambassador Anastasis Mitsialis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, who would present the highlights of the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development that had been held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009, and Mr. Noel González Segura, Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations, who would speak about the plans for the fourth meeting of the Forum that would be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 11 November 2010.

Ambassador Mitsialis thanked the Population Division for inviting the chair of the third meeting of the Global Forum, H.E. Ms. Theodora Tzakri, Deputy Minister of Interior, Decentralisation and E-Governance of the Hellenic Republic to participate in the Coordination Meeting and conveyed her regrets about not having been able to be in New York. Therefore, he would make a presentation on her behalf. He recalled that the theme of the third meeting of the Global Forum had been “Integrating migration policies into development strategies for the benefit of all.” In particular, the third meeting had focused on the role of international migration in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The meeting of the Forum had been preceded by the Civil Society Days, organized by the Onassis Foundation, which had brought together nearly 300 representatives of civil society. The meeting of the Forum itself had been attended by some 600 delegates representing 140 Member States and 35 observer organizations. Both events had followed the agenda set by the Chair of the Global Forum in consultation with the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum. Civil society had presented a report of its deliberations to the opening session of the meeting of the Forum.

Ambassador Mitsialis said that the Global Forum was a unique global process that provided a venue for Governments to discuss the linkages between international migration and development, informed by the work of international organizations and the views of civil society. The meeting of the Global Forum held in Greece had successfully addressed the connection between the root causes of international migration and the achievement of the MDGs against the backdrop of the global economic and financial crises. The meeting had also discussed how integration strategies in countries of destination and reintegration strategies in countries of origin could foster the human development of migrants and contribute to the well-being of their families and communities in countries of origin. The Forum had maintained a practical orientation, identifying policy gaps and generating recommendations on how

countries of origin and destination could close them. During the chairmanship of Greece, two *ad hoc* working groups had been established to implement outcomes of the meetings of the Global Forum. The first would focus on protecting and empowering migrants for development. The second would promote policy coherence, data collection and research. Ambassador Mitsialis noted that the Global Forum had been represented at a meeting of chairs of the regional consultative processes held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 5 June 2009. That meeting had provided an opportunity to exchange views and share experiences in generating dialogue and cooperation on international migration at both the regional and global levels. Lastly, under the chairmanship of Greece, two studies had been launched. The first aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of migrant resource centres in providing information and support to international migrants. The second would compile best practices in encouraging the voluntary return and supporting the reintegration of contract workers.

Ambassador Mitsialis presented the main recommendations emerging from the meeting of the Global Forum held in Athens. It was recommended that international migration be integrated into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies; that countries prepare Migration Profiles which were useful in bringing together information that could provide the basis for pursuing greater policy coherence in regard to international migration and development; that the capacity of transnational communities to engage in development planning be strengthened, and that a handbook on best practices to support the contribution of transnational communities to development be prepared. It was also suggested that countries share information on the impact of the economic crisis on migrant communities and that a set of indicators of the impact of integration policies on development, the effectiveness of social protection policies and the effect of migrant reintegration on the labour markets of countries of origin be developed, perhaps by establishing an observatory to gather data and compile information on reintegration policies. The Government of Bangladesh, in partnership with financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, had proposed to develop a pilot project to provide pre-departure loans to migrants at low rates. It was suggested that migrant resource centres in countries of origin and destination share information and best practices on how to support migrants; that a database on circular migration programmes be developed, and that linkages between the Forum and regional consultative processes<sup>14</sup> be strengthened. A call was made to the United Nations Statistical Commission to ensure that national statistical offices include relevant migration questions in their national censuses. It was recognized that more work was necessary to ensure that data on international migration were systematically disaggregated by sex.

Ambassador Mitsialis informed participants that the outcomes of the third meeting of the Global Forum would be posted on the Forum's website and that they would be distributed among the National Focal Points. The Ambassador noted that, on the way to the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, an assessment of the Global Forum process had been proposed. He urged participants in the Coordination Meeting to join Governments in following up and implementing the outcomes of the Global Forum.

Asked to complement Ambassador Mitsialis' presentation, Ms. Zlotnik remarked that the third meeting of the Global Forum had had more interaction between Governments and civil society than the previous two meetings. The structure of the roundtable sessions had worked well, with short presentations by the chairs and ample time allocated for dialogue among participants. The roundtable on "Engaging diasporas and migrants in development policies and programmes", in particular, had been effective in providing practical examples and suggestions on the topic. In addition, despite the global economic and financial crises, Governments participating in the Forum had made no calls for restricting migration. By adopting the same agenda, the Civil Society Days and the Forum meeting had fostered mutual synergies. It was important for Governments to follow up on the outcomes of the Forum's meetings and perhaps to strengthen the linkages between the Forum and the United Nations system. Maintaining continuity in the

work of the two ad hoc working groups would be important. Ms. Zlotnik concluded by congratulating the Government of Greece for hosting and organizing an excellent meeting of the Global Forum.

Mr. Noel González Segura of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations also congratulated the Government of Greece for hosting a very successful meeting of the Global Forum. He expressed Mexico's commitment to continue the work of the Forum by organizing its fourth meeting in 2010. As a country of destination, origin and transit of international migrants, Mexico saw the organization of the fourth meeting of the Forum as an opportunity to enhance dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation in regard to migration among Member States. The Government of Mexico hoped that the international community would stop linking international migration to security concerns and portraying migrants as a burden on countries of destination. Mexico supported a multilateral approach to international migration, which focused on the wellbeing of individual migrants and on the protection of their human rights. The Government of Mexico was committed to maintaining continuity with past meetings of the Global Forum while adding a regional perspective to the debate. Preparations for the fourth meeting of the Forum had begun and there was a plan to enhance the dialogue between Member States, transnational communities, civil society and international organizations, focusing on concrete success stories fostering the beneficial impact of international migration on development.

During the discussion, participants congratulated the Government of Greece for organizing a successful third meeting of the Global Forum and noted that the Civil Society Days had improved considerably, partly by achieving a better balance in the participation of academia and practitioners. The roundtable on "Building alliances: Business engaging with other civil society actors" had been particularly appreciated. In order to maintain continuity in the participation and contribution of civil society to the Forum process, it was suggested that a support unit for the Civil Society Days be established, and that for the fourth meeting, civil society establish its own agenda. The initiative of the Government of Mexico to meet with civil society organizations at an early stage in the organization of the fourth Forum was appreciated. There was interest among the representatives of the United Nations system to find out how best to contribute to the Forum process and to discuss mechanisms for following up the Forum's outcomes and recommendations.

In closing, Ambassador Mitsialis wished the Government of Mexico success in organizing the fourth meeting of the Global Forum. Citing the successful work of the Onassis Foundation in organizing the Civil Society Days, he advised the Government of Mexico to invite a pre-eminent civil society institution to organize the meeting of civil society in Mexico.

Mr. González Segura thanked those making suggestions and said he would convey them to H.E. Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mexico and Chair of fourth meeting of the Global Forum. Regarding the future of the Forum, the Government of Mexico had always held the view that the Global Forum process should be strongly linked to the United Nations. However, the Government of Mexico respected the majority's view that the Forum be maintained as a State-led and informal process. Mr. González Segura said that the Forum had benefited from the work carried out by United Nations entities, including the Population Division of UN/DESA, and would continue to do so under the chairmanship of the Government of Mexico. He confirmed that the Chair of the Forum had already met with representatives of civil society in order to take their views into account in organizing the fourth meeting.

Mr. Hovy added that the network of National Focal Points, established during the chairmanship of Belgium in 2007, was useful in following up the outcomes and recommendations made by the Forum. During the Forum's meeting in Athens, there had been a call for strengthening the network of National Focal Points. He expressed the hope that the report of the Athens meeting would soon be forwarded to the Secretary-General for distribution among Member States.

## VII. CLOSING

In closing, Mr. Hovy reminded participants that the General Assembly would discuss international migration and development at its sixty-fifth session and would consider the advances made by the United Nations system in supporting the contribution of migration to development. He thanked participants for their presentations and active contributions to the meeting. The information presented during the meeting would constitute an important input for the report on international migration and development that the Secretary-General would present to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. He thanked H.E. Ambassador Mitsialis of Greece and Mr. Noel González Segura of Mexico for their presentations. He then closed the meeting.

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> *Human Development Report 2009. Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*, United Nations Development Programme, New York, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> The Global Migration Group brings together 14 entities of the United Nations system working on migration plus the International Organization for Migration and the World Bank.

<sup>3</sup> The GMG website and the 14 fact sheets on the impact of the economic crisis on migration can be accessed at [http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/gmg\\_on\\_migration.htm](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/gmg_on_migration.htm) (accessed 27 December 2009).

<sup>4</sup> For more information on the seminar, see [http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/pdf/090804\\_report\\_africa\\_eu\\_7th\\_partnership\\_iom\\_unitar.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/pdf/090804_report_africa_eu_7th_partnership_iom_unitar.pdf) (accessed 12 February 2010).

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the database see: [http://www.migrationdrc.org/research/typesofmigration/global\\_migrant\\_origin\\_database.html](http://www.migrationdrc.org/research/typesofmigration/global_migrant_origin_database.html) (accessed 11 December 2009).

<sup>6</sup> To access the plan see <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf> (accessed 10 December 2009).

<sup>7</sup> To access the database go to: [http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=143&IF\\_Language=eng](http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=143&IF_Language=eng) (accessed 12 December 2009).

<sup>8</sup> For more information on the meeting see: [http://www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343,en\\_21571361\\_42931477\\_43072742\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343,en_21571361_42931477_43072742_1_1_1_1,00.html) (accessed 11 December 2009).

<sup>9</sup> For more information on this website, see [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010\\_PHC/default.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/default.htm) (accessed 14 December 2009).

<sup>10</sup> The final report of the meeting can be accessed at <http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.migration.htm> (accessed 15 December 2009).

<sup>11</sup> *Trends in International Migration Stock: The 2008 Revision*, United Nations Population Division, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev. 2008.

<sup>12</sup> Developed countries include all those in Europe (including the Russian Federation) plus Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

<sup>13</sup> For more information on the 2009 Gallup poll, see <http://www.gallup.com/poll/124028/700-Million-Worldwide-Desire-Migrate-Permanently.aspx> (accessed 17 December 2009).

<sup>14</sup> The website for the Global Forum on Migration and Development can be accessed at <http://gfmd.org/>.

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## **INFORMATION PAPERS**

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## **AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Monday, 16 November 2009**

*Morning session 09.00 – 12.30*

- I. Opening of the meeting
- II. Special presentation: Human Development Report 2009
- III. The impact of the economic and financial crisis on international migration: One year later

*Afternoon session 14.00 – 17.00*

- IV. Coordination of activities in the area of international migration and development

### **Tuesday, 17 November 2009**

*Morning Session 09.00 – 12.30*

- V. Strengthening the evidence base on international migration and development

*Afternoon Session 14.30 – 16.30*

- VI. The Global Forum on Migration and Development
- VII. Closing of the meeting

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BACKGROUND PAPER BY  
THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
TO THE EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*

A. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The challenges faced by migrants are today compounded by new threats, such as the global financial crisis and economic downturn, climate change and food insecurity. Special sessions of the Human Rights Council on food emergencies and on the financial crisis highlighted the critical vulnerabilities of migrants. As the global financial meltdown becomes a protracted and diffuse economic crisis, a rise in xenophobia, anti-migrant sentiment and discriminatory practices is likely to affect the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of migrants. Migrant workers—those documented as well as those in an irregular situation—will, and in some cases already are, the first ones to lose their jobs. They are usually employed in sectors that are either structurally more exposed to the vagaries of market forces, or that are more directly affected in times of crisis. In a context of growing unemployment accompanied by shrinking States' resources, policy adjustments, such as cutbacks in spending in the health, education and social protection sectors, might be taken at the expense of, or have a disproportionate impact on, migrant workers and their families whose status is called into question. In light of these considerations, human rights protection is particularly crucial during an economic crisis that has the potential of exacerbating or igniting discrimination and xenophobia.

B. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES  
IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*1. Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continues its efforts to strengthen the protection of the human rights of migrants and to ensure that the perspective of the human rights of migrants is included among the priority issues in ongoing discussions on international migration and development. OHCHR will further focus its work in the area of human rights and migration during the next biennium (2010-2011). Advocating for a human rights approach to migration, OHCHR seeks to place human rights standards at the centre of migration considerations and to make use of existing human rights mechanisms to protect the human rights of migrants. In doing so, OHCHR emphasizes that the effective protection of the human rights of migrants is critical to ensuring that migration is a choice and an opportunity rather than a survival strategy and to facilitating the integration of migrants in countries of destination, enabling them to become fully active members of their new communities.

The High Commissioner has noted with concern that in some countries laws and regulations continue to exist or be adopted that deter migrants and their families who are in irregular situations from accessing basic human rights, such as health care and education, or deny their children from being registered at birth. The High Commissioner will continue to advocate for the repeal of such laws in order to ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants and their families.

In particular, OHCHR has raised awareness about violations of the human rights of migrants related to (a) discrimination, xenophobia and racism; (b) access to economic, social and cultural rights; (c) administrative detention of migrants in an irregular situation and the criminalization of their actions, and (d) the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on migrants.

These concerns have also been addressed by special procedures of the Human Rights Council. For example, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in its 2009 annual report noted a trend towards the tightening of restrictions applied to asylum-seekers, refugees and immigrants in irregular situations, even to the extent of making the irregular entry into a State a criminal offence or qualifying the irregular stay in the country as an aggravating circumstance for any criminal offence. The Working Group concluded that immigrants in irregular situations should not be qualified or treated as criminals and recalled a number of human rights standards and principles that should be adhered to by Member States with respect to deprivation of liberty in the context of irregular migration.

Through the Global Migration Group, OHCHR has actively sought to promote and to mainstream a human rights approach to migration within the United Nations system. In 2008, OHCHR contributed to a Global Migration Group publication on migration and human rights (Global Migration Group, 2008).

In addition to the support of the office for the migration-related activities of the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies, examples of activities undertaken by OHCHR at the global level include:

- (a) An open-ended expert consultation to explore the relationship between human rights, the inclusion, acceptance and integration of migrants in host societies, and migrants' contribution to the development in both origin and destination countries which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8 October 2009. The meeting aimed to support States and other stakeholders preparing for discussions during the 2009 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009. The meeting (i) focused on the international human rights framework relevant for the inclusion and acceptance of migrants in host countries; (ii) discussed practical experiences in promoting integration and inclusion through the protection of migrants' human rights, and (iii) focused on the relationship between human rights, migrants' empowerment and human development;
- (b) A panel discussion on migration, discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights, co-hosted with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 April 2009 on the margins of the Durban Review Conference;
- (c) A public information campaign highlighting human rights concerns related to immigration detention as part of "Dignity and justice for detainees week" from 6 to 12 October 2008;<sup>1</sup>
- (d) The international meeting on the protection of the rights of children in the context of international migration, organized in cooperation with the Government of Mexico, held from 30 September to 1 October 2008;
- (e) Support for the activities of national human rights institutions in the area of migration, including follow-up to the Santa Cruz Declaration on the rights of migrants, which was adopted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions in 2006.<sup>2</sup>

Through its field presence, OHCHR has also increasingly engaged in migration-related human rights work through the promotion of the Convention and other relevant instruments, training activities, advocacy, technical advice and other initiatives, including:

- (a) The OHCHR office in Guatemala provided technical support for the reform of national legislation and regulations on migration issues and for the preparation of the initial report of Guatemala to the Committee on Migrant Workers, including through a series of workshops in collaboration with the national human rights institution and non-governmental organizations to facilitate civil society participation in this process;
- (b) The OHCHR office in Mexico provided technical support to Government bodies and civil society organizations on international human rights standards in the area of migration and contributed to the preparation of a handbook on the human rights of migrants;
- (c) The OHCHR Middle East regional office in Lebanon, together with the ILO, contributed to the development of a unified contract to protect the human rights of women migrant domestic workers developed by a Lebanese steering committee;
- (d) The OHCHR South-East Asia regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, worked in partnership with member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations on several programmes and activities related to the protection of migrant workers and building the capacity of non-governmental organizations in monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation of migrants;
- (e) The OHCHR East Africa regional office, together with UNHCR, IOM and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), organized a regional conference on refugee protection and international migration in West Africa, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 13 to 14 November 2008, focusing on the protection response to mixed migration in West Africa, including regional responses to human trafficking.

Within the Global Forum on Migration and Development there has been an increasing interest in the human rights dimensions of international migration, with specific discussions dedicated to this issue at the second meeting of the Global Forum, held in Manila, the Philippines, in October 2008, and at the third meeting of the Global Forum held in Athens, Greece, in November 2009. OHCHR has been providing technical advice and support to a round table at the Athens meeting on inclusion, protection and acceptance of migrants in society —linking human rights and migrant empowerment for development.

At the global level, OHCHR also supports efforts to promote the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, including through the International Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Migrants, which is coordinated by OHCHR. In April 2009, the Steering Committee published a guide on the ratification of the Convention.

## *2. Human Rights Council*

In September 2009, in follow-up to its resolution A/HRC/RES/11/9 of June 2009,<sup>3</sup> the Human Rights Council held a panel discussion on the human rights of migrants in detention centres. The discussions focused on current trends, good practices, challenges and possible approaches to address the issue of detention of migrants and explored ways to promote and protect their human rights, and elaborated on how to reduce the recourse to and duration of detention for persons who entered or remained in a country in an irregular manner and on how to provide them with appropriate access to due

legal process. In 2010, in follow-up to this discussion, OHCHR is planning to organize an expert seminar on alternatives to migration detention, together with relevant partners and stakeholders.

For September 2010, in follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/12/6 of October 2009, OHCHR has been requested to submit a study on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international legal framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration. OHCHR intends to carry out this study jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

### *3. Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*

At its ninth session, held from 24 to 28 November 2008, the Committee considered the initial report of El Salvador. At its tenth session, held from 20 April to 1 May 2009, the Committee considered the initial reports of Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and the Philippines. Common issues raised by the Committee were (a) the need for measures to bring legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention; (b) the importance of data collection to assist in the development of sound migration policies; (c) the need to strengthen and expand training programmes for all officials working in the area of migration on the rights enshrined in the Convention; (d) the importance of ensuring that in practice all migrant workers and members of their families, including those in undocumented situations, had access to an effective remedy for the violation of their rights; (e) the need for effective coordination among the different agencies dealing with migration issues; (f) the need to supervise recruitment agencies, and (g) the importance of continuing measures aimed at preventing and combating smuggling and trafficking in human beings.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) at its eleventh session celebrated International Labour Day on 1 May 2009 with a half-day panel discussion on the right of all migrant workers to freedom of association, including the rights to organize themselves in trade unions. The CMW decided to start elaborating a general comment on migrant domestic workers in its 2010 session.

On 14 October 2009, the CMW held a day of general discussion on the topic of migrant domestic workers. The day aimed, inter alia, at providing input to the debate at the ninety-ninth session of the International Labour Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 2 to 18 June 2010 which will discuss decent work for domestic workers and consider the adoption of a new ILO instrument on domestic workers by 2011. More generally, the Committee intended to promote greater awareness of the particular situation and rights of migrant domestic workers, including at international forums such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

### *4. Human rights special procedures*

OHCHR continued supporting the activities of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, which are carried out in accordance with resolution A/HRC/RES/8/10<sup>5</sup> and resolution A/HRC/RES/9/5.<sup>6</sup> The Special Rapporteur continued to emphasize the State's obligation to respect and protect the human rights of all human beings under the jurisdiction of the State, regardless of immigration status. Following the momentum created by the Durban Review Conference, the Special Rapporteur drew attention to a number of human rights concerns that should be considered as warnings that xenophobic outbreaks were on the rise and emphasized the need for a serious and in-depth approach to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that are negatively affecting the enjoyment of human rights by migrants. This concern was reiterated throughout the year in statements before the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly and at several panels and events the Special Rapporteur had organized, which discussed, inter alia, (a) the protection of children and migrant domestic workers in

the context of migration as well as the realization of migrants' economic, social and cultural rights and (b) the interrelatedness between the human rights of migrants, the financial crisis as well as the achievement of sustainable and alternative measures to the detention of migrant.

In addition, the Special Rapporteur's major thematic focus of 2009 was the protection of children in the context of migration to seize the momentum created by the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This theme was included in the annual report A/HRC/11/7<sup>7</sup> by the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council and his report to the General Assembly, A/64/213, and was the major theme addressed in the interactive dialogues held with both bodies.

In 2009, at the invitation of Governments, the Special Rapporteur undertook country visits to Romania from 15 to 20 June, the United Kingdom from 22 to 26 June and Senegal from 17 to 21 August. The country mission reports as well as a thematic annual report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2010. A comprehensive report on the activities of the Special Rapporteur between January 2009 and June 2010 will be submitted to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly at its request.

Within the framework of their mandates, a number of other special procedures of the Human Rights Council related to migration were undertaken in 2009. Some mandate holders participated in human rights and migration-related activities and migration was a theme mainstreamed in efforts undertaken by the experts within their respective mandates. The mandates on contemporary forms of racism, human rights defenders, torture, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, trafficking in persons, summary executions and arbitrary detention were addressed to Governments by a number of communications by non-nationals and migrants independently or jointly with other special procedures, including in some instances the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. Following the special procedures' mandate on education, for example, a questionnaire among stakeholders was distributed to request information on the right to education of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, which would also be the topic of the annual thematic report of the Special Rapporteur for 2010.

The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, in her latest report to the General Assembly, A/64/159,<sup>8</sup> analysed the ability of persons in vulnerable situations, including migrants, to freely exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief. The Rapporteur expressed her concerns at restrictions imposed on migrants' freedom to manifest their religion or belief publicly and she recalled that according to international human rights law any such limitations must be prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, addressed the issue of violence against women migrant workers in an addendum to her annual report on "Political economy and violence against women", A/HRC/11/6/Add.6,<sup>9</sup> presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2009. The Special Rapporteur on torture, in his latest report to the General Assembly, A/64/215,<sup>10</sup> mentioned that the status as foreigners may be an aggravating factor for detainees. In April 2009, the Special Rapporteur on sale of children became a member of a scientific committee for the preparation of a conference on children on the move to be held in 2010. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery was planning to cover the issue of migrant domestic workers as part of her next annual thematic report on domestic workers, to be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2010.

Special procedures have also addressed concerns related to the human rights of migrants during country visits, including mandates on anti-racism (United Arab Emirates), torture (Kazakhstan and Equatorial Guinea), housing (Maldives), as well as the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For more on this week, see [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/60UDHR/detention\\_infonote\\_7.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/60UDHR/detention_infonote_7.pdf) (accessed 5 May 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For the Santa Cruz Declaration see [http://www.nhri.net/pdf/Santa\\_Cruz\\_Declaration\\_unedited\\_E.pdf](http://www.nhri.net/pdf/Santa_Cruz_Declaration_unedited_E.pdf) (accessed 27 July 2010).

<sup>3</sup> For the resolution, see [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A\\_HRC\\_RES\\_11\\_9.pdf](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_11_9.pdf) (accessed 6 May 2010).

<sup>4</sup> For concluding observations of the Committee, see CMW/C/AZE/CO/1, CMW/C/BIH/CO/1, CMW/C/COL/CO/1 and CMW/C/PHL/CO/1 at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmws10.htm> (accessed 5 May 2010).

<sup>5</sup> For the resolution, see [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A\\_HRC\\_RES\\_8\\_10.pdf](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_8_10.pdf) (accessed 6 May 2010).

<sup>6</sup> For the resolution, see [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A\\_HRC\\_RES\\_9\\_5.pdf](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_9_5.pdf) (accessed 6 May 2010).

<sup>7</sup> For the annual report see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/11session/A.HRC.11.7.pdf> (accessed 6 May 2010).

<sup>8</sup> For the report, see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/religion/docs/A-64-159.pdf> (accessed 10 May 2010).

<sup>9</sup> For the addendum, see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/women/rapporteur/docs/A.HRC.11.6.Add.6.pdf> (accessed 10 May 2010).

<sup>10</sup> For the report, see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/torture/rapporteur/docs/A-64-215.pdf> (accessed 10 May 2010).

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*United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)*

The work of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the field of international migration is designed to support global processes of dialogue and sharing of ideas and practices initiated at the General Assembly's 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and continued through the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The year 2009 was marked by UNITAR's increased engagement in advancing interagency collaboration and coordination within the United Nations and with other stakeholders, including the Institute's assumption of the chairmanship of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in June 2009. UNITAR's ongoing training activities in the migration field fall within the Institute's broader mandate to strengthen the United Nations system through appropriate training focusing on social and economic development as well as peace and security issues of particular relevance to United Nations Member States.

A. UNITAR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP

UNITAR assumed the chairmanship of the GMG on 1 June 2009 for a period of seven months. The Group's overall objective under UNITAR's tenure was to foster timely and coherent analysis and guidance by the United Nations and other GMG members, namely the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank, to the pressing challenges of migration governance at a time of global economic downturn.

In close collaboration with the next GMG chair, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNITAR proposed a first-ever annual workplan for the GMG with a view to guaranteeing consistency in strategic direction and thematic focus over the course of the two semi-annual chairmanships from June 2009 to July 2010. The workplan, proved to be a valuable roadmap, structuring the Group's work around clearly defined objectives and expected outcomes. The workplan rested on three main pillars: (a) fostering a strong sense of purpose within the Group; (b) establishing clear rules of engagement, and (c) enhancing GMG visibility. GMG members, as well as other stakeholders, including United Nations Member States, recognized the contributions made by the GMG in a number of areas over the second half of 2009.

First, a high-level GMG retreat, convened by UNITAR on 9 October 2009 near Geneva, Switzerland, signaled a reinforced commitment and a sense of urgency among the Heads of agency, who called for active and "clever" leadership while holding strategic discussions on the impact of the economic crisis on international migration and on migrants' well-being.

Second, the GMG refined and in some instances, defined its rules of engagement and reprioritized its terms of reference. For the first time, clearly articulated working methods were developed on the basis of a study of other inter-agency coordination mechanisms and a GMG survey conducted by UNITAR. Furthermore, UNITAR's proposal to establish a troika of GMG chairs found broad support among principals and would henceforth serve to ensure continuity during transitions in the semi-annual chairmanships.

Finally, in order to strengthen GMG's visibility, UNITAR took the lead in coordinating the development of joint outputs that provided Governments with policy recommendations and timely data

and analysis, enabling them to adequately respond to the challenges posed by the global economic crisis for migrants and their families.

A joint GMG statement delivered by the Executive Director of UNITAR, Mr. Carlos Lopes, at the opening session of the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in Athens, Greece, on 4 November 2009, reaffirmed the commitment of GMG members to work together to ensure that (a) development gains of migration were recognized and leveraged; (b) migrants' rights were protected, and (c) more robust data were collected to provide a solid evidence base for policymaking. Furthermore, 14 fact sheets on the impact of the crisis on migration, initiated by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and compiled by GMG members, were made available to participants of the Athens Global Forum. Available on the GMG website, the fact sheets, together with other resources from GMG members, form an online inventory of data and analysis on international migration that is easily accessible for public use.<sup>1</sup>

The joint statement of the GMG and a joint GMG press conference at the third Global Forum were examples of how a mobilized and united GMG can be an effective advocate for enhanced international migration governance and protection of migrants. The GMG technical symposium, proposed by UNITAR for early 2010, would be another step forward in raising public awareness about the development implications of international migration and for promoting the adoption and wider application of key instruments and norms relating to migration.

#### B. UNITAR "MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT" SEMINAR SERIES ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH IOM, UNFPA AND THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Since 2005, UNITAR, as the main training arm of the United Nations system, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNFPA and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, has organized the "Migration and Development Seminar Series" at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Series' role is to inform, educate and stimulate policy-thinking on migration-related topics among New York's diplomatic community. It brings together various stakeholders involved in migration and development issues—Governments, United Nations entities and other international organizations, the private sector and civil society, including migrant associations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academics—and provides an informal platform for dialogue and networking.

As in previous years, UNITAR and its partner agencies collaborated with the 2009 GFMD chair, Greece, to identify migration-related priorities on which to train the international community in 2009. Since February 2009, the Series hosted four seminars on the topics of: (a) migration, "brain drain" and caregiving; (b) aligning migration with development goals: the challenges of policy coherence; (c) peacebuilding: the role of transnational communities, and (d) migration and the economic crisis.

In addition, a course on international migration law, facilitated by IOM, complemented the Series. The course examined the many conventions, which, spread across different branches of law at the universal and regional levels, apply to those involved in migration processes. Topics covered included: (a) migration terminology; (b) authority and responsibility of States; (c) rights and obligations of migrants; (d) migrant smuggling and human trafficking; (e) labour migration; (f) migration and security; (g) forced migration, and (h) developments in international cooperation on migration. The Series also featured a panel discussion on the occasion of International Migrants' Day on 18 December, which focused on the experiences and challenges of migrant youth.

Since 2005, the Migration and Development Series has been producing an increasing body of knowledge, which is available to the public on UNITAR's website.<sup>2</sup>

### *1. Findings of the 2009 Migration and Development Series*

The 2009 Series pointed to the following three inter-connected objectives that guided policymaking and international cooperation on migration: (a) recognize and enhance the contributions of migrants to prosperity in both countries of origin and destination; (b) ensure that migration contributes to advancing the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and (c) increase human development gains of migrants and their families as reflected in enhanced choices and capabilities.

#### *a. Migration and global prosperity*

Migration is a factor stimulating and maintaining economic and social progress and prosperity in countries around the world, including developed countries. Limiting the scope of the international dialogue on migration and development to focus on the interlinkages of migration and development in developing countries would obscure the contributions that migrants have made and continue to make to industrialized countries. Indeed, migration governance cannot be the sole domain of development policy and assistance. While it is true that migration policies that regulate questions such as visa issuance, employment, access to services and skills recognition need to take development considerations into account, it is equally important to recognize that the compatibility of migration policies and development objectives requires that other policy areas such as health and trade be part of the analysis.

A key question throughout 2009 was whether and how the global economic crisis would affect international migration and migration policies. Preliminary observations suggested that the crisis' effects varied across world regions, with the United States of America and the European Union (EU) being, at least initially, more affected than Asia and Africa. Where Governments were faced with rising unemployment, they adopted measures to restrict new immigration, encourage returns and give preference to native workers in the labour market. In the United States and EU, unemployment was reported to be much higher among foreigners and the foreign-born than among natives. However, migrant return rates remained low, even when Governments adopted measures to provide migrants with incentives to leave. Three main factors were identified as influencing migrants' propensity to return: (a) the right to come back to the country of destination; (b) the conditions and prospects in the country of origin, and (c) migrants' opportunities for asset accumulation in the country of destination and thus their ability to sell these assets, that is, a house or other property, to afford return.

Experts were cautious about prospects for labour migration to recover soon, warning of the scenario of a "jobless recovery" in industrialized countries, with the financial sector rebounding much faster than the rest of the economy and labour market. However, dramatic shifts in global migration trends were also deemed unlikely, given that the underlying factors of contemporary migration patterns, in particular global inequalities and demographic imbalances, would remain.

With declining birth rates, many developed countries rely on migrant workers from abroad to support their ageing populations. For these countries, low labour mobility can inhibit economic growth, create fiscal imbalance and undermine the welfare of the elderly. Accelerated mobility, on the other hand, can lead to emigration of highly-skilled people and related labour shortages in migrant origin countries. The World Bank has suggested inter-regional cooperation on human resource development as a solution to this problem, including reforms and investments in the education sectors of countries of origin, better integration of migrants at destination and improved portability of pensions and benefits among countries.

Such a regime would ultimately be global in order to avoid competition among regions and to ensure that all beneficiaries contribute to the development of the human resources they require.

Indeed, the necessity of establishing a multilateral framework to enable and regulate labour migration was a recurrent theme throughout the Series. Experiences from Asia, for example, showed that bilateral labour migration agreements often left countries of origin in a relatively weak bargaining position because of the intense competition among them. A common regulatory framework would improve this situation and thereby the protection and working conditions of migrant workers. Bilateral agreements were deemed insufficient to address the problem of the emigration of health workers, because regulating emigration from one particular country of origin often created emigration pressures in neighbouring countries.

The proposed World Health Organization (WHO) Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel was welcomed as a first step in the right direction. Non-binding in nature, the code aimed to encourage the development of bilateral and multilateral agreements as well as national policies, for the ethical recruitment of health workers. One way of strengthening the code would be to include the private sector in ethical recruitment agreements, which to date are mostly limited to the public health care system, as for example in the United Kingdom.

#### *b. Migration and the MDGs*

The discussions of the Migration and Development Series in 2009 illustrated how migration intersects with the development challenges included in the MDGs. Particular attention was given to the effects of health care worker migration on the achievement of MDG 6, which committed the international community to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases and would also be the focus of the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2010.

The global imbalance of health professionals was seen as one of the main obstacles for achieving MDG 6, as a low density of health care workers was observed to correlate with high mortality rates. Both the number of professional caregivers and the amount of public spending on health care systems were lowest in those areas that have the highest prevalence rates of HIV. Thus, sub-Saharan Africa, where in certain countries over 20 per cent of the population was HIV positive, received less than one per cent of the world's total health care spending, and only accounted for three per cent of the global health care workforce.

Emigration of health workers posed a major challenge for developing countries, a challenge that was all the more difficult to address as it involved some conflicting rights. Given the scarcity of health workers in many countries around the world, and the increased need for care by ageing populations in the industrialized societies, the right to health in developed countries and the right to health in developing countries were bound to be opposing at times. Similarly, the individual health worker's right to search for a better life abroad and countries' desire to provide functioning health care systems bore potential conflicts of interest. There were also gender-specific implications since care-giving professions were dominated by female workers and HIV infection rates in Southern Africa were markedly higher among women than men.

Governments were called upon to invest in the health sector and to increase job satisfaction and performance among caregivers through a strategy of "treat, train and retain." This approach, advocated by the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), aimed to (a) improve access to HIV services for health care workers ("treat"), who were often exposed to a higher risk of infection; (b) recruit more health care workers and provide specialized, HIV/AIDS relevant care training ("train"), and (c) improve the work environment, offer professional development opportunities and financial incentives to reduce the push

factors of migration (“retain”). In addition, the more effective use of existing capacities could enhance access to health care in countries facing high emigration rates. Task-shifting from one health care profession to another, such as from doctors to nurses and from nurses or midwives to community health workers, had been relatively successful. Ministries of health could formulate and implement policies to facilitate the return of health care workers who had gone abroad. Governments of destination countries could complement such efforts through measures to promote circular migration, for example by limiting visas provided to people attending temporary training programmes. However, the decision to return would be more sustainable, if it would be voluntary rather than the result of legal enforcement.

Violent conflict proved to be an obstacle to realizing the MDGs, with countries in conflict and post-conflict situations often ranking at the bottom of development indices. In order to address this challenge in a comprehensive manner, United Nations Member States established the new United Nations peacebuilding architecture following the 2005 World Summit. Reaching out to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and its support office, PBSO, the Series discussed the role that transnational communities, including refugees and displaced persons, could play as contributors to peacebuilding and development processes in war-torn home countries.

As the example of Sierra Leone illustrated, some Governments started to recognize the potential and resources of transnational communities and to build dedicated institutional capacities to reach out to overseas communities. It was recommended that an office, solely concerned with transnational communities be centrally placed within the Government, above inter-departmental rivalries. It would also be part of national development planning processes and operate in close coordination with other ministries. Countries emerging from conflict could capitalize on others’ experiences and share good practices, as was currently happening between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

International organizations could play an important facilitator role between countries of origin, destination and transnational communities, as in the case of the IOM’s and UNDP’s temporary return programmes for expatriate experts and professionals. They could help build trust between Governments and expatriate communities, and work towards the creation of enabling conditions for the engagement of transnational communities in both their country of origin and destination. Expatriate communities could contribute to international assistance in post-conflict situations in many ways. Asset inventories could be used early on, during the humanitarian phase of peacebuilding efforts to identify the resources and potential contributions of transnational communities. They should also be included in discussions on expert rosters and rapidly deployable capacity. In addition, the PBSO could consider to engage systematically with expatriate communities when mapping resources and capacity gaps in countries under the consideration of the PBC.

Lessons learned from the return of refugees suggested that, when engaging transnational communities, e.g. for the purpose of temporary return, a careful balance needed to be struck between assistance provided to returnees and assistance provided to the community as a whole. Indeed, Governments and international actors should be careful not to privilege expatriate communities over local populations. Especially for fragile transitional Governments with limited resources this could be a difficult trade-off.

### *c. Human development implications of migration*

There are costs and opportunities associated with migration. When looking at migration through a human development lens, Governments in countries of origin, transit and destination should ask themselves what they are doing to enhance the opportunities and lower the costs. Concrete policy measures that were recommended included the creation of multiple entry visas, provisions for allowing dual citizenship, and improved consular support for natives abroad. Furthermore, creating an enabling

environment for migrants would mean that every migrant who returned to the country of origin did so with additional skills and resources. Currently, too many migrants worked below their level of education and skills, and many countries prevented asylum seekers from working at all.

Permanent migration was deemed more beneficial in terms of human development than temporary migration programmes, which kept migrants in a position of dependency and did not allow them to develop professionally, or reunite with their families. Experiences from development and capacity-building programmes involving transnational communities also suggested that integration in the country of residence and contributions to the country of origin were not contradictory, but rather mutually reinforcing. Migrants who contributed to their home countries should have greater confidence and enjoyed greater respect in both their countries of origin and residence.

Many experts and commentators expressed concern regarding the erosion of migrants' rights during the global economic crisis, in particular of the fundamental right to non-discrimination vis-à-vis national workers. They also saw the risk of seeing an increase in human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, due to greater economic instability and lack of employment in countries of origin. Migrants needed to be educated about these risks, as well as their rights and benefits in countries of destination. Some of the observable impacts of the recession on migrants were identified as: (a) risk of job loss; (b) wage reduction, delay, or non-payment; (c) more restrictive migration policies and expulsion of migrant workers, especially of those who were undocumented and low-skilled; (d) exploitative and opportunistic behaviour by employers and recruiters, and (e) rising xenophobia in destination countries.

The fact that lower skilled migrant workers were more affected by the crisis than the highly-skilled could further exacerbate inequalities in countries of origin. Indeed, evidence from Ghana suggested that lower-skilled migrant households witnessed a comparatively greater decline in remittances. The implications of lower remittance flows, including additional inequality effects, were likely to be felt in the long term, as reductions in receiving households' spending on education and health care had ramifications for the next generation and for future economic growth.

However, the crisis was also seen as an opportunity to change course and to review a development model that was built on the export of manpower and the inflow of remittances. Criticizing such an approach as unsustainable, a representative from civil society called for a "fundamental change in development model and the migration and development paradigm" in a "rights-based, people-centred, sustainable, social justice-oriented, gender-fair" manner.

### C. UNITAR'S MIGRATION PROGRAMME IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AND THE IOM

In 2009, with the support of the Government of Spain, UNITAR and the IOM started to implement a multi-year joint project on strengthening capacities in the field of international migration and development.

The project involved different capacity development activities, such as: (a) expanding the migration policy series to other United Nations locations and the regional commissions; (b) following-up to the recommendations and actionable outcomes of the GFMD; (c) facilitating dialogue among regional and international migration policy processes, including regional consultative processes; (d) strengthening the development dimension in these discussions, and (e) providing capacity-building at country-level for both national and local stakeholders.

In 2009, a policy seminar away from United Nations Headquarters entitled “Africa-EU 7<sup>th</sup> Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment: Moving Forward involving Non-State Actors,” was held in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 June 2009, which discussed the status of the partnership and conditions for migration and mobility in the context thereof.<sup>3</sup> Particular emphasis was placed on ways of securing greater and more meaningful involvement of African and EU civil society representatives in the context of the partnership. A follow-up seminar would be organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2010.

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the fact sheets on the GMG website, see [http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/migration\\_and\\_economic\\_crisis.htm](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/migration_and_economic_crisis.htm) (accessed 12 March 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For UNITAR’s website, see [www.unitar.org/ny](http://www.unitar.org/ny) (accessed 11 March 2010).

<sup>3</sup> For the report of the meeting, see <http://europafrika.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/report-africa-eu-7th-partnership-iom-unitar.pdf> (accessed 12 March 2010).

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CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA  
OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

A. CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

*1. Climate Change – Migration – Conflict: The Sahel Assessment*

In June 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Conflict, Mr. Jan Egeland, together with United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) representatives embarked on a mission to the Sahel region and underscored that the region is “ground zero” for vulnerable communities struggling to adapt to climate change. The key findings of this United Nations high-level mission brought attention to the linkages between (a) climate change risks and impacts; (b) escalating tensions and potential conflicts over scarce natural resources, and (c) increasing migration pressures due to disasters, conflicts and associated livelihood losses.

Against this background, UNEP, through its Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB) decided to complement those findings by carrying out a 50-page desk-based assessment of the Sahel. Through the analysis of the implications of current and anticipated environmental changes on conflict dynamics and migration patterns within and from the Sahel region, the assessment had three interlinked objectives:

- (a) Identifying “hot spots” and recommending intervention options for the international community and local partners in the Sahel;
- (b) Raising awareness, catalyzing support and informing/prioritizing donors’ investments to meet climate change adaptation needs;
- (c) Proposing the development of a standard assessment methodology to analyze the interplay between climate, conflict and migration at regional, national and/or sub-national scales.

So far, UNEP/PCDMB involved the following organizations to different degrees in the assessment: Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

*2. Climate Change, Environment and Migration in  
the Sahel sub-region*

The current project is under development and seeking funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Its objective is to predict, analyze and help three Sahelian countries —Côte d’Ivoire, Mali and Mauritania— develop solutions and mitigation measures for climate change and environmentally induced migration (CCEIM) within the sub-region. This is a new project that will address the issue on a more comprehensive basis at the global level. The project will seek to understand and provide information to policymakers on the effects of climate change on populations as well as migration as a pro-active response to predicted climate impacts. At the global level it will define the scale and nature of this issue and identify how appropriately planned migration can serve as a positive adaptation strategy in vulnerable

countries and eco-regions. Information and methodologies developed in this project will contribute to a proposed future project to develop a global climate change environment and migration atlas.

### *3. Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA)*

UNEP recognizes that migration is a cross-cutting issue which requires bringing together partners with different perspectives based on the idea of complementary but different mandates and expertise. UNEP is a founding member of the Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance, with IOM, OCHA, the Stockholm Environment Institute, UNU-EHS and others. Its role within the alliance has been focused on environmental issues as they relate to migration. Further, IOM and UNEP recently signed a memorandum of understanding to provide the framework for cooperation between the two organizations on migration and the environment.

### *4. The Mali Project*

The project in the Inner Niger Delta in Mali is being carried out by IOM, UNDP and UNEP and is entitled “Addressing climate change implications on migration and human security: Practical actions, empirical research and policy recommendations”. The objective of the project is to assist populations in the Niger Inner Delta to better adapt to the consequences of climate change on their environment and livelihood through a combination of practical action and improved planning which integrates migration and human security issues.

## **B. PASTORAL COMMUNITIES**

UNEP is jointly implementing with IOM (East Africa Regional Office) and OCHA (Kenya Office) the project entitled “Security in mobility” focusing on pastoral communities within the Horn of Africa. Activities will initially focus on the Sahel and other parts of Africa to better understand the migration-environment nexus.

THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS  
IN ASIA AND ARAB STATES

*United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)*

A. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Until the onset of the economic and financial crisis in 2008, international migration had been steadily increasing, propelled by socio-economic, political and environmental factors. The number of people moving across borders for greater economic opportunities and livelihoods had increased also with changes in policies to accommodate labour migrants. Recent decades saw an increase in the number of female migrants, including in Asia and Arab States. This meant that more women were leaving their families behind and were seeking employment in other countries. In some countries women leaving Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka constituted as much as 80 per cent of all international migrants leaving these countries.

The global economic and financial crisis affected migrant women, although exactly how and to what extent is not known. There is currently no global “tracking system” for migrants, including female migrants. Moreover, even if such a system existed, it would track only those with official documents, whereas many women migrant workers are often undocumented and fall outside existing labour laws and regulations.

UNIFEM has focused on the impacts of the global financial crisis on women including women migrant workers in Asia by organizing two multi-stakeholder dialogues to examine the gendered impact of the economic crisis on migrant women in 2009 and commissioning a study on the impact of economic stimulus packages on women, including female migrants. Both forums came up with concrete proposals for policymakers and other organizations for supporting women, especially against intensified exploitation and abuse.

In many countries, migrant workers face potential discrimination and inequality. Women migrant workers are especially affected because they are female and are often low-skilled. In addition, the crisis is expected to impact male and female migrant workers differently, especially in certain economic sectors dominated by one gender. Women migrant workers have been particularly hard hit in sectors like the garment industry, electronics, related informal sectors, such as home-based work, domestic work, and health care, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

The economic crisis has exacerbated the vulnerability of women migrant workers in most countries in the region. In societies structured around patriarchal principles, such as those in many countries in Asia and the Arab region, women are often the first to lose their jobs when demand for exports falls. This has also been reported by civil society organizations and various studies undertaken by academics and United Nations agencies. Due to falling wages, many women have been forced to find additional work, including jobs in the informal economy. Some women migrants face increased violence from male members of their families who may have lost their jobs and take out their frustrations on the female relative. As was observed during the Asian financial crisis of 1997, unemployment often leads to an increase in social problems, such as violence against women and children, increased alcoholism, domestic abuse and racial violence against women migrant workers. With loss of jobs, remittances are often declining and women in the countries of origin have to work harder or seek additional paid work to earn a living.

With economies dependent on export of goods, services and migrant labour, a global economic downturn may cause reduction in money allocated for development, education, health and other social services. Such cuts in public spending and in wages impact women more adversely as they will have less access to education and health services. Paid health care and education is often reserved for male members in the family.

An economic slowdown in certain sectors and industries in many countries such as manufacturing and the garment industry indicates that while there is more pressure for women to emigrate due to economic hardship in their home countries, there are fewer opportunities for them or less favourable conditions in the countries of destination. For example, in one country in Southeast Asia, about 50,000 job losses in the garment and construction industries were observed by mid-2009 with more losses expected in the future. The garment industry accounted for more than 15 per cent of GDP in 2007 and is dominated by women workers. It provided direct employment to more than 300,000 workers in 2006, the majority of which were migrant workers from neighbouring provinces. The garment industry alone recorded loss of jobs for around 25,000 women. The export revenue dropped from about US\$ 200 million to US\$ 100 million per month, since its top export destination country was severely hit by the crisis, causing women workers to receive lower wages.

With job losses or reduction in wages, which in many developing countries are already low, workers in the manufacturing sector are likely to face poverty. Some research shows that urban living expenses have risen over the past years, while wages seem to have remained largely stagnant. The living standards of migrants have declined as they have to cut down on other expenses to keep paying rent and food, and many have started relying on families left-behind to cover costs for meals. These situations create more pressure for women as well as men, particularly those lacking education and skills, to look for economic opportunities abroad. Further, many female migrant returnees are often forced to re-migrate due to absence of livelihood opportunities in the home country.

The economies in countries of destination are also hard hit by the economic crisis and now provide, for example, fewer work opportunities, fewer hours of work, lower wages and less favourable working conditions. Some migrants will return to their countries of origin not knowing that they might also face difficulties in finding livelihoods there. In an attempt to protect the national labour force from the economic crisis, many developed countries have imposed quotas and restrictions limiting the number of migrant workers (International Organization for Migration, 2009). Such policies will only make migrants more vulnerable to poor and exploitative working conditions and also make them susceptible to human traffickers and other irregular ways of travel.

Some Governments have included provisions for returning migrant workers in their economic stimulus packages as well as support for families suffering from reductions and loss of remittances from overseas. Because many women migrant workers leave through unregistered agents, or simply because they were undocumented workers, they lack information about the formal process of accessing support and are unable to benefit from the provisions for returning migrant workers. Stimulus packages need to include funds to disseminate information to migrant returnees so that more women are able to benefit from them.

## B. RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNIFEM works with national statistical offices and ministries of labour to engender their labour statistics; train civil society organizations and service providers to create and maintain databases to

capture documented and undocumented women migrant workers, and encourages prospective migrant workers and recruiting agencies to migrate through regular channels.

### C. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNIFEM addresses the development-migration nexus in its strategic plan for 2008-2011 and regional and sub-regional strategies (United Nations, Executive Board of the Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, 2007). For example, the regional programme to empower women migrant workers in Asia aims to protect and empower women migrant workers, covering nine countries in Asia and the Arab States. UNIFEM has been undertaking gender-sensitive research on strategic issues for policy reform and plans in-depth empirical studies on the impacts of the financial crisis on women migrant workers. UNIFEM works to promote gender sensitive legislation on migration and to mainstream gender concerns in migration into national and local development plans and action plans of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), including engendered results frameworks and budgets. UNIFEM's programmes on migration advocate for and build the capacity of service providers to promote the rights of migrant women workers. In Southeast Asia, UNIFEM and its programme partners participated in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Task Force on Migration contributing technical assistance on gender and migration and collaborating on the drafting of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.<sup>1</sup>

UNIFEM has been part of global discussions on migration, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and co-convened the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development (ICGMD) in Manila, the Philippines, from 25 to 26 September 2008 in order to sensitize participants on gender and rights aspects of migration and development prior to the second Global Forum meeting. The conference attracted 436 participants from 36 countries and five continents, who jointly formulated a resolution and recommendations in the Manila Call to Action.<sup>2</sup> It summoned all interested parties to commit to actions, comprised of 23 points upholding rights and 12 points seizing opportunities “to ensure that national and international commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment are adhered to and enhanced by coherent, fair and gender sensitive migration and development policies and practices.”<sup>2</sup>

At the 2009 Global Forum meeting, UNIFEM was part of the roundtable on “How to make the migration-development nexus work for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).” UNIFEM worked with the Special Rapporteur for Gender to ensure that concerns of women migrants were addressed at the meeting. In addition, UNIFEM made recommendations on integration of gender-sensitive policies into national development plans. At the end of the meeting, the Forum called for sex-disaggregated data collection and reporting in order to understand migration patterns and their impact on development agendas, mainstreaming gender concerns into research, policies, development programmes for migrants, and international strategic plans with a focus on women migrant workers. The Global Forum called for gender to be strongly integrated into all stages of migration from pre-departure to onsite to return and for comprehensive, gender reintegration policies for women migrants. The discussions also highlighted the use of CEDAW principles in framing development plans for women migrants.

UNIFEM has generated the following information and knowledge products, some of which are forthcoming:

- Gender, migration and development – Emerging trends and issues in East and South East Asia
- An in-depth study on the realities and concerns of Nepalese domestic workers in Hong Kong
- Legal protection of domestic workers
- Gender dimensions of remittances: a study of Indonesian domestic workers in East and Southeast Asia
- Claim and celebrate women migrant workers’ human rights through CEDAW
- Empowering women migrant workers in Asia: a briefing kit
- Good practices to protect women migrant workers

UNIFEM is planning to formulate a global programme on gender and migration as a development intervention. It will focus on global policy advocacy, capacity development and knowledge management. UNIFEM is also planning to launch the third phase of the regional programme to empower women migrant workers in Asia. The focus is on more explicit synergies and linkages of safe migration with the broader developmental agendas focusing on achieving gender equality such as pursuing the recognition of women’s contribution to the economies of countries of origin and destination, women’s representation in decision-making processes about social and economic development, and gender responsive budgeting. UNIFEM will continue to advocate for the use of CEDAW general recommendation 26 that affirms “that migrant women, like all women, should not be discriminated against in any sphere of their life” (United Nations, 2009).

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the declaration, see <http://www.aseansec.org/19264.htm> (accessed 24 June 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For the full text of the Manila Call to Action, see [http://icgmd.info/docs/icgmd\\_manila\\_call\\_to\\_action.pdf](http://icgmd.info/docs/icgmd_manila_call_to_action.pdf) (accessed 29 April 2010).

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INPUT TO THE EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

A. INTRODUCTION

The 2005 World Summit Outcome acknowledged the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to address the challenges and opportunities presented by migration. A collaborative, coherent and comprehensive approach on this topic is essential to ensure that migration is prominent on the global development agenda and that regular migration is seen as an opportunity for development in both origin and destination countries, rather than as a threat. This is especially important given the current global economic and financial crisis which threatens to impact migration and remittance flows and might undermine the development benefits of migration.

B. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The recent economic downturn has important implications for future migration flows, although little concrete evidence is available on the magnitude of the impact. As more countries are affected by an economic recession and as unemployment rises, migration policies may become more restrictive and public perception of migrants may become more negative. Migration flows have already shown signs of reversing in the hardest hit sectors of the economy and in turn have also affected the flow of remittances.

Women might be especially affected by the economic and financial crisis, including discrimination due to their immigration status and gender, which might make them more vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination and abuse. The extent of the impact on female migrants varies by region and type of migration as women are well represented in the employment sectors hit by the crisis such as manufacturing, real estate, and the hotel industry, but also in the sectors that have not been negatively affected by the crisis or that have even expanded during this time including health, social work, social and personal services, and education.

Many women are employed in the informal sector of the economy and are at an increased risk of discrimination and exploitation. The plight of domestic workers not benefiting from the protection of labour laws in most countries deserves particular attention in times of crisis. Also, as competition for jobs increases, female migrants may be forced to accept inadequate terms and conditions of employment, something that affects formally employed migrants and migrant workers in an irregular situation in the informal economy.

As the economic crisis continues, female migrants are likely to find it increasingly harder to obtain regular employment abroad. If they do find jobs, it is likely that the jobs will pay less and will have decreased benefits. This may impact the amount of remittances they will be able to send home which, in turn, will impact the quality of life of families who count on remittances to provide for food, health care and education. Children and pregnant women may not receive the health care they need and girls may be forced out of school to help support the family. While women typically send a larger percentage of their earnings home to their families, it remains to be seen how resilient these remittances will remain during the economic crisis.

Women who are unable to find employment through regular channels may resort to traffickers and smugglers, exposing themselves to exploitation and human rights abuses in sweatshops, the sex industry and domestic servitude where they may find themselves at increased risk of physical and mental health problems, including HIV/AIDS, yet lack adequate access to appropriate health-care information and services.

Timely and reliable age and sex disaggregated migration data in conjunction with culture, gender and age-sensitive research are essential for evidence-based policymaking, development planning and programme formulation. This includes research that enhances the understanding of the implications of Government responses to the economic crisis, the effect of the crisis on migration and development, and the impact on female migrants. The 2010 round of censuses may shed some light on the impact of the crisis. However, there is a risk that the economic downturn may affect countries' ability to conduct censuses.

### C. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) continues its collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) offering 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 discussions.

UNFPA collaborated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other partners in the preparation for the UNAIDS twenty-fourth programme coordinating board thematic seminar on People on the Move<sup>1</sup>, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 24 June 2009, which called attention to the barriers that migrants face in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. The seminar also examined successful policies and programmes that provide accessible and culturally appropriate HIV-related services to diverse mobile populations.

The Fund continues its partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the IOM, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI)<sup>2</sup> to set up and reinforce migration and development networks, identify good practices, and inform policymaking on migration and development. The collaboration also included participation in the virtual fair during the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 3 November 2009 which invited virtual visitors to watch filmed interviews with civil society leaders and policymakers present in Athens, explore an online exhibition of good practice projects, and participate in a discussion blog regarding the daily activities during the Global Forum meeting.

In order to strengthen the evidence base on international migration and development, UNFPA participates in the Suitland Working Group to develop practical guidance on how best to use household surveys to measure international migration and describe the characteristics of migrant populations. The Fund highlighted the importance of using census information for migration and mobility studies at a recent Needs Assessment Conference for Census Analysis, in Dakar, Senegal, held from 11 to 13 November 2009.

A number of UNFPA country offices have initiated surveys, research studies and supported meetings to better understand the phenomenon of migration. The topics of the studies include cross-



border migration, youth migration, remittances, migrant rights, access to sexual and reproductive health services among migrant populations, the needs of women migrants, and communities living abroad. Some country offices have worked with Government offices to sensitize policymakers to key population issues including international migration. UNFPA is also preparing concept notes for its country offices on the linkages between migration and other urgent population issues, including HIV/AIDS, human rights and climate change.

As a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), UNFPA collaborated with GMG partners in the preparation of fact sheets on the impact of the economic crisis on various aspects of migration. UNFPA prepared the fact sheet on *The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Female Migration*, showing that the crisis makes female migrants more vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination and abuse.

UNFPA will continue to be an active member of the GMG and will work with its partners to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach to the institutional response to international migration.

#### D. CONCLUSION

The current economic and financial crisis is raising concerns about the short- and long-term impact on international migration flows. Although further research and data are needed to fully understand the extent of the impact, the crisis has already prompted some Governments to tighten immigration controls and employers to cut jobs and wages in a number of sectors, with negative consequences for migrants. In some areas, the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments has made migrants the target of xenophobic reactions. Concerns are being raised about ensuring respect for the human rights of migrants in this time of crisis. It is important to underscore that human rights are non-negotiable and that respect for the human rights of migrants is a fundamental responsibility of all States and must underlie all policies and practices with respect to their treatment by public authorities.

It is essential that short-term measures addressing the crisis should not overshadow longer-term considerations in shaping migration policies. Migration should be regarded not as a problem but potentially as part of the solution to overcoming the global recession and promoting development.

While international migration cannot be a substitute for development, it must be an integral part of the development agenda. Differences in opportunities and incomes between countries and demographic imbalances caused by ageing populations make future movements of people across borders inevitable. Cooperation and collaboration between sending and receiving States is essential to ensure flexible and coherent policies that promote the orderly flow of migration and protect the rights of migrants. Effective migration and development policy requires capacity-building, compilation and exchange of information, and linking research and policy.

UNFPA looks forward to continue working with GMG partners, United Nations Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society to address the increasing challenges of migration and to ensure that migrants do not become the innocent victims of the economic and financial crisis.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the meeting, see [http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/Governance/PCBArchive/24th\\_PCB\\_Meeting\\_June\\_2009.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/Governance/PCBArchive/24th_PCB_Meeting_June_2009.asp) (accessed 25 February 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For further information on the Joint Initiative, see <http://www.migration4development.org/content/about-jmdi> (accessed 4 January 2010).

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REFUGEE PROTECTION AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS  
IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*

A. INTRODUCTION

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is not a development agency, nor does it have a mandate regarding international migration management. UNHCR's mandate is to provide international protection to refugees and find durable solutions to the problem of refugees, in accordance with its statute and international standards *inter alia* set out in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. The United Nations General Assembly gave UNHCR a formal mandate to prevent and reduce statelessness and UNHCR has also assumed responsibilities with regard to internally displaced persons. Yet, in many areas, issues relating to international migration and development are of significance to UNHCR in light of implications for persons of concern to the organization.

For the purpose of this meeting, the paper will focus on two areas: first, international migration and refugee protection; and second, the importance of a "development" approach to durable solutions for refugees.

B. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND PROTECTION OF REFUGEES

Movements across international borders continue unabated. Often people take considerable risks, for example, by taking un-seaworthy boats crossing the Gulf of Aden and the Mediterranean, to migrate. "Mixed migration", situations in which individuals with different objectives move alongside each other using the same routes and means of transport or engaging the services of the same smugglers, can raise serious protection concerns. Apart from the dangers *en route*, proper reception arrangements are not always in place, and border control measures are not always sufficiently protection-sensitive, increasing the risk of refolement.

As international migration continues to grow in scale and complexity, UNHCR promotes comprehensive approaches to migration that take into account international protection responsibilities of States, and the right of individuals to seek asylum and to have their human rights protected. Measures to curb irregular migration must not prevent refugees from having access to international protection.

In response to a growing need to ensure refugee protection within the context of mixed migration, UNHCR issued a Ten-point Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration, aimed at providing practical guidance to States and relevant agencies on how to develop comprehensive strategies in managing international migration that would be sensitive to the international protection needs of refugees and other groups.<sup>1</sup> During the High Commissioner for Refugees' Dialogue on Protection Challenges held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 12 December 2007, the theme of migration and asylum was addressed and participants acknowledged the direct relevance of the Ten-point Plan for better management of refugee protection and international migration.

UNHCR initiated several follow-up activities at regional and global levels. One is a three-year project entitled "UNHCR's Ten-Point Plan in Central America, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Western Africa," which received funding from the European Commission and has been implemented

since 2008 and will end in 2010. The project consists of two interrelated components: the development of implementation strategies for the Ten-Point Plan in four different regions through regional stakeholder conferences, and further development and elaboration of the Ten-Point Plan as a tool through expert roundtables and a publication entitled *Best Practice Handbook*.

Two regional conferences have been convened thus far; the first one on refugee protection and international migration in the Gulf of Aden in Sana'a, Yemen, from 19 to 20 May 2008. The second, dealing with refugee protection and international migration with a special focus on reviewing protection dimensions respecting intra-regional movements in Western Africa, was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 13 to 14 November 2008. The third will address refugee protection and international migration in the Americas and will take place in Central America in mid-November 2009; while the fourth will be held in Asia. The aim of these conferences is to support pragmatic regional strategies which would respond comprehensively and in a protection-sensitive way to the challenges of mixed migration flows drawing from elements in the Ten-Point Plan.

UNHCR has also convened a series of expert roundtables. The first one was held in cooperation with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, titled "Controlling borders while ensuring protection," held in Geneva from 20 to 21 November 2008, the second one co-organized with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) titled "Different people, different needs" focusing on cooperation mechanisms for identification and protection of persons with specific needs in a mixed migration context held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 8 July 2009. A third one will be held in cooperation with ILO and IOM on the return of non-refugees and alternative migration options at the end of November 2009; and a fourth will be convened in 2010 focusing on cooperation among key partners in relation to secondary movements.

The compilation of practical examples related to the Ten-Point Plan aims to complement these efforts. The provisional release of the *Best Practice Handbook* draws from over 100 examples and many tools from different regions that are relevant to the implementation of the Ten-Point Plan. The book will be finalized after comments and feedback are received from Governments and partner agencies.

### C. DEVELOPMENT APPROACH TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES

In 2010, an estimated 214 million people will be living outside their county of birth; 16.3 million will be refugees in 2010—including those under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (United Nations, 2009). One priority area of UNHCR's work is to reinvigorate durable solutions, in particular for those who are in protracted refugee situations. Whether in urban contexts or in camp settings, the majority of refugees lives in developing countries, primarily in Africa and Asia, which are also struggling to meet the basic needs of their own populations. By supporting refugees to find solutions through self reliance and livelihoods in host countries one could contribute to developing the local economy and communities, and would help reduce secondary movement of refugees in search of durable solutions.

Integrating refugee programmes into national development plans is important for bringing gains to both refugees and local communities. In this sense, refugees could be "agents of development." Development-related activities are central to viable management of protracted refugee situations, and in the recent past, UNHCR's programmes have started to shift from a focus on care and maintenance to supporting refugees and their host communities. It was intended to develop livelihood opportunities and promote self reliance of refugees, capitalizing on their skills and their potential to contribute to the local economy. In this context, working with partner United Nations agencies and their country teams, and

incorporating refugee protection into longer-term development plans of the host country could enable additional support to be made available to refugees and local communities and contribute to ensuring sustainability of solutions.

UNHCR has joined the United Nations Development Group and continues to refine its engagement in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and in the Delivering as One Initiative, an initiative that was launched in 2007 to better coordinate United Nations development assistance provided to a selected group of less developed countries. In several pilot countries, refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR are part of the overall national development priorities. Focusing on community-based projects so as to also benefit local communities, UNHCR has initiatives in the following countries: (a) Pakistan, in relation to Afghan refugees; (b) Tanzania, in relation to Burundian refugees displaced since 1972; (c) Albania, in relation to stateless Roma; (d) Mozambique, in support of skills-training for Congolese refugees, particularly women and girls in camps under the “Women Leading for Livelihoods” initiative, and (e) Rwanda, in relation to poverty reduction and social vulnerability for Congolese and Burundian refugees pending repatriation home.

Refugees constitute an important part of the labour force if granted freedom of movement and provided with access to local labour markets. In West Africa, the provisions of the 1979 Protocol Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment and four supplementary protocols, adopted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), provide a legal basis for the continued stay of people from ECOWAS member States in their host country after their refugee status has ceased. Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees, for example, who do not wish to repatriate to their home countries, have benefited from this opportunity. The right to reside and work enabled refugees to retain their nationality while continuing to reside and work in the host country. UNHCR’s local integration initiative for these two groups of refugees focuses on the following seven countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

Whether in camps or urban settings, UNHCR considers it particularly important that refugees have secure status, are empowered to become self reliant and are able to access livelihood opportunities, as mentioned above. As part of UNHCR’s efforts to reinvigorate the search for solutions for protracted refugee situations, the High Commissioner’s Dialogue on Protection Challenges, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 11 December 2008, identified five key protracted refugee situations, and specific plans of action were formulated to address them. Additionally, in relation to refugees in urban situations and in acknowledgement of the importance of a human rights and development approach to protection in urban settings, UNHCR recently issued a report entitled *UNHCR policy on refugee protection and solutions in urban areas*. The report updates its existing policy, with a focus on enabling refugees in urban settings to (a) secure legal status; (b) develop livelihood capabilities and access essential services; (c) expand community support, and (d) reinforce local partnerships.

#### D. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

UNHCR engages in activities to promote good practice in development and migration. Working with the European Commission (EC), ILO, IOM, UNDP and UNFPA, the organization is active in the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI). The overall objective of this initiative is to support civil society organizations and local authorities seeking to contribute to linking migration and development. The Joint Initiative also aims to (a) set up and reinforce networks of actors working on migration and development, and (b) identify good practice in this field and share information on what actually works at the local and international levels among those who are active in this field with a view to feeding into policymaking on migration and development.

## E. CONCLUSION

Migration and development approaches need to be sensitive to issues of protection and solutions, if individuals are to be supported to exercise their human rights, realize their potential, meet their needs, and fulfill their aspirations. Refugees need to be supported to use their skills and find sustainable solutions, whether in their country of origin, upon return or in a host country. The 16.3 million refugees worldwide in 2010 must be viewed as a significant resource that cannot be overlooked in the current financial crisis.

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### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> The growing scope, scale and complexity of population movements have multiplied the points of intersection between refugee protection and international migration. See UNHCR, “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: The Ten-Point Plan in action” (accessed 10 March 2010); for the original Ten-Point Plan, see <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf> (accessed 10 March 2010).

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CONTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME TO  
THE EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)*

A. IMPACT OF HIGH FOOD PRICES AND  
THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON MIGRATION

*1. High food prices*

Food prices, which had been increasing slowly since 2001, soared in 2007 and 2008. They subsequently fell in the second half of 2008, but remain high and volatile, particularly at the local level in developing countries. The combined effects of the financial crisis and the continuing high food prices mean that people eat less and eat less well. Vulnerable populations switch to cheaper foods that fill their stomachs and ease their hunger, but which are less nutritious. People, especially young children, who fail to consume the correct nutrients and vitamins, are more prone to illness, learn less, have lower productivity, and thus less prospects for their futures.

As a result, the number of undernourished people is expected to exceed one billion people in 2009. Even more striking is that two billion people suffered from micronutrient deficiencies before the current crisis. This number most likely increased as well.

In 2008, the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted about 40 assessments on the impact of high food prices on food consumption. The WFP found widespread evidence of reductions in the quality and quantity of food consumed (Sanogo, 2009) and some evidence of increased migration and school dropouts or sale of economic assets, for example in Bangladesh, Lesotho, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Yemen.

*2. The global economic and financial crisis*

Remittances were one of the major channels—together with trade and capital flows—through which the global economic and financial crisis was transmitted from developed to developing countries. In early 2009, the WFP developed an Economic Shock and Hunger Index (ESHI) to better understand which countries are likely to become more vulnerable to food insecurity due to the global financial and economic crisis. The ESHI analysis considered key financial and economic factors as well as food security indicators to understand the hunger implications of 126 low- and middle-income countries. Remittances as a percentage of GDP was one of 12 variables included in the analysis. Forty countries were identified as particularly vulnerable.

In March and April 2009, the ESHI analysis was followed by case studies,<sup>1</sup> in five countries—Armenia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nicaragua and Zambia. The purpose of these studies was to assess the effects of the financial crisis on household food security. The countries in the case study were selected to identify specific channels through which different countries could be impacted by the crisis, such as remittances, exports, currency depreciations, foreign direct investments, tourism or official development assistance.

### 3. Key findings of the case studies

The effects of the global financial crisis were clearly transmitted to these countries, translating into seriously deteriorating household food security. The fact that many countries and communities were still reeling from the food and fuel crisis, which peaked in 2008, further exacerbated the effects of the global economic and financial crisis. Armenia, Bangladesh, Nicaragua and Zambia were particularly vulnerable while Ghana was affected but not to the same degree given the stable demand and relatively higher prices for gold and cocoa exports.

All five countries experienced a decline in exports leading to job losses. In Zambia, the workforce in the copper mining industry retrenched by about 25 percent. In Bangladesh, reduced exports of jute and garments caused 300,000 job losses. In Armenia, there were 15,000 newly registered unemployed people in the previous two quarters since its exports had fallen by about half. Nicaraguan exports also declined by about 20 percent which in part caused 20,000 workers to be laid-off. In Ghana, falling timber exports led to a decline in internal remittances, while a large fall in the volumes and prices of shea nuts affected severely food security among smallholders in the North.

The most substantial declines in remittances were observed in Armenia, Bangladesh and Ghana. In Armenia, remittances dropped by a third within a year, while it is a main source of income for a quarter of the population. In Bangladesh, remittances declined by nine per cent in February of 2009, while large numbers of migrant workers continue to be deported, mostly from the Gulf States. Ghana experienced a 16 percent decline in remittances over the previous year. Currencies of these countries have significantly depreciated against major world currencies. Within a year the Zambian Kwacha has lost a third of its value while the Armenian Dram and the Ghanaian Cedi have depreciated by about a fourth against the American dollar. The depreciation of local currencies contributed to higher food, fuel and fertilizer prices, especially for Zambia where the inflation of food prices stood at about 15 percent. In Armenia and Nicaragua, chances were that the availability of food would decrease as farmers were facing higher costs for agricultural inputs coupled with lower producer prices and demand for exports.

Overall, the most affected population groups were the unskilled workers in the urban areas, families who rely on remittances, retrenched workers from export sectors, miners and tourism sector workers and poor households, but not necessarily the poorest people that are generally supported by social services.

Household coping mechanisms included: (a) diversification of income sources; (b) migration, including return migration; (c) withdrawal of children from school; (d) reduction of expenditures on health care, and (e) reduction of the number of meals eaten per day or cheaper and less nutritious foods. These coping mechanisms are potentially leading to higher malnutrition among children. For instance, in Bangladesh, severe chronic malnutrition stood at 20 percent. Women were working longer hours and therefore spending less time taking care of their children while child labour was also a growing problem. The loss of health care benefits for retrenched miners in Zambia was of particular concern given the high incidence of HIV/AIDS.

#### B. INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Migration and receiving remittances from family and friends are important coping mechanisms for vulnerable households in times of stress. The significance of this was highlighted again in various assessments undertaken to determine the impact of high food prices and the global economic and financial crisis. Several assessments recommended strengthening the monitoring systems in order to



capture changes in migration and remittance flows and their impact on food security. The WFP continues to pay particular attention to migration and remittance flows in its analysis, assessments and monitoring systems.

In 2008, the WFP published a study on migration in Nepal titled *Passage to India: Migration as a Coping Strategy in Times of Crisis in Nepal*. The study, partly based on a survey, documents various aspects of migration in Nepal, including who, why and how people migrate, the size, channels and use of remittances, the risks, the role of migration in coping strategies and the relation with food security and employment. The study found that 64 percent of the very poor and 62 percent of the poor said that they would migrate after a shock. Moreover, many claimed that they would not migrate if they had sufficient access to food or were guaranteed full employment for three months.

### C. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In 2008, the WFP provided food assistance to 1.9 million refugees, 9.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and 0.9 million returnees. Partnerships, collaboration and cooperation are critical in its activities. The WFP collaborated in 2008 with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 54 different projects in 43 countries and with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 19 projects in 18 countries.

The WFP continued to mainstream protection into field programming through research and analysis as inputs to project formulation and design, developing guidance, checklists, tools and work plans. The WFP remained engaged in inter-agency initiatives, primarily through the protection cluster. With UNHCR and the Women's Refugee Commission, the WFP co-chaired the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (IASC Task Force SAFE) to develop guidance on fuel efficiency and a matrix of agency roles with regard to fuel in humanitarian settings.

The WFP's programming, decision-making and interventions are guided by assessments and analysis in order to meet hunger and humanitarian needs in ways that are sensitive to needs, vulnerability patterns and changing contexts. Over the years, the WFP has developed various tools to analyze and map vulnerability, provide early warnings and assess needs. These tools facilitate the understanding of the nature of food insecurity and inform the targeting, programme design and delivery mechanisms to ensure that the response is effective.

The UNHCR/WFP Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) have been conducted in collaboration with UNHCR since 1994 to understand the situation, profiles and needs of refugees and populations in host countries. Similar assessment missions are undertaken with national Governments, UNHCR and other partners to determine the needs of IDPs, in particular with regard to food security and nutrition. Over the years, the methodology has been refined, especially concerning both food and non-food aspects of an emergency situation, and opportunities to increase self-reliance. A new edition of guidelines for work in this area was issued in September 2008. This new edition included updates on food security and nutrition analysis, IDPs, urban refugee considerations, and the new UNHCR strategy on repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and construction.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.wfp.org/stories/financial-crisis-pushes-poor-families-deeper-into-hunger> and <http://www.wfp.org/food-security/reports/search?enaType=> (accessed 31 April 2010).

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## INPUT TO THE EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

### *United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)*

#### A. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND THE CITY

Worldwide, people are on the move, whether fleeing conflict and disasters, or seeking a better life somewhere else, and the number of people on the move today is greater than ever before. According to figures provided by the Population Division of UN/DESA, it is estimated that in mid-2010 there will be 214 million international migrants in the world.

Underlying the increase in scale and diversity of migration is the fact that migration is a multi-dimensional and cross-cutting issue and its impact on the changing urban landscape is a critical part of the process of globalization. Raising complex and often conflicting sets of policy challenges, it is increasingly at the forefront of local, national, regional and international agendas. It has demographic, economic, legal and social facets and has a strong regional dimension, notably when regions have embarked on processes of cooperation and integration such as countries in the European Union (EU). Moreover, international migration is an inherent and critical aspect of the current process of interdependence and globalization.

As the scale, scope and complexity of international migration flows have grown, States and other stakeholders have become aware of the challenges and opportunities presented by international migration—at the local, national, regional and global levels. It is almost a cliché to say that in every part of the world, there is now an understanding that the economic, social and cultural benefits of international migration must be more effectively realized, and that the negative consequences could be better addressed.

#### B. URBANIZATION AND MIGRATION INTERFACE

Urbanization as well as international migration continue all over the world. As cities are viewed as a “territory and experiential texture for half the global population,” the twin processes of urbanization and migration are closely linked. Migration is a predominantly urban phenomenon and the impact of migration on urbanization and sustainable urban development is important to understand. Urbanization is also an important part of the process of globalization—urban areas continue to be the essential sites of destination and settlement for migrant populations across the globe and the dynamics of urban growth and urbanization are often closely related to the dynamics of migration. Demographic change is contributing to rapid urbanization, reurbanisation and metropolitanisation. Given the inexorability of urbanization and migration dynamics and the recognition that poverty is shifting from rural areas to cities, it is important to address these challenges.

#### C. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

For the past two decades cities have exhibited vibrancy and dynamism—serving as “engines of growth” in terms of attracting investment and creating wealth. This has resulted in unprecedented gains in productivity and competitiveness in cities. A number of cities in the world, more so in the North but also in the South, have emerged as hubs of development thus becoming magnets for transnational migration. It is estimated that there are approximately 214 million international migrants in 2010—South to South migrants are as numerous as South to North migrants. Almost one in ten persons living in more developed

regions represents a migrant, compared to one in 70 people living in developing regions (United Nations, 2009). From 2005 to 2010, the number of international migrants worldwide is projected to increase by 10 per cent, and almost 50 per cent of all international migrants are women. It is expected that the number of international migrants globally will increase further in the future.

The dynamism of cities and their attractiveness as destinations for international migrants has been negatively affected by the current economic and financial crisis. The crisis has led to the reduction of credit and a decline in investment, consumption and urban employment. This has led to a further reduction in aggregate demand, resulting in a contraction of urban economies. In many cities of developing countries urban poverty has worsened and the distribution of the population by income has become more unequal. Furthermore, the reduction in commodity prices and development assistance has fuelled transnational migration, including in some parts of the world youths travelling on rafts to cross the ocean. There is also a noticeable increase in squatter settlements in the peripheries of cities.

In terms of governance, urban authorities have had to confront the challenge of diminished levels of investment, limited partnerships with the private sector, strained fiscal systems and budgets and in some cases even insolvency. The reduction in industrial production and loss of jobs has negatively affected migrants. In cities with social protection systems, the crisis has led to an increased burden of social caring for the victims of the crisis. One therefore sees a complex situation arising from the economic and financial crisis —whereby on one hand, more people are forced to move to regions and cities that are believed to offer more economic prospects. On the other hand, these cities find themselves constrained in accommodating and catering to the needs of more migrants. It has not been uncommon for this tension to generate a rise in xenophobia, riots, and for international migration to become a highly contested issue in the politics of urban and national governance.

#### D. RECENT INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE

In 2005, UN-HABITAT undertook a study jointly with the University of Venice to document how cities are responding to the challenge of South to South migration. In 2008, the organization also commissioned a major review of the policy implications of international migration for cities, with a view to identify areas of intervention for its various programmes. UN-HABITAT also participated in a joint study examining the linkage in international migration between countries of origin and destination. Some of the findings were presented at a joint meeting with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the EU that took place in June 2009. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT's 2010 global report entitled *State of the World Cities* is focusing on the urban divide and factors that inhibit full access to the city.

#### E. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Among the planned activities are a programme initiated together with the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS) and the office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Côte d'Ivoire. This planned initiative, which is still in the process of negotiation, is aimed at enabling cities of origin, transit and destination to respond effectively to the process of protecting and integrating international migrants at different stages of their migration process. More specifically, it aims at (a) improving information to potential migrants in countries and cities of origin; (b) reducing the vulnerability of migrants in selected cities of departure; (c) strengthening protection for migrants in countries of transit, in particular by improving the identification and management of vulnerable migrants, and (d) strengthening the protection of migrants when they arrive in the host country and its cities, and the integration and coexistence in host cities.

UN-HABITAT with the support of the Government of Italy, is planning to organize an international conference on policies and best practices for migrant integration in the fall of 2010.

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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

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

Based on its 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 workplan 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 other regional commissions and the Population Division of UN/DESA.

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 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*. 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 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 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 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.

In September 2008, ECLAC also published the book entitled *América Latina y el Caribe: migración internacional, derechos humanos y desarrollo* which summarizes much of the work carried out by CELADE in the area of international migration.

## 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, in 2005, Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2006, Santiago de Chile, Chile, in 2007 and San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2008. These meetings recognized the importance of international migration within the Ibero-American community. ECLAC maintains a close 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 and 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 recognized the positive contribution of migrants to development, promoted full respect for migrants' human rights and advocated a central role for migrants in the migration processes. It also called for the identification and dissemination of best practices in the field of international migration.

At the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit held in Santiago de Chile, 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>2</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>3</sup> Article 48 of the same documents requested 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."<sup>3</sup> At the eighteenth Summit held in 2008, Head of State and Government decided to include the following paragraph in the Declaration of San Salvador, "... to promote, within the framework of the historical and cultural bonds that unite Ibero-American countries, considering the Montevideo Commitment on Migration and Development, in accordance with the international instruments on the issue and respecting the current national legislation, a structured and comprehensive dialogue which allows to overcome situations that affect migrants and their families and to advance on the elaboration of a positive and proactive migration agenda linked to human development, based on the full respect of their human rights, independently of their migratory condition."<sup>4</sup>

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 which focused on (a) international migration in Ibero-America, with special emphasis on the marked increase in international migration in recent years and its demographic effects and (b) the social and economic effects of migration in Argentina, Costa Rica and Spain.

Some 400 people participated in FIBEMYD, including delegates of the 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 IOM, the Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), the Director of CELADE and the Director of the Ibero-American Social Security Organization 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 on the Forum was signed.

In October 2008, ECLAC, together with SEGIB and IOM, presented the book *I Foro Iberoamericano sobre Migración y Desarrollo: Unidos por las migraciones* which brought together and summarized the work and results of the FIBEMYD meeting. The launch was held in Madrid, Spain, and attended by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Her speech on that occasion is included in the annex to this document. 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.

As part of the tripartite agreement between ECLAC, IOM and SEGIB, the Commission is taking part in the activities for the preparation of the second Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development to be held in San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2010. Within the framework of the tripartite agreement, CELADE developed a project on “The impact of the Ibero-American multilateral agreement on social security.” Further, a study on “Ibero-American migrants and direct or indirect beneficiaries of the Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security” was developed, which described the main socio-demographic characteristics of these populations, including interactions between the process of ageing among migrants and the society of destination in selected countries of destination.

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

During the 2009-2010 biennium, ECLAC, through CELADE, is leading the Development Account project on “Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact.” The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Population Division of UN/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. 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-governmental organizations and civil society organizations working in migratory affairs.

The first coordination meeting for the project was held in New York from 6 to 7 April 2009. Participants at the meeting emphasized that the capacity-building aspects be prioritized by the project, which may warrant the realization of a series of regional as well as inter-regional workshops for Government representatives. A website will be created to consolidate information on activities, including reports, studies and meetings.

D. THE PROJECT GENDER EQUALITY, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, AND RESPECT  
FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:  
PROMOTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCLUDING GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE (GBV) AND HIV/AIDS OF MOBILE POPULATIONS, PARTICULARLY YOUTH  
AND WOMEN, IN FIVE VULNERABLE BORDER AREAS

On December 31 2008, the first phase of the project on gender quality was concluded and at the present time the second phase is being executed. Under the coordination and supervision of CELADE, five reports were prepared on the situation of migrant populations along the border between Argentina-Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica-Nicaragua, Dominican Republic-Haiti, Ecuador-Colombia, and the Guatemala-Mexico.

The first stage of the project focused on four activities, starting with a literature review of existing research and information on the topic of sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS and gender violence directed at migrant women. Next, a profile of the socio-demographic characteristics of the mobile populations in the selected border areas was developed, followed by a survey of governmental, civil society and international organizations concerned with these issues. The last activity involved a compilation of public policies and normative —national and international— instruments regarding these topics.

The second phase focused on the finalization and publication of the five reports and the preparation of a final comparative report concerning the five border areas. The results of the project and major conclusions were presented by CELADE at a technical seminar held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 28 to 30 October 2009.

The lack of public policies relating to these matters stems from the obstacles hindering the promotion of sexual and reproductive health which, in turn, stem from deficiencies and shortcomings of information in this regard. In this context, it is essential to generate research and analysis in this area in order to contribute to the formulation of public policies and legislation.

Since September 2008, CELADE has been involved in defining, coordinating and monitoring the work of consultants who are preparing reports on each of the selected border areas and has assisted consultants to write the final report. The research has accentuated the disparities existing between the five border regions in terms of availability of information as well as the presence of Government agencies, civil society, and other organizations that are promoting and providing services in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Moreover, disparities in the realm of public policies and the employment of normative instruments became obvious.

Because of the complexity of migration dynamics in the different regions, it was necessary to use a broad criterion when defining mobile populations. Adhering to a more traditional definition of migration meant leaving out, in the majority of cases, part of a phenomenon that is in itself heterogeneous and therefore very rich and complex in its analytical dimensions.

## E. OTHER INITIATIVES CARRIED OUT BY CELADE

### 1. *Workshop on temporary migrant workers programme of the Regional Conference on Migration*

CELADE participated in the workshop on Temporary Migrant Workers Programme (TMWP) of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM), organized by the Technical Secretary of the RCM in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 23 to 24 April 2009. The conference was sponsored by the Governments of Canada and El Salvador, IOM, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, and CELADE.

The main objective of the workshop was to exchange information in order to identify initiatives aimed at migrant workers and to reinforce cooperation mechanisms between States. One of the crucial aspects underscored was the importance of allowing migrant workers to exercise their rights in countries of origin, transit and destination. At this meeting, CELADE presented a paper on the characteristics of the migratory work force in the Americas.

### 2. *Workshop on the challenges of the Ibero-American migration agenda in the context of the international economic crisis*

In the framework of the tripartite agreement between ECLAC, IOM and SEGIB, the Commission collaborated with the Fox Center in organizing the opening session of the workshop on the challenges of the Ibero-American migration agenda in the context of the international economic crisis, held in Guanajuato, Mexico, from 7 to 8 September 2009.

Mexican Government representatives, including some from the province of Guanajuato, as well as representatives of ECLAC, IOM, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), experts, academics, civil society organizations and university students attended the meeting.

### 3. *Structured and comprehensive dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean with the European Union on migration and development*

In September 2009, the Commission presented the document “Notes on international migration and development: Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union”, which was prepared for the High-level Meeting of Government representatives on migration held in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 September 2009 within the framework of the dialogue between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union (EU-LAC) on migration and development. Apart from analyzing patterns and trends of international migration in both regions, the document presented an analysis of the effects of the global economic crisis on international migration.

### 4. *XXVI International population conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in Marrakech, Morocco*

CELADE participated in the XXVI population conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 27 September to 2 October 2009. Five presentations were given by CELADE in different sessions of the conference, including one about “International migration and indigenous peoples in Latin America: old issues, emerging problems and the need for a multinational approach in migration policies.”

### 5. *Workshop on the implementation of SICREMI*

The first technical workshop on the implementation of the Continuous Labour Migration Reporting System for the Americas (SICREMI) took place at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago de Chile, Chile, from 13 to 16 October 2009. The workshop organized by the OAS and CELADE, was attended by Government representatives and experts from ministries of foreign affairs, statistical and migration departments from Argentina, Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico and Uruguay. In addition, representatives of ECLAC, the International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) participated.

The workshop aimed at (a) preparing the first SICREMI Report 2010; (b) presenting and consolidating a network of institutional correspondents, and (c) consolidating a strategy with the network of institutional correspondents in order to write reports about international migration. During the workshop, participants also discussed an inventory of statistical operations which were carried out by different national offices to produce information and data about migration. Furthermore, participants defined technical data containing basic indicators which were selected for the first edition of the SICREMI reporting system.

Overall, the project relies on the collaboration with the OECD, which developed the idea of creating a continuous reporting system on migration similar to that of SOPEMI. The workshop took place within the framework of the agreement between ECLAC and the OAS.

### 6. *Participation in academic and teaching activities*

Through presentations on international migration, human rights and development, CELADE also participated in activities organized by academic institutions, such as the Diploma Course in Research and Integration of International Migrants and Governance of Multicultural Social Services, offered by the Universidad de Chile, and the International Diploma Course in Human Rights and Communication at the Henry Dunant Foundation in Latin America. CELADE also participated in the tenth International Conference of Population Studies, organized by the Argentinean Association of Population Studies (AEPA) which took place in Catamarca, Argentina, from 4 to 6 November 2009.

## F. THE DISTINCT FEATURES OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In recent years, the number of international migrants originating in Latin American and the Caribbean has increased from an 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 1.3 per cent of the total population in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2009). According to CELADE estimates, 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 were found outside of the region. The exceptions to this pattern were 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 was close to 10 per cent and in some Caribbean island states, the proportion was even higher.

These numbers indicate that for some countries a high proportion of people from Latin America and the Caribbean are residing outside their countries of origin. For example, in some countries

in the Caribbean, more than 20 per cent of their populations are living abroad, while in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Uruguay, these percentages fluctuate between 8 to 15 per cent.

#### G. THE STATUS OF MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Many countries of the region have ratified the Palermo protocols while there is a specific programme for the protection of migrants within the framework of the OAS and the Summit of the Americas process. There is also a general follow-up process for the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, but the delay in the ratification of the Convention suggests that it has yet to be recognized as a core instrument of migrant protection.

As of July 2009, the Convention had been ratified by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The Convention still has not been ratified by all countries in the region and civil society organizations have played a leading role in defending the human rights of migrants and in providing assistance to immigrants. Steps need to be taken to raise awareness of the Convention to demonstrate its validity as part of the history of international rights, and to eradicate the prejudices that tend to create opposition to its adoption. Fulfilling this task is imperative for laying the groundwork for the construction of a realistic and effective platform for the protection of migrants in the region.

TABLE I  
STATUS OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION  
OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES  
(AUGUST 2009)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification</i>
Albania		2007	Lesotho		2005
Algeria		2005	Liberia	2004	
Argentina		2007	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		2004
Azerbaijan		1999	Mali		2003
Bangladesh	1998		Mauritania		2007
Belize		2001	Mexico		1999
Benin	2005		Montenegro	2006	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		2000	Morocco		1993
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1996	Nicaragua		2005
Burkina Faso		2003	Niger		2009
Cambodia	2004		Nigeria		2009
Cape Verde		1997	Paraguay		2009
Chile		2005	Peru		2005
Colombia		1995	Philippines		1995
Comoros	2000		Rwanda		2008
Ecuador		2002	Sao Tome and Principe	2000	
Egypt		1993	Senegal		1999
El Salvador		2003	Serbia	2004	
Gabon	2004		Seychelles		1994
Ghana		2000	Sierra Leone	2004	
Guatemala		2003	Sri Lanka		1996
Guinea		2000	Syrian Arab Republic		2005
Guinea-Bissau	2000		Tajikistan		2002
Guyana	2005		Timor-Leste		2004
Honduras		2005	Togo	2001	
Indonesia	2004		Turkey		2004
Jamaica		2008	Uganda		1995
Kyrgyzstan		2003	Uruguay		2001

NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For a copy of resolution 615 (XXXI), see [http://www.eclac.cl/pses31/noticias/paginas/8/24208/615\(XXXI\)Migration.pdf](http://www.eclac.cl/pses31/noticias/paginas/8/24208/615(XXXI)Migration.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For the full text of the Declaration of Santiago, see [http://www.oiss.org/IMG/pdf/declaracion\\_santiago.pdf](http://www.oiss.org/IMG/pdf/declaracion_santiago.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

<sup>3</sup> For the full text of the Programme of Action, see [http://www.segib.org/documentos/28/esp/programa\\_accion\\_dec\\_santiago\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.segib.org/documentos/28/esp/programa_accion_dec_santiago_1_.pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

<sup>4</sup> For the full text of the Declaration of San Salvador, see [http://www.segib.org/upload/Declaracion%20de%20San%20Salvador\(1\).pdf](http://www.segib.org/upload/Declaracion%20de%20San%20Salvador(1).pdf) (accessed 15 March 2010).

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IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION - ONE YEAR LATER

*United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)*

A. INTRODUCTION

Migration has influenced several Asian societies and economies. Many Asian countries are mainly countries of emigration, where remittances have become an important economic factor and contributed to poverty reduction. Countries in South-Eastern Asia have recently changed from countries of net emigration to countries of net immigration. The countries of Eastern Asia with their ageing populations and low fertility are increasingly becoming destination countries for labour migrants. Migration within the Asian region itself is on the rise but concerns have been raised that the global financial crisis could influence this trend and weaken the potential of international migration for poverty reduction.<sup>1</sup>

*1. Migration patterns from and within the Asian region*

The Asia-Pacific region hosts three large migration hubs. The majority of labour migrants from Asia and the Pacific, especially migrants from Southern Asia, migrate to the oil-rich countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).<sup>2</sup> The other two important hubs for labour migrants are the more affluent economies of Eastern Asia, namely China, Hong Kong SAR, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and South-Eastern Asia, especially with Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore. In 2005-2006 an estimated 65 per cent to 70 per cent of Asia's labour migrants migrated to seek work in Western Asia, while about 10 per cent to 15 per cent migrated to South-Eastern Asia and Eastern Asia.<sup>3</sup> Table 1 shows the main destination countries for key countries of emigration in Asia.

TABLE 1  
MIGRATION PATTERNS OF KEY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF LABOUR MIGRANTS IN ASIA

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Main country of destination (average in recent years)</i>	<i>Percentage of female migrants</i>
Bangladesh	Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates: 25 to 35 per cent Malaysia: 15 to 25 per cent	10-20
India	United Arab Emirates: more than 35 per cent Saudi Arabia: 25 to 35 per cent	
Indonesia	Saudi Arabia: more than 35 per cent Malaysia: 25 to 35 per cent	> 75
Nepal	Malaysia: 35 to 50 per cent Qatar: 25 to 35 per cent Saudi Arabia: 15 to 25 per cent	10 to 20
Pakistan	Saudi Arabia: more than 50 per cent United Arab Emirates: 25 to 35 per cent	
Philippines	Saudi Arabia: 25 to 35 per cent China, Hong Kong SAR and United Arab Emirates: 10 to 15 per cent	50 to 75
Sri Lanka	Saudi Arabia: 25 to 35 per cent Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar: 15 to 25 per cent	50 to 75

*Source:* ESCAP calculations based on country data.

2. *Assessment of the impact of the global economic crisis on migrants and countries of origin and destination*

a. *Impact of the current economic crisis on migrants to GCC countries*

The crisis has affected the oil-exporting GCC countries to a lesser extent than other regions in the world. Although most GCC countries report declines in economic growth, this is mainly due to decreasing oil prices after soaring oil-prices in 2008. Most GCC countries have built financial reserves during times of high oil prices, which can now be used to continue infrastructure projects. Dubai is an exception: its construction sector is suffering from global liquidity shortages and over-estimation of demand in luxury property. The construction sector has contracted sharply, with media reporting 30 to 40 per cent of Dubai's current construction projects being suspended or postponed.<sup>4</sup>

To date, although many companies have not laid off workers in large numbers, many have sent their workers on extended and unpaid leave and thus save on separation costs at present and on future fees for hiring new migrant workers at a later point in time. The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has responded to this situation allowing any worker who has not been paid for more than two months to change jobs without a no-objection certificate. According to anecdotal reports, many migrant workers are shifting within the UAE, moving from Dubai to oil-rich Abu Dhabi, which is less affected by the crisis. Although most GCC countries are still seeking to increase native labour force participation rates, it is unlikely that many of them will be able to reverse their dependence on foreign workers.

b. *The impact of the current crisis on migrants in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia*

China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan and the Republic of Korea, which have become preferred destinations within Eastern Asia, have all been significantly affected by the global economic crisis. Especially Taiwan Province of China, with a large export-oriented manufacturing sector and increasing numbers of migrant workers, has been severely affected. In Taiwan Province of China, unemployment increased from 4.1 per cent in September 2008 to 5.8 per cent in May 2009.<sup>5</sup>

In Eastern Asia, many migrants occupy either low-skilled jobs in export-oriented industries or jobs in the health sector. While workers in export-oriented industries such as electronics and automobiles have already been affected by retrenchments, especially in China, Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan Province of China, the need for migrant labour in the health sector is expected to be largely unaffected.

Most Eastern and South-Eastern Asian destination countries are taking into account the demographic developments in their economy and have not announced any fundamental policy change to their migration policy. So far, only Malaysia announced plans to reduce the number of migrants in the country. However, experience from the 1997 crisis has shown that a more restrictive migration policy has not reduced the number of migrants actually staying in the country (Abubakar, 2002).

c. *Impact of the financial crisis in key Asian countries of emigration*

Countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal, sending a large number of migrants to Malaysia and UAE, are expected to be the most affected by return migration and fewer opportunities to emigrate. Most key countries of emigration have not yet reported high numbers of return migrants in the first quarter of 2009. To date, emigration is still continuing, including to the UAE, although at a slower pace. According to a presentation of the Consul-General of India to Dubai and the Northern Emirates at a seminar on the impact of the global financial crisis on international migration from Southern and South-Eastern Asia, held in Thiruvananthapuram, India, from 21 to 22 July 2009, group recruitment has significantly slowed

down. In response to this, several key sending countries have launched domestic employment programmes and seek to protect migrants in their countries of destination.

Bangladesh, as a large supplier of unskilled workers to Dubai and Malaysia is affected by the crisis because of the slowdown in exports in Dubai and Malaysia together with fewer opportunities to migrate when domestic jobs are lost. The Government of Bangladesh has recently reported that about 51,000 Bangladeshi workers who were expected to migrate to the GCC countries have stayed in the country and that in the first four months of 2009 almost 60 per cent of the number of all migrants who returned in 2008 had returned to Bangladesh. According to Bangladesh's country statement at the sixty-fifth Commission Meeting of ESCAP held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 29 May 2009 and a presentation at a policy dialogue on the impact of the global economic crisis on international migration held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 28 May 2009, remittances have been still high in 2008 but a decline in remittances is expected in 2009.

The Consulate of India in Dubai and the Northern Emirates estimates that between 50,000 and 150,000 migrants have returned from Dubai. It is believed that many workers have decided to remain in UAE despite having lost their jobs and are looking for other employment opportunities.

Prospects for migrants from the Philippines are mixed, given the variety of countries to which Filipino migrants migrate, the different sectors of the economy in which they work and the different skill levels they possess. Job opportunities in some sectors, such as health care, may even increase due to prospect of improving health services in GCC countries and increased demand due to an ageing population in Eastern Asia. Overall, the Government of the Philippines has not yet reported large numbers of return migrants, but is aware of the increased vulnerability some migrants may face and the country has launched a number of programmes to assist its migrants upon return or in the country of destination.

Sri Lanka has in the past sent a large number of domestic helpers to GCC countries. Recruitment agencies report reduced demand for migrant workers and anecdotal reports mention increased hardship for domestic workers. Sri Lanka expects to accommodate returning construction workers once it starts reconstruction projects in the Northern part of the country. According to a country presentation by Sri Lanka at a policy dialogue on the impact of the global economic crisis on international migration held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 28 May 2009, Sri Lanka has been aware that working conditions for domestic helpers had worsened due to the crisis, so it is planning on providing better training for migrant women to prepare them for a wider set of occupations.

#### *d. The impact of the global financial crisis on female migrants*

The impact of the global crisis depends largely on the sector and country of destination to which migrants move. While a large proportion of women from Indonesia and Sri Lanka migrate to Western Asia to work as domestic helpers, women from the Philippines also migrate to work in the health sectors and in the electronics industry in China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China. With the electronics industry being among the most affected by the crisis,<sup>6</sup> female migrant workers in Eastern Asia who often work in this industry, may be largely affected by job losses.<sup>7</sup>

In GCC countries, women are expected to be less affected by job losses than men as they tend to work in more stable sectors, such as domestic work, care-giving and healthcare. Nevertheless, some households may lay off at least one of their workers and therefore, the workload of the remaining domestic helpers is expected to increase. Since domestic work is not covered by the labour code in GCC countries, the protection of domestic helpers has been an ongoing concern which has become even more pertinent during the financial crisis.

### 3. *Conclusions and recommendations*

Migration flows may decline temporarily but are likely to increase again after the crisis. Given the economic and demographic developments in the major countries of destination, the trend towards increased migration is likely to continue, especially as push factors for international migration continue to exist. This calls for regional solutions to mitigate the effects of the global economic crisis on migration and the migrants themselves.

The crisis has shown that migration is not an alternative to economic development but rather a temporary option which is worth to be harnessed but should not become an end in itself. The situation of migrant workers being laid off requires special attention because in many cases they may not be able to pay for their return ticket or repay debts originating from recruitment fees. Countries of destination may consider ways to assist migrant workers by subsidizing air tickets and extending the grace period for remaining in the country legally before finding a new job.

For sending countries, the crisis focuses attention on issues that have been on the agenda for some time, such as revising current practices of having to pay high fees to recruitment agencies for their services and improving migration governance in the future.

#### B. RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ESCAP has developed a database on international labour migration flows for key countries of emigration in Asia. The database includes data by country of destination and region and in some cases the data are disaggregated by sex and profession. ESCAP seeks to regularly update this database and make it accessible online.

In order to assess the impact of the global economic crisis on international migration in the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP organized a Policy Dialogue on the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on International Migration, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 28 May 2009.<sup>8</sup> The meeting brought together representatives from Governments of ESCAP member States involved in international migration and migration experts. The objectives of the meeting were to: (a) assess the impact of the current economic crisis on migration; (b) share information regarding the measures that countries have taken or have announced to address the impact of the crisis on migrants, and (c) discuss policy options to better manage international migration at a time of crisis. Representatives from the following nine ESCAP member States attended the Meeting: Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

ESCAP held the Asia-Pacific High-level Forum on ICPD at 15: Accelerating Progress towards the ICPD and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 16 to 17 September 2008. During the meeting, ESCAP organized a roundtable on international migration and development. The roundtable intended to review linkages between international migration and development for countries of origin and destination and to suggest appropriate policies that incorporate international migration in development strategies. The outcome document made the following suggestions for future work in the area of international migration: (a) integrate matters relating to international migration into national development strategies, addressing social dimensions and specific issues related to gender; (b) establish and strengthen systems to collect, analyze and disseminate comprehensive sex disaggregated data on international migration and ensure that this data are used as the basis for policy formulation and planning process; (c) intensify partnerships through multilateral dialogue for addressing international migration, with respect of human and labour rights, and (d) adopt and implement appropriate policies and

programmes between countries of origin and destination to protect and provide legal and social services to migrant workers and their families, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### C. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ESCAP is participating in the United Nations Development Account Project on “Strengthening National Capacities to Deal with International Migration: Maximizing Development Benefits and Minimizing Negative Impact.” As one of the activities outlined, ESCAP will undertake a regional study on international migration challenges in the Asia-Pacific region focusing on: (a) existing institutional arrangements and national policies concerning immigration as well as emigrants and their links with their country or origin, and (b) key policy issues on international migration such as the gender and age distribution of migrants, the dynamics and the effects of remittances on both origin and destination countries, temporary labour migration including circular migration, highly-skilled migration, the role of transnational communities in fostering development, the adherence of countries to international instruments on human rights, and cooperation and coordination mechanisms. Given the large scope of the Asia-Pacific region with many region-specific issues, ESCAP intends to undertake sub-regional studies focusing on the Pacific region and Southern Asia. For Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, existing recent studies such as the *Situation Report on International Migration in East- and South-East Asia* will feed into the planned regional report.

The Asia Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, which is co-chaired by ESCAP and IOM, intends to further improve information on migration and development. One of the planned activities is to publish a situation report for the South Asian region. ESCAP is contributing to the project Migration Information Systems in Asia (MISA)<sup>9</sup> and seeks to strengthen the project by serving on its advisory board.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For data used in this paper, see also [http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/pdf/ESCAP\\_FactSheet\\_Rev\\_2010-05-20.pdf](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/pdf/ESCAP_FactSheet_Rev_2010-05-20.pdf) (accessed 27 July 2010).

<sup>2</sup> The following countries belong to the Gulf Cooperation Council: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi-Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

<sup>3</sup> Data are taken from the ESCAP Labour Migration Database.

<sup>4</sup> Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) Country Reports: Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, July 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU): Country Report Taiwan, July 2009.

<sup>6</sup> ESCAP calculations based on data from CEIC Data Company Ltd.

<sup>7</sup> For more information on the Forum on the Gendered Impact of the Economic Crisis on Asian Migrant Workers, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 25 April 2009 where this topic was discussed, see [http://www.unifem.org/news\\_events/story\\_detail.php?StoryID=871](http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=871) (accessed 29 July 2010).

<sup>8</sup> For the report of the meeting, see <http://www.unescap.org/esid/Meetings/Migration09/> (accessed 29 July 2010).

<sup>9</sup> More information about MISA can be accessed at <http://www.smc.org.ph/misa/> (accessed 29 July 2010).

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THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE ARAB REGION:  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

*United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCWA)*

A. INTRODUCTION

The Arab region's economic growth has been primarily fueled by oil revenues, real estate investments, returns from the tourism sector, as well as foreign aid, but not from productive services. This has made the region very susceptible to the economic performance of other countries. The worldwide economic crisis has led to a visible decline in financial markets in some countries, but its impact on the economy itself is still relatively limited because of the surplus of oil revenues in Gulf countries and because of the limited "market capitalization" in countries such as Jordan and Lebanon. In this context, the GDP growth rate is expected to decline from six per cent in 2007 to four per cent in 2009.<sup>1</sup>

It is not clear yet, what impact the economic crisis will have on international migration in the Arab region, as there is a lack of reliable, timely and accurate data in this field. Available reports mainly focus on return migration, the rise in unemployment rates and the decline in remittances. This paper takes a closer look at the impact of the economic crisis on international migration in the region, focusing on the challenges posed by the crisis but also on the opportunities it might offer.

B. CHALLENGES POSED BY THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

*1. Exacerbating unemployment*

The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) estimates that the unemployment rate is currently 14 per cent in the Arab region, which makes it the highest among world regions. The number of unemployed persons has reached 17 million and the region should create four million new jobs every year in order to prevent a further increase in the rate.

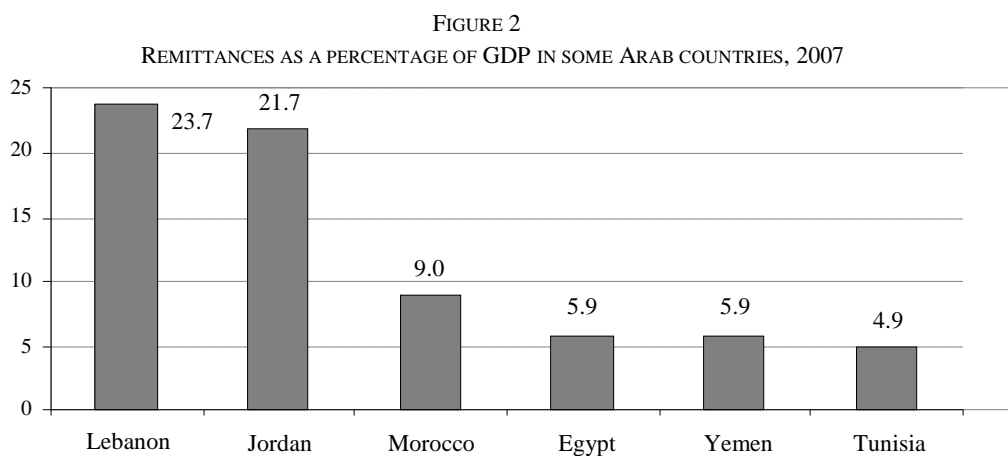
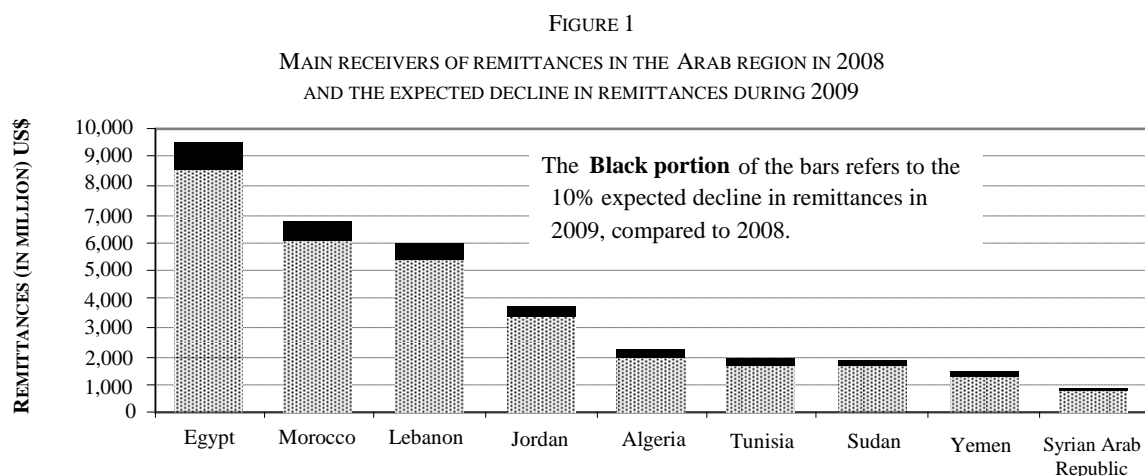
As a result of the economic crisis, ALO estimates that, in 2009, the employment opportunities in Arab countries would fall by 19 per cent, particularly in the banking and investment sectors, and the demand for Arab labour in Gulf countries would decline by 30 per cent, in addition to a general decline in the demand for Arab labour in other regions of the world, mainly Europe and Northern America.<sup>2</sup>

*2. Reduced remittances*

At the world level, the Arab region is an important source for remittances as well as a preferred destination for remittance payments. In 2004, US\$ 26 billion in remittances were sent from Gulf countries to other parts of the world. Saudi Arabia is considered to be the second most important source of remittances worldwide; in 2004, this country was the source of US\$ 13.5 billion. Also, in 2003, the Arab region received US\$ 21.6 billion in the form of formal registered remittances, and it is assumed that informal remittances are even much larger.<sup>3</sup>

As Figure 1 shows, Egypt, Morocco and Lebanon are the main receivers of remittances in the region, having received respectively US\$ 9.5, US\$ 6.7 and US\$ 6.0 billion in remittances in 2008. Egypt, in particular, is among the top 10 remittance receivers worldwide. However, the World Bank estimates that the economic crisis will result in a 10 per cent decline in remittances during 2009 as compared

with 2008. This would have a considerable impact on the living conditions of families that depend on remittances, as well as on the economies of these countries, since remittances constitute large portions of their GDP, 23.7 per cent for Lebanon, 21.7 per cent for Jordan, and 9.0 per cent for Morocco, as shown in Figure 2.<sup>4</sup>



Source: Ratha et al., 2009.

### 3. Threatening human rights of migrants

The economic crisis might threaten the job security of labour migrants who might either lose their job or be obliged to accept employment at lower wages and conditions. This is particularly expected in Gulf countries that rely heavily on foreign labour.

The economic crisis is also expected to exacerbate the already prevailing concerns related to the human rights of female immigrants to GCC countries to work in domestic help, childcare and personal services, such as females from Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka working in GCC countries.



It is also important to note that only Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Morocco have so far ratified the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

### C. OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

#### 1. *Fostering brain circulation*

It is expected that unskilled migrants will be the most negatively affected by the economic crisis in terms of job security. However, skilled migrants have better chances of finding another job if they lose their current one. In other words, they are more likely to engage in circular migration when they move to another destination country.

This brain circulation can be considered a “triple-win solution” because it offers opportunities of gains for host countries, home countries and migrants themselves: (a) host countries can fill their labour market needs without facing the full challenges of immigrant integration; (b) home countries can tap into the skills and resources of returning migrants, and (c) migrants themselves would benefit from the higher wages in host countries and enrich their work experience and skills. Thus, in circular migration, the emigration of highly-educated and skilled workers from Arab countries to work outside the region can ultimately benefit countries of origin when emigrants return.<sup>5</sup>

#### 2. *Restoring balance to the population pyramid*

In the Arab region, age- and sex-selective migration has affected population pyramids. On the one hand, in the case of GCC countries, the population pyramid shows a large number of males in working ages. This is due to the fact that most immigrants to these countries are males seeking employment. The economic crisis is expected to result in the departure of some foreign workers from GCC countries, thereby restoring some balance to the population pyramid. This might have positive social repercussions in terms of lessening the social pressure caused by large communities of foreign immigrants.

On the other hand, the population pyramid of countries such as Lebanon reveals an opposite phenomenon, a reduction in the number of males in the working ages. This is due to the fact that most emigrants from these countries are males seeking employment. In this context, the economic crisis is expected to result in the return of these males who had left their home country after losing their jobs in the destination country, thereby restoring some balance to the pyramid. This might have positive social repercussions in terms of reuniting families —when the male head returns to live with his wife and children— and restoring balance to the number of single males per 100 single females. This phenomenon of missing males had resulted in increasing celibacy rates among females, and possibly lessening the need for elderly pensions to provide care for the old when children were out of the country.

#### 3. *Boosting national economic growth in the first stages of the crisis?*

It seems that the economic crisis is providing an opportunity for national economic growth in some Arab countries. This opportunity presents itself in the first stages of the crisis and for a very limited period, before the onset of the negative impacts. For example, in Lebanon there was an increase in deposits in local banks of about 21 per cent during 2008. The GDP growth rate also increased by six per cent during 2009. This can be explained by the financial transfers to national banks effectuated by emigrating Lebanese in an attempt to avert the risks faced in foreign banks. Thus, for a limited time period, Lebanon should benefit from this opportunity and invest in productive sectors before the negative

impacts of the crisis take affect in terms of reduced remittances and exacerbated high unemployment rates.

## CONCLUSION

The Arab region is progressively showing negative symptoms related to the economic crisis, as its “immunity” to the crisis is beginning to weaken. In fact, the region’s surplus of oil revenues had enabled it to resist and delay the onset of negative symptoms, but these symptoms are now progressively emerging in both labour sending and receiving countries, in the form of exacerbated unemployment, reduced remittances and threatened human rights of migrants. In its efforts to resist these challenges, the region could benefit from the limited opportunities offered by the crisis in terms of fostered brain circulation, restored balance to the population pyramid and, in the case of some countries, a limited period of boosted national economic growth in the first stages of the crisis.

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## NOTES

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## MIGRATION, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A FAO PERSPECTIVE

### *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

#### A. THE IMPORTANCE OF MIGRATION FOR THE WORK OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a key role to play in migration issues as migration processes are closely related to agriculture, agricultural policy and rural development, for which FAO has a mandate within the United Nations system. Transformation processes in agriculture and rural areas influence migration patterns and migration dynamics, which in turn have significant implications for agriculture and rural development. For example,

- (a) Migration-induced changes in the population distribution —and, consequently, in the social organization and patterns of production and consumption in both sending and receiving countries and areas— can considerably affect both the supply of food and the demand for types of food produced and consumed.
- (b) In the context of missing or imperfect rural markets, such as credit and insurance markets in rural areas, migration has an important impact on household agricultural production, investment and labour allocation decisions.
- (c) Rural out-migration tends to exert a downward pressure on agricultural labour per capita. However, this does not automatically lead to reduced agricultural incomes because the loss in household labour may be, and often is, compensated by improvements in other areas, such as increased access to capital. The outcomes of migration therefore depend on the broader agro-ecological, economic, and institutional context.
- (d) Migration can significantly change the quality of human capital in rural areas, especially when outmigration of highly-skilled people is not compensated by resources, such as remittances becoming available for investment in health and education of children and youth.
- (e) Migration can have a strong influence on gender relations. For instance, in areas experiencing outmigration of men, women are increasingly becoming farm managers. This can expose them to risks, such as gender-based discrimination when they find themselves in competition with male farmers as well as opportunities, such as greater control over household resources, and improved socio-economic status.
- (f) Of much importance is also the well-being of migrants and/or refugees, who are often at an increased risk of poverty, malnutrition or hunger, and economic exploitation in the destination areas.
- (g) Cross-border migration of people is known to be a potent factor in the emergence and spread of human, crop and animal diseases, such as the spread HIV/AIDS, SARS, tuberculosis, foot-and-mouth disease, avian flu and banana wilt, with important implications for agriculture, food security, and beyond, such as international relations.

The escape from rural poverty and degraded agricultural resources has historically been an important motive for migration. Food insecurity and lack of economic opportunities in agriculture and related rural sectors, such as forestry and fisheries can lead to migration to other areas in search of employment, income, or food. This migration affects both sending and receiving areas:

- In the sending areas, it can lead to dramatic shifts in the age- and sex-composition of the population, often leading to higher dependency ratios and more female-headed households, changes in the dynamics of the labour market, and reduced ability to maintain rural infrastructure, such as roads and irrigation systems and manage agricultural resources, e.g. land and water resources.
- The receiving areas —often urban slums— may experience considerable food-security strain from the influx of migrants.

In addition, migration can influence dietary patterns:

- Migrants tend to adopt new alimentary behaviours upon settling in the new environment.
- Some migrants may keep traditional food preferences and thus create demand for food imports from the countries of origin.
- Both processes could substantially change the demand for food —produced and/or imported— in receiving countries.

## B. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Migration is the critical population issue of our time, from both an analytical and a policy point of view. Therefore, management of migration needs to be forward-looking, proactive, innovative and comprehensive. In order to solve migration problems and manage migration flows successfully, tailor-made programmes must be developed and implemented that address all affected population groups — poor as well as non-poor, men as well as women, immigrants as well as host populations. The food security and poverty dimension of migration and the effects of migration flows on agriculture and rural development need to be better understood and more effectively addressed in policies and programmes.

Government and policymakers must be made aware that agriculture, when properly managed, can not only produce food but also have a positive impact on population distribution, poverty alleviation, and the environment. Given that remittances constitute a key source of development finance —especially in rural areas— it is crucially important to identify and establish policy strategies to strengthen the effectiveness and development impact of migrant remittances. In particular, there is an urgent need for:

- sound macro-economic policies, political stability and improvements in the investment climate in many parts of the developing world, in order to foster remittance flows, and
- innovative measures to improve migrants' access to the formal financial sector through mechanisms such as strengthening of financial infrastructures, promoting cost efficiency and transparency of transfer services, and increasing outreach to underserved communities.

### C. WHAT ROLE FAO CAN PLAY

By focusing on rural and peri-urban settlements, agricultural production, sustainable development of farming communities, FAO can help to:

- Strengthen sustainable management of natural resources, improve food security of rural communities and foster investment in agriculture, thus helping to regulate distress rural out-migration and ease the pressure on urban centers.
- Strengthen lucrative forms of rural enterprise, such as farm production, off-farm services, agribusiness, thus providing economically and socially viable rural communities.
- Ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants, including their right to food, and prevent their abuse and exploitation, particularly in agriculture-related industries.
- Leverage the productive use of remittances by promoting suitable frameworks for rural finance and agricultural investment.
- Using an interdisciplinary perspective, i.e. combining demographic, socio-cultural and economic approaches, contribute to a better understanding and analysis of the relationship between migration and biophysical and socio-economic aspects of agriculture.
- Promote coherence of rural development and migration policies, identify best practices where migration has benefited rural development.
- Contribute substantively to the ongoing inter-disciplinary dialogue on migration and participate in international and inter-agency cooperation in order to effectively manage migration flows for the maximum benefit —economic, social, political— of people in both the developing and the developed world.

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## UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION IN 2009-2011

### *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

#### A. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Within the framework of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has worked with institutions, experts and researchers concerned with the social impact of the economic and financial crisis to closely monitor and document the ways in which the crisis affects social transformations, and the implications this has for social policymaking. Along with other topics, migration will represent one of the fields of research and activities for this network.

The economic and financial crisis might impact discrimination and xenophobia directed at migrants. History shows that in times of economic depression problems regarding social cohesion emerge and lead to increasing exclusion and persecution against outsiders and foreigners. All previous crises, such as the Great Depression, the oil crisis and the Asian, Russian and Latin American financial crisis, have affected the situation of migrants in many ways and spurred resentment of foreign workers and xenophobic actions. Yet there is little hard evidence supporting xenophobic actions directed at immigrants, which makes it difficult to provide in-depth assessments of the phenomenon. Part of the problem is the complexity of xenophobia and discrimination processes, which operate at different levels in a mutually reinforcing manner. These processes are simultaneously rooted in individual, social, media, political and Government dynamics.

Given the multiple origins and occurrences of discrimination and xenophobia, the challenge is to develop strategies that are specifically relevant to the categories of actors and levels at stake. This also calls for more systematic gathering of data, through the elaboration of indicators and through independent monitoring bodies.

#### B. RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

##### *1. Free movement within regional organizations*

UNESCO has launched a research project on attitudes and policies toward free movement within regional organizations. While free movement may be difficult to achieve at the world level, it may be a much more realistic and desirable policy option at the level of regional organizations. This research follows the 2007 UNESCO publication *Migration without borders*, which explored the scenario in which borders did not inhibit migration flows. In the end, the book promoted the idea of migration in a world without borders in which the freedom of movement would constitute a fundamental right.

By now, several African regional organizations—including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in West Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Southern Africa—have committed themselves to facilitating the movement of people among their member States; the African Union, too, has regularly embraced free movement among its members as an objective to be pursued. These actions show the potential for regional migration governance, while also stressing the challenges raised by this endeavour.

A partnership has been set up with the United Nations University-Comparative Regional Integration Studies Programme (UNU-CRIS) at Bruges, Belgium, on the role of free movement of people as part of integration processes, and a worldwide study on attitudes and policies toward free movement among regional organizations has been launched. Some thirty regional organizations have been contacted and researched in order to understand their approach toward free movement, the measures taken so far, their successes and achievements, the obstacles encountered and the steps ahead. In addition, a network of experts is being constituted to shed light on the implications and challenges of free movement for regional organizations. The purpose of the project is to promote policy development on migration arrangements to be considered and discussed by stakeholders within the regional organizations. The initial research project will be concluded in 2010 and the results will be published in 2011.

## *2. Recognition of qualifications*

The recognition of migrants' diplomas and academic qualifications has become a key component of the proper management of human mobility. Under the auspices of the UNESCO solely or jointly with other organizations, regional and interregional conventions have been developed to promote the recognition of academic qualifications for academic purposes. The conventions, overseen by a secretariat, recognize a "de facto" and "de jure" role of a diploma for professional purposes, such as obtaining employment.

In order to update and review the issues raised by these conventions, an international conference was organised in Paris, France, in September 2008. Contributors from all over the world provided detailed accounts of the trends and difficulties faced by the international recognition of qualifications, as well as policy options to address these challenges. Best practices and policies will be further collected and developed in the coming years to achieve more transparent and realistic overall policies on the recognition of academic qualifications of migrants worldwide.

## *3. Global education database on international student mobility at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics*

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) maintains a database on student mobility covering tertiary level students.

The database is unique in the following ways:

- (a) Complete geographical coverage. The UIS has the most complete coverage of student mobility data in the world, achieved through a survey of global education statistics from more than 200 countries and territories. The survey is carried out on an annual basis in collaboration with Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Countries and territories provide data on the mobile students they host by country of origin, which can be used to construct a complete global picture of both emigration and immigration trends of students for each country;
- (b) Cross-national comparability. The UIS strives to achieve cross-national comparability of the indicators and statistics that it publishes by applying a common framework of statistical concepts and definitions as well as procedures for data collection and processing. The definition of an internationally mobile student is a person who leaves her or his country or territory of origin and moves to another country or territory with the purpose of study. In practice, three criteria are used to classify internationally mobile students: country/territory of permanent residence, country/territory of prior education, and citizenship. In addition, the current statistics exclude students in exchange programmes of one school year or less;



- (c) Time series. Detailed country-level statistics are available since 1999. In addition, regional estimates are available from 1975 onwards. The UIS is currently revising country historical data, to be released in the near future;
- (d) Free public access. As with other UIS data, the data on international student mobility are available to the public to download at the UIS online data centre.<sup>1</sup>

### C. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. *Migration and climate change*

Climate change is one of the major concerns for the international community and its impact on migration is the object of increasing attention from both policymakers and researchers. Yet, despite the interest in the link between climate change and migration, there is little research in this area. There are uncertainties surrounding the actual mechanisms at stake, the number of persons affected and the geographical areas concerned. There are debates between those who stress the direct impact of the environment on population flows and those who rather insist on the social, economic and political contexts in which such flows occur. The available information is heterogeneous, as it includes policy reports, advocacy publications by intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), empirical case studies and more normative and legal considerations on the protection of “environmental migrants.”

The purpose of this project is to provide a comprehensive overview of the climate change-migration nexus. It will provide empirical evidence on the links between climate and migration by bringing together both case studies and research, from different disciplines —including history, sociology, geography and climatology. It will also investigate the key issues raised by the climate change-migration nexus which includes the social and political context in which the topic has emerged; states’ policy responses and the views of different institutional actors; critical perspectives on the actual relationship between the environment and forced migration; the concepts and notions most adequate to address this relationship; gender and human rights implications; as well as international law and responsibilities.

This project is intended to develop a problematic and non-deterministic understanding of the phenomenon that recognizes the multi-causality of the migration process, as well as the agency displayed by migrants when taking the decision to leave their home. Consequently, it views “environmental migration” not only as forced and not merely as the last resort solution, but as a strategy among others to cope with socio-economic, political and environmental change —hence the necessary conceptual caution in using notions such as “climate refugees” or “environmental migrants”. Lastly, the project aims at disentangling the relationship between climate change and migration, notably in terms of geography, such as internal versus international and short versus long distance migration and time, such as temporary versus permanent migration, sudden climate hazards versus long-term environmental degradation. Results from this project will be published in a book in 2010, to be followed by case study reports for different regions.

#### 2. *Skilled migration*

Even if skilled migration has been on the agenda of researchers and policymakers for several decades, the topic is now receiving renewed attention, notably because of the increase in the number of international migrants, of persistent under-development in some regions, and of the development of

knowledge-based economies. Following the publication of the book *Migration without Borders*, UNESCO aims to bring a new perspective to this topic and will explore five major issues in a project dedicated to the “brain drain”.

First, UNESCO will focus on the ethics of “brain drain”. “Brain drain” is not only an economic issue, but raises ethical, legal and philosophical questions. For example, under which ethical framework can the outflow of skilled individuals from a developing country be understood as a problem? How does individual freedom —and in particular the recognized human right to leave one’s country— relate to this negative conceptualization of migration? On what principles can people be expected to contribute to the development of their country of origin and, conversely, what are the responsibilities of Governments when addressing “brain drain”? How can one bring together the right to leave and the right to development, education or health? Should certain sectors of the economy, such as health and education be approached differently? Overall, is there “fair” skilled migration policy and how can it be implemented.

Second, the organization will engage in a discussion of “brain drain” between countries, markets and people. “Brain drain” is driven by at least three dynamics: (a) powerful market forces create a world labour market that incites some people to take jobs abroad, thereby challenging countries’ ability to “manage” migration; (b) Governments proactively design policies to recruit the best and brightest, while others have schemes to export their workers, and (c) people themselves are endowed with agency and develop strategies to migrate. What are the relations, and possible conflicts, between these three forces? How different are their outcomes? For example, if one assumes that only motivated and entrepreneurial people emigrate, are not all forms of migration a loss for sending countries? In other words, where and when does “brain drain” start? And what can Governments realistically do to manage it? To what extent can Governments influence market forces and migrants’ agency? In other words, in whose interests are skilled migration policies designed? Should they aim at improving the functioning of labour markets, at maximizing countries’ benefits, or at ensuring people’s well-being and access to rights?

Third, UNESCO will look at “brain drain” and education politics. In fact, a major assumption within “brain drain” debates is that skilled migrants are trained at their Government’s expenses, but fail to pay back because they leave and enable other countries to benefit from their skills. How does this relate to the politics of education, and especially to the privatization of higher education? Is such a privatization, if and when it occurs, a consequence of “brain drain” or rather the product of a new economic model for universities? What would be the relevance of “brain drain” in a hypothetical world in which training and skills’ acquisitions would be entirely private? Education policies raise further questions with respect to “brain drain”: how can the widely acknowledged benefit of international mobility for students, as shown by exchange programmes such as Erasmus-Socrates in Europe, be related to “brain drain”? How can one rethink the connection between students and their Governments in an era in which mobility is not only valued but also sometimes required for some careers?

Fourth, UNESCO will look at the evolution of the concept of “brain drain.” While a matter of current discussions, the term has a long conceptual history, having been defined, constructed and addressed in different ways during the last decades. The goal is not simply to trace the history of a concept and its different definitions, but also to understand who has promoted it, in which economic, political and intellectual context, and on the basis of which interests. How has “brain drain” been linked to development? How has it entered the agenda of different Governments, and of the international community? In addition, other notions, such as brain gain, brain waste, brain circulation, care drain and youth drain, are increasingly widespread, but have different meanings. Are these terms connected to changing skilled migration patterns, or are they the rhetorical product of the involvement of new actors and stakeholders in this field? In other words, what are the dynamics at work in the construction of “brain drain” as a political and policy issue?

Fifth, UNESCO will study the future of “brain drain” and skilled migration. In particular, the project will look at the future prospects for “brain drain” and skilled migration policies. For example, can this topic be part of inter-country agreements, whether at the bilateral, regional or multilateral level, in order to ensure more efficient, and perhaps fairer, approaches to this topic? While some, often non-binding, international initiatives have been taken, in particular in the health sector, what is their impact and how can they evolve? Is there a role for international organizations to address “brain drain”? How realistic are the options based on circulation, the role of transnational communities or information and communication technologies, especially in a world in which the management of migration is a major concern for most Governments? Is the underlying assumption that individuals are to contribute to the development of their nation-state still relevant in an inter-connected world that calls for “cosmopolitan” solutions? Can one hope to achieve triple-win solutions for countries of origin, destination and migrants themselves? In a context in which migration is often perceived to be the reason for many societal problems, affecting, for example, security, welfare and social cohesion, under what conditions and assumptions can one develop a positive understanding of the impact of migration on development and of migration as an asset?

Since Africa is a priority area for UNESCO’s work, particular attention will be devoted to “brain drain” and skilled migration from Africa where the emigration of skilled professionals, especially in the health and education sectors, can significantly affect the development potential of specific countries. Findings from this project will be published in a book in 2011.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> For the website of the Data Center, see <http://stats.uis.unesco.org> (accessed 22 July 2010).

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*International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*

A. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is to enable rural poor people to overcome poverty. Thus, the organization's interest in migration issues derives from the fact that migration is closely related to rural poverty. In recent decades, migration has changed the composition of families in many poor rural communities where IFAD operates. Globalization and migration are rapidly transforming the economic and social structure of rural life. More and more members of rural families are living abroad, far away from their dependants. However, poverty that forced rural inhabitants to migrate still exists in the places of origin and continues to influence lives and prospects in the countries of destination, as well as those of the people they left behind.

Remittances are the financial counterpart to migration and are the most tangible contribution of migrants to the development of their areas of origin. Migration and remittances are significantly reshaping the traditional social and economic structures of rural communities, in both positive and negative ways. Communities are extended beyond strict geographic boundaries, and their members abroad are playing an active role—sending remittances, bringing innovative ideas—in the well-being of the rural communities they left behind. At the same time, families are affected by the impact of separation and the absence of the most productive members of the communities.

Many migrants have established continuous social and economic interaction with their communities of origin and play unique roles as agents of change in both their countries of destination and of origin. Governments, financial institutions and international development agencies can no longer afford to ignore the ever-growing impact that financial flows from migrants have on the economic and social development of remittance-receiving countries. They also need to focus on how migration can positively influence the achievement of the development targets set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addressing rural poverty, one challenge is to take these new social and economic realities into consideration and integrate them into innovative strategies for promoting rural development. The current economic crisis has revealed the importance migration and remittances have for millions of families that depend on this financial flow for their survival.

B. IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*1. The impact on remittances*

After years of steady increases in worldwide remittances, migrant workers and their families are facing new challenges in light of the financial crisis. According to IFAD estimates, global remittances may have declined by as much as 10 per cent in the first six months of 2009, with large differences in the effect of the crisis on individual countries. For the countries hardest hit in regions and major areas, such as Eastern Europe and Latin America, the decline in remittances is threatening the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on funds sent by relatives and friends working abroad.

Despite these challenges, positive aspects remain. Even if decreasing, remittances are proving far more robust than other capital flows. Foreign direct investment to developing countries, for instance, is estimated to have fallen by 50 per cent in the first half of 2009. Furthermore, of the 31 countries for which

IFAD has data, only four countries have shown increases in remittances in 2009. Three of these are in Asia.

The economic crisis is affecting both countries of origin and destination where employment opportunities for migrant workers are disappearing and many have seen their incomes significantly reduced. In the United States of America, for instance, unemployment among Hispanics reached 13.1 per cent by October 2009, while general unemployment in some countries of the European Union (EU) with relatively large migrant population was increasing. The decline in the availability of jobs and the downward pressure on wages are forcing migrant workers to use their savings in order to be able to continue sending money home. When seen against the backdrop of limited economic growth, the expectations of a return to pre-crisis growth in remittances by 2011 poses serious challenges.

## 2. *The impact on migration*

The crisis has led to a tightening of immigration and labour policies. This implies, on the one hand, that many migrants are losing their jobs and legal status and, on the other hand, that many are less likely to visit their countries of origin fearing that they may not be able to return. As a consequence of increased uncertainty about their legal status, migrants feel increased pressure to make use of informal channels. This has the effect of pushing migrants away from formal financial institutions that can help them advance on the road to financial independence, while also weakening official data on remittance flows.

As a consequence of the present crisis many migrant recipient countries have set up programmes to encourage return migration. While there are workers willing to take the economic packages offered for voluntary return to their countries of origin, these programmes are unlikely to significantly influence the stock of migrant workers in these countries. The reason being that since the economic crisis is affecting both countries of origin and destination, migrants may feel that it is less risky to stay than to return home to countries where unemployment might be even higher.

The tightening of immigration policies in combination with a weaker job market may have discouraged migration. However, since the situation in sending countries has also worsened, people continue to migrate. As a result, the migrant stock (existing migrant stock, plus new migrants, minus returned migrants) is probably increasing. There is not only South-North migration, but there is also South-South migration.

### C. RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2009, IFAD commissioned a study entitled *Sending Money Home to Africa* to explore the remittance market in Africa. The study covered regulatory issues and the competitive environment in 50 African countries representing 90 per cent of remittance flows to the region. Additionally, the report highlighted the results of a survey of people within the geographical reach of microfinance institutions in 19 countries. The study showed the potential of migration and remittances to spur development in Africa. According to the study, African workers sent home more than US\$ 40 billion each year but restrictive laws and costly fees reduced the effect of remittances to lift people out of poverty. The report was presented at the Global Forum on Remittances 2009, organized by IFAD and the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 22 to 23 October 2009.

The report showed that while transfer costs had declined significantly in Asia and Latin America, sending money home to Africa was still expensive. In the past, remitting money had amounted to about

10 per cent of the amount of money being sent but had recently increased to 25 per cent of the amount of money being remitted. African families were amongst those who could benefit the most from the achievement of the goal of the Group of Eight (G-8) to reduce the cost of remittances by 50 per cent over the next five years. The report revealed that the number of payout locations across Africa was the same as in Mexico, which had only a tenth of Africa's population. Between 30 and 40 per cent of all remittances to Africa were destined to rural areas where many recipients had to travel great distances to collect their money. By increasing the number of institutions able to conduct remittances services, including microfinance institutions and post offices, the number of payment points would more than double.

### *1. Outcome of the Forum on Remittances 2009*

At the Global Forum on Remittances, held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 22 to 23 October 2009, six recommendations to improve the African remittances market were developed:

- (a) Increase competition: encourage more actors to enter the marketplace; widen types of payment networks, and discontinue exclusivity agreements when they hamper competition;
- (b) Empower market actors: facilitate market actors' access to payment system infrastructure, to the maximum possible extent; build capacity of market actors to meet regulatory requirements, and foster cooperation and partnership between stakeholders;
- (c) Achieve effective and efficient regulation: ensure that regulations are robust, but also commensurate to the level of risk and to the benefit of all; consult and evaluate impact before regulating; identify and adhere to minimum standards of client protection, and encourage consistent standards of regulations across jurisdictions;
- (d) Adopt new technologies: modernize technology in payout networks; improve payment systems infrastructure and integrate at regional and sub-regional levels; encourage development of standards and interoperability, and minimize the risk for end-users;
- (e) Expand access to financial services: encourage remittance recipients to maintain their assets in financial institutions; promote financial literacy to all stakeholders, particularly to migrants and their families; design financial services with the specific needs of women and men in mind; encourage the ability of the undocumented to access formal financial channels; use the worldwide postal network to give customers access to financial services, and ensure that remittances are not subject to specific taxation;
- (f) Make more financial services available in rural areas: encourage market actors, especially microfinance institutions (MFIs), postal offices, credit unions etc., to act as pay-out locations; build capacity of MFIs and non-bank financial institutions in rural areas to provide remittance services; encourage the ability of MFIs to take deposit of rural savings, and identify specific ways to link rural areas with non-cash (including mobile) instruments.

### *2. Awareness-raising*

In order to raise awareness about the importance of migration and its impact on rural development, in 2008, IFAD, in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), published the document *Migration, Remittances and Rural Development*. This report analysed the root causes of rural outmigration, focusing on its economic and social implications. It assumed that mobility was inherent to human existence. Livelihoods and sociocultural changes were intimately connected with

population movements. To understand present and fast-developing trends in migration, the paper examined the origins of migratory movements and discerned how such transformations actually affected the natural resource base, as well as how they shaped livelihoods and socio-economic and cultural coexistence. The paper presented an overview of migration and remittance flows, the role of financial institutions in leveraging remittances and the role of transnational communities in the development of communities of origin. Lastly, the paper presented a discussion of future challenges linking migration to climate change and addressed the impact of the spread of disease across borders on agriculture and rural development.

In 2008, in collaboration with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW), IFAD financed the study *Gender, Remittances and Local Rural Development: The case of Filipino migration to Italy*, which assessed the impact of remittances sent by Filipino migrants in Italy, promoting gender-sensitive local rural community development in the Philippines and supporting capacity-building activities with migrant associations to improve the living conditions of Filipino migrants in Italy. The study further demonstrated that migration and remittances had positive impacts on gender equality in the Philippines, such as economic empowerment of women, as it had increased and diversified the employment opportunities available to them.

In 2007, IFAD published the study *Sending Money Home: Worldwide Remittance Flows to Developing and Transition Countries*. The aim of the study was to highlight the volume of worldwide remittances flows that were unaccounted for by central banks. The report represented a baseline in a series of regional data highlighting the importance of remittances to rural areas in developing countries and their potential to stimulate local economic activity. The study covered more than 150 developing countries and provided comparative indicators to measure the relative importance of remittances among 20 regions of the developing world.

In order to raise awareness on the importance and impact of remittances in rural areas, IFAD produced the documentary *Cash Flow Fever*.<sup>1</sup> The half-hour documentary created for the BBC World's "Life" series in 2005 received an honourable mention at the fifty-fifth Columbus International Film and Video Festival in 2008. The documentary told the story of the Cortez family in the United States and El Salvador and explored the role development projects could play in spreading the beneficial impacts of remittance and the potential of this financial source to reduce poverty. The film continues to be aired by major television networks such as CNN and the Spanish network TVE.

#### D. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

IFAD has established a multi-donor Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) for increasing economic opportunities for the rural poor through the support and development of innovative, cost-effective, and easily accessible international and domestic remittance services. The main objective of the Facility is to (a) support projects and activities that reduce the transfer costs of remittances; (b) develop institutional partnership; (c) provide banking opportunities for rural populations; (d) promote innovative remittance and financial services, and (e) promote productive rural investment of migrants' capital in their countries of origin. To achieve these objectives, the FFR launched competitive annual calls for proposals.

The multi-donor Financing Facility was established in 2006 to maximize the development impact of remittances and to extend financial services into rural areas. The US\$ 15 million facility



provides grants of up to US\$ 250,000 for innovative proposals that help migrant workers and their families advance on the road to financial independence.

In 2009, the FFR completed its third call for proposals for which 320 concept proposals were submitted. The inclusion of approved proposals in 2009 is expected to bring the total number of projects financed by the FFR to 40. Each of these projects was selected because of their unique contribution to expanding rural financial access through a broad range of mechanisms. The FFR projects cover such areas as mobile banking, domestic remittances, migrant investment and expansion of financial access through microfinance institutions and postal offices, as well as projects specifically focusing on addressing gender issues.

In 2009, for the first time, the call for proposals was opened to private sector actors who channel funds. Helping these companies to modernize, innovate and reach out into rural areas helped drive down the cost of remittances while expanding their geographical reach. Projects from private sector actors in Madagascar, Nigeria and Sri Lanka were selected from the 2009 call for proposals.

*Sending Money Home to Africa*, the FFR report presented at the 2009 Global Forum on Remittances, highlighted the significant role which can be played by postal offices. As a result of cooperation between the Algerian and French postal services, post offices had become the main pay-out locations in Algeria. The dense network of post offices, result in the highest rural coverage of financial services in any African country. A project under development in Morocco seeks to further test this model's applicability in other African countries.

While international remittances are highly significant, regional and domestic remittances are equally vital. For example, the amount of money that flows between China's cities and its countryside dwarfs most international remittance corridors. Picking up these remittances can require a long journey to the nearest pay-out location, especially in more remote mountainous regions. The resulting travel time and costs required to receive remittances reduce their potential impact. For this reason, the FFR selected a project which seeks to address the costs of retrieving money from payout locations in China, a country with significant internal migration flows.

Lastly, mobile banking represents an opportunity to leapfrog over some of the most difficult and costly bottlenecks that prevent rural families from maximizing the benefits of the money they receive. In the 2009 call for proposals, both domestic and international mobile money transfer projects were supported. By exploring new partnerships between different service providers, FFR projects intended to go beyond using mobile telephones as a payment platform. The projects planned to give families of migrant workers the essential tools they needed to use this new technology to advance on the road to financial independence. The Facility will launch a new call for proposals in 2010.

Among other activities supported by IFAD were:

- (a) The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). IFAD supported the organization of the three past Global Forum meetings through its participation in the Friends of the Form meetings as well as through the preparation of background papers for roundtables organized within the context of the Global Forum. Most recently, IFAD supported the preparation of the paper *Engaging diasporas and migrants in development policies and programmes*, prepared for roundtable session 1.2 of the Global Forum meeting held in Athens, Greece, in November 2009;
- (b) Migration, Remittances, and Development in Africa Project. IFAD has been co-financing this multi-donor project initiated by the World Bank. The objectives of the Project have been to:
  - (i) improve understanding of migration and remittances in sub-Saharan Africa, including their

magnitude, causes and impacts on poverty reduction, with a view to generating informed policy recommendations, and (ii) strengthen the capacity of policymakers, researchers, financial institutions and donor agencies in Africa to enhance the development impact of remittances. The most visible output of the Africa Migration Project will be a flagship report jointly published by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. This report will be organized in five chapters focusing on: (i) mapping migration and remittances phenomena in sub-Saharan Africa; (ii) remittances; (iii) outmigration or emigration of highly-skilled persons; (iv) resources of transnational communities other than remittances, and (v) policy recommendations. The report will be based on the results of remittance services providers' surveys and migrant household surveys in selected African countries, as well as a survey of 176 central banks worldwide focusing on remittances. The report will be launched in 2010;

- (c) The migration and development initiative. Recently, IFAD co-financed a multi-donor trust fund with the African Development Bank and the Government of France. The purpose of the initiative is to provide financing in order to: (i) improve knowledge on migrant remittances in Africa; (ii) provide support to reforms of the regulatory frameworks required to improve transfer conditions; (iii) develop financial products, and (iv) provide support for productive investment and local development in the migrants' countries of origin.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> For the video, see <http://www.ifad.org/media/video/> (accessed 4 May 2010).

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*International Labour Organization (ILO)*

A. MAIN FINDINGS AND POLICY SUGGESTIONS OF AN ILO RESEARCH PAPER

In the first months following the onset of the global financial and economic crisis in the third quarter of 2008, some observers assumed a pessimistic scenario of massive returns of migrant workers to their countries of origin. They also feared worsening work and living conditions for migrant workers and their families, and rising xenophobia directed at them. At the same time, a number of researchers pointed out that there would not be massive returns of migrants unless conditions would worsen.

Fourteen months have passed since the onset of the crisis and a more balanced assessment of the impact of the crisis is possible. A research paper published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has reviewed the experiences regarding the impacts of the crisis on labour migration for a number of countries. The selection of countries was guided by the level of impact of the crisis on migration, the extent of related policy interventions and the availability of information. The paper assumes that the consequences of the crisis on migrant workers depend on its impact on economies of destination in general as well as on specific sectors of activity.

The picture that emerges from the paper is one of differentiated impact of the crisis on migrant workers. As expected, consequences of the crisis on migrant workers have been harshest in the countries most severely affected by the crisis. In countries where construction had been the engine of growth in recent years, such as Spain and the United States of America, migrant workers employed in this sector were the first to lose their jobs. Workers in other sectors followed. But in other countries, in East and South-East Asia, the engine of growth had been manufacturing, with migrant workers contributing to its expansion. With the contraction of trade in manufactured goods, migrant workers in the shipping industry have also been affected.

Besides the differential impact across countries, there are differences in the impact between economic sectors within countries. Depending on countries, some sectors with high concentrations of migrant workers —construction, manufacturing, services, and hotels and restaurants— have been seriously affected by the crisis with migrant workers experiencing major shocks. But some other sectors with an equally high concentration of migrant workers have maintained, or even expanded, their levels of employment. Foreign workers stand to mostly benefit from this, although some crisis-affected native workers would possibly be seeking employment in these stable or growing sectors.

Faced with reduced overall demand for labour and rising unemployment among migrant workers, at consistently higher rates than natives, countries of destination have responded by encouraging voluntary return, tightening conditions for new admissions and stepping up efforts to address irregular migration. The crisis can also be seen as an opportunity for reformulation of policy. Voluntary return policies have not been very successful up to now. Two factors may explain the reserved reaction by migrant workers. First, regular migrants, covered by social security systems might lose their benefit entitlements if they left. Second, the much poorer labour market opportunities in countries of origin compared to destination countries may act as a deterrent against return. This may partly explain why plans which allow migrants to fully cash the benefits due to them on return have not met with large success. In fact, the adverse labour market conditions in countries of origin may be seen as a factor that pushes workers towards migration, in regular or irregular situations, rather than pulling them back in. A contrasting argument exists, however. Because of the relatively high cost of migration, workers do not

cross borders when there is limited demand for labour in the country of destination. This was brought out by a survey carried out in Mexico; a finding which underscores the rationality of migration decisions. The cost of migration and the difficulty of re-entering the country of destination when economic performance improves may also explain the decision of workers not to return to their origin countries. It is too early to assess the effects of other policy measures on the functioning of labour markets and on the regularity of migration status.

The available evidence indicates that the demand for migrant workers in some major regions of destination, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, has not significantly diminished. This may be due to their still positive financial situations, in turn made possible by reserves accumulated in recent years because of high oil prices. Their solid public finances have allowed them to apply expansionary policies that fuel economic activity and preserve employment. Coupled with the segmentation of labour markets, this has resulted in job creation even in sectors that are severely hit globally, such as construction. However, lower levels of demand or of growth in demand for labour, coupled with lower to negative growth in remittances to some countries of origin, may be indicators of a slowdown.

No massive returns of migrants to countries of origin have been observed. In contrast to armed conflict or natural disasters, the effects of an economic crisis are not apparent at once. They unfold gradually and progressively. Additionally, and most importantly, economic activity in the afflicted country or area may not decline drastically. Demand for labour persists and native workers may not be available or may not want to take up the jobs carried out by migrant workers. Localized returns have been registered, however. Countries of origin have responded by devising or expanding policies on return migration and the reinsertion of returnees in national labour markets. They have explored new markets for their workers. Countries of origin have also focused on the protection of the rights of returnees and of their migrant workers remaining in countries of destination from discrimination and xenophobia.

Cases of abusive termination of employment have been reported. Manifestations of hostility and xenophobia directed at migrants and their families have been registered, some of which violent. Despite the downturn and competition for scarcer jobs, societies of destination have not turned against migrant workers. This may be considered a result of increased awareness that labour migration can contribute to economic growth.

The flow of remittances has been affected by the crisis. Rates of growth of remittances have declined, and in a few cases even their absolute volumes have contracted. A number of countries in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and especially Central Asia, have been affected. Thus poverty reduction and the sustenance of economic activity and employment in these countries are at risk. International cooperation and the transfer of resources to these countries seem necessary on economic and social grounds. In some countries, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan, remittances have increased in the economic downturn, thereby partly confirming the theoretical proposition of the countercyclical functions of remittances.

Important developments have taken place in parallel with the crisis, even if not triggered by it. These include the elaboration of comprehensive labour migration policies and the conclusion of agreements between trade unions in countries of origin and destination for the protection and promotion of foreign worker rights. Sri Lanka is an example of the former. Bahrain and Jordan, Kuwait and Sri Lanka provide instances of the latter. These policies and agreements represent frameworks for the elaboration of measures to counter the effects of economic downturns and other crises on migrant workers.

## B. PROPOSED POLICY MEASURES

Despite the overall mitigated effects of the global crisis on migrant workers, the adoption of a number of policy measures is advisable for two reasons. First, a number of migrant workers and their countries have already been affected. Second, the future may still harbour more adverse consequences, in the event of a prolongation of the crisis. In what follows, examples of these policy measures are put forth for consideration.

One might want to consider modified labour migration policies in countries of destination, on encouraging voluntary return and on new admissions needed to take account of labour demand in specific sectors and occupations. This is to ensure that labour needs of enterprises are met in conditions of regularity. Ignoring sectoral and occupational demand may result in inducing irregular migration. The involvement of social partners in defining such policy will ensure its effectiveness.

Economic stimulus packages put in place by countries of destination should equally and without discrimination benefit regular migrant workers. This would ensure the most efficient operation of labour markets and the best utilization of available labour. It would also alleviate pressures on social security systems.

Countries of destination should pay particular attention to the integration of migrant workers and their families. The workplace is the most effective integration mechanism. In absence of work, the unemployed migrant workers may find themselves excluded leading to erosion of social cohesion. Special concerted action may be necessary to ensure this.

Hostility towards migrant workers and xenophobia undermine social cohesion and stability. Governments, social partners and civil society organizations in destination countries should step up their efforts to combat them.

The application of labour laws to migrant workers should be closely monitored so as to ensure that legal conditions of work, including timely and full payment, are respected. At all times, labour laws and labour migration policies should incorporate provisions of international labour standards ratified by concerned countries. If standards have not been ratified, their principles may be drawn upon to guide policies. Countries of origin should also step up and expand their support protecting migrant workers in countries of destination.

In efforts to curb irregular migration, international human rights law should be strictly observed. This should apply to civil as well as to economic, social and cultural rights.

Further, the crisis has brought out the importance of creating decent work where people live. Countries of origin should therefore put in place effective policies for the reinsertion of returning migrant workers in their labour markets. Active labour market and employment policies should be used to this end. Social dialogue will be particularly relevant and useful in this respect.

The crisis might also be viewed as an opportunity to improve labour migration policies. The new policies should envisage procedures for the elaboration of special measures to be adopted in times of crises. International cooperation, including with countries of destination, should be an important pillar among these procedures. The involvement of social partners would increase the effectiveness of these policies.

In formulating improved labour migration policies that can respond to the crisis or capitalize on the opportunities ushered by it, countries of origin and destination might benefit from the guidance of

relevant international labour standards. The ILO Convention on Migration for Employment (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and the ILO Convention on Migrant Workers (Supplementary provisions), 1975 (No. 143) are of particular importance for both those States that have ratified them and those that have not done so yet. The ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration sets forth principles and provides guidelines that can be of value in the formulation of policies.

Financial resources should be transferred to countries whose economies and standards of living have been especially hit by the decline in workers' remittances. Stimulus packages put in place by industrialized destination countries and programmes to be drawn up by international financial institutions should allocate resources to this end.

Countries of origin wishing to promote labour migration should monitor the evolution of external demand for labour in years to come. This is to formulate and implement appropriate human resources development policies. It is highly unlikely that some patterns of demand for migrant labour will persist. Demand for labour in a non-tradable sector such as construction cannot return to the pre-crisis levels. In contrast, demand for labour in manufacturing can go back to its levels before the crisis. Demand may grow at unprecedented rates in other sectors, industries and occupations. Demand to fill green jobs may be a case in point. In other words, countries of origin should take account of the changed structure of demand for migrant labour, which should depend on new growth patterns in countries of destination. Therefore, countries of origin should follow closely policies put in place by countries of destination to overcome the crisis situation.

In formulating education and training policies adapted to the new pattern of demand for migrant labour, countries of origin should ensure that sufficient skills are also available for their own development. Otherwise, the migration of highly skilled labour may be a drain on development efforts.

Migrant workers have participated in promoting economic growth and prosperity and the creation of wealth in countries of destination. They have contributed to poverty reduction and development in countries of origin. With the crisis, however, some countries have expressed reservations on the roles of migrants in the national and global economies. But the majority of stakeholders recognize the valuable role of migrants. It is therefore important to adopt appropriate policy measures to reinforce the protection and recognition of the crucial role of migrant workers so that their contributions to both countries of origin and destination could be maximized.

*European Commission (EC)*

A. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

During the current global economic crisis with a steep economic downturn and expectations for worldwide and prolonged high unemployment, the European Commission (EC) considers that well-managed global migration should be viewed as part of the solution, rather than as part of the problem of the economic crisis. For this reason, it is important to continue to cooperate with partner countries on topics related to migration and development.

The EC is closely monitoring the effects of the economic crisis on migration. Several studies have been funded, internally and externally, and in Europe and in countries outside Europe a number of activities have been launched at the broader and horizontal policymaking level.

The following list provides examples of European Union (EU) policy responses to the economic crisis.

*1. Improving up-to-date monitoring of the effects*

In 2009, the Commission established a monthly monitoring report focusing on employment and social issues in the EU. The Commission also encouraged better cooperation between public authorities, public and private employment services, social partners and civil society on how to improve monitoring of the economic and financial crisis.

*2. Keeping people employed in Europe*

The EU is committed to helping EU member States fight unemployment and prepare labour markets for recovery, by creating jobs and promoting mobility, upgrading skills, matching labour market needs with labour demand, and increasing access to employment.

The Commission is easing access to EU funds for retraining laid-off workers and helping them find new jobs. Specifically, the EU is pursuing € 1.8 billion in payments earmarked for its social fund, which supports millions of workers every year. The Commission is also considering expanding the scope of the European Globalisation Fund.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission has proposed a new EU microfinance facility for employment to develop micro-enterprises and to offer job opportunities for the unemployed and thereby to open the road to entrepreneurship for some of Europe's most disadvantaged groups. In this joint initiative with international financial institutions, € 100 million has been reallocated from the existing budget for this purpose.

Immigrants may also benefit indirectly from these general initiatives and support programmes.

*3. Developing a dynamic approach to regular migration*

Although the economic crisis will attenuate labour and skills shortages in the short-term, a well-managed immigration policy focusing on regular migration will be instrumental in filling labour shortages

and attenuating demographic challenges in the future. In the long run, demand for workers of different skill levels will remain.

Migration of EU workers is helping countries within the Union to fill job vacancies, but intra-EU migration is not sufficient to respond to all labour demand in the EU. Therefore, the EU is also looking at the compensatory role of immigration from third countries. Continued efforts to promote economic migration and to improve the matching of skills are therefore essential to ensure that Europe can seize the opportunities that will arise when the recession ends.

The EU will continue to develop a common framework in the form of a flexible admission system to increase mobility and the needs of national labour markets. This framework should build on comparable and reliable data on migration and an in-depth analysis of the needs of EU member States' labour markets, also factoring in the contributions of different stakeholders in order to reach agreement on the general management of labour migration.

#### *4. Strengthening integration measures*

Against the backdrop of shrinking labour market opportunities and increasing xenophobia directed at immigrants, integration of immigrants remains a major challenge. Increased involvement of civil society is also a priority in this area. The potential of the European Integration Forum and its web portal will be helpful in this regard.<sup>2</sup>

Enhanced efforts to strengthen integration of immigrants will be needed by local, national and regional authorities, the host community as well as immigrants themselves. In this regard, a common reference framework and identification of joint practices (European modules) will facilitate the integration process. In particular, the integration of newcomers, including language classes, a strong commitment by the host community and the active participation of immigrants in all aspects of life will be important.

Family reunification is one of the main reasons for migration and accounts for a large proportion of regular migration. On the basis of a broad consultation process, the Commission intends to further harmonize national legislation on family reunification in order to manage effectively the influx of migrants reuniting with their families.

#### *5. Working with countries of origin in order to manage return migration and ensure benefits of diminishing remittance flows*

The Council has underlined the importance of development-oriented support in a number of key areas, including migration. Coordinated initiatives with and towards developing countries must be part of the solution to the crisis, as these initiatives will contribute to poverty reduction and global economic and political stability. Job creation, social protection and the creation of more opportunities in rural areas, where many labour migrants originate, are key areas where actions should be concentrated. In this regard, an appropriate response to developing countries of origin should also assess the degree of vulnerability and resilience of a country, based on parameters such as dependence on external financial flows and transfers, in particular foreign direct investment and remittances.

The Commission has indicated its willingness to dedicate at least € 500 million in 2009 from money allocated to the tenth European Development Fund (EDF) to support the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) hit hardest by the economic crisis. This financing will be delivered, if possible, as budget support, and will be calculated based on such parameters as forecasted export losses, decreased remittances and financial flows.



In addition, the EC has called upon countries facing inflows of returning migrant workers due to the crisis, to facilitate fast integration in the labour market. In cooperation with countries, the Commission will continue to facilitate return migration and circular migration, addressing in particular the portability of pension rights, skill matching and coherence between migration and development policies.

6. *Strengthening cooperation with countries in order to address expected growth in irregular migration flows*

There have been concerns that the economic crisis may threaten to increase the migratory pressure towards more industrialized countries. In order to address this situation, it would be necessary to strengthen international co-operation. Particular attention should be given to countries where irregular migration flows originate or transit.

The EU is actively managing irregular migration flows in the Mediterranean. Undocumented migration is not only a problem to a few European countries, but it is a challenge affecting all of Europe. Europe is responding to this challenge following the principles of solidarity established between EU member States and third countries. In this regard, it is also following the Global Approach to Migration,<sup>3</sup> adopted by the European Council in 2005, focusing on the following three goals:

- Increase collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to guarantee the right to political asylum outside European territory, and in particular in Northern Africa, and to address voluntary resettlement in Europe.
- Improve operations of Frontex, the EU specialised and independent agency tasked to coordinate the operational cooperation between EU member States in the field of border security, and reinforce readmission agreements where necessary.
- Strengthen cooperation with countries of origin and transit, particularly in Northern Africa.

Unregulated labour migration is likely to increase during times of crisis, and special attention should ensure (a) respect of labour standards and decent work and (b) fight exploitation and human trafficking. In order to avoid employer abuse, the Directive on Sanctions against Employers of Undocumented Third Country Nationals foresees sanctions against employers, not migrants. In combination with the Directive on Common Standards on Return, adopted in 2008, the EU opposes irregular migration.

B. RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The EC is increasingly focusing on improving the evidence base of migration to enable effective synergies between migration and development. In this regard, the EC is developing Migration Profiles to promote an evidence-based approach to migration and to ensure policy coherence.

A Migration Profile is a collection of data and information relevant to migration for a specific country gathered according to a common template. The main objective is to use the profiles as a basis for a coherent and comprehensive migration and development policy. It allows a country to develop such a policy in order to benefit from migration and mobility and to create linkages with other policy areas focusing on (a) development cooperation; (b) employment and job creation; (c) provision of workers in sectors of the economy facing a shortage of workers; (d) promotion of brain circulation; (e) protection of basic human rights, including migrants' rights, and (f) maximisation of the development benefits of

remittances and migrant entrepreneurs. Migration Profiles were created for a number of countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. These profiles contribute to the dialogue between the EU and its partner countries.

In the first half of 2009, the Commission started discussing these profiles with Governments in developing countries and international organizations to better define this tool. Recently, the EC also promoted Migration Profiles in the context of the third Global Forum on International Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009. The Commission invited all interested stakeholders to contribute to improving and further developing this tool. The aim of these activities in the GFMD context was to arrive at a common assessment of the potential of Migration Profiles and their format, and to further promote their use in full ownership by countries and with support of the international community. At the forthcoming Global Forum meeting in Mexico in 2010, the EC will report on the results from this work.

### C. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Creating synergies between migration and development remains high on the EU's policy agenda. The EU recognizes that, if managed effectively, migration can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this regard, the EU proposes for countries of origin and destination to work in partnership to facilitate the contribution of migration to areas such as poverty reduction, health, education and gender equality. In 2005, with the adoption of the Global Approach to Migration, the link between migration and development became one of the three main areas of work in the EU migratory policy programme with third countries. Creating synergies between migration and development were given the same level of importance as the control of irregular migration and the management of legal migration flows. Since 2005, the EU has been implementing concrete activities to strengthen these links. In this regard, the focus on the role of remittances as a tool for development of countries of origin has increased, as they are seen as both an opportunity and a possible challenge to countries of origin. Besides remittances, transnational communities can play an important role in the economic development of countries of origin, such as by functioning as a conduit for small and medium size trade and investment facilitation and for small-business development. However, small and vulnerable economies with well-developed education systems, such as those in the Caribbean, are especially affected by the negative impact of emigration of highly-skilled people.

The link between migration and development is not only a key component of the Global Approach to Migration of 2005 but also referred to in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum,<sup>4</sup> adopted by the European Council at the end of 2008. These frameworks have helped to increase policy coherence within EU member States and to strengthen cooperation and partnership between the EU and partner countries.

With respect to policy coherence and as viewed from a development perspective, key elements of the policy framework are the Commission's Communication on Policy Coherence on Development of April 2005, the European Consensus on Development of December 2005, the Council conclusions on the EU Policy Coherence for Development report of November 2005, the biannual reports of 2007 and 2009 on Policy Coherence for Development, and the recent Commission's Communication containing proposals to further enhancing policy coherence for development. The policy and legal framework consists mainly of the Directives on payment services (2007) and E-money (2009) as well as active

participation of the Commission in different expert groups of the Group of Eight (G-8) and the Group of Twenty (G-20) on global remittances and financial access.

The following paragraphs list current and future EU activities in this area.

*1. Activities aiming at improving the nexus between migration and development*

- Development of the concept of circular migration and the assessment of ways to facilitate both managed and spontaneous circulation of migrants, implemented by EU member States, in which the interest of countries of origin and destination, as well as the interest of migrants themselves, are respected.
- Development of an EU Code of Conduct for the ethical recruitment of health workers in developing countries, that seeks to avoid outmigration or emigration of highly-skilled persons in sectors that are critical for development.
- Actions aiming at reversing “brain-waste” of returning migrants.
- Support of networking activities of transnational communities in Europe and support of their involvement in efforts to enhance development in countries of origin.
- Adoption of the Blue Card Directive, which, in order to meet concerns of some developing countries, contains provisions for facilitating circular migration of highly-skilled migrants while preventing these migrants from permanently emigrating.
- Analysis of the effects of climate change on international migration in connection with development.

*2. Efforts to reduce costs of remitting money while making remittance transfers safer and more conducive to development at the same time*

- Adoption of measures to improve the banking system in countries of origin and to promote innovative financial products, so as to positively impact banking services in countries of origin, to strengthen legal financial channels and thus facilitate the investment of remittances in development activities.
- Promotion of more affordable, faster and more secure transfer of remittances to migrants’ countries of origin; efforts to ensure that relevant legislation does not contain provisions hampering the effective use of legal remittance channels.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of creating a common EU portal on remittances to inform migrants about transfer costs and encourage competition among remittance service providers.
- Promotion of financial literacy among migrants and their relatives in countries of origin.
- Support of productive investment channels for migrants’ remittances and savings, like community development schemes or micro-business support.

In 2008, new financing projects were selected following the call for proposals of the Thematic Programme for Cooperation with Third Countries on Migration and Asylum. Many of the initiatives described above were funded within this framework.

Several activities on migration and development are currently being identified as part of the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMEDI). In cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a focal point, the initiative seeks to establish networks with local stakeholders on migration and development issues in countries of origin and EU member States.

In its communication of September 2009, the Commission made three specific proposals to carry forward the EU mission for enhanced policy coherence for development linked to migration as one of its key areas of work. First, the Commission proposed to strengthen its partnership approach in this area by giving developing countries a voice in the assessment of EU policy coherence for development. Second, the Commission intended to harness, together with developing countries, the potential of non-Official Development Assistance (ODA) financial flows for development, such as investments, remittances and technology transfers which has been referred to as the ODA-plus concept. Third, for a limited number of topics, the Commission prioritized policy coherence for development efforts with a strong impact on the MDGs. The Commission proposed five subjects for further study: (a) climate change; (b) food security; (c) intellectual property rights; (d) security and building peace, and (e) migration work for development.

Lastly, strengthening the implementation of the migration and development agenda of the Global Approach to Migration could also be advanced by making use of the mobility partnership instrument, as well as other instruments, such as migration missions or Migration Profiles.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the European Globalisation Fund, see <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/06/99&format=HTML&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> (accessed 2 March 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the European Integration Forum, see <http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/policy/legal.cfm> (accessed 15 July 2010).

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the Global Approach to Migration, see [http://europa-eu-un.org/articles/es/article\\_7589\\_es.htm](http://europa-eu-un.org/articles/es/article_7589_es.htm) (accessed 18 May 2010).

<sup>4</sup> For the Pact, see <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st13/st13440.en08.pdf> (accessed 18 May 2010).

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## INPUT TO THE EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

### *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

#### A. INTRODUCTION

With the Eighth Coordination Meeting focusing on international migration and the financial crisis, it is important to highlight adjunct key areas of the migration discourse that have been particularly affected by the financial crisis.

The human rights of migrants and their protection are priority concerns for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The financial and economic crisis has affected the well-being of migrants all over the world, and while only a few receiving countries have experienced a significant decline in migration inflows, the crisis in general has increased migrants' vulnerability. This is particularly significant among migrants in an irregular situation: their vulnerability to exploitation and the association of irregular migration with human smuggling and trafficking networks are persistent issues of global concern which have been exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis. In addition, the line between "voluntary migration" and "forced migration" has become increasingly unclear. While international and national laws clearly differentiate between asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants, the reality on the ground is often blurred: the reasons for migrating are often mixed. Current global trends only complicate further the challenge of successfully and humanely managing migration in such a context. Therefore, IOM considers shared understanding of migration issues and subsequent partnerships to be of paramount importance.

Climate change and environmental degradation and their nexus to population movement and displacement are another important area of debate directly linked to sustainable development efforts and how this is affected by the financial and economic crisis. The impact of environmental change on all is a matter of concern for policymakers and the wider public as awareness of human-induced climate change increases. Rising sea levels, deforestation and dry land degradation, as well as natural disasters pose challenges in terms of their effect on development and livelihoods, settlement options, food production and health. These environmental changes might lead to large-scale displacement of people —both internally and internationally. Existing gaps at the policy, research and operational levels need to be addressed if the international community is to achieve progress in this field, particularly in the context of adaptation measures and overall sustainable development.

#### B. THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The current global economic crisis is affecting large sectors of the economy and society in both countries of origin and destination. Often migrants are the most vulnerable group of workers in terms of job losses, treatment in the workplace, access to social support, and potential marginalization. Women migrants face further difficulties as they have more limited access to information and resources, and can be subject to abuse and various forms of exploitation as they work in sectors which are typically more precarious and unprotected.

IOM has been monitoring the effects of the crisis on migrants and in its 2009 policy brief on the issue, has noted that the impact of the crisis has varied by country, and affected groups of migrants differently depending on their circumstances, legal status, and situation back home. IOM is aware that, as

in previous economic crises, this recession seems to reduce new migration flows but not migrant stocks, an observation that is difficult to measure given that data on return migration is often limited. IOM collects information from its offices around the world on a quarterly basis to assess key policy changes occurring in each region in response to the economic crisis and the related ongoing policy debate. Among the most noticeable effects of the crisis obtained from this research in the field, have been job losses, more restrictive admissions policies, a reduction of foreign nationals admitted for employment, and stricter measures to combat irregular migration as well as a reduction in benefits and entitlements for immigrants.

Another early finding relates to the return of migrant workers, with some Governments enacting new or accrued assisted voluntary return and reintegration measures while others are beginning to initiate forced return policies for undocumented migrants. The response to these programmes, including through return incentives, have thus far not proven particularly effective. Acknowledging that demographics and labour demands will not be fundamentally changed by the crisis, IOM calls for sound integration policies in order to avoid the xenophobic reactions that have been reported.

One of the main impacts of the crisis in the area of development is on remittances. The World Bank (2009) has estimated a 6.1 per cent decline in remittance flows to developing countries between 2008-2009, and the impact is likely to be felt hardest in developing countries which received approximately US\$ 283 billion of remittances in 2008 (World Bank, 2008). At the same time, as remittances are counter-cyclical, some countries are witnessing a temporary increase in remittance flows owing to job insecurity and the need to return home. Taking into account the essential role of remittances sent by migrants to households in developing countries, which for some households constitute the main source of income, loss of income by the principal migrant may affect not only his or her household but also the wider community in the country of origin.

In addition, the crisis is affecting female and male migrants differently as both senders and receivers of remittances. Job loss by migrant men and women depends on the scope of the crisis, the sector of the economy, and on whether this sector relies predominantly on men, e.g. in construction, or women, e.g. in manufacturing. As far as remittances are concerned, the impacts of the crisis are expected to disproportionately affect women as they are often the main recipients of remittances.

In addressing the problems and challenges caused by the economic crisis, IOM has developed a three-point strategy as described below with examples of concrete interventions that have been undertaken by IOM in collaboration with other agencies. First, IOM has undertaken analysis, monitoring and research of the effects of the crisis on migration through regular policy briefs, quarterly surveys by IOM offices worldwide, and through ongoing regional studies and analysis of past crises. IOM has recently been requested by the European Commission to carry out a study on the crisis in the European Union. IOM has also conducted a worldwide survey on national policy responses to the economic crisis and will continue updating the results of the survey. Such an approach can ensure that migration is incorporated into the policy responses for economic recovery.

Second, IOM has engaged in fostering policy dialogue on migration, development and the economic crisis. IOM is facilitating collaboration between Governments and other national and international participants in the field of migration in order to find the best possible solutions to the crisis' effects on migration and further harness the development potential of migration. The offices of IOM in Moscow, the Russian Federation, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, have both held policy roundtables to discuss the impacts of the crisis on migrants. Other events include a recent meeting in Bangladesh to discuss the specific impact of the crisis on women, and an upcoming event in Morocco on the same subject. In the Republic of Moldova, IOM collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on a project to estimate the potential

impacts of the economic crisis on poverty and social exclusion in the Republic of Moldova and to identify measures to mitigate its impact. At the global level, IOM has worked with its partners in the Global Migration Group (GMG) to deliver a consolidated message to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) meeting in Athens in 2009. Moreover, IOM has been collaborating with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to ensure dialogue to raise awareness of the important contributions that migrants can make, particularly during an economic downturn, and ask for their protection from discrimination and xenophobia. Such dialogue can contribute to a better understanding of the crisis and the policy and practical measures required.

Third, adapting and implementing programmatic responses, IOM has recently opened a reintegration centre “Bienvenido a Casa” in Colombia and is managing a network of migrant service centres in Eastern Europe which provide advice on reintegration opportunities for returning migrants. IOM has also assisted interested Governments in establishing and managing reintegration centres and programmes in South Africa. The Regional Office of IOM in South Africa (2009) has recently completed a report entitled *Towards Tolerance, Law, and Dignity: Addressing Violence against Foreign Nationals in South Africa* in order to contribute to the Government’s efforts to reduce xenophobic attitudes and related violence targeted at migrants and to facilitate their socio-economic integration. Also, a number of anti-discrimination training workshops for the judiciary have been carried out in the Baltic States.

In conclusion, IOM has made the following suggestions for policy and practical interventions in crisis situations:

For countries of destination:

- (a) Develop non-discriminatory, non-protectionist, gender-sensitive and human-rights based migration policies where short-term responses to the crisis are balanced with longer-term implications for development;
- (b) Enhance protection against xenophobia through awareness-raising among local population, since in times of economic crisis there is an increased risk of discrimination in host societies which perceive migrants as taking the jobs of native workers. This particularly concerns women who may become victims of discrimination due to their status as a migrant worker and as women;
- (c) Develop reintegration packages to encourage voluntary return of migrants and guarantee possibilities of re-entry when the crisis is over;
- (d) Leave regular migration channels open to meet any continuing structural demand for migrant workers, in order to avoid irregular migration and human trafficking, and
- (e) Reduce remittance transfer costs and encourage the productive use of remittances to maximize the longer term impact of remittances.

For countries of origin:

- (a) Develop gender-sensitive assistance programmes to facilitate the reintegration of returning migrants;
- (b) Develop national strategies and programmes on harnessing the migration development potential, including through enhanced use of remittances and potential of transnational communities, and

- (c) Encourage public awareness regarding the positive contributions that migrants can bring to destination countries with regard to economic, cultural and social contributions.

For international organizations:

- (a) Assist returning migrants with regard to reintegration and protection of their rights, including through anti-discrimination and anti-xenophobia programmes;
- (b) Foster development of cooperation between countries of destination and countries of origin, and
- (c) Contribute to the development of national migration and development policies and strategies through research, policy and legislative recommendations and capacity-building of Governments and local communities.

### C. RECENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE EVIDENCE BASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The migration and development nexus is of concern to the international community, as reflected in both the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the discussions at the past three meetings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Capitalizing on the positive relationship between migration and economic and social development has long been a strategic focus of IOM's work on migration management. With high numbers of international migrants worldwide, there is a particularly urgent need to (a) develop a fuller understanding of the linkages between migration and development; (b) take practical steps to enhance the benefits of migration for development, and (c) sketch sustainable solutions for problematic migration situations. IOM approaches the linkages between migration and development from the perspective that international migration, if properly managed, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of countries of origin and destination, as well as benefit migrants themselves.

In 2009, IOM developed a series of Migration Profiles for countries in the Balkans, Western and Central Africa, and Latin America, many in partnership with the European Union. The profiles follow an evidence-based approach to assess the migration situation in a given country to contribute to greater coherence of national migration policies and enhance regional cooperation, bringing together existing information from different sources in a structured manner, and provide a comprehensive overview of key international migration and socio-economic development trends. The profiles, using a common template, allow for comparability despite data limitations and different national contexts. The reports cover a range of statistics and other data related to immigration, emigration, return migration, remittances, labour migration and irregular migration, including human trafficking and smuggling. Besides explaining some of the key factors underlying current migration patterns, the country reports also provide an assessment of the institutional and policy framework governing migration with respect to domestic legislation, institutional actors, and bi- and multilateral cooperation and its effectiveness. Drawing on the information and data presented, these country profiles show policymakers existing data gaps and possible strategies to improve migration statistics and manage migration.

A global meeting of the chairs and secretariats of Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 5 June 2009.<sup>1</sup> Hosted by the Thai Government in collaboration with the IOM, the purpose of the meeting was to draw together representatives from major RCPs in the world to share experiences and exchange views on the value and benefits of promoting regional dialogue, capacity development and cooperation on migration through RCPs. Participants also



examined the value of collaboration between RCPs, as well as exchange between RCPs and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

#### D. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

For 2010, IOM is planning a number of activities in the area of international migration and development. As reported at prior coordination meetings, IOM views the Global Forum as an important State-led process providing a platform for dialogue to address the links between migration and development in a practical and action-oriented way. IOM is firmly committed to supporting the GFMD and its continued success. IOM seconded a migration expert to the taskforce for the past three Global Forum meetings. During the preparatory phase of the Global Forum 2009 meeting, IOM received requests for substantive support and drafted background papers for three roundtables; IOM was also invited to present initial findings of a comparative analysis of RCPs in one of the roundtables. IOM has offered its full support and cooperation to the Government of Mexico, the host of the 2010 Global Forum both in its individual capacity and as a member of and in conjunction with the GMG.

IOM is also participating in the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative, implemented in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Joint Initiative is working to (a) set up and reinforce networks of groups working on migration and development; (b) identify good practices in the field of migration at the local and international levels, and (c) inform policymaking on migration and development.

On migration and economic and community development, IOM is pursuing two types of activities. The first aims to harness the benefits of migration for the development of countries of origin and destination. It focuses on building the capacity of Governments and other stakeholders in countries of origin to communicate with their expatriate communities and engage them in initiatives related to home country socio-economic development, and on contributing to the establishment of development-oriented migration policies. The second type of activity addresses the root causes of economically-motivated migration, including the effects of environmental degradation, by enhancing the ability of Governments and other key players to focus development actions more strategically on home country migration dynamics. Projects focus on expanding economic opportunities and improving social services and community infrastructure in specific geographical areas that are prone to economic migration or in need of development to absorb and sustain the return of migrants.

Through its programmes to support the return and reintegration of qualified nationals, IOM will continue supporting national development or rehabilitation and reconstitution processes in developing countries, countries with economies in transition or those recovering from conflict, through the return and socio-economic reintegration of skilled and qualified nationals from abroad on short, repeated or longer-term professional assignments. Such programmes include measures to identify gaps in human resource needs that cannot be met locally, to identify, recruit, and place qualified candidates in sectors that are important to the country's development or reconstruction, and to provide transport and other assistance. IOM also assesses and researches potential programming support and provides technical advice for countries setting up mechanisms to encourage returns within a broader national policy and international community plan for development, rehabilitation and reconstruction that comprises the transfer of knowledge and skills acquired by qualified nationals abroad.

Also in 2010 IOM will continue to encourage inter-state dialogue on migration at the regional level, including through its support for several RCPs.

Lastly, together with partner agencies, IOM has finalized a handbook to guide policymakers through the process of mainstreaming migration into poverty reduction and development strategies. It is targeted at policymakers from different backgrounds whose areas of competence affect or are affected by migration. The handbook can also serve as an important reference tool for other stakeholders, such as academia, donors, non-governmental organizations, employers, and trade unions interested in obtaining a better understanding of the interplay between migration and development issues.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the global RCP meeting, see <http://www.iom.int/jahia/jahia/policy-research/regional-consultative-processes/2009-global-rcp-meeting> (accessed 19 July 2010).

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## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE ARAB REGION

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

#### A. BACKGROUND

The Population Policies and Migration Department of the League of Arab States (PPMD/LAS) launched the Arab Observatory for International Migration (AOIM)<sup>1</sup> in 2004 and since then, it has worked on filling the gap in migration data for Arab countries and updating such data continuously by:

1. Sustaining the technical capabilities of the bodies dealing with migration in Arab countries;
2. Contributing to knowledge transfer in the international migration field, and
3. Finding mechanisms to enhance the benefits of migration for development and Arab regional integration.

#### B. AOIM ACTIVITIES IN 2009

##### *1. The Arab Regional Report for International Migration*

The report, published biannually, aims to:

- (a) Increase knowledge of Arab migration processes and dimensions;
- (b) Promote dialogue between decision makers and researchers and other national and regional parties dealing with migration issues, and
- (c) Clarify the Arab vision and regional policies to maximize the benefits from migration and reduce its negative impacts within the framework of a broad partnership.

The 2008 report entitled *Arab Labour Migration: Brain Drain or Brain Gain?* was launched at the Second Arab Regional Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Development, held in Cairo, Egypt, from 29 June to 1 July 2009, and highlighted that highly-skilled migration is a growing phenomenon in the region. Worldwide, the number of highly-skilled migrants doubled from 9.4 million people in 1992 to 19.7 million people in 2000, and from 2.5 million people to 4.9 million people in European countries. Also, the number of skilled migrants from Arab countries doubled during the last decade.

TABLE 1  
DISTRIBUTION OF SKILLED WORKERS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES LIVING IN OECD COUNTRIES  
BY CITIZENSHIP, 2000 (NATURALIZED – NON NATURALIZED)

	<i> Holders of diplomas </i>			
	<i> Non-naturalized </i>	<i> Naturalized </i>	<i> Not specified </i>	<i> Total </i>
<b>Maghreb countries</b>				
Algeria	44 338	162 564	8 445	215 347
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2 794	5 086	7 661	15 541
Mauritania	1 690	722	333	2 745
Morocco	49 391	113 241	44 485	207 117
Tunisia	15 065	49 465	3 660	68 190
<b>Total</b>	<b>113 278</b>	<b>331 078</b>	<b>64 584</b>	<b>508 940</b>
<b>The Arab Mashreq countries – neighbouring countries</b>				
Comoros	725	1 164	12	1 901
Djibouti	552	995	45	1 592
Egypt	35 994	93 392	18 449	147 835
Jordan	8 892	14 559	3 189	26 640
Lebanon	22 755	80 955	6 980	110 690
Palestine	1 287	3 764	1 530	6 581
Somalia	5 063	6 203	5 250	16 516
Sudan	7 289	5 157	4 620	17 066
Syrian Arab Republic	12 814	26 643	4 441	43 898
Yemen	1 723	1 987	2 577	6 287
<b>Total</b>	<b>97 094</b>	<b>234 819</b>	<b>47 093</b>	<b>379 006</b>
<b>Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Iraq</b>				
Bahrain	872	801	1 344	3 017
Iraq	24 318	35 845	23 302	83 465
Kuwait	7 144	7 183	2 215	16 542
Oman	374	151	487	1 012
Qatar	635	515	315	1 465
Saudi Arabia	6 386	3 833	2 129	12 348
United Arab Emirates	1 568	986	933	3 487
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 297</b>	<b>49 314</b>	<b>30 725</b>	<b>121 336</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>251 669</b>	<b>615 211</b>	<b>142 402</b>	<b>1 009 282</b>

Source: www.oecd.org/database (accessed in 2009).

The report also showed that:

- (a) More than one million highly-skilled migrants born in Arab countries were living and working in OECD countries with about 50 per cent from Maghreb countries;
- (b) The number of Arab-born in OECD countries exceeded the number of Indians and Chinese in OECD countries;
- (c) About one fifth of Maghreb-born highly-skilled Arabs were working in industrialized Western countries and 40 per cent of the highly-skilled Arab migrants were living in France;

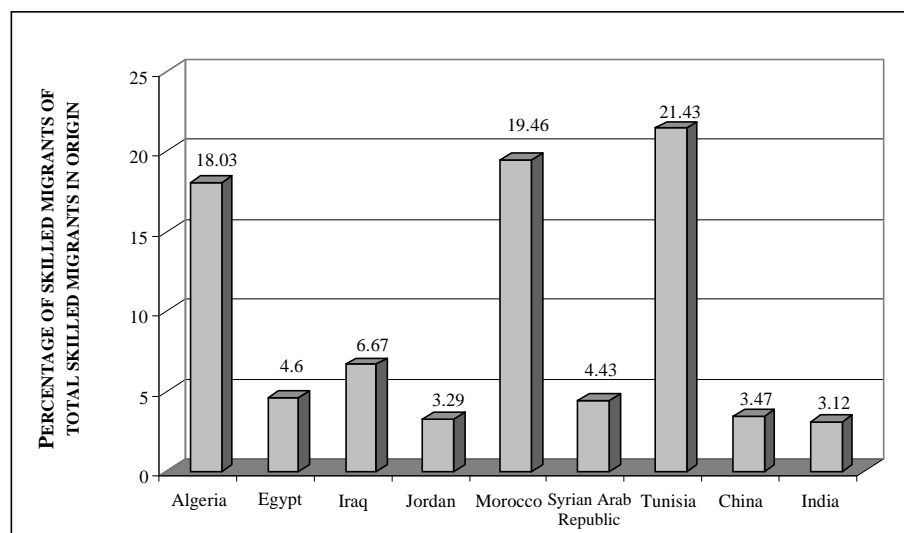
- (d) The Arab community in OECD countries had a higher level of education than the native-born in OECD countries. The percentage of highly-educated persons reached 21.6 per cent among the Arab community and 19.9 per cent among the native-born;
- (e) In France, about one out of ten doctors was born in an Arab country, and these doctors represented 63 per cent of all foreign-born doctors residing in France.

TABLE 2  
NUMBER OF DOCTORS AND NURSES BORN IN ARAB COUNTRIES AND LIVING IN OECD COUNTRIES

<i>Countries of origin</i>	<i>Number of doctors in OECD countries</i>	<i>Percentage of doctors having left country of origin</i>
Arab	43 369	
India	55 794	8.0
China	13 391	1.0
Pakistan	10 506	8.3
Africa (excluding Northern African countries)	30 700	
Latin America	42 500	

Source: [www.oecd.org/database](http://www.oecd.org/database) (accessed in 2009).

FIGURE 1  
SKILLED MIGRANTS IN OECD COUNTRIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL SKILLED WORKERS IN ORIGIN COUNTRIES



Source: [www.oecd.org/database](http://www.oecd.org/database) (accessed in 2009).

One of the main points of the 2008 report was related to brain drain in the health sector. The report showed that the percentage of doctors born in Arab countries but living abroad out of the total number of doctors living in Arab countries had reached 18.2 per cent. About 12-14 per cent of highly-skilled persons born in Arab countries were living abroad. Further, the report showed that there was increased demand for skilled health workers in developed countries. In fact, the number of skilled migrants working in the health sector in OECD countries was equivalent to or exceeded the number of all skilled health professionals working in African countries. About half of all doctors working in Australia

and New Zealand were migrants born outside these countries, and this percentage had reached one third in Canada, England, Ireland, and Luxemburg. In France where Arab-born represented half of all migrants, the number of foreign doctors had increased by more than 60 per cent over the last three years (2002-2005). The European markets attracted highly-skilled workers by providing incentives and utilizing specialized “chasseur de tetes” offices for recruiting highly-skilled people from less developed countries, especially for the health care sector. Overall, the report stated that this raised concerns regarding the ethical recruitment of foreign workers emphasizing that an ethical code for recruiting and employing highly-skilled workers was needed.

TABLE 3  
NUMBER OF DOCTORS AND NURSES BORN IN ARAB COUNTRIES AND LIVING IN OECD COUNTRIES

Country	Doctors	Percentage of doctors having left country of origin	Nurses
	Number of workers in OECD countries		Number of workers in OECD countries
<b>Maghreb countries</b>			
Algeria	10 793	23.4	8 796
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	592	8.5	100
Mauritania	38	10.8	96
Morocco	6 221	28.0	5 730
Tunisia	2 415	15.3	410
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 059</b>		<b>15 132</b>
Per cent	46.3		76.1
<b>The Arab Mashreq countries – neighbouring countries</b>			
Comoros	20	14.8	64
Djibouti	25	16.2	
Egypt	7 243	15.8	1 128
Jordan	1 014	8.2	363
Lebanon	4 552	28.3	1 400
Somalia	155	33.3	250
Sudan	778	9.3	183
Syrian Arab Republic	4 721	16.6	319
Yemen	248	3.5	231
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 756</b>		<b>3 938</b>
Per cent	42.7		19.8
<b>Countries of the Golf Cooperation Council and Iraq</b>			
Bahrain	74	8.4	77
Iraq	3 730	18.0	415
Kuwait	465	11.5	152
Oman	23	0.6	18
Qatar	45	3.3	
Saudi Arabia	421	1.2	151
United Arab Emirates	44	0.7	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 802</b>		<b>824</b>
Per cent	11.1	18.2	4.1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>43 617</b>		<b>19 894</b>
Per cent	100		100

Source: International Migration Outlook OECD, Sopemi (accessed in 2009).

## *2. The Annual Arab-Regional Meeting for Governmental Experts of Migration*

Since 2006, the Arab-Regional Meeting for Governmental Experts of Migration has been held annually to exchange information and coordinate and unify the Arab vision in preparation for the Global Forum on Migration and Development. In particular, the meeting aims to:

- (a) Evaluate the achievements concerning the recommendations of the Global Forum in the Arab world;
- (b) Identify common views, recommendations and suggestions related to Global Forum panels;
- (c) Exchange information and discuss developments in the field of international migration in the Arab region; and
- (d) Make suggestions to support the roles of the “AOIM” programme by the LAS as one of the main mechanisms to activate the developmental roles of Arab migration.

## *3. The 2009 Arab Regional Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Development*

The meeting was organized by PPMD/LAS and the IOM with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Migration held in Cairo, Egypt, from 29 June to 1 July 2009. About 80 participants, representing Governments, international organizations and research organizations attended the meeting, including participants from 16 Arab countries. The meeting focused on integrating human mobility issues into development policies in the Arab region.

In conclusion, the meeting recommended that participants, including civil society organizations and Government representatives attend the 2009 Global Forum meeting. The meeting also asked the Arab League and other donors to provide financial support for low-income countries to attend the Global Forum. At the end of the meeting, participants adopted a common regional view on issues to be raised at the forthcoming Global Forum meeting in Athens in 2009. The regional view,

- (a) Reconfirms the request of Arabic countries to adopt Arabic as one of the main languages of the Global Forum, and calls upon the Arab League to follow-up on Global Forum recommendations;
- (b) Calls for the establishment of an Arab regional research and training center within the framework of the League of Arab States in cooperation with relevant international and Arab organizations. This center would contribute to collecting necessary renewable and updated data, and create national and regional databases on international migration, and technical support for national related institutions; and
- (c) Calls to intensify and strengthen broad international cooperation and partnership to address the consequences of the global economic crisis on migrants in receiving countries, to protect their human rights and to provide support for sending countries in order to enable them to reintegrate return migrants.

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NOTE

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Observatory, see <http://www.poplas.org/en/page.asp?id=3> (accessed March 10, 2010).

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## CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2009-2010

### *Organization of American States (OAS)*

#### A. INTRODUCTION

Migration has been a structural component of the history of the Americas and has been part of the agenda of the Organization of American States (OAS) for many decades. Since the 1990s, the increase and complexity of the phenomenon in the region has led OAS member States to bring this topic to the forefront of their agenda.

During the thirty-fifth OAS General Assembly meeting held in Fort Lauderdale, United States of America, from 5 to 7 June 2005, OAS member States adopted the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of Migrants’ Human Rights, including migrant workers and their families” within the Committee on Judicial and Political Affairs of the OAS Permanent Council.

The Permanent Council called for a special session to discuss migratory flows and their impact on OAS member States for May 2007. To that end, the Council created the Special Committee on Migration Issues in the same year.

In order to implement the “Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of Migrants’ Human Rights, including migrant workers and their families” and the Special Committee on Migration Issues’ mandates, the Secretariat General created the Migration and Development Program (MiDE) within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development in 2008.

The mission of MiDE is to contribute to the formulation of public policies that promote safe, orderly and humane migration processes, emphasizing the protection of human rights of all migrants. The objectives of MiDE are:

1. Develop information systems on migration issues that provide timely and up-to-date information;
2. Build human and institutional capacities of OAS member States in migration management;
3. Enhance dialogue among OAS member States on migration issues.

#### B. CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

##### *1. Information systems*

###### *a. Continuous Labour Migration Reporting System for the Americas (SICREMI)*

The Continuous Labour Migration Reporting System for the Americas (SICREMI) contains up-to-date information on migration for the Americas. It is based on the model of the Continuous Reporting System on Migration (SOPEMI) which was created by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The objectives of SICREMI are to:

1. Gather information on international migration in the region from existing national sources, such as censuses, surveys and administrative records and process and disseminate the information through an annual report;
2. Provide a forum for dialogue among participating countries on generating and processing migration data and ways to improve these activities;
3. Promote human and institutional capacity-building of national organizations to improve migration data production and processing.

Following the SOPEMI methodology, the data gathering process relies on a network of national correspondents that work closely with representatives of the organizations that produce data on migration in their country. Often, these organizations include ministries of interior, the national statistics institutes, the foreign affair ministries and ministries of labour. The Migration and Development Program harbours the technical secretariat of the system, in charge of coordinating the network of the correspondents who will be responsible for producing national reports. These reports will be analyzed and used as the basis for annual regional reports.

The proposed process to produce regional reports consists of the following steps. First, a standard data request is sent to SICREMI correspondents for the preparation of a country's annual report. Second, SICREMI correspondents gather the information and prepare a country report on migration, which is sent to the technical secretariat of the system at the OAS. Third, the technical secretariat at the OAS prepares an annual report on the region's main migratory trends. Periodically, the methodology will be reviewed and adjusted to the region's needs and characteristics, with input from correspondents and national organizations.

*b. Mapping temporary worker programmes*

In order to map temporary worker programmes, information about existing temporary work programmes in which migrant workers from Latin America and the Caribbean participate will be compiled. The information will be mapped, providing a geographic perspective of major tendencies of migrant workers' movement. The information collected and displayed will include (a) a description of the terms and characteristics of the programmes and processes for recruitment (bilateral agreements or through independent contractors), and (b) socio-demographic characteristics of temporary workers, such as gender, age, education, country of origin, etc.

*c. Legal database of migration law frameworks and public policies in the Americas*

The project will compile national and international law and public policies regarding migration in OAS member States.

## *2. Human and institutional capacity-building initiatives*

### *a. Improving access to local labour markets for youth at risk of emigrating*

The project's objective is to generate alternatives to emigration through the promotion of entrepreneurship among low-income young people in Central America so that they can create their own businesses using local resources. The project is implemented by the Young American Business Trust in coordination with MiDE.

### *b. Developing models of best practice for education of migrant youth and children*

The project seeks to document, systematize and disseminate the lessons learned from policies, programmes and practices aimed at providing quality educational experiences for migrant children and youth. This programme is executed by the OAS Department of Education and Culture in coordination with MiDE.

### *c. Developing models of best practice to assist migrant women who are victims of violence in the border region of the United States of America and Mexico*

The project aims at identifying programmes, mechanisms and initiatives that support migrant women who are victims of violence in the border region of San Diego, United States, and Tijuana, Mexico, to compare and analyze their effectiveness, and to identify models of best practices. These practices will be integrated into a proposed model of assistance to migrant women who are victims of violence. The project intends to discuss and disseminate the proposed model and to help implement it.

### *d. Training migration agencies in Central America on detecting human trafficking*

The goal of this project is to train migration agencies in selected Central American countries to identify, protect and assist victims of human trafficking. This project is implemented by the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the OAS in coordination with MiDE in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

## *3. Enhancing dialogue among OAS member States on migration issues*

Forums and seminars for OAS member States will be held to enhance their knowledge about migration. It is also intended to organize workshops on diverse labour migration issues and topics related to consular protection of migrants.

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## ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### *International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)*

#### A. BACKGROUND

##### *1. A note on ICMC*

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is a network of members in nearly every country of the world with its own operations and staff which serves and protects refugees, migrants, especially vulnerable migrant workers, victims of human trafficking, fragile families and unaccompanied minors, and internally displaced persons, regardless of their faith, race, ethnicity or national origin.

Active both in operations and advocacy, ICMC works directly and through its members on programmes and policy development related to migration. Working in partnership with States, international and civil society organizations, the ICMC network is committed to better elaborations and collaborations on international migration and development.

##### *2. ICMC engagement on international migration and development*

At the policy level, ICMC's Strategic Plan explicitly targets migration and development as one of the organization's top priorities for the coming years.

At the international policy level, ICMC has participated in all of the processes related to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The organization has participated in the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 and in its capacity as a civil society delegate, a member of formal advisory committees, a session rapporteur, and a member of a writing team of each of the reports of the civil society days, in the first two Global Forum meetings in 2007 and 2008. For the 2008 Global Forum, ICMC wrote a background paper and spoke on regional consultative processes as part of session 3.3 of the civil society programme. In addition, ICMC participated in the 2007 Global Forum's online consultation and in the editing of a number of background papers prepared for both the civil society days and the Government meeting. Parallel to the civil society programme, ICMC was involved in the planning and organization of parallel civil society events held in Brussels, Belgium, and Manila, the Philippines.

ICMC established a civil society website on migration and development.<sup>1</sup> Although the Global Forum and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) websites host considerable libraries of official documentation and quality research and material on migration and development, the new website provides added value by approaching the issue from a civil society perspective, centred on the individual in the context of migration and development, and the need to highlight practical, rights-based solutions that already exist as well as possibilities for the future. Complementing existing websites, the new site:

- (a) Identifies and makes accessible quality writing and other materials on migration and development that are not fully presented on other websites or in other forums, giving particular priority to non-governmental organizations, faith-based and labour organizations;

- (b) Promotes the sharing of concrete research and data, including experience, evaluations, lessons learned and best practices, with an emphasis on programming that serves poor and vulnerable people affected by migration and development;
- (c) Increases awareness and preparation regarding migration and development events and processes at bilateral, regional and international levels.

At regional and national policy levels, ICMC has since mid-2008 organized and provided modest funding for multiple initiatives linked to the Global Forum, including in particular:

- (a) A two-day regional conference held in Manila, the Philippines, from 28 to 29 August 2008 bringing together church leaders and other migration actors to discuss regional migration issues and identify important gaps as input to the Global Forum meeting in Manila, the Philippines; a summary of the recommendations from this meeting were presented in ICMC's publication *Dignity across borders. Gaps and recommendations regarding migrants and their families in an age of mobility*;
- (b) A series of national consultations and reports in 15 countries throughout Asia to survey and consider experience and issues of migration within as well as across national borders in the region, and promote a regional approach to problems, perspectives and solutions, with analyses and recommendations also brought to the Global Forum.

With respect to operations, a number of ICMC programmes in the world address important aspects of the intersection between migration and development, including:

- (a) Peacebuilding, community building and voluntary return programmes for displaced minorities, small villages, individuals and families in both post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- (b) Counter-trafficking, rescue, legal services and assisted return of victims of human trafficking and exploited migrant domestic workers;
- (c) Counselling, livelihoods training and micro-credit programming;
- (d) Refugee processing for resettlement in third countries, including pre-departure cultural orientation for integration purposes.

By design, most of these programmes involve capacity-building of the local community or technical cooperation with Government institutions. Taken together with other partners and ICMC members, this activity represents concrete engagement at the intersections of migration and development.

### 3. *Publications and conferences related to migration and development*

Because rights are a key not only to better migration but to better development, ICMC co-authored a new guide on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families with other international partner organizations, including representatives of the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO),<sup>2</sup> IOM, the December 18 non-governmental organization and the World Council of Churches. The report was launched in April 2009.

In addition, ICMC made presentations addressing migration and development matters at conferences in Asia, Africa, Europe and Northern America, many involving representatives of States and regional entities, including the European Union. Among related papers<sup>3</sup> published this past year by ICMC are:

- (a) Promoting integration and inclusion of value to development through the protection of migrants' human rights;
- (b) Forced migration and development: framing our reflection;
- (c) Unmixing migration to fill gaps in protection and bring order to mixed migration flows;
- (d) Protection, mobility and livelihood challenges of displaced Iraqis in urban settings in Jordan.

## B. ICMC'S INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION

Acting on the conviction that the worldwide discussion of international migration needs to address the question, dynamics and possible mechanisms of global governance of migration and sensing that various actors may be ready to pick up the subject for the first time since the report of the Global Commission on International Migration in 2005, and cognizant that neither the Global Forum, the Global Migration Group, nor the regional consultative processes have been designed to do so, ICMC has launched conversations on the global governance of migration. This initiative intends to convene States, civil society, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders for an informal exchange and brainstorming on whether it is time, or possible, to move the consideration of governance to a next stage.

In this regard, ICMC sees its role as one interested and engaged migration actor that wishes, in cooperation with many others, to make a constructive contribution towards advancing and increasing public attention to this challenge of contemporary international migration. ICMC does not underestimate the sensitivity that can be evoked at even the mention of a global governance of migration; Governments and international agencies already face a charged and difficult international agenda.

With this in mind and to organize the conversations, ICMC has tasked Ambassador Sergio Marchi of Canada to become the Special Adviser to the Secretary General of ICMC. Having formerly served as Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, as well as Minister of International Trade and Environment, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, and Commissioner on the Global Commission on International Migration, Mr. Marchi brings high-level and multidisciplinary experience to the task of facilitating the conversations.

### *1. Objectives of the conversations on the global governance of migration*

The diversity of actors, interests and perspectives that will be engaged in the conversations on the global governance of migration (GGM) are expected to make it a valuable process of outreach, reflection, discussion, and ideally option-building. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), IOM and ILO continue to demonstrate leadership in strengthening understanding and capacity in the field of migration through the implementation of their respective mandates, regarding different but intersecting aspects of contemporary migration. Similarly, Governments, together with international organizations and civil society, have also been increasingly active on inter-regional, regional and bilateral migration fronts, including especially the growing number of regional consultative processes. For many of these actors and experts, it is not a question of whether a discussion of global governance of migration goes forward but rather when and how.

## 2. Methodology

The GGM will coordinate and facilitate a process of dialogue, engaging as broad and diverse a set of leading migration actors and experts as is possible, within a first phase that will culminate at the end of December 2009.

The conversations will be conducted through a series of meetings and roundtables, principally in Geneva, co-partnered with different organizations, such as the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and Webster University, and assume an open, free flowing and non-negotiating approach. The brainstorming and solution-seeking conversations will be informal, candid and substantive, conducted according to Chatham House rules.

At the conclusion of the conversations, ICMC will organize the collective output, thereafter drafting and publishing, without attribution, critical elements and perspectives regarding the global governance of migration.

## 3. Outcomes

ICMC hopes this process and dissemination will further stimulate the public discourse on the global governance of migration, make recommendations and commitments for additional meetings and events, develop a number of relevant benchmarks, and encourage decision makers to take up its cause with appropriate urgency.

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the website, see [www.migrationanddevelopment.net](http://www.migrationanddevelopment.net) (accessed 21 July 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For the guide, see [http://icmc.net/system/files/publication/cmw\\_ratification\\_guide\\_pdf\\_92204.pdf](http://icmc.net/system/files/publication/cmw_ratification_guide_pdf_92204.pdf) (accessed 21 July 2010).

<sup>3</sup> Many of these papers are available on ICMC's website at [www.icmc.net](http://www.icmc.net) (accessed 21 July 2010).

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*Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

A. INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a summary of the main activities of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with respect to migration, development and remittances. These activities are presented in the context of the 2006 High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development held every year since 2007 in Brussels, Belgium, Manila, the Philippines, and Athens, Greece, respectively.

The Inter-American Development Bank has a mandate to support development and poverty reduction throughout Latin American and the Caribbean. Under this mandate, the IDB supports member countries in social, labour migration and development programmes and directly supports research and technical activities related to migration, remittances and development. The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), a private sector grant facility of the IDB, has launched a programme to bring awareness to the economic and development impacts of remittances and has led an effort to reduce the cost of remittance transactions.

On 1 January 2009, the Bank created the Labour Markets Unit, a subdivision of the Social Department focusing on international migration. The new unit is intended to establish a new organizational model to integrate and apply policy research directly into country-level operations, and to deepen and widen ongoing Bank efforts in training, migration, and reforms and innovations particularly concerning pensions, health financing, and unemployment insurance. A joint Labour Markets-MIF initiative, with external support, is building a programme of research and knowledge dissemination and best policy practices, and pilot projects to improve and address the human capital dimension of migration, drawing on IDB and external expertise.

This paper summarizes migration activities of the IDB and MIF focusing primarily on the areas of labour markets, economic development and remittances, and provides a list of recently approved projects, such as loan, technical cooperation and grant agreements.

B. OVERVIEW

While almost every region in the world both sends and receives migrants, Latin America and the Caribbean has the highest negative net migration rate in the world with -2.1 (per 1,000 population) in 2000-2005 compared to 4.1 in Northern America, -0.6 in Africa and -0.4 in Asia for the same period (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2009). While the United States of America continues to be the preferred destination for Latin America's migrants, it is often overlooked that there is increasing diversity in the region's migration patterns both to other developed regions and countries, for example Japan and Southern Europe, and within Latin America itself—for example of Peruvians migrating to Chile, Colombians to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Nicaraguans to Costa Rica. The current financial crisis has focused attention on the decline in remittance flows to many countries of the region, and the need to improve channels of circular migration and reintegration. Although there does not appear to be a significant flow of return migration to the regions as a result of the crisis, inflows of migrants in an irregular situation to the United States from the region appear to have decreased.

### C. SOCIAL AND LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Since IDB has a mandate to focus on poverty reduction and development, migration has become a cross-cutting topic for social, labour and economic and policy initiatives and activities. The activities of IDB include: (a) loan and grant operations; (b) research; (c) support of national surveys and censuses, and (d) awareness-raising efforts, such as seminars and national campaigns. The accompanying table lists current relevant loan, technical cooperation and grant agreements. For example, the IDB has provided loan support to Mexico's "Tres por Uno" programme, which multiplies each monetary investment by migrants in their local communities by a multiple of three with matching federal, state and local contributions (ME-L1012, US\$ 7 million).

As discussed during the 2006 High-level Dialogue and the Global Forums meetings of 2007, 2008 and 2009, the IDB has focused on the social needs of migrants. This includes: (a) initiatives to combat human trafficking and raise public awareness of cross-border trafficking; (b) pilot programmes to address the worst forms of child labour; (c) regional development and poverty-targeting that include areas of high migrant populations, and (d) improved access to education and health services to the poor.

The IDB has noted an increased interest by Governments in the region in programmes relating to migration management. The Labour Markets Unit is funding and providing technical support for a regional public goods project which is advancing the creation of a network of institutions for the protection, monitoring and regulation of migrant workers, now in the first stages of execution. Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala and Uruguay are all represented on the committee coordinating this project.

In addition, the Labour Markets Unit is undertaking a series of studies on recent labour migration trends in Central American countries to better understand how migration is shaping labour markets and human capital development, particularly in light of the financial crisis.

### D. MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND: REMITTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT

For many years, cross-border remittances sent by migrant workers have been part of the migration phenomenon across the globe. The contribution these flows made to recipient families, communities and countries, however, went unnoticed due to the fact that migrant workers existed largely outside the societal mainstream. In 1999, the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank pioneered the mapping of remittance flows to Latin America, showing that migration played a key role in poverty alleviation and positively impacted economic development. Since then, the MIF has been very active advocating the reduction of the costs of remittance services. Over the past decade, these costs have decreased from 15 per cent of the amount of money transferred to a current average of about five per cent per transaction, keeping a larger share of income in the hands of those who need it most. The most recent MIF remittances survey, released in August 2009, showed that a number of factors, including economic downturns in Spain and the United States of America, have caused a drop in remittance flows to the region, estimated at 11 per cent. The reality of less prosperous economic times has led the MIF to focus on helping migrants and their families receive greater access to formal financial services to leverage the funds they receive. This approach helped migrants build savings while at the same time banks and microfinance institutions gained access to new sources of deposits. In 2009, the MIF, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, the Government of Luxembourg, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, launched a US\$ 15 million financing facility for remittances (FFR) to promote

TABLE 1  
OVERVIEW OF CURRENT LOAN AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

<i>Country</i>	<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project number</i>	<i>Approval date</i>	<i>IDB contribution (in US\$)</i>
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	Analysis of the Portugal/Brazil Remittances Market	BR-T1031	7-Nov-05	39 767
Brazil	Dekassegui Entrepreneurs	BR-M1021	3-Mar-05	3 100 000
Colombia	The Role of Remittances in the Development of Low-Income Housing Market	CO-M1022	15-Nov-06	1 725 000
Colombia	Channeling Collective Remittances	CO-M1023	10-Dec-08	720 000
Costa Rica	Strengthening Management of Migration	TC9911171	16-Dec-99	18 000
Dominican Republic	Remittances and Rural Development in the Dominican Republic	DR-M1006	10-Nov-05	321 500
Dominican Republic	Financial and Business Services for Remittance Recipients	TC0304042	1-Oct-03	840 000
Dominican Republic	Distribution Channels for Remittances	DR0158	30-Apr-03	2 500 000
Ecuador	Supporting the Provision of Transnational Mortgages Loans for Ecuadorian Migrants	EC-M1030	8-Aug-07	5 360 000
Ecuador	Support Micro-Enterprises Utilizing a Line of Credit	TC0105029	19-Sep-01	200 000
Ecuador	Alternative Remittance Distribution Channel for Small Financial Intermediaries	EC-M1022	23-May-07	725 500
El Salvador	Strengthening of Financial Services and Remittances	TC0202014	29-May-02	2 300 000
El Salvador	Remittances and Rural Development in El Salvador	ES-M1002	28-Oct-05	366 000
El Salvador	Evaluation of the Impact of Remittances in El Salvador	ES-T1128	5-Feb-09	130 000
Guatemala	Enhance Development Impact of Workers' Remittances	GU-M1003	3-Aug-05	5 200 000
Guatemala	"More than Remittances"	GU-M1004	29-Nov-05	198 000
Haiti	Enhancement of the Remittances Services to and within Rural Haiti	HA-M1007	11-Oct-06	463 020
Haiti	Collective Remittances and Social Service Provision in Haiti	HA-T1059	29-Jun-07	141 000
Honduras	Support for Labour Markets in Honduras	HO-T1070	4-Dec-07	350 000
Honduras	Institutional Strengthening of Credit Unions in Honduras	TC0206015	10-Dec-03	1 425 000
Honduras	Enhance Development Impact of Workers' Remittances	HO-M1006	21-May-08	2 800 000
Mexico	Human Resource Development - Riviera Maya (internal migrants)	ME-M1041	18-Feb-09	1 990 000
Mexico	Strengthening Savings and Credit Unions	TC0109002	20-Feb-02	3 500 000
Mexico	Remittances and Rural Development	ME-M1015	20-Jul-06	209 000
Mexico	Pilot Project 3x1 for Migrants	ME-L1012	3-May-06	7 000 000
Mexico	Investment of Remittances	TC0108017	4-Apr-02	460 000

TABLE 1  
OVERVIEW OF CURRENT LOAN AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (*continued*)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project number</i>	<i>Approval date</i>	<i>IDB contribution (in US\$)</i>
Mexico	International Migration, Remittances and Impact on Rural Communities in Zacatecas	ME-M1014	3-Oct-05	55 000
Mexico	Facilitation of Access to Housing Finance for Recipients of Remittances	ME-M1006	23-Mar-05	3 400 000
Mexico	Capitalization of Remittances for Local Economic Development	TC0106003	12-Dec-01	1 115 000
Nicaragua	Migration Service Support	TC9804297	9-Dec-98	168 000
Nicaragua	Investment in Financiera Nicaragüense de Desarrollo (FINDE S.A.)	TC0203015	30-Jul-03	840 000
Nicaragua	Remittances, Financial Democratization and Entrepreneurship Opportunities	RG-M1140	13-Nov-08	270 825
Paraguay	Bringing Unbanked Remittance Recipients into Formal Financial System	PR-M1003	28-Oct-05	222 000
Peru	Support for Returning Entrepreneurs	PE-M1006	7-Apr-04	500 000
Peru	Enhance Dev. Impact of Peruvian Workers' Remittances from JP	PE-M1010	17-Nov-04	7 200 000
Regional	New Dynamics in Labour Migration in Central America	RG-K1129	31-Aug-09	30 000
Regional	Regional Framework for the Protection, Monitoring, and Regulation of Migrant Workers in LAC	RG-T1514	17-Dec-08	900 000
Regional	Voluntary Return Migration Model Based on Entrepreneurship Development	RG-M1080	15-Dec-06	3 975 000
Regional	Promoting Diaspora and Local Support for Productive Initiatives	RG-M1069	22-Mar-06	3 285 000
Regional	Mobilization of Remittances through Microfinance Institutions	RG-M1003	28-Apr-04	824 770
Regional	Migration and Development: The Latin American Case	RG-T1060	30-Mar-05	369 500
Regional	MIF-IFAD Partnership Facility for Rural Private Sector Dev-LAC	RG-M1019	10-Mar-04	300 000
Regional	International Migration Symposium	TC0002053	20-Jul-00	337 500
Regional	International Migration	TC0206022	4-Sep-02	65 000
Regional	Improving Central Bank Remittance Reporting and Procedures	RG-M1059	27-Apr-05	1 306 884
Regional	Immigrant Remittance Corridors	RG-M1075	27-Apr-06	150 000
Regional	CARICOM - Implementing the Free Movement of Skills	RG-T1293	24-Mar-08	200 000
Regional	Application of General Principles for Remittance Markets	RG-M1083	2-Aug-06	1 759 300
Regional Support	Information System for Statistics on Migration	TC0111010	13-Dec-02	66 000
<b>Total: 53 projects (15 countries and 14 regional projects)</b>				<b>77 147 816</b>
Colombia	MIF- IFAD LOA Banking and Remittances Within Your Reach	CO-M1070	Expected Dec-09	250 000
Ecuador	MIF-IFAD LOA Remittances, technology and financial education among cooperatives	EC-M1054	Expected Dec-09	249 928
Regional (El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua)	Leveraging the diaspora to increase market opportunities for small producers	RG-M1143	Expected Jul-10	2 600 000

innovative remittance systems and investment channels for migrants. Through a four-phase competitive process, the FFR will award grant financing of up to US\$ 250,000 per project to eligible institutions, to be implemented within a two-year period.

The MIF continues to showcase these initiatives as it leverages the development impact of remittances through projects that address four main concerns: (a) reduction of the cost of remitting; (b) ease and accessibility of remittance transmission; (c) mobilization of savings through formal financial institutions, and (d) productive investment.

Working together with the private sector, Government agencies and non-governmental organizations, the MIF identifies approaches and new business concepts that can be replicated and scaled up to enhance the effect of remittance flows. Through these initiatives, remittances go beyond simply lifting recipients out of poverty to granting un- and underserved people access to the tools to invest in their future.

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## STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

### *NGO Committee on Migration*

Many of the following recommendations made by the NGO Committee on Migration are based on resolutions passed by member States of the United Nations General Assembly in 2008, reports of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, and reports by agencies of the United Nations. These resolutions and reports are an official record of positions held by the United Nations in regard to migration. The NGO Committee on Migration recalls and reiterates these positions and urges that they become an essential component of the deliberations by agencies and Member States of the United Nations.

#### A. THE MIGRATION-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Making the migration-development nexus work toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) requires urgent collaboration of the international community. As key stakeholders, States have the primary responsibility, in accordance with the stated goals and timetable of the MDGs, to take bold action to eradicate poverty, achieve improvements in health and education, promote gender equality, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development. This is the only way to ensure that families can enjoy productive lives at home, and migration becomes a choice, not a necessity.

##### *1. Addressing root causes of migration through development, in the context of the economic and financial crisis*

Reducing the root causes of migration requires the elimination of discriminatory trade and economic policies, including agricultural subsidies now in place, particularly in the developed countries, that prevent sustainable development in the sending countries, undermine economic stability, and exacerbate outward migration.

According to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (A/64/213), in order to prevent the uneven impact of globalization, especially in the context of the present global economic crisis, States should avoid unreasonable restrictions on labour migration. Liberalizing and simplifying the channels that allow workers, primarily non-professionals, to seek work abroad are main avenues for maximizing the human development impacts of migration (United Nations Development Programme, 2009).

##### *2. Mainstreaming migration in development planning: the role of human rights*

People working on the migration-development nexus have not paid sufficient attention to the role played by migrants' rights in development, especially of the sending countries. Lack of recognition and guarantee of these rights severely curtails the development potential of migration, while human, economic, social, and political rights expand it (Boehning, 2009).

Following the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, States should effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, in particular those of women and children, regardless of their immigration status, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights standards.

According to resolution A/RES/63/184 on the protection of migrants, States, in particular in the developed world, should, without delay, ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Also, States should work towards regularizing the status of immigrants and migrant workers and their families. The lack of recognition and guarantee of the political, social and economic rights of migrants prevents their full contribution to the society of the receiving State.

States must work for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in matters of migration, especially General Recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers (CEDAW/C/2009/WP.1/R). As noted in the resolution on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/RES/63/155), violence against women and girls is a major impediment to achieving internationally agreed development goals, in particular the MDGs.

Referring to the resolution on trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/63/156), Governments are urged to ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

As discussed at the meeting on Insure me: climate change, human migration and risk organized by the New York office of the United Nations University (UNU) and the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany on 24 September 2009,<sup>1</sup> the international community has to recognize that climate change, through destruction of the environment and forced population mobility has extreme negative consequences for development and the realization of the MDGs. Climate change disproportionately affects the most marginalized, especially women, who constitute the vast majority of the world's most impoverished people, with unequal access to resources such as land rights, credit and insurance systems, and decision-making power.

### *3. Transnational communities, migrants, and development: the role of Governments*

States should maximize the ability of transnational communities and individual migrants to contribute to development, especially the MDGs, by requiring the implementation of State policies which grant transnational communities and migrants within their borders a secure administrative status, access to health care, educational development, and opportunities for decent work.

States should engage transnational communities in promoting the human rights of migrant communities by developing alternatives to harsh and arbitrary detention, providing sensitivity training to law enforcement personnel, and actively seeking to integrate migrants into host communities.

## **B. MIGRANT INTEGRATION, REINTEGRATION, AND CIRCULATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

According to the 2009 United Nations General Assembly resolution on international migration and development (A/RES/63/225), there is a need to analyze the impact of various forms of temporary migration, circular migration, and return migration on the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as on the migrants themselves. As stated in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (A/64/213) and the 2009 Human Development Report, States must therefore liberalize the opportunities for legal migration, reverse the trend toward criminalizing migration, enable benefits from internal mobility, and make mobility an integral part of national development strategies.



In order to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration, States should recognize the important contribution to development made by migrants in countries of origin and destination and should acknowledge the need for international cooperation to address the challenge of irregular migration.<sup>2</sup>

States must ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized for being trafficked and that they do not suffer from re-victimization as a result of Government actions. According to the 2009 General Assembly resolution on trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/63/156), Governments must prevent victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their undocumented entry or residence.

States must undertake fundamental reforms of temporary worker programmes, regardless of the immigrant status of such workers. Needed reforms should: (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) remove the requirement of employment of the worker to one sole employer, and (d) provide for a path to residency and citizenship for those workers who desire it.

States should consider expanding programmes for seasonal work in sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Such schemes have already proved successful in various countries. Good practice mandates that this intervention should involve unions and employers, together with the destination and source country Governments, particularly in designing and implementing basic wage guarantees, health and safety standards, and provisions for repeat visits.<sup>3</sup> According to the 2009 Human Development Report, States should consider the benefits of increasing the number of visas for migrant workers, making this conditional on local demand.

As stated during the UNU conference in Bonn, Germany, in September 2009, all States must recognize the importance of education in relation to the recognition and guarantee of civil and human rights, expectations and responsibilities of both receiving and sending countries. Furthermore, States must recognize their responsibility to protect migrants and should educate their law enforcement personnel and civil servants to understand and cope humanely with the particular condition and problems of migrants.

## C. POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL COHERENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

### 1. *Data collection, research, and assessment mechanisms*

All States must recognize the importance of systematic research and comprehensive data collection on migration as a basis for the creation of effective policies to assess and address the situation of migrants in various countries. In order to generate comparable and reliable data, countries should develop internationally consistent research on migration and all data should be disaggregated by sex and age. As stated in the 2009 General Assembly resolution on trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/63/156), all States should engage in collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking, especially of women and girls, as well as enhanced information sharing and the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data to combat the trafficking problem.

### 2. *Partnerships, processes, and forums*

Multilateral dialogues on migration and development must include the full and equal partnership of civil society, United Nations entities and Governments, both with respect to the contents of the dialogue and the process of participation. Effective institutional and policy coherence, regarding migration and development, requires the systematic participation of migrants themselves and the organizations which speak for them.

The NGO Committee on Migration is of the opinion that the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) should be part of the United Nations. The Committee recommends a civil society voice in deliberations on migration and development within the United Nations system, together with the introduction of a formal mechanism of year to year accountability, in which civil society recommendations from prior meetings are measured for progress and are reported at the following sessions.

The Committee hopes that the implementation of these recommendations will bring about rational, coherent and humane policies for the management of international migration, ensure the human rights of all migrants and members of their families, and hasten the achievement of the MDGs.

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the meeting, see <http://www.ony.unu.edu/events-forums/WWNY/2009/insure-me-the-cost-of-climate.html> (accessed 22 July 2010).

<sup>2</sup> See also, A/RES/63/225.

<sup>3</sup> See also, A/RES/63/184 and A/RES/63/225.

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## INTEGRATING A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY

*Queens College, City University of New York*<sup>1</sup>

### A. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND FAMILIES

The current economic crisis calls for more comprehensive and coherent approaches to international migration policies. Migrants are generally not isolated individuals, but part of family systems and their actions are impacted and influenced by other family members. Policies organizing migration also have significant consequences on all parts of the family system. Therefore, instead of targeting individual international migrants, a more comprehensive approach would be to consider migrant families, since individuals are part of family systems, and as such when they migrate their whole system is changed. The policy focus needs to be shifted from the impact of migration on individuals to its impact on families, both in cases where the whole family migrates or when some parts of the system, such as the spouse or children, are remaining in the country of origin. Using a family perspective while developing international migration policies will promote a more integrated framework for the study of migration.

Given that migrants are part of family systems, a family perspective is recommended to be used in developing policies regulating international migration. Developing such policies requires research on international migrant families instead of research focusing on individual migrants. When conducting family impact analysis researchers examine intended and unintended consequences as well as the effectiveness of international migration policies on all family members and provide feedback for potentially needed policy revisions.

### B. INTEGRATING A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY

#### *1. Using a family perspective in policymaking*

Family policies refer to Government activities that are designed intentionally to support families. Family policy can also be thought of as everything Governments do that affects families. Family policies may be explicit or implicit (Bogenschneider, 2006). Explicit family policies include those deliberately designed to achieve specific objectives regarding the family unit and its members, such as provisions for parental leave and protection mechanisms against domestic violence. Implicit family policies are not specifically intended to affect families but have indirect consequences on them. For example, policies regarding international migration have major consequences for families, although they do not directly target them. For these implicit family policies it is recommended to use a family perspective in policymaking (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, 2009). This perspective analyzes consequences of policies on family wellbeing, regardless of whether they were explicitly aimed at families. Social policies are generally focused on the individual and as such their evaluation is mostly focused on their impact on the individual, losing sight of their intended and unintended impact on the whole family system.

#### *2. Integrating a family perspective in international migration policy*

Using a family perspective in policymaking is recommended not only for developing migration policies, but for social policies in general. Social policies affecting families are generally organized around the main functions of the families, such as family formation and marriage, childrearing, providing

financial support and providing care for members of families. Due to its complexity, international migration, and as such the policies regulating it, are impacting all of these family functions.

*a. Migration and marriage*

International migration has lasting effects on marriages, impacting spouses' relations in many areas such as communication or gender roles (Robila, 2009). Family education on the impact of migration on marriage is necessary in order to address some of the challenges brought by migration, to deal with them effectively and to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary conflicts. This is important when the family migrates as one unit as well as when only parts of the family migrate. Some of the challenges encountered by migrant couples when only one of the partners is migrating include the negotiation of long-distance relationships with spouses and children, communication and financial issues.

When families migrate together the major challenge is integration into the new society, securing employment and developing social networks. A major issue concerning immigrant families is the high prevalence of domestic violence due to social isolation, lack of family and social support and challenges brought by the migration process. This can be dealt with by having support programmes for immigrants that besides addressing other issues could also act as shelters or crisis intervention mechanisms. Thus, migration policies should include family education programmes of the impact of migration on families and should develop social support services, such as counselling and support groups, to all members of a migrant family in sending and receiving countries.

*b. Migration and childrearing*

International migration also affects childrearing. Parent education on the impact of migration on parent-child relations is necessary in order to make parents aware of the psychosocial implications of migration. This is important, when parents are taking their children and migrate together as a family, and also when one or both parents migrate leaving the child in the country of origin to be cared for by the other parent or another family member.

When children are migrating with their parents problems might relate to their adaptation to the new socio-cultural environment, integration in the school system of the host country and language proficiency. Social programmes designed to provide support to migrating families need to be organized in the sending country prior to departure as well as in the country of destination. Informing parents prior to departure about potential issues affecting their and their families' wellbeing and how they can prepare for them would maximize the benefits of the migration experience. Similar modules are helpful to be used for children, with different versions of these modules designed for children of different age groups.

In the case of children who remain in the country of origin while their parents are going abroad for work, several potential problems should be addressed beforehand. One of them is parental awareness of the impact of migration on the different areas of children's lives. Many times parents are not aware of the psychological consequences of their absence on child development and functioning. Sometimes, parents consider that sending money home will compensate for the reduced physical contact with their children. Underlining the importance of maintaining the communication channels and the psychological and emotional contact with the child could reduce the adjustment difficulties encountered by some children and might prevent maladjustment associated with depression, poor school performance, social isolation, or delinquency. Providing social support for the child caregiver, being a parent, grandparent or another family member is a very important prevention and intervention mechanism. For example, extensive research presents the potential challenges that could be encountered by grandparents raising their grandchildren (Goodman et. al., 2008). Promoting father involvement in childrearing is necessary, especially in cases where the mother migrates and the father remains responsible for childrearing.

Similarly important is the social support for children with migrant parents. Again, depending on the child's developmental stage, different programmes can be organized, such as support groups for teenagers or play therapy for younger children.

*c. Migration and family financial support*

Another family function is the provision of financial support to family members. Often, people migrate for economic reasons. International migration is impacted by and also influences family finances. Providing financial planning and money management workshops in sending countries would educate migrant families on how to effectively use and invest their finances. Developing systems to facilitate formal remittance-sending and investment strategies, including the promotion of low money transmission fees, would make the process of sending remittances easier and safer for families.

*d. Migration and family care*

International migration has a significant impact on family care, especially as women represent about 50 per cent of all international migrants. In most societies, women are still the main caregivers for children, elderly and family members with disabilities. As such, when they migrate, the care for vulnerable populations becomes a major problem, as the caregiving duties need to be delegated to other people, such as other family members, other immigrants or institutions. Migration policy should encourage gender equality so that men perform increased caregiving responsibilities, including taking parental or medical leave to care of a child or of an ill and elderly family member. Further, policies should be put in place to help institutions provide high-quality care.

Considering the impact of international migration on families, it is imperative to integrate a family perspective in developing international migration policies. This process should be based on research among migrant families and be complemented by comprehensive evaluation mechanisms of how migration policies affect all areas of family functioning.

### C. RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT FAMILIES

Any policy area needs to be informed and developed based on research. As such, developing policies targeting international migrants should use data from research on migrant families. Using the family as the unit of analysis instead of the individual will inform the policymaking process in more accurate and comprehensive ways. Research on international migration needs also to use a family systems approach and involve multiple informants and different methodologies.

Collecting data from multiple informants presents a major advantage since it provides different perspectives on the impact of migration on the whole family system. There is no other way of capturing this unless multiple members of the same household or family are surveyed or interviewed. Including only one family member would bias the results. Often, members of the same family system would have different opinions about how migration impacts their family life. A challenge for collecting data is related to the fact that some family members will be missing due to migration. However, the benefits of gathering different perspectives on the same issues surpass their costs. As such where possible it is recommended that multiple family members be included in the research process so that there is a complex understanding of how migration impacts different members, depending on gender and their life developmental stage and circumstances.

Research on migrant families should be based on different methodologies. A combination of large-scale surveys together with in-depth semi-structured interviews or focus groups with all family members would provide a more complete view on how migration impacts family life. The main difficulty with using multiple informants and multiple methodologies is that these approaches take more time and cost more. However, the richness and complexity of data will provide a deeper understanding of how international migration impacts families and societies and it is as such noteworthy and necessary in policy development.

#### D. FAMILY IMPACT ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY

Family impact analysis goes beyond basic policy evaluation research, which assesses whether or not a policy reaches its stated goals, by examining whether these goals result in positive or negative outcomes for families. While policymakers routinely review the demographic or economic impact of a policy, rarely do they consider how a policy affects families. Family impact analysis checklists are available to examine the family impact of different policies (Bogenschneider, 2006).

Family impact analysis of international migration policies can indicate the ways in which legislation is or is not supportive of family wellbeing. It can also provide feedback on the effectiveness of these policies and it can suggest revisions and improvements that might be necessary in order to achieve their desired goals. A family impact analysis of migration policies is necessary in order to understand the intended and unintended impact not only on the individual migrant but on the whole family, including spouses, children and extended family members. By considering the unintended consequences of migration policies on non-migrant individuals in the migrant household, the approach also underlines the importance of using a family perspective while developing policies designed to regulate international migration.

#### E. CONCLUSIONS

Using a family perspective while developing policies for regulating international migration is more effective because it considers and addresses the needs of all family members in the migrant household. The research on migrant families should be used as a scientific base in developing these policies. Creating interdisciplinary teams of policymakers and family science scholars will be helpful in this regard. Conducting family impact analysis of international migration policies is necessary in assessing the effectiveness of these policies.

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#### NOTE

<sup>1</sup> The paper was prepared by Mihaela Robila, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Queens College, City University of New York.

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*U.S. Census Bureau*

A. INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines on-going activities at the U.S. Census Bureau related to immigration and the foreign-born. Several of the projects listed below are coordinated by the Immigration Statistics Staff (ISS), which is a branch in the Estimates and Projections Area of the Population Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. This paper also discusses related projects coordinated by other areas in the Population Division and the Census Bureau.

B. SUITLAND WORKING GROUP

The Suitland Working Group is an outgrowth of two other collaborative efforts, the U.S. Census Bureau's work with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Conference of European Statistician's Work Plan to Improve Migration Statistics. The primary objective of the Suitland Working Group is to improve the use of household surveys to measure levels and outcomes of migration. To achieve this objective, the Working Group intends to produce a series of products that would provide agencies in both developed and developing countries with practical guidance on how to best use household surveys —possibly combined with other sources— to measure levels and outcomes of international migration and the characteristics of migrant populations.

In March 2009, the Census Bureau, along with Eurostat, ECE, the United Nations Population Division, and the United Kingdom Office of National Statistics, sponsored a conference on using household surveys to measure migration and the size, distribution, and characteristics of migrant populations. This conference was held at the Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, Maryland, from 6 to 17 March 2009. Invited participants represented statistical agencies, non-governmental organizations and universities from around the world. The initial output of this conference was a workplan available on the ECE website.<sup>1</sup> The workplan lists several projects that the group hopes to accomplish in the next 18 to 24 months, including, for example: (a) developing questionnaire modules on migration and remittances; (b) developing a website repository of household survey questionnaires; (c) developing a typology and defining hard-to-count populations; (d) developing a working paper reviewing methodologies used to estimate emigration, and (e) analyzing methods used to link population register data with other forms of administrative data. The Steering Committee of the Suitland Working Group has monthly conference calls and continues to work on coordinating and completing these and other projects. Volunteers who would like to participate in any of these projects are welcome.

C. IMPROVING ESTIMATES OF NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Immigration Statistics Staff (ISS) at the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for producing estimates of net international migration that are included as part of the annual population estimates produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. Net international migration is estimated in four components: (a) net international migration of the foreign-born; (b) net migration between the United States of America and Puerto Rico; (c) net migration of natives to and from the United States, and (d) net movement of the armed forces population to and from the United States.

During the last several years, ISS has been working on improvements to the estimates of foreign-born international migrants and migration between the United States and Puerto Rico. Previously these components were estimated as a net number using a single-year change method. Beginning with the 2007 population estimates, the Residence One Year Ago (ROYA) method was used to estimate net foreign-born migration and migration between the United States and Puerto Rico. The ROYA method estimates foreign-born immigration and emigration separately. Foreign-born immigration and immigration from Puerto Rico is estimated using information from the American Community Survey (ACS) on reported residence one year ago. Foreign-born emigration is estimated by developing rates of emigration by period of entry using information from the 2000 United States census and the ACS, and then applying these rates to the stock estimate of the foreign-born in each year of the ACS. Puerto Rico emigration is estimated using information from the Puerto Rico Community Survey on residence one year ago in the United States.

ISS is also updating the demographic characteristics and geographic distribution of the components of net international migration. Prior estimates used geographic and demographic information from Census 2000. In an effort to account for shifts in the demographic characteristics and geographic distribution of immigrants and emigrants since 2000, the 2009 net international migration estimates will use information from both the 2000 census and the 2005-2007 ACS to obtain demographic and geographic detail.

#### D. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Demographic Analysis (DA) is a method for assessing census coverage that has been used by the Census Bureau in every census since 1960. The DA population estimates are constructed using vital statistics, estimates of net international migration and—for the population aged 65 or over— data from Medicare. DA estimates will likely provide the first indication of census coverage after the 2010 census counts are released. The traditional DA estimates have been disaggregated by sex and single year of age. The race categories have been black and non-black. New data sources and changes in the racial and ethnic make-up of the country and patterns of international migration present both challenges and opportunities for DA in 2010. For 2010, the Census Bureau is planning to produce the traditional DA estimates described above. It is also exploring ways to expand the DA categories, such as estimates for Hispanics and non-Hispanics. After Census 2000, the Census Bureau undertook a major initiative to improve its ability to measure international migration. For 2010, the Census Bureau will draw on this expertise to develop estimates of international migration using different strategies and alternative assumptions.

#### E. 2010 DECENNIAL CENSUS

Every 10 years since 1790, the United States has completed a decennial census of its population. In 2000, two census forms were used. The “short form” was used to collect data on every person in the United States, including information on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, relationship, and housing tenure. The “long form” was used to collect data on approximately one in every six persons in the United States and included the short form questions as well as other questions covering a variety of demographic, social, economic and housing topics. The long form data provided a wealth of information on the characteristics of the foreign-born in the United States, including place of birth, United States citizenship status, year of entry into the United States, residence five years ago, language spoken at home, race, ethnicity and ancestry.

A number of important changes have been implemented for the 2010 census round. The census will include only one form sent to the entire United States population and will ask questions similar to

those on the 2000 census short form. However, detailed demographic, social, economic and housing data will no longer be collected as part of the decennial census, and there will be no questions that can be used to identify the foreign-born population included on the 2010 form. Instead, the ACS will provide data that are comparable to the decennial long-form sample data. The ACS is a household survey conducted by the Census Bureau that is designed to meet the needs of federal Government agencies. Most of the questions that were asked on the 2000 census long form are included on the ACS questionnaire. Key migration-related items included in the ACS data include place of birth, United States citizenship status, year of naturalization, year of entry into the United States, residence one year ago, language spoken at home, race, ethnicity and ancestry.<sup>2, 3, 4</sup>

#### F. 2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY CONTENT TEST

In preparation for introducing changes to the content of the 2013 ACS, the Census Bureau is conducting the 2010 ACS content test. The primary objectives of the ACS content test are to test whether changes to question wording, response categories and redefinition of underlying constructs improve the quality of the data collected. Cognitive testing and expert review of the new and revised questions were completed from May to August 2009 to determine which of the new and revised questions should be used in the subsequent field test.

The Immigration Statistics Staff (ISS) requested that questions on parental place of birth, reported separately for both father and mother, be included on the 2010 ACS content test. ISS organized, and currently chairs, the Subcommittee on Parental Place of Birth, consisting of Census Bureau experts and representatives from other United States Government agencies. The Subcommittee suggested to include two sets of questions—one shorter and one longer—on the cognitive test. The results suggested no substantial conceptual differences between the two versions. As no additional information would be obtained from further testing different question set versions, the subcommittee recommended: (a) testing a single version of the parental place of birth question set and (b) testing this version on two different places on the content test questionnaire. The subcommittee chose the following question format: In what country was this person's father born? In what country was this person's mother born? The 2010 ACS content test will have two panels, testing alternative placements of the parental place of birth questions between questions on year of entry into the United States and school enrolment and between questions on ancestry and language spoken at home and English language ability.

The 2010 ACS content test questionnaire will be fielded in 2010, and the data will be available to Census Bureau staff for analysis in February 2011. After the analysis of the data, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will determine if the parental place of birth questions will be included on the 2013 ACS questionnaire.

#### G. CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY 2008 MIGRATION SUPPLEMENT

The Immigration Statistics Staff developed a migration supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) monthly questionnaire fielded by the Census Bureau in August 2008. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labour Statistics and is the primary source of information on labour force characteristics of the United States population. The migration supplement covered five topics: (a) citizenship; (b) year of entry; (c) residence one year ago; (d) residents and emigrants abroad, and (e) remittances. It included questions on: (a) changes in citizenship status; (b) when people came to and left the United States; (c) time outside the United States; (d) where people lived one year previously; (e) whether or not anyone who had lived in the household in the previous 12 months had moved outside the United States; (f) basic demographic

information on those who did move outside the United States, and (g) whether or not households gave or received money from friends and family living abroad. Currently, Census Bureau staff are reviewing the data from the migration supplement and completing related technical documentation. The 2008 migration supplement public use micro-data file is scheduled for release in 2010 and will be available on the Census Bureau's website.

## H. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 national projections for the United States were released on 14 August 2008. The national projections are of the resident population and demographic components of change, including births, deaths and net international migration. The data are available by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin for each year from 1 July 2000 to 1 July 2050. The projections are based on Census 2000 and were produced using a cohort-component method.

The 2009 national projections, which supplement the 2008 national projections, provide results for differing assumptions of international migration. Given the fluctuations in international migration over the past century and the changing economic climate since 2000, it is plausible that patterns of international migration could increase, decrease, or remain stable over the coming decades. The 2009 national projections provide new projection series that modify the series released in 2008 by incorporating four alternative net international migration assumptions: (a) high net international migration; (b) low net international migration; (c) constant net international migration, and (d) zero net international migration. Except where noted for international migration, all other methodology and assumptions, including those for mortality and fertility, are the same as those used in the 2008 national projections.<sup>5, 6</sup>

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For the website, see <http://unece.org/stats/documents/2009.03.migration.htm> (accessed 5 May 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For additional information about the American Community Survey, see <http://www.census.gov/acs> (accessed 5 May 2010).

<sup>3</sup> To access ACS data, including the "Selected Population Profiles" for over 100 foreign-born groups, use the American Fact Finder feature at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (accessed on 5 May 2010).

<sup>4</sup> The "Compass" products provide additional information researchers need to download and analyze ACS data and are available at [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/compass\\_series.html](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Compass/compass_series.html) (accessed on 5 May 2010).

<sup>5</sup> For the 2008 and 2009 national projections see, <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/index.html> (accessed 5 May 2010).

<sup>6</sup> For more information about the methodology used by the Census Bureau to produce the projections, see: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/methodstatement.html> (accessed 5 May 2010).

## **PART THREE**

### **ANNEX**

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
17 March 2011

Sixty-fifth session  
Agenda item 22 (c)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/65/438/Add.3)]

### 65/170. International migration and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006 and 63/225 of 19 December 2008 on international migration and development, as well as its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007 and 64/166 of 18 December 2009 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup> 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, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted on 24 December 2008,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling* the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document<sup>3</sup> and follow-up,

*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 63/303, annex.

<sup>4</sup> See resolution 65/1.

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup> and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>6</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>6</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>7</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>8</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>10</sup> and reiterating the call to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority and the request to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention, particularly in the context of the twentieth anniversary of its adoption,

*Recalling also* the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

*Recalling further* Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,<sup>11</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>12</sup>

*Acknowledging* that the 2006 High-level Dialogue provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness of the issue,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming Barriers — Human Mobility and Development*,<sup>13</sup>

*Acknowledging* the complexity of migratory flows and that a significant proportion of international migration movements also occurs within the same geographical regions,

*Reaffirming* the resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

*Bearing in mind* the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants, including those perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivations, to investigate such crimes and to punish the perpetrators and that not doing so violates, and impairs or nullifies the

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>6</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>11</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>12</sup> A/61/515.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.III.B.1.



enjoyment of, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims, and urging States to reinforce measures in this regard,

*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, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the international level, including at the United Nations, in relation to development,

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

*Recognizing* the need to further consider the role that environmental factors may play in migration,

*Recalling* that migrant workers are among the most vulnerable in the context of the financial and economic crisis and that remittances, which are significant private financial sources for households, have been negatively affected by rising unemployment and weak earnings growth among migrant workers in some countries of destination,

*Noting with concern* that in many countries of destination international migrants are experiencing higher unemployment than non-migrants,

*Recognizing* the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

*Noting with concern* that the financial and economic crisis has increased the risk of misperceiving the economic effects of migration as negative, and noting in this regard that national public planning should take account of the positive effects that migration has in the medium to long term,

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

*Recalling* its resolution 63/225, in which it decided to hold a high-level dialogue on international migration and development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013, and to convene at its sixty-fifth session, in 2011, a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>14</sup>
2. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to continue to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of renewing the political will to act cooperatively and constructively in addressing international migration, including regular and irregular migration, to address the challenges and opportunities of international migration in a balanced, coherent and comprehensive manner and to

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<sup>14</sup> A/65/203.

promote respect for and protection of human rights in the development and implementation of policies regarding migration and development;

4. *Emphasizes* that respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the benefits of international migration;

5. *Expresses concern* about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

6. *Stresses* that the penalties and treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their infraction;

7. *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;

8. *Welcomes* the programmes that allow migrants to integrate fully into society, facilitate family reunification in accordance with the laws and specific criteria of each Member State and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages host countries to take appropriate measures aimed at the full integration of long-term migrants staying legally in the country;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, to continue to support efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations, and to provide them with access to these rights, including rights to legal processes and access to entities, such as national migrant resource centres, that provide advice and assistance;

10. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective into 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;

11. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination;

12. *Encourages* all countries, in accordance with domestic legislation, to take appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing the capacities of low-skilled migrants in order to increase their access to employment opportunities in countries of destination;

14. *Also 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, including by exploring ways to lower the transfer costs of remittances, garnering the active engagement of expatriates and fostering their involvement in promoting investment in countries of origin and entrepreneurship among non-migrants;

15. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to further 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 take 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;

16. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries in order to address the negative impacts and optimize the potential benefits of such migration;

17. *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;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to address the effects of the financial and economic crisis on international migrants and, in this regard, to renew their commitment to resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrants;

19. *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, in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights;

20. *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;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the promotion and development of methodologies for the collection and processing of internationally comparable 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;

22. *Notes* the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which is an informal, voluntary, open, State-led initiative and which held its first meeting in Belgium in 2007, followed by its meetings in the Philippines in 2008, Greece in 2009 and Mexico in 2010, as a contribution to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and a step towards promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches, and also notes the generous offer of the Government of Switzerland to assume the Presidency of the Global Forum for 2011;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the announcement by the President of the General Assembly that the informal thematic debate on international migration and development will be held during the first half of 2011;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the organizational details of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including possible themes;

25. *Invites* the regional commissions, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system as well as the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates and within existing resources, to the report of the Secretary-General on this item and to the preparatory process of the High-level Dialogue;

26. *Invites* Member States, through appropriate regional consultative processes and, as appropriate, other major initiatives in the field of international migration, including on international migration and development, to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”;

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

*69th plenary meeting  
20 December 2010*