

19 May 2011

## **Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development**

### **Background**

States and civil society organizations are increasingly recognizing that international migration is integral to development processes and to the functioning of modern economies. In 2006 Member States, United Nations entities, observers, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector gathered at the UN General Assembly's High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to consider ways to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and to reduce its negative impacts. In 2008, the General Assembly decided to convene a one-day Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development at its sixty-fifth session in 2011 (A/RES/63/225). The President of the General Assembly will host this debate at UN Headquarters in New York on 19 May 2011.

### **Objectives**

The debate is intended to build on the on-going dialogue on international migration and development, and to contribute to the process leading to the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held by the UN General Assembly in 2013.

As the first informal thematic debate on this issue in the General Assembly, the interactive debate provides a unique opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to take stock of achievements to date, and to consider what has been learned about effective policies and practices that promote migration's positive contributions to development. It is also an opportunity to discuss the obstacles that reduce the benefits of migration and suggest ways to eliminate them, and to consider the way forward.

## *General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development*

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### **Introduction**

The President of the General Assembly will host a one-day Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development ('the debate') at UN Headquarters in New York on 19 May 2011, pursuant to A/RES/63/225. The debate is intended to build on the on-going dialogue on international migration and development, and to contribute to the process leading to the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held by the UN General Assembly in 2013.

The first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 established that international migration can contribute to development if supported by the right policies. Since 2006, Governments and the international community have been pursuing a variety of policies and programmes to maximise the development impacts of international migration, and to reduce its negative effects.

As the first informal thematic debate on this issue in the GA, the interactive debate provides a unique opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to take stock of achievements to date, and to consider what has been learned about effective policies and practices that promote migration's positive contributions to development. It is also an opportunity to discuss the obstacles that reduce the benefits of migration and suggest ways to eliminate them, and to consider the way forward. The President of the General Assembly will distribute a Chair's Summary following the debate.

The Global Migration Group (GMG) intends to organise an experts symposium preceding the debate, which is expected to take place on 17-18 May in New York.

This concept note is intended to assist delegations and participants in preparing for the debate. In their interventions, Member States and civil society are invited to provide advice and share ideas and lessons learned from a pragmatic and action-oriented perspective. This note includes **key questions** on which Member States and participants are invited to focus their interventions, to help ensure that the one-day event will be practical, targeted and constructive. Member States who wish may also have their full statements posted on the President's website following the debate.

#### ***Morning session: The contribution of migrants to development***

With the increased recognition of the implications of migration on development and vice versa, this panel discussion focuses on sharing good practices that maximise the contribution of migrants to development.

Since the GA's 2006 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, much has been done to improve our understanding of the human development aspects of international migration. We know more, for example, about how migration helps to increase household incomes and improve access to education and health services. Migration can also be an empowering experience, particularly for women. There is growing recognition of the beneficial impacts of "social remittances" by migrants, including the transfer of information and know-how and the promotion of entrepreneurship at home. As countries seek to boost economic growth, the role of migrants as innovators and entrepreneurs has also received greater attention. Migrant networks play an important role in this respect.

Migrant workers also make important contributions to the economic growth of countries of destination. The recent economic and financial crisis has shown, once more, the resilience of migration and

remittances against such shocks. The crisis has dampened, but not reversed, increases in the global number of international migrants: between 2005 and 2010, their number increased by 11 million, down from a 13 million increase between 2000 and 2005 (Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/203). While rising unemployment in countries of destination has contributed to some increases in return flows, large-scale return migration has not occurred, because the majority of international migrants have settled in the countries of destination and have achieved a high level of local integration. Furthermore, the majority of international migrants remain employed and their labour continues to be necessary for key sectors of the economies of destination countries. Regarding remittances, in 2009 remittances to low- and middle-income countries amounted to \$316 billion, \$20 billion less than in 2008 (Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/203), indicating that remittances have been more resilient to the effects of the crisis than other types of financial flows. Remittances continue to contribute to the reduction of poverty and the improvement of health and education outcomes of migrants' families.

Nevertheless, when unemployment is high, the contributions of migrants are more likely to be disregarded, and xenophobia and racism may become more prevalent. It is all the more urgent, therefore, that Governments ensure full respect for the rights of migrants, including those in irregular situations, recognising that all migrants are entitled to respect for and protection of their human rights. Migrant workers who are especially at risk include those in the agricultural and informal sectors, including domestic care workers, many of whom are migrant women from developing countries.

Today, against the backdrop of the international financial crisis and increasingly better understandings of the contribution of migrants to development, some notable advances in migration policies and practices that harness the development potential of migrants are emerging. There are ongoing efforts to improve and harmonize the recognition of qualifications so that skilled migrants do not face recruitment barriers in countries of destination. Global competition for talent is rising. Many countries of origin have adopted strategies to attract back their expatriate skilled migrants. In addition, some destination countries are adopting measures to prevent shortages in their health workforce, such as increasing their domestic production of health personnel, thus reducing their reliance on health workers from countries with already fragile health systems.

In this panel, Member States and civil society are invited to share their experiences as well as practical and concrete advice on how to leverage the opportunities that international migration provides for countries of destination, countries of origin and migrants themselves, to reduce poverty, promote economic growth and human development, and boost overall development. As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. How can Governments support their nationals working abroad as assets for their national economies and for social development in their countries and communities?
2. What social and other policies have proven effective or are needed to maximise the benefits of migration for development, for example measures to ensure the portability of social security benefits, facilitate the transfer of remittances, or ensure access to health, education and other critical social services for migrants?
3. What are successful examples of cooperation between Governments and key stakeholders such as trade unions and other members of civil society, employers, and private recruitment agencies, to safeguard the rights of migrants and ensure their full participation in the social and economic life of countries of destination?

#### ***Afternoon session: Improving international cooperation on migration and development***

International cooperation is crucial to ensuring that migration takes place in optimal conditions, with optimal results. Cooperation between States facilitates the migration process and can help ensure that

migration occurs through safe and regulated channels, and that it leverages the contributions that migrants make to development.

International cooperation has increased markedly over the past decade and now covers the full spectrum of activities, ranging from the global (e.g. the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly in 2006 and the Global Forum on Migration and Development), to the regional (e.g. the various regional cooperative mechanisms, including consultative processes) to the bilateral (e.g. bilateral arrangements on facilitated labour migration). Both at the global and regional levels, informal, State-led processes are the most common forms of cooperation. By facilitating the exchange of information and lessons learned among officials working on migration, global and regional mechanisms have helped shape the global international migration and development agenda and, importantly, built confidence in the ability of governments from around the world with different experiences and perspectives to work together harmoniously to find shared and complementary policy approaches. Several regional cooperation mechanisms that seek to promote economic integration and allow for the free movement of labour have also developed. The UN supports Member States' cooperation, notably through the GMG and the work of its agencies.

At the bilateral level, the number of migration-related agreements has risen sharply over the past two decades. They have been instrumental in opening new migration channels, regulating conditions of recruitment and work, and ensuring predictability in the migration process.

In addition, there are more projects on international migration and development funded by the international development units of donor Governments. By considering the effects of international migration on development and vice versa, donor agencies are more likely to develop projects that leverage the benefits of migration. As just one example, concern about the increasing migration of health care workers from low-income countries with already fragile health systems has led to the development of recruitment codes of practice, which might not have received this attention if such emigration were not a barrier to attaining the health-related MDGs.

In this panel, Member States and civil society are invited to share updates on the current landscape of international cooperation and to discuss concrete best practices and outcomes that have emerged in recent years. As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. What are concrete outcomes and best practices achieved by the regional and global cooperation mechanisms, including informal consultative processes, in which Member States discuss migration and development issues? How could these be multiplied or replicated in other world regions? How can the international community best support these efforts?
2. What are good models and lessons learned in the context of bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating migration and protecting migrants' rights? Have, for example, bilateral agreements and codes of practice had a positive influence on the ethical recruitment of migrant health personnel? Are other measures necessary?
3. What are good examples of how development cooperation has been effectively targeted to support national efforts to integrate migration into development planning and projects? How could such measures be stepped up?
4. Given the urgent need to facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and certifications between countries of origin and countries of destination in order harness the economic and social contribution of migrants to development, which good practices have emerged on the recognition of qualifications and how can these be replicated?

**Informal Thematic Debate on**

***International Migration and Development***

Thursday, 19 May 2011

Conference Room 4, North Lawn Building, UN Headquarters, New York

**Program**

**10:00 – 10:20 Opening remarks**

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss** *President of the General Assembly*
- **H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon** *Secretary-General*

**10:20 – 13:00 Panel one: *The contribution of migrants to development***

**Chair: Mr. William Swing** Director General, International Organization for Migration

**Panelists:**

- **Professor John Connell** Professor of Human Geography, University of Sydney
- **H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa** Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Ecuador and Former Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations
- **Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri** Chairperson of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and Member of the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad
- **Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie** Co-Founder, African Foundation for Development [AFFORD] and Consultant, Sierra Leone
- **Mr. Göran Hultin** Chief Executive Officer, Caden Corporation and Contributor to the Talent Mobility Project, World Economic Forum

**Focus of discussion**

As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. How can Governments support their nationals working abroad as assets for their national economies and for social development in their countries and communities?
2. What social and other policies have proven effective or are needed to maximise the benefits of migration for development, for example measures to ensure the portability of social security benefits, facilitate the transfer of remittances, or ensure access to health, education and other critical social services for migrants?
3. What are successful examples of cooperation between Governments and key stakeholders such as trade unions and other members of civil society, employers, and private recruitment agencies, to safeguard the rights of migrants and ensure their full participation in the social and economic life of countries of destination?

**15:00 – 17:40 Panel two: *Improving international cooperation on migration and development***

**Chair: Dr. Khalid Koser**, Academic Dean and Head of the New Issues in Security Course, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

**Panelists:**

- **H.E. Mr. Saqr Ghobash** Minister of Labour of the United Arab Emirates
- **Ambassador Eduard Gnesa** Special Ambassador for International Cooperation on Migration Issues, Switzerland, in his capacity as Head of Switzerland's Presidency of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
- **Mr. Anthony Lake** UNICEF Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Global Migration Group
- **Ms. Thetis Mangahas** Senior Migration Specialist and Deputy Regional Director, Policy and Programmes, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- **Dr. Rafael Fernández de Castro** Founder and Chair, Department of International Studies, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

**Focus of discussion**

1. What are concrete outcomes and best practices achieved by the regional and global cooperation mechanisms, including informal consultative processes, in which Member States discuss migration and development issues, and which could be multiplied or replicated in other world regions? How can the international community best support these efforts?
2. What are good models and lessons learned in the context of bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating migration and protecting migrants' rights? Have, for example, bilateral agreements and codes of practice had a positive influence on the ethical recruitment of migrant health personnel? Are other measures necessary?
3. What are good examples of how development cooperation has been effectively targeted to support national efforts to integrate migration into development planning and projects? How could such measures be stepped up?
4. Given the urgent need to facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and certifications between countries of origin and countries of destination in order harness the economic and social contribution of migrants to development, which good practices have emerged on the recognition of qualifications and how can these be replicated?

**17:40 – 17:50 Summary by Sir Peter Sutherland**, *Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration and Development*

**17:50 – 18:00 Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly**



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 June 2011

Excellency,

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/225, I convened an Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development in New York on 19 May 2011.

I am pleased to share with you the summary of the debate for your reference. It is my hope that the summary will contribute to the on-going dialogue on international migration and development, including the process leading to the General Assembly's second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss'.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

**INFORMAL THEMATIC DEBATE  
OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 19 May 2011

**President's Summary**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/63/225, the President of the General Assembly convened an Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development ('the debate') in New York on 19 May 2011. The purpose of the debate was to take stock of and contribute to the on-going dialogue on international migration and development, including the process leading to the General Assembly's second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

**Opening session**

Since 2006, when the General Assembly held its first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the international community has made considerable progress in strengthening international cooperation to leverage the contributions of migrants and migration to individual and societal development and to address migration's negative consequences, as noted by several speakers at the opening session. Many countries have developed innovative policies and programmes to engage their expatriate communities in the development process, to enhance regional collaboration and consultation, and to reduce remittance transfer costs. In addition, the number of multilateral projects seeking to realize the benefits of international migration for development had increased markedly. Yet many challenges remain. Despite the overwhelming evidence of the positive contributions of migration to development, the economic and financial crises, coupled with rising levels of unemployment, have led to increasing anti-immigrant sentiments in many societies. Recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa have highlighted the vulnerability of international migrants and the need for greater cooperation and coordination at all levels.

**Panel 1: The contribution of migrants to development**

The debate recognised that international migration has many positive consequences for migrants, their families and both countries of destination and of origin. Remittances improve the standard of living of families remaining in the country of origin, including by expanding their access to health and education services. While the developmental impact of remittances could be improved, it was acknowledged that remittances were private income and could not be a substitute for foreign direct investment or official development assistance. Several participants drew the Assembly's attention to the "5x5" initiative, endorsed by the Group of Eight (G-8) in 2009, which sought to reduce average remittance transfer costs by five percentage points over five years and to make financial services more accessible to migrants and their families.



The debate highlighted a number of new policies directed at leveraging the contribution of migrant communities to the development of countries of origin. Expatriate communities are playing an increasingly active role in mobilising human, social and financial resources to foster development in their home countries. Countries of origin have been strengthening ties with their nationals abroad, including by promoting their political participation, encouraging their involvement in trade and investment, and providing legal assistance and training. Bilateral donors are providing funding and technical support for co-development projects involving migrant communities. Innovative strategies to harness migrant entrepreneurship are being initiated, while awareness about the obstacles that migrant entrepreneurs face upon return was increasing. Such obstacles include lack of access to affordable capital because of the non-portability both of pensions and credit histories, a poorly developed business environment, as well as the lack of recognition of credentials.

Policies to promote circular migration and voluntary return were also showcased. Allowing migrants to maintain the right to residence at destination while they return temporarily to their countries of origin is considered critical for the success of circular migration programmes. Some countries of destination offer returning migrants access to special loans and tax breaks as part of programmes to support voluntary return, while some countries of origin have adjusted their tax laws to create a more favourable investment climate for their nationals abroad, which is often the first step towards successful return and productive employment and job creation back home.

Participants expressed concern about the international recruitment of skilled professionals, such as doctors, nurses and teachers, from developing countries facing serious shortages of those skills. The adoption of the Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel by the 63rd World Health Assembly in 2010 was welcomed.

The debate underscored that the demand for skilled workers will likely increase in the future owing to global market forces. To address the growing demand for skilled workers, countries of destination are encouraged to adopt ethical recruitment practices, while countries of origin, with the support of donor countries, are encouraged to improve their training standards and to enlarge the pool of those being trained. The policies of countries that have been attracting back skilled nationals were highlighted and the need to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of those policies was underscored.

Despite a widespread recognition of the positive contributions of international migration to development, several participants cautioned that international migration should not be considered an alternative to development. While migrants can be encouraged to contribute to development efforts, Governments remained responsible for achieving sustainable development and improving human wellbeing, including by reducing poverty.

Several participants called for redoubling efforts to ensure respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of international migrants. Racist and xenophobic undertones are increasingly taking hold of the political discourse in major receiving countries, underscoring the need to redouble efforts to protect the rights of all international migrants. Migrant workers are often subject to discrimination and even exploitation. Given their secluded working environment, domestic workers, most of whom are women, are particularly vulnerable to abuse. Participants

underscored that migrants were first and foremost human beings with inalienable rights that transcend their immigration status. Member States were urged to ratify and implement all international instruments relevant to international migration, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Participants provided several examples of the adverse effects that international migration could have on families, especially on children who stayed behind in the countries of origin while one or both of their parents went abroad. Allowing family reunification is beneficial in reducing the negative social effect of international migration on families. When children remain behind, it is important to provide services that can assist in addressing the psychological and social impacts of family separation.

## **Panel 2: Improving international cooperation on international migration and development**

Strengthening cooperation at the global, regional and bilateral levels is an essential component of any strategy seeking to enhance the contribution of international migration and migrants to development. With skill shortages affecting every region of the world, international labour mobility has become a standard feature of a globalized world. Participants recognised the important role of regional consultative processes on migration in promoting dialogue and cooperation among countries. They also acknowledged the importance of international cooperation in facilitating a more effective management of the recruitment and admission of migrant workers, fostering improvements in their working conditions, and in ensuring that the recruitment industry followed existing regulations. Bilateral initiatives to recognise qualifications, facilitate the mobility of different categories of skilled migrants, support the voluntary return of migrants, and ensure the portability of pensions and other social benefits have borne fruit. Nevertheless, some bilateral agreements do not take full account of the interests of countries of origin and mechanisms for monitoring their implementation were sometimes deficient.

Development cooperation was a central focus of the debate. Since 2006, donor countries have allocated nearly a quarter of a billion dollars to multilateral activities on international migration and development. Furthermore, with the support of the international community, an increasing number of countries have incorporated international migration into their national development plans. Greater international cooperation is required to address the root causes of international migration, including poverty, lack of employment opportunities, conflict, poor governance and environmental degradation. Still too often, people migrate out of necessity rather than choice.

Several participants underscored the limitations of a unilateral approach to managing international migration, noting that migrants often pay the ultimate price for the lack of collaboration between countries. Transnational organized crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling, offered striking examples of policy concerns that could only be addressed effectively through collaboration at the bilateral or multilateral levels. States have a shared responsibility in promoting safe and legal international migration, combating irregular migration and human trafficking, enhancing migrant integration, safeguarding migrants' rights, and protecting the most vulnerable, including certain migrant women and children.

The debate acknowledged the success of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in fostering cooperation, sharing good practices and promoting a constructive dialogue among Member States, relevant international agencies, as well as with civil society. Noting that informal processes have their limitations, some Member States called for the establishment of more formal mechanisms to advance the debate on international migration and development. They identified the United Nations—and in particular the General Assembly—as the most suitable venue for the development of such mechanisms. Other Member States viewed the Global Forum and the debate in the General Assembly of the United Nations as complementary and mutually reinforcing processes. The assessment of the Global Forum, being undertaken under the auspices of the Forum's Chair-in-Office (Ambassador Gnesa of Switzerland), is expected to serve as an important input for the United Nations High-level Dialogue in 2013. However, particularly in light of the financial crisis, the lack of stable funding and difficulties in identifying countries willing to host future meetings of the Global Forum were obstacles to the continuation of this process.

Participants expressed appreciation for the increased collaboration among international organizations in addressing international migration issues. Since its establishment in 2006, the Global Migration Group—an inter-agency group which includes 15 organizations of the United Nations system plus the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—has made major strides in supporting Member States in a collaborative and coordinated manner, especially by assisting in the implementation of the suggestions emanating from the Global Forum. The recent crisis in Northern Africa has highlighted the importance of collaboration and coordination among relevant members of the Global Migration Group.

Participants recognized the contributions made by the Global Migration Group to the improvement of evidence on the nexus between international migration and development. Informing the public about the contributions of international migrants was considered essential to counter discrimination, racism and the social exclusion of migrants.

### **Closing session and conclusions**

As the debate's rich discussion indicated, international migration deserves continued attention from the international community, both because international cooperation is necessary to take advantage of the opportunities that international migration generates and because its impact is likely to increase in the future. As a global phenomenon, international migration requires a global approach. Partnerships at all levels were necessary to address effectively the complex relationship between international migration and development.

By showcasing good practices and sharing innovative policies, programmes and projects, the debate set a useful basis for the in-depth consideration of those issues in 2013. In the meantime, every effort should be made to continue the dialogue, strengthen partnerships, support capacity development and safeguard the rights of migrants. No opportunity should be missed to facilitate the contribution of international migration to improve human wellbeing and, in particular, to reduce poverty and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.



# 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

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<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.

punish the perpetrators and that not doing so violates, and impairs or nullifies the 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

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<sup>14</sup> A/65/203.

regular and irregular migration, to address the challenges and opportunities of international migration in a balanced, coherent and comprehensive manner and to 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*



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 December 2010

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 18 October 2010, I am pleased to inform you that the one-day Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development will take place in New York on Thursday, 19 May 2011. You will recall that this debate was requested by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/63/225.

The debate will include two interactive panel discussions. The theme for the morning panel will be "The contribution of migrants to development", and for the afternoon panel "Improving international cooperation on migration and development".

The discussion should build on the ongoing dialogue on international migration and development, and contribute positively to the process leading to the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013. I look forward to your participation in this important debate.

A concept note and program will be circulated at a later stage.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss'.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 April 2011

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 21 December 2010, informing you that the one-day Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development (pursuant to A/RES/63/225) will take place in New York on Thursday 19 May, 2011, I am pleased to share with you the concept paper and provisional program for this event.

Information about this event is also available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

***General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on  
International Migration and Development***

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Introduction**

The President of the General Assembly will host a one-day Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development ('the debate') at UN Headquarters in New York on 19 May 2011, pursuant to A/RES/63/225. The debate is intended to build on the on-going dialogue on international migration and development, and to contribute to the process leading to the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held by the UN General Assembly in 2013.

The first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 established that international migration can contribute to development if supported by the right policies. Since 2006, Governments and the international community have been pursuing a variety of policies and programmes to maximise the development impacts of international migration, and to reduce its negative effects.

As the first informal thematic debate on this issue in the GA, the interactive debate provides a unique opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to take stock of achievements to date, and to consider what has been learned about effective policies and practices that promote migration's positive contributions to development. It is also an opportunity to discuss the obstacles that reduce the benefits of migration and suggest ways to eliminate them, and to consider the way forward. The President of the General Assembly will distribute a Chair's Summary following the debate.

The Global Migration Group (GMG) intends to organise an experts symposium preceding the debate, which is expected to take place on 17-18 May in New York.

This concept note is intended to assist delegations and participants in preparing for the debate. In their interventions, Member States and civil society are invited to provide advice and share ideas and lessons learned from a pragmatic and action-oriented perspective. This note includes **key questions** on which Member States and participants are invited to focus their interventions, to help ensure that the one-day event will be practical, targeted and constructive. Member States who wish may also have their full statements posted on the President's website following the debate.

***Morning session: The contribution of migrants to development***

With the increased recognition of the implications of migration on development and vice versa, this panel discussion focuses on sharing good practices that maximise the contribution of migrants to development.

Since the GA's 2006 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, much has been done to improve our understanding of the human development aspects of international migration. We know more, for example, about how migration helps to increase household incomes and improve access to education and health services. Migration can also be an empowering experience, particularly for women. There is growing recognition of the beneficial impacts of "social remittances" by migrants, including the transfer of information and know-how and the promotion of entrepreneurship at home. As countries seek to boost economic growth, the role of migrants as innovators and entrepreneurs has also received greater attention. Migrant networks play an important role in this respect.

Migrant workers also make important contributions to the economic growth of countries of destination. The recent economic and financial crisis has shown, once more, the resilience of migration and remittances against such

shocks. The crisis has dampened, but not reversed, increases in the global number of international migrants: between 2005 and 2010, their number increased by 11 million, down from a 13 million increase between 2000 and 2005 (Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/203). While rising unemployment in countries of destination has contributed to some increases in return flows, large-scale return migration has not occurred, because the majority of international migrants have settled in the countries of destination and have achieved a high level of local integration. Furthermore, the majority of international migrants remain employed and their labour continues to be necessary for key sectors of the economies of destination countries. Regarding remittances, in 2009 remittances to low- and middle-income countries amounted to \$316 billion, \$20 billion less than in 2008 (Report of the Secretary-General, A/65/203), indicating that remittances have been more resilient to the effects of the crisis than other types of financial flows. Remittances continue to contribute to the reduction of poverty and the improvement of health and education outcomes of migrants' families.

Nevertheless, when unemployment is high, the contributions of migrants are more likely to be disregarded, and xenophobia and racism may become more prevalent. It is all the more urgent, therefore, that Governments ensure full respect for the rights of migrants, including those in irregular situations, recognising that all migrants are entitled to respect for and protection of their human rights. Migrant workers who are especially at risk include those in the agricultural and informal sectors, including domestic care workers, many of whom are migrant women from developing countries.

Today, against the backdrop of the international financial crisis and increasingly better understandings of the contribution of migrants to development, some notable advances in migration policies and practices that harness the development potential of migrants are emerging. There are ongoing efforts to improve and harmonize the recognition of qualifications so that skilled migrants do not face recruitment barriers in countries of destination. Global competition for talent is rising. Many countries of origin have adopted strategies to attract back their expatriate skilled migrants. In addition, some destination countries are adopting measures to prevent shortages in their health workforce, such as increasing their domestic production of health personnel, thus reducing their reliance on health workers from countries with already fragile health systems.

In this panel, Member States and civil society are invited to share their experiences as well as practical and concrete advice on how to leverage the opportunities that international migration provides for countries of destination, countries of origin and migrants themselves, to reduce poverty, promote economic growth and human development, and boost overall development. As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. How can Governments support their nationals working abroad as assets for their national economies and for social development in their countries and communities?
2. What social and other policies have proven effective or are needed to maximise the benefits of migration for development, for example measures to ensure the portability of social security benefits, facilitate the transfer of remittances, or ensure access to health, education and other critical social services for migrants?
3. What are successful examples of cooperation between Governments and key stakeholders such as trade unions and other members of civil society, employers, and private recruitment agencies, to safeguard the rights of migrants and ensure their full participation in the social and economic life of countries of destination?

***Afternoon session: Improving international cooperation on migration and development***

International cooperation is crucial to ensuring that migration takes place in optimal conditions, with optimal results. Cooperation between States facilitates the migration process and can help ensure that migration occurs through safe and regulated channels, and that it leverages the contributions that migrants make to development.

International cooperation has increased markedly over the past decade and now covers the full spectrum of activities, ranging from the global (e.g. the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly in 2006 and the Global Forum on Migration and Development), to the regional (e.g. the various regional cooperative mechanisms, including consultative processes) to the bilateral (e.g. bilateral arrangements on facilitated labour migration). Both at the global and regional levels, informal, State-led processes are the most common forms of cooperation. By facilitating the exchange of information and lessons learned among officials working on migration, global and regional mechanisms have helped shape the global international migration and development agenda and, importantly, built confidence in the ability of governments from around the world with different experiences and perspectives to work together harmoniously to find shared and complementary policy approaches. Several regional cooperation mechanisms that seek to promote economic integration and allow for the free movement of labour have also developed. The UN supports Member States' cooperation, notably through the GMG and the work of its agencies.

At the bilateral level, the number of migration-related agreements has risen sharply over the past two decades. They have been instrumental in opening new migration channels, regulating conditions of recruitment and work, and ensuring predictability in the migration process.

In addition, there are more projects on international migration and development funded by the international development units of donor Governments. By considering the effects of international migration on development and vice versa, donor agencies are more likely to develop projects that leverage the benefits of migration. As just one example, concern about the increasing migration of health care workers from low-income countries with already fragile health systems has led to the development of recruitment codes of practice, which might not have received this attention if such emigration were not a barrier to attaining the health-related MDGs.

In this panel, Member States and civil society are invited to share updates on the current landscape of international cooperation and to discuss concrete best practices and outcomes that have emerged in recent years. As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. What are concrete outcomes and best practices achieved by the regional and global cooperation mechanisms, including informal consultative processes, in which Member States discuss migration and development issues? How could these be multiplied or replicated in other world regions? How can the international community best support these efforts?
2. What are good models and lessons learned in the context of bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating migration and protecting migrants' rights? Have, for example, bilateral agreements and codes of practice had a positive influence on the ethical recruitment of migrant health personnel? Are other measures necessary?
3. What are good examples of how development cooperation has been effectively targeted to support national efforts to integrate migration into development planning and projects? How could such measures be stepped up?
4. Given the urgent need to facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and certifications between countries of origin and countries of destination in order to harness the economic and social contribution of migrants to development, which good practices have emerged on the recognition of qualifications and how can these be replicated?

**Informal Thematic Debate on**  
***International Migration and Development***

Thursday, 19 May 2011

Conference Room 4, North Lawn Building, UN Headquarters, New York

**Provisional Program**

**10:00 – 10:20**      **Opening remarks**

- **H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss** *President of the General Assembly*
- **H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon** *Secretary-General* (TBC)

**10:20 – 13:00**      **Panel one: *The Contribution of migrants to development***

**Chair: Mr. William Swing** Director General, International Organization for Migration

**Panelists:**

- **H.E. Ms. Lorena Escudero** National Secretary for Migrants, Ecuador
- **Mr. Driss El Yazami** President, National Human Rights Council, Morocco
- **Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie** Co-Founder, African Foundation for Development [AFFORD] and Consultant, Sierra Leone
- **Mr. Göran Hultin** Chief Executive Officer, Caden Corporation and Contributor to the Talent Mobility Project, World Economic Forum
- **Professor John Connell** Professor of Human Geography, University of Sydney

**Focus of discussion**

As a guide, it is suggested that interventions address the following **key questions**:

1. How can Governments support their nationals working abroad as assets for their national economies and for social development in their countries and communities?
2. What social and other policies have proven effective or are needed to maximise the benefits of migration for development, for example measures to ensure the portability of social security benefits, facilitate the transfer of remittances, or ensure access to health, education and other critical social services for migrants?
3. What are successful examples of cooperation between Governments and key stakeholders such as trade unions and other members of civil society, employers, and private recruitment agencies, to safeguard the rights of migrants and ensure their full participation in the social and economic life of countries of destination?

**15:00 – 17:40      Panel two: *Improving international cooperation on migration and development***

**Chair: Dr. Khalid Koser**, Academic Dean and Head of the New Issues in Security Course, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

**Panelists:**

- **Ambassador Eduard Gnesa** Special Ambassador for International Cooperation on Migration Issues, Switzerland, in his capacity as Head of Switzerland's Presidency of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
- **H.E. Mr. Saqr Ghobash** Minister of Labour United Arab Emirates (TBC)
- **Mr. Anthony Lake** UNICEF Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Global Migration Group
- **Ms. Thetis Mangahas** Senior Migration Specialist and Deputy Regional Director, Policy and Programmes, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (TBC)
- **Dr. Rafael Fernández de Castro** Founder and Chair, Department of International Studies, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

**Focus of discussion**

1. What are concrete outcomes and best practices achieved by the regional and global cooperation mechanisms, including informal consultative processes, in which Member States discuss migration and development issues? How could these be multiplied or replicated in other world regions? How can the international community best support these efforts?
2. What are good models and lessons learned in the context of bilateral agreements aimed at facilitating migration and protecting migrants' rights? Have, for example, bilateral agreements and codes of practice had a positive influence on the ethical recruitment of migrant health personnel? Are other measures necessary?
3. What are good examples of how development cooperation has been effectively targeted to support national efforts to integrate migration into development planning and projects? How could such measures be stepped up?
4. Given the urgent need to facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and certifications between countries of origin and countries of destination in order harness the economic and social contribution of migrants to development, which good practices have emerged on the recognition of qualifications and how can these be replicated?

**17:40 – 17:50      Summary by Sir Peter Sutherland, *Secretary-General's Special Representative on International Migration and Development***

**17:50 – 18:00      Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly**



19 May 2011

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss,  
President of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the Opening of the Informal Thematic Debate of the General  
Assembly on International Migration and Development**

Mr. Secretary-General,  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this thematic debate, which is the first that the General Assembly has devoted to the issue of international migration and development.

I am happy that we will have today an exchange of the views and experiences of experts, political decision makers and the representatives of migrants and their families on this very topical theme. I hope that, through the practical orientation of our debate, we will make a useful contribution to the preparations for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development that will be held at the General Assembly in 2013.

The globalized world is becoming ever more interdependent and international migration, along with movements of capital, goods and services, is a driving force behind that increased integration. The number of international migrants, estimated in 2010 to number 214 million, is constantly increasing, and that trend has not been reversed by the economic and financial crisis. It is essential, in the four years that remain before the target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, that migration should be made a positive force for development and benefit the various parties involved: not only the migrants themselves, of course, but their countries of origin and countries of destination.

Against that background, and since the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was held in 2006 and the call was made for international cooperation to be strengthened in order to maximize the positive effect of migration, several notable advances should be highlighted, including the following:

Collaboration between countries of origin and countries of destination has improved in many respects, particularly at the regional level. Procedures for consultation and dialogue have been put in place and free movement zones have been established.

Various funds, facilities and multilateral programmes have been created with a view to promoting the development potential of international migration. A total of \$240 million has been allocated for that purpose, testifying to the engagement of all donor countries with the question of migration within the framework of development.

Several countries of origin have reinforced ties with their nationals abroad in order to ensure that their rights are respected and that they are more actively involved in the development of their communities of origin. Programmes have been implemented with the aim of promoting the return to their countries of origin of skilled migrants, from whose expertise the country could benefit.

In some cases, the cost to migrants of repatriating funds to their countries of origin has fallen, having a positive impact on the incomes of migrants and their families and improving their nutrition and access to health and education services.

Such welcome changes have been, to some extent, facilitated by the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, instituted after the High-level Dialogue of 2006. However, work does not stop there. We must continue to implement the recommendations of the Forum, and intensify efforts to find balanced, coherent and global responses to the issue of international migration, in order to maximize the positive impacts.

That will involve facing up to numerous challenges. The effects of the global economic and financial crisis are still being felt in many countries. Unemployment and economic insecurity particularly affect migrants. They also create a climate of anxiety and introversion and, sometimes, xenophobic excesses in the countries of destination, which has a negative impact on migratory movements. We must take into account the absorption capacities, that is: the social and economic capacities to cope with massive migration in countries of destination. But we must guard against the adoption of protectionist and isolationist policies: history has shown us the cost of those. We must make sure that we guarantee the rights of migrants and assure them of decent lives and working conditions.

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that the two round tables of our debate today, because of the choice of themes and the superb quality of the speakers, will enable you to find practical means of reinforcing the contribution of migration to economic development.

During the first round table, which is devoted to the contribution of migrants to development, we shall be considering the policies which are best adapted to maximizing the benefits of migration, facilitating the remittance of funds by migrants and migrant access to health and education services. We shall also have to consider how cooperation between the authorities, unions, employers and other civil society actors can contribute to respect for migrant rights and to their full participation in the social and economic life of the country of destination.

The improvement of international cooperation over migration and development will form the nucleus of the second round table. This will be when we can exchange experiences and good practices, particularly on such specific questions as the protection of migrant rights or the recognition of qualifications.

I invite you all to share your comments, observations and experiences, in a concise and practical manner. Any delegation that wishes to do so will be able to publish their statements in full on the President's Internet site.

At the end of the day, I shall formulate a number of conclusions that will be available on our Internet site and serve as a reference document.

Thank you for your attention.



**INFORMAL THEMATIC DEBATE  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**William Lacy Swing  
Director General, International Organization for Migration**

**Chairing of Panel One: The Contribution of Migrants to Development**

**Thursday, 19 May 2011  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

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Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies; Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor to chair this panel session on the contributions of migrants to development. Our objective today is straight forward -- to identify and share best practices on migrant contributions to development and to leverage those opportunities to reduce poverty, promote economic growth and to foster human development in countries of origin and destination.

We are honored to have with us a distinguished panel comprising of:

1. Professor John Connell, Professor of Human Geography, University of Sydney, Australia;
2. H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage, Ecuador and Former Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations.
3. Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri, Chairperson of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and Member of the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad;
4. Mr. Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Co-founder, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) and Consultant, Sierra Leone;
5. Mr. Göran Hultin, Chief Executive Officer Caden Corporation and Contributor to the Talent Mobility Project at the World Economic Forum.

I will limit my own remarks sharply, to allow as much time as possible for discussion. But I want to pickup a few themes in the remarks of the President of the General Assembly and Secretary-General.



This event occurs at a timely moment. We find ourselves in a world on the move amidst a public wave of anti-migrant sentiment in parliaments, state houses and the media. The overwhelmingly positive contributions to our societies and economies by the overwhelming majority of migrants is unfortunately often overshadowed, or forgotten all together.

The subject matter before this esteemed panel is not entirely new.

Migration is humanities' oldest actions against poverty – the powerful manifestation of an individual's desire for development, dignity and a decent life – even if it means doing the dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs -- jobs that domestic workforces often shun.

Migration is the right to leave one's place of birth or abode in search of new opportunities and a better life.

It is commonly acknowledged that migrants were largely responsible for building up the Post World War II economies of North America, Australia and the so called “new world.” But migrants have also contributed to strengthening the social fabrics and economies of European countries over the past several decades.

Countries often pride themselves publicly on being a “migrant society” or a “nation of migrants.” Sadly, all too often, these are referrals to yesterday's migrants – not to those arriving on our shores or on our borders today.

What is perhaps new is the growing acknowledgement, on the part of governments and on the part of international organizations that migrant labour -- skilled and unskilled -- is desirable and needed to recover from the economic crisis and encourage economic growth; and that migration is an essential driver of the global economy.

Given the global demographic and labour market trends, and widening North-South disparities, large scale migration is both inevitable, unavoidable -- and if intelligently humanely managed -- also desirable and necessary.

Let me say something briefly about two transfer processes (the two “T”s):

One, the transfer of people and their skills. The population of the world's industrialized countries are expected to decline by 25 percent by 2050 (according to UN estimates) -- will significantly increase the demand for migrant workers. This includes European countries, Canada, the United States, Japan, Korea, and China.

In all of these countries, migrant workers -- skilled and unskilled -- will be needed -- in some cases for knowledge, innovation, strengthening their multicultural workforces -- but in far greater numbers to do the jobs for which there are simply not enough people



in these countries -- caring for children and the elderly, working in service industries, construction sites, farming and so on.

Two, the transfer of remittances – one of the largest cash flows and cash transfers in the world - valued by the World Bank to have exceeded US \$440 billion in 2010 — making migrant cash transfers home larger than the GDP of countries such as Austria or Sweden.

Developing countries received the lion's share of this at US \$ 325 billion (This figure represents money sent through official channels only — an additional 50 percent could be added to obtain a rough idea of the real figure, including informal remittances.)

We will all need to work in concert to realize migration's full potential to advance human and societal development – while severely limiting any negative effects of migration on development.

\* \* \* \* \*

## UN Migration

18 May 2011

We live, it is said, in an age of migration but, in the midst of a myriad of statistics about migration - only one particular one seems really important – that just 3% of the world's population live outside the country where they were born. This means, I believe, that most people prefer to stay at home, amongst family and friends, in lands where language, climate and customs are familiar.

Even in an age of migration and globalisation this suggests that national development is always critically important, and, at some degree of abstraction the key components of that are well known – a slowly growing population (and so a reduced flow of potential migrants), peace, social and economic development through education ('train, retain and sustain' has become the important mantra of health ministries), health (after that training and retention has worked) and a reasonable equality of opportunities (social, gendered, economic and geographical: a 'spirit level' perspective perhaps) ... basically good governance and sound policies. Some times that asks a lot, but it is impossible to think about migration without thinking about national development.

I was asked to focus on the health sector but I hope that what I have to say about health has resonance elsewhere (even if many see health care as a 'special case') and I will try and generalise, where I can.

In getting to that 'national development' I want to focus on three themes: support for migrants overseas; 'using' migrants to create development: and, encouraging/enabling return migration.

### Why Migrate?

Before that it is useful to briefly remind ourselves why people migrate. Migration, we know, is a response to uneven development, but usually explained in terms of such factors as low wages or poor working conditions: both structural and more personal factors. In health contexts, for example, there is a long litany of factors: poor promotion possibilities, inadequate management support, heavy workloads, limited access to good technology, training and even medicines – all regularly cited as 'push factors'.

None may seem particularly challenging to remedy but they persist. Over thirty years ago Alfonso Mejia et al. (1979) in the path breaking WHO study of *Physician and Nurse Migration*

recorded almost exactly similar concerns; since then, increased migration has merely emphasized few changes in poorly resourced health systems.

Such problems are intensified in rural areas, where health workers feel they and their institutions are too often ignored, victims of institutionalized urban bias in development practice (hence WHO's recent push to develop policies for rural retention – hire and train locally, bond people to stay in rural areas - as Thailand and Australia do, etc ).

### Increasing recruitment capacity

Since some proportion of health workers always migrate, additional recruitment is critical, but school leavers (especially women) now have more options than in the past, the public sector is not always well respected and several countries lack the capacity to train substantially larger numbers. Cape Verde, for example, can only accept a new intake of nurses every 3 years, while Swaziland and Vanuatu's annual output of nurses is below the migration rate in the first case (\*) and below the population growth rate in the second. Countries must give higher priority, and greater finance, to the education of health workers – alongside other skilled workers - alongside related accommodation, facilities and faculty – much easier said than done.

Likewise raising the status of health workers, especially nurses (and wages are a part of that) improves recruitment and retention - as it has done in India. Health care should not be a vocation, nor a job that is 'dirty, dangerous and difficult'.

Introducing the role of nurse practitioners, intermediate between nurses and doctors, may offer nurses new status, fresh challenges and better salaries. In resource-constrained contexts nurse practitioners can effectively bridge gaps in primary care services. Yet they have sometimes been resisted by vested interests.

Towards the other end of the scale, Malawi has introduced a category of nursing auxiliaries to support nurses with preference given to 'those already employed as hospital attendants, cleaners -- people who can demonstrate that, after their training, they will remain in the same district' (\*). This offers opportunities for those who might not otherwise even contemplate semi-skilled employment, and are unlikely to migrate.

Recruiting more men, as in Vanuatu (where 50% of nurse recruits are now men), and also midlife women, who are more likely to remain in the country, and in regional areas, offers another option.



Even this kind of ‘thinking outside the box’ doesn’t always work unless there is some financial muscle, effective management (and a policy ‘package’) so it is important to consider what is possible for, with and from those who have migrated overseas.

### Supports

Good will to migrants helps, but so does legislation that enables migrants and their children to access social services, education, health, housing etc – let alone to acquire voting rights and so on. Study after study have shown that migrants - whether skilled or unskilled - contribute much more to the destination economies –than they take from welfare and social services – but image and attitude continue to triumph over actuality.

It is remarkable that where migrants (or at the very least migrant workers) are so obviously needed, and often actively recruited in what is now often called the ‘global market place’, and where in the case of health workers global demand has remained more or less constant for thirty years, that the need to protect their rights and working conditions has to be constantly re-iterated.

There have been changes. One of the more significant developments in recent years has been the WHO Global Code of Practice – the ethical framework guiding countries in the recruitment of health workers. It had a lengthy genesis dating back at least to Nelson Mandela’s call 14 years ago to regulate ‘poaching’ and the several regional Codes. It is vital - as the WHO was moving towards the Code it was simultaneously declaring 57 countries (many either small states or in sub-Saharan Africa) short of health workers. Beyond opposition to ‘active recruitment’, the Code urges countries and employers to ensure that health workers have the same rights and responsibilities – and opportunities – as locally trained health workers. While stopping short of the complex and contested concept of ‘compensation’ it emphasises that some reciprocal provisions (‘mutuality’) should be put in place – enabling and encouraging training, and return migration – so that skills and skilled workers will return. Magnificent, unique and necessary achievement though it has been, it is voluntary, many health workers move freely without recruitment and it can never be a panacea (partly because it excludes the private sector): a ‘soft law’ that needs to be monitored carefully .

Some of the most important components of the Code are in the ‘fine print’ – the encouragement of reciprocity - and the implicit and unspecified sub-text that all countries should train adequate numbers of national health workers – a task that poses enormous problems for many. Without greater national self-sufficiency migration will be encouraged in one form or another.

The Code encourages the scaling up of skills. Indeed what is also implicit in the code is a concern over deskilling (or brain-waste) when, for example, skilled nurses migrate and become semi-skilled care workers . . . but so much of that migration has been of individuals outside any forms of recruitment and agreement. And that underlies one limitation of all codes.

If Codes are valuable for health workers – what about other workers? The Commonwealth Secretariat once made provision for teachers, but no global (or regional) organisations seem to have taken up the cause of other – albeit less numerous - groups of skilled migrants. Health workers are not the only skilled workers whose loss to developing countries can be problematic. Where are the Codes for meteorologists (many countries are desperately short and we are in an age of climate change), engineers, geologists, even footballers and rugby players (for development is social too – and there are other kinds of losses – brawn and brains .

Where the Global Code is backed up by bilateral government-to-government agreements there is even more chance of success: the elusive ‘win-win- win-win’ scenario (for sending and receiving countries, and for migrant health workers and their families ... with perhaps also a fifth winner - ‘patients’ ) - in other words a ‘managed migration’ where a particular, specified group of workers move in a regulated way , so there is some knowledge of where gaps may exist , migrants are less likely to be missed and where workers acquire new skills, experience and must return home – and thus have even more reason to save for that . New skills come back with, hopefully, migrants who are retrained and revitalised, and ready and willing to return.

That appears to have worked for agreements between South Africa and the UK (where South African nurses returned after two years). But not all such MOUs are successful; after a 2002 agreement between Netherlands and Poland most nurses simply stayed on in the Netherlands. Moreover relatively few MOUs exist – and numbers have been small. Nonetheless small-scale bilateral agreements can meet particular vacancies, increase skills and encourage return.

In a very different way the bilateral schemes that have been developed for unskilled guest workers in agriculture, initially between Canada and Caribbean states, and most recently between New Zealand, Australia and several Pacific island states, have been successful, in enabling the migration of the relatively poor (thus far Pacific countries have sought to achieve a regional balance and discourage the relatively well off and skilled from participating) so contributing to significant welfare gains (better houses, solar panels, education fees etc), return migration with at least new experience and the harvesting of otherwise unharvested fruit. Here is a quadruple win, but the scale is still also small.

## Self-Help

Migrant-organized groups themselves have usually proved the most effective in supporting migrants: the most effective supports for migrants are often they themselves .... Tongans in Australia collectively support churches, schools, clinics, football clubs and other collective ventures, while also primarily supporting their own extended households. Such DIY groups are necessarily oriented to 'home' and enable migrants to retain – perhaps re-emphasise - their home identities.

Of all such initiatives the 3x1 Citizens Initiative in Mexico is much the best known, perhaps because migrants' efforts are matched by financial contributions from the national government, for the development of public projects (public works and community improvement) and because it has been in existence for more than a decade. Although widely considered to be 'best practice of migration management' (\*) it seems to have spawned few national parallels. Governments may be fearful of being seen to support migrants too strongly, perhaps because most projects – in Mexico anyway - are in communities where migrants have superior resources. But it holds out hope and promise – and a need for replication

In Senegal hometown associations in France, like others in west Africa, also fund community projects. In Senegal, again like several other west African countries where Structural Adjustment Programmes were implemented in the 1980s and 1990s, the state has withdrawn from all social sectors alongside the privatisation of public enterprises, at a time when many medicines doubled in price. Health care became less accessible. Hometown associations have subsequently become involved in funding hospitals, schools and public infrastructure (a role analogous to that of many NGOs, like MSF and the Red Cross who have worked with these hometown associations). Senegalese hometown associations send medicines, medical equipment (including ambulances- which have reduced mortality en route to Dakar), health professionals – including regular 'caravans' of professional volunteers - eye specialists, surgeons etc (while traditional medicines and healers travel in the opposite direction to Europe – not everything is biomedical). At the same time mobile phones and the internet, funded by such associations, are opening up a new virtual realm of diagnosis and healing between continents. Such caravans and ambulances serve equity, by serving people who do not have kin in Europe who can send remittances to cover medical costs, but they are only there a short time. As a very recent account concluded: 'Unfortunately the French health professionals participating in the caravans spent less than a month in Senegal, while their Senegalese counterparts come to Europe to stay for their whole professional life' (\*). A state role is still much needed, but as migration become more important such DIY self-help associations are pointing one way forward.

## Engaging Diasporas

Interest in the development potential at home of those people who have left – the diaspora – is relatively new. Until quite recently, for governments at least, they were out of sight and out of mind, and their skills and experience had gone. That has changed, though utilising the development potential of the diaspora works best when migrants intend to return – hence the need for an inclusive national development – and have something to gain. Yet many, like those from Senegal, are simply motivated by a desire to ‘give something back’ to their home countries where (usually) they grew up and were educated.

So engaging diasporas has become important - another DIY development, like hometown associations. Indeed it is sometimes said that diasporas best know and understand local development (though that is certainly not always so). However encouragement for migrants to participate in the societies they have left is never easy and sometimes actively discouraged. They are said to have ‘voted with their feet’ so no special efforts should be made for them, especially if they threaten the position of those who did stay ‘at home’.

Nonetheless there is new recognition of the positive role of diasporas, which goes beyond remittances, to include the transfer of skills, knowledge and technology. In the Netherlands the IOM developed the Netherlands Healthcare Project, to transfer knowledge, skills and experiences through short-term assignments and projects, and to facilitate short practical internships for Ghanaian medical residents and specialists in the Netherlands – here is the mutuality - and to develop a centre for the maintenance of medical equipment in Ghana (\*). Ghanaian migrant health workers have thus played a small but valuable role in the development of the Ghanaian health sector.

The beauty of return migration is that returnees are from the same language and culture – particularly valuable in health care. In the small Pacific island state of Samoa a renal unit has been established, and operated in significant part by short-term Samoan returnees. I am about to start on a small project in neighbouring Tonga to see which Tongan health workers in New Zealand would be willing to return, in what circumstances and what they might contribute in terms of missing skills. They are enthusiastic about involvement, some would say from guilt, others out of *’ofa* (love) or, again, for pride and social insurance, but perhaps in the end it doesn’t much matter why they make a contribution.

Little however is more important or useful than remittances (notably in small island and land-locked states). While remittances are certainly vulnerable to external shocks – they were often much less shocking, even during the GFC, than changes in commodity prices or tourist flows (at least for small states). While there has been much debate on the impact of

remittances – for example on income inequality – perhaps the most powerful supports for remittances is that almost all available evidence shows that they support what migrants want to support, and they have the greatest multiplier effects in poorer and more remote areas (\*), they reduce poverty and they are counter-cyclical.

Can countries gain greater access to remittances and stimulate flows? Well, yes, almost always, but most migrants already battle hard to establish themselves in a distant destination, and to send back what is requested, sometimes even impoverishing themselves in the process. Remittances are partly social insurance (for possible return), partly welfare provision and partly investment. Time and again we know that migrants who see little prospect of return for whatever reason (\*) remit little or nothing. There must be incentives: once again a national development strategy that welcomes and enables the prospect of return migration.

So strong is the belief in the transformative value of remittances that countries like the Philippines formally export workers through their POEA, while the small state of Kiribati trains its nurses in Australia not so much for them to return as for them to be able to find good jobs in Australia (and so send remittances) This is mainstreaming migration in a big way.

Remarkably we have very little data on remittances by occupational group. Professionals and skilled workers remit – often significant sums but proportionately less than unskilled workers who are more likely to return. Nurses, at least in the Pacific, are generous, more so than doctors (\*). Nurses too are more likely to return home – which is significant since nurses (and especially nurse-practitioners) can be more valuable than doctors in contexts where diseases are more likely to be related to poverty, and they are also more willing to work in regional areas.

Questions remain over what will happen amongst second and later generations as contacts with home diminish. Many Tongans in Australia have lost interest in continued financial support of their overseas kin, as their sense of *kavenga* (obligations) has declined over time (\*), yet assumptions over declining remittances are yet to be generally verified – they can hold out well for twenty years - and technological change enabling superior and cheaper communication, both mobile phones and social networking, and the use of bankcards for transferring money, perhaps even ‘diaspora bonds’, may slow any decline. But the most probable brakes on remittances will be a slowing of migration, for whatever reason, and the death of potential recipients at ‘home’.

### Return Migration?

For many years perceptions of return migration were negative: it was of failures, or the nostalgic or the retired (those who had lost a sense of 'get up and go') but we now have a broader, more accurate perspective. It is, for example, hard to consider contemporary development in China, India Taiwan or Korea, without thinking about the impact of return migration (The Apollo Hospital chain in India was established by a return migrant, and many of its doctors have also returned; likewise Bangalore and IT. Medical tourism thrives on an association with return migration). It is now assumed that countries want migrants back because of their additional skills and experience, knowledge and ideas, and the capital they have accumulated - migrant dynamism could build new routes to modernity.

A recent study in Bolivia has confirmed what we have long generally suspected – that households who have returned from overseas 'work and invest locally and contribute more to the economic base of home communities' than either households who have never been away or those who still have a member overseas (\*). In other words return is even better than remittances. Why? The return migrants shared 'cultural affinity' with those who stayed – they had not changed too much – but they had acquired useful skills abroad ('social capital' or 'social remittances'). Significantly both this and a similar recent study in Ecuador (\*) suggested both that migrants tend to defer anticipated return for a variety of reasons (a well known conclusion) but that if they returned within ten years their contribution was much greater.

How then can return be encouraged – and without too much delay? Sadly the rhetoric welcoming return is offset by constraints to the absorption of returnees, and a suspicion of those who have been away – perhaps 'too long' – and who are no longer 'like us' .

Getting migrants back on a permanent basis is challenging. Labour markets and requirements are constantly changing, and established residents can be sceptical and suspicious. In Jamaica, despite it being a relatively small country (with a geographically concentrated diaspora), an ambitious project to actively recruit overseas Jamaicans for professional public sector positions proved difficult since professional jobs were not easily categorised and kept changing; it was hard to match jobs and returnees (\*). So from Jamaica, as from so many other countries, returnees yet again left, or simply dropped out, through frustration that their knowledge and skills were not adequately recognised or rewarded.

Similarly, in several Pacific island states returnees were discouraged by not being able to find a place in the labour market commensurate with their new skills (despite, in the health sector, these being relatively easy to assess), or being asked to restart at the bottom and wait their turn again. Not surprisingly many resented this – they had after all often acquired new knowledge, experience and some wisdom – and dropped out of the system – brain waste again - to develop a business or simply retire. New skills should be recognised, and welcomed.

One of the absolutely ubiquitous characteristics of returnees , especially in relatively poor countries, is that they seek to invest in business. That there is massive current overseas investment in sub-Saharan Africa (from China, India etc) suggest that even in what were once seen as difficult circumstances opportunities are there. Indeed there is good evidence from both Cote d'Ivoire (in happier times) and Ghana of important entrepreneurial activity by return migrants (\*). But policies to encourage return (or even the development of particular investment policies, bonds or bank accounts, for overseas nationals) do need to be thought through carefully so that existing residents are not disadvantaged in any way.

### Conclusion

If there is one thing that geography tells us emphatically it is that, contrary to Thomas Friedman, the world is not flat but it is a bumpy and varied place where contexts and outcomes differ. So too must policies and practices.

Sending countries have not always been able to discourage migration, widely perceived as a human right, nor have they wanted to do so. Several remittance-dependent countries have not challenged migration because of its economic role. Countries like India, the Philippines and Kiribati have actively promoted migration, including that of health workers, to generate remittances.

Some form of ethical and managed migration seems to offer most to development, but that demands a public sector involvement that is not necessarily easy or welcome, and may even be fading. Recipient and sending countries are not necessarily always able or anxious to protect migrants, though keen to use their skills and their capital. All countries need to create more human capital.

Migrants may still at times seem to be 'iron filings' or 'reserve armies of labour' but most make conscious decisions – and they and their families, destination and source countries, are the beneficiaries – though multiple wins may be elusive. Amongst migrants the desire to 'give back' is widespread – and can be harnessed .... but we must not ask too much of them (either via their hometown associations, their remittances or ultimately their return) unless public policies are there at every scale to support, encourage and channel individual efforts.

There are strategies to link migration and development, and achieve multiple wins, but the primary requirements are good will, good policies (and their implementation) and more good data on best practices and best outcomes.

John Connell

University of Sydney.



**Synergie entre Migration et Développement**

**Abdelhamid EL JAMRI**

**Président du Comité UN sur les travailleurs  
migrants**

**Membre du Conseil de la Communauté  
Marocaine à l'Etranger et Président du**

**Groupe de Travail sur les politiques publiques**

Monsieur le Président,

Monsieur le secrétaire général des NU,

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Chers Collègues,

Je suis très honoré d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui, pour contribuer au débat de haut niveau, lancé par les Nations Unies en 2006 sur Migration et développement et qui va reprendre en 2013.

Mon intervention, va porter, si vous voulez bien Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, sur la synergie entre migration et développement.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général des NU, de commencer mon intervention par une question et un constat.

La question : la quasi-totalité des débats sur la thématique migratoire aux nations Unies, se fait de façon informelle. Quand est ce que ce débat aura lieu de façon formelle et permanente au sein des Nations Unies ?

Le Constat : le débat sur la migration s'est intensifié ces dernières années. Plusieurs grands événements ont concerné ce débat. Notamment l'entrée en vigueur de la CMW en 2003, la Commission Globale sur migration et développement, le FGMD, l'initiative de Berne... Je pense, et nous l'avons bien vue lors du FGMD de Puerto Vallarta en novembre dernier, que nous tous, je parle des principaux acteurs mondiaux, au même niveau d'information, de compréhension et de connaissance des concepts migrations et développement. Et nous sommes tous d'accord pour que les droits de l'homme des migrants doivent guider toutes nos politiques de gouvernance de la migration au niveau international. J'appelle maintenant, les différents acteurs à passer à un niveau supérieur qui concerne l'élaboration et la mise en

place de dispositifs internationaux de gouvernance de la migration, basées sur la protection et la sécurisation de la migration.

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Les migrants entretiennent des liens forts avec leur pays d'origine. La relation du migrant avec son pays d'origine relève souvent d'un 'contrat migratoire' entre lui et sa famille. En partant, il est aidé même financièrement par sa famille pour pouvoir partir. En contrepartie, il s'engage à l'égard de ses proches. Depuis son départ, l'immigrant joue un rôle de coopération économique, sociale et culturel entre son pays d'accueil et son pays d'origine.

Le rôle important joué par les migrations n'est pas assez reconnu dans les partenariats établis entre les pays d'origine et les pays d'accueil. Il est nécessaire de reconnaître ce rôle et il est nécessaire de mettre en oeuvre des programmes en faveur d'un meilleur être des migrants dans les pays d'accueil. Souvent, l'approche des migrations est liée à des questions légales et de sécurité et non pas à la richesse sociale, culturelle et économiques des migrations et sur le rôle qu'elles peuvent jouer dans le domaine de la coopération et le développement.

Aujourd'hui, le rôle et les potentialités des migrants sont loin d'être

pris en compte dans les différents partenariats internationaux. Il

n'existe pas de programme suffisamment élaboré qui permette aux immigrés de contribuer au processus de développement et des

échanges. Les politiques migratoires actuelles n'ont pour objectif que

de réduire les flux migratoires.

Les transferts (financiers, sociaux et culturels) opérés par les immigrés vers le pays d'origine sont considérables. Qu'ils s'agissent d'immigrés du Sud vers le Nord ou d'immigrés du Sud vers le Sud, le volume des transferts financiers en devises, représente la première ou la deuxième ressource de financement pour certains pays d'origine. Dans ces pays d'origine, l'immigration devient un élément essentiel de leur politique économique. Cette capacité des immigrés en tant qu'acteurs du développement n'est pas assez reconnue dans le pays d'origine ni d'ailleurs dans le pays d'accueil en tant qu'agents économiques actifs impliqués dans l'activité collective de production et de développement. Les transferts financiers se font soit par le biais de banques, poste et

autres établissements financiers, soit par le biais d'un ensemble de systèmes qui se développent de façons différentes. Le développement, des établissements de transferts rapides hors banques témoignent de l'importance des transferts effectués. Ces établissements axent même leur communication publicitaire sur les immigrés.

A ces transferts financiers, s'ajoute le transfert de biens. Ce sont souvent des transferts en nature qu'il ne faudrait pas négliger. Ils sont complémentaires aux transferts de fonds. Ces biens transférés peuvent être utilisés pour une consommation privée (équipement d'un logement, transport...) comme ils peuvent être utilisés pour une création d'activité et d'emploi. Souvent ces envois de biens permettent d'alimenter un marché local en pénurie.

De plus en plus de migrants actuellement, mettent en place des projets, soit de construction d'une maison, d'investissement dans l'économie formelle ou informelle et pour certains d'entre eux, ils choisissent de retourner s'installer dans le pays d'origine après une période d'émigration de longue ou de courte durée. A ces occasions, de nouveaux transferts s'opèrent, transfert de compétences, de savoir faire en matière d'organisation et de métiers, transfert de technologies. Ces compétences et ces savoir-faire rendent souvent les projets initiés plus rentables et plus viables et mieux entourés par des partenaires financiers et économiques.

A ces différents transferts, il faut ajouter l'incontournable transfert culturel. Facteur d'enrichissement du pays d'accueil et du pays d'origine. Ce transfert peut porter aussi sur le transfert de valeurs humaines, valeurs démocratiques, valeurs de droits humains et d'égalité, valeur sociales : égalité entre hommes et femmes, droit à

l'éducation pour tous...

A ces transferts effectués de façon individuelle, on observe aujourd'hui, des transferts collectifs. Beaucoup d'immigrés se mettent en associations et lancent des projets plus importants qui peuvent être strictement privés ou qui visent l'amélioration d'un bien ou d'un service collectif : développement et amélioration de l'infrastructure d'un village : route, électrification, école...

Pour mesurer l'impact des relations économiques de l'immigré avec son pays d'origine et son développement, on peut distinguer le transfert productif du transfert non productif, ce dernier étant destiné à une consommation finale. On peut dire que seul le transfert productif a un impact sur le développement du pays. Mais en même temps, quand il s'agit de consommation pour la santé ou pour l'éducation, cette consommation devient un investissement sur l'homme, sur le capital humain. L'aide financière de l'immigré apporte souvent une réponse au manque ou à l'insuffisance du système scolaire ou de la sécurité sociale. En permettant à des citoyens de s'éduquer et d'avoir accès à une meilleure santé, ces derniers joueront mieux leur rôle dans le développement.

Quand les immigrants ou les associations d'immigrants investissent dans des projets privés ou publics, ils permettent ainsi à leur région, à leur ville ou village d'accéder à de nouveaux services financés par un argent qui se substitue au crédit et à d'autres financements auxquels les régions pauvres n'ont pas accès.

L'impact de la participation au développement des migrants est encore plus visible quand il s'agit d'intervention massive dans une région. Les associations ont compris la nécessité de se fédérer pour se doter de capacité d'intervention à plus grande échelle.

Les migrants, sont des partenaires privilégiés et particuliers pour asseoir de nouvelles dynamiques politiques et sociales. Les immigrants doivent être acteurs du partenariat entre les pays d'origine et ceux d'accueil. Ils représentent un potentiel important dans ce partenariat, au niveau économique, par l'importance des échanges financiers et commerciaux qu'ils effectuent ; au niveau culturel, par la richesse de la culture dans les différents pays et par le rôle qu'ils jouent dans les échanges culturels ; au niveau social, par leur implication dans des réseaux sociaux et les liens qu'ils maintiennent avec les pays d'origine...

La mise en place de programmes qui tiendraient compte et permettraient à ces potentialités de s'exprimer et de s'épanouir, aura des conséquences, non seulement sur le développement des pays d'origine, mais aussi une meilleure intégration dans les pays d'accueil.

Une nouvelle politique migratoire, au nord comme au sud, basée sur les droits humains fondamentaux, sur un compromis relatif à la circulation

des hommes et des femmes, favoriserait l'avancement du partenariat et le recul du racisme, de la discrimination et de l'immigration irrégulière.

D'un point de vue analyse, trois approches peuvent structurer le lien entre migration et développement :

1.

Une approche macro-économique, qui vise à cerner la nature des échanges entre pays d'accueil et pays d'origine. Cette approche vise aussi de cerner l'impact des migrations sur les sociétés à la fois d'origine et d'accueil;

2.

L'analyse des stratégies et des logiques des acteurs sur le terrain : modalités d'intervention directe sur le terrain;

3.

L'analyse des politiques publiques et de l'interaction entre les acteurs et les Etats, que ce soit d'origine ou d'accueil.

D'un point de vue politiques migratoires et partenariales, plusieurs actions sont possibles, en complément de tout ce qui peut être revendiqué en général concernant l'immigration. Il faut :

.

La mise en place de programmes qui tiendraient compte et permettraient aux potentialités de l'immigration de s'exprimer et s'épanouir, pour que celles-ci puissent aussi contribuer au développement des pays d'origine.

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Séparer la problématique des migrations de la problématique du développement. Le co-développement est une dynamique de coopération, d'échanges et de partenariat entre les différents pays, mais n'est en aucun cas une solution à la question des migrations.

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Favoriser les dynamiques de solidarité et de coopération entre les ONG de Migrants en Europe et la société civile dans le sud de la Méditerranée,

.  
Reconnaître et faire participer les organisations et les experts issus  
de l'immigration dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre des  
programmes de coopération, d'échanges et de développement,

.  
Favoriser et soutenir la création de réseaux Migrations-  
Développement qui permettraient à différents acteurs de la société  
civile d'échanger et de collaborer dans différents domaines.

.  
Se pencher réellement sur les difficultés que vivent les migrants  
aujourd'hui par rapport aux possibilités de monter des projets dans  
le pays d'origine, sans perte du droit de réinstallation à nouveau  
dans le pays d'accueil, par rapport à la protection social, à la  
traçabilité des droits leur transférabilité, par rapport à l'équivalence  
des diplômes et par rapport aux droits de protection de façon  
générale.

Voilà Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général des Nations  
Unies, quelques éléments de réflexion sur la synergie entre migration et  
développement et je reste à la disposition de l'Assemblée pour  
échanger et aboutir à des propositions.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

## UN Informal Thematic Debate on Migration and Development

### *Panel 2: Improving international cooperation on migration and development*

**H.E. Mr. Saqr Ghobash**

Minister of Labour, United Arab Emirates

I would like to focus my observations today on the benefits of collaboration between countries of origin and countries of destination, particularly on strategies to reduce the costs of migration. I will deal with this from two perspectives: **unilateral actions by countries of origin and destination**, especially when they can complement each other; and **joint actions between origin and destination countries**, at bilateral, regional and global levels. My intervention therefore straddles the first and second guiding questions set for our panel discussion.

One of the most important achievements of the GFMD has been to draw international attention to the fact that high costs for contract workers filling jobs abroad can place them and their families back home at risk by reducing their earning and remitting potential and lowering the developmental impacts of their work abroad.

Lowering the high costs of moving abroad for work is the responsibility of both countries of origin and destination. Destination countries like the United Arab Emirates want to fill jobs with appropriately trained workers, in conditions that benefit and protect both the workers and the employers. Origin countries want their workers to be employed, protected and supported to maximize their earnings and their contribution to the well-being of their families and communities back home.

Many countries already have the right laws in place to achieve these goals, but gaps between the laws and the reality experienced by the migrant workers remain, especially during the recruitment stage before departure. How can countries of origin and destination work together to narrow these gaps, specifically through cooperation between the governments, with employers and recruiters, and with international and other support agencies?

Cooperation on lowering the costs of migration was the subject of a recent workshop organized by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai, which actively engaged countries of origin from Asia in a



debate with the Gulf Cooperation Council states that employ many of their workers. We agreed that fixing the recruitment flaws can generate positive outcomes for the **migrants**, the **employers**, and for the **governments**, which may have less need to intervene in negative migration scenarios such as irregular migration.

The *Global Forum on Migration and Development* has provided a space for us to share the ideas and outcomes of such workshops in a more global context, and to learn from each other in an open and frank way how to meet these kinds of challenges together.

Starting with my **first perspective** :**unilateral actions by the country of origin and country of destination.**

Where the unilateral actions on either side of borders complement each other, there can be mutual benefits. For example, it has become abundantly clear that sound administration of the contract employment cycle begins with the recognition that its developmental benefits can only be sustained if they are equitably distributed to **all stakeholders**: human capital development and improved quality of life for the worker and his/her family, real value added to employers and economic and social development for country of origin and destination alike. Regional and global consultation processes - such as the **Colombo Process**, the **Abu Dhabi Dialogue** and the **GFMD** - can offer the right strategic frameworks for cross-border consultation and collaboration. Let me briefly outline some sample national strategies that countries of origin and destination can implement independently, then turn to areas of regional and international collaboration that surfaced in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the GFMD processes over the years.

Strategies aimed at optimizing the developmental outcomes of contract labor migration include:

- 1- The further development of national legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern contract labor migration and the capacity to enforce their stipulations. Workers need to be empowered to exercise their rights to: informed consent to migrate, fair and transparent recruitment practices, transparent enforceable contracts, protected wages, benefits and end-of-service compensation, and decent work conditions.
- 2- Countries of origin can help reduce the cost of migration and increase its benefits by offering (and working with countries of destination to facilitate repayment of) low cost loans to

departing contract workers and developing and implementing re-integration programs for returning workers that are designed to leverage their accumulated human capital and monetary savings.

- 3- Comprehensive and accessible pre-departure information and orientation programs for workers in countries of origin. And complementary actions by government and non-government actors in the country of destination to offer guest worker induction programs, counseling, advisory services and pre-return training programs that could contribute to their successful re-integration in the home communities at the conclusion of the contract cycle.

For its part, the UAE has recently introduced a sweeping regulation of private employment agencies that recruit foreign workers for placement with UAE firms, and has enacted another regulation to increase the levels of mobility and liquidity in our labor market. We have successfully implemented an internationally acclaimed “Wage Protection System” that requires employers to direct-deposit wages into worker-designated accounts monitored to verify full and timely compensation; and we have created a call center and a full department at the Ministry of Labour dedicated to guest worker induction and orientation services offered in multiple foreign languages. These initiatives are described in full in UAE Ministry of Labor and GFMD reports and documented in progress reports on a pilot project with the governments of India and the Philippines on the administration of the contract employment cycle.

Turning to my **second perspective: consultation and collaboration between countries of origin and destination:**

While national strategies are necessary to optimize the developmental outcomes of labor migration, they are by no means sufficient. The lessons learned by the UAE in the course of administering the contract employment cycle of foreign workers clearly illustrate this fact: international consultation and collaboration contribute in no lesser measure to reducing the costs of labor migration and/or maximizing its benefits.

It is this conviction that motivated the UAE to take the lead in establishing a platform for dialogue, consultations and concrete collaboration between Colombo Process Asian countries of origin, on one hand, and a number of Asian countries of destination including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, on the other. The Abu Dhabi Dialogue convened at ministerial level in January of 2008. In the same year, the UAE became fully engaged in the

GFMD process, as it saw an opportunity to learn from and contribute to a global dialogue on issues of migration and development with a view to informing national and regional policy initiatives.

Let me now cite a few examples of how regional or international cooperation is often not only desirable but indispensable to ensuring the success of national initiatives designed to reduce the costs of migration and/or maximize its benefits.

**First,** let me revisit the practice of recruitment by private employment agencies. There is ample evidence that even when both country of origin and destination have strict laws and regulations that prohibit abusive recruitment practices, these are often circumvented, and it is hard to identify and prosecute violators. This risk can be greatly reduced if the two countries align their regulations and coordinate their enforcement. If, for instance, both countries set a legal cap on fees that a recruiter may collect from a worker, they can negotiate collaborative schemes to deal with violations of the law in either jurisdiction: for example, they can hold actors engaged in the recruitment process jointly liable and together remedy the consequences of such violations.

During the international workshop on recruitment practices hosted by the UAE in Dubai this past January, also supported by the Swiss chair-in-office of the GFMD, a set of general principles aimed at promoting lawful, fair and transparent recruitment practices emerged from the discussion among six Asian countries of origin and six countries of destination. The UAE later proposed to the Fourth Ministerial Consultations of Colombo Process member countries in Dhaka last month that these principles be adopted as the basis of a regional framework of collaboration between countries of origin and destination to be drafted and presented at the next Abu Dhabi Dialogue ministerial consultations in 2012. These principles were incorporated in the recently announced UAE regulation. They broadly cover the major elements of a comprehensive and collaborative approach to more lawful, fair and transparent recruitment practices: *regulations to both incentivize and sanction private recruitment agencies, licensing of recruiters, joint liability and accountability of recruiters and employers across borders, legal recruitment fees to be borne by employers, improved skills identification, recognition and selection during recruitment, collaboration between countries on matching skills and jobs; better quality and accessibility of pre-departure information and induction; and a fully reliable and transparent contractual process.*

**My second example** of collaboration is about **work contracts**. Several countries of origin had expressed concern that during the recruitment stage, workers were often offered employment overseas with a given set of terms and conditions, only to be asked upon arrival in the country of destination to sign a formal contract with less advantageous terms. This happened despite the fact that contract substitution is unlawful in both country of origin and destination, notably in the UAE. The UAE observer delegation to the Colombo Process meeting last month also submitted for consideration by Colombo Process governments an accessible electronic contract validation and registration system designed to eliminate the risk of contract substitution and to allow both the worker *and designated government agencies in the country of origin* to approve the terms of the contract prior to departure for the UAE. Once deployed, this contract validation and registration system will usher in the use of a validated and unified employment contract for nationals of all Colombo Process countries recruited to work in the UAE.

**My third and final example** also deals with collaboration between country of origin and destination on **low cost loans**. Over the past few years, certain countries of origin have either considered offering or actually offered low-cost-loans to departing workers as a means to reduce the costs of migration. These schemes were either discontinued or never implemented for reasons ranging from the unwillingness of private banks to disburse the loan early enough in the recruitment process to make a difference, to relatively high rates of failure to repay the loan. Informed by deliberations in the GFMD on reducing the costs of migration, the UAE is considering a pilot project with Bangladesh, the Philippines and India to encourage public and/or private financial institutions in the three countries of origin to offer affordable low-rate loans to workers recruited for the UAE, leveraging the contract validation and registration system to allow for early disbursement of the loan, and leveraging the UAE's Wage protection System to allow for orderly loan repayment. By addressing and mitigating the two key barriers to such loans, the UAE and partner governments hope to further maximize the outcomes of labor migration.

**In conclusion**, let me reiterate that cross-border labor mobility is an important feature of global labor markets today. Lowering the costs of such mobility through complementary unilateral or joint actions between countries, particularly in relation to the pre-departure phase of the contract employment cycle, simply makes good management sense and helps to leverage the benefits for all involved: The workers benefit from lower pre-departure debts, more savings abroad, and an enhanced capacity to contribute to development upon return. Employers benefit from more satisfied and productive workers. Migrant-sending governments benefit from more remittances

and enhanced contributions of returned migrants to development, while migrant-receiving governments can benefit from fewer unauthorized, dissatisfied and unproductive migrant workers.

We know this is easier said than done, and continue to witness the complex problems that arise in the course of managing labor mobility. But this only further vindicates our efforts to plan and manage this phenomenon together, bilaterally, regionally and globally.

*19 May 2011*

## **Statement of the Global Migration Group (GMG)<sup>1</sup>**

General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development

19 May 2011

Anthony Lake, Chair-in-Office of the GMG and Executive Director,  
United Nations Children's Fund

### **“Improving international cooperation on migration and development – How can the international community best support cooperation?”**

#### ***Introduction***

*Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Deiss, His Excellency President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Migration, Dr.  
Koser,*

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates and guests, colleagues,*

I have the honor to address you today as the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), which encompasses 15 United Nations entities plus the International Organization for Migration.

Separately and collectively, members of the Global Migration Group serve intergovernmental bodies, including this one, in a variety of ways. These include: conducting relevant policy research; analyzing global trends; monitoring the implementation of international instruments, such as those which address the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, refugees, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling; and providing guidance on maximizing the value of remittances.

Through our respective constituents, partnerships and networks, we work with all stakeholders – including Governments, workers' and employers' organizations, migrant associations, and civil society – to coordinate a truly global approach to addressing the challenges and harnessing the benefits associated with international migration in a changing world.

#### ***The Global Picture***

As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said, we live in an age of mobility, a time when more people are on the move than at any other time in human history. Today, approximately 214 million people, or around 3 percent of the world's population, live outside their countries of birth.

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<sup>1</sup>The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group bringing together 16 agencies including ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UN/DESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNODC, UN Regional Commissions, UN Women, World Bank, and WHO.

Thanks to the work of GMG members and others, we know more about migrants and trends in migration than ever. For example, we know that girls and women now account for nearly half of all international migrants, and that 16 percent of all international migrants are under age 20. We also know that migrants from developing countries who live in other developing countries are as numerous as those who live in developed countries.

As we hope to illustrate in this statement, the positive potential of migration is great, just as the challenges it presents are many -- from ensuring migrants' human rights to maximizing the value they bring to their countries of origin, transit and destination. The task for the international community is clear: How can we work together to meet these challenges and reap the opportunities of global migration? How can we empower migrants and foster an environment that facilitates their contributions to human development generally and, more specifically, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals?

### ***Migration and Development: Positive and Negative Effects***

Migration and development are inextricably linked. The impact of migration extends far beyond migrants themselves to those they leave behind, as well as to the communities and countries in which they work, travel and make their homes.

Remittances – private contributions earned and sent home by migrants – are among the most positive apparent effects of migration, with the potential to greatly improve the standard of living of migrants themselves and those left behind.

Officially recorded remittance flows to developing countries totaled US\$325 billion in 2010, and are expected to grow between 7 and 8 percent annually to reach US\$404 billion by 2013. These funds far exceed the volume of official aid flows. Compared with private capital flows to developing countries, which have declined steeply in the continuing global financial crisis, remittances have remained resilient. At the same time, “social remittances” -- flows of new ideas, products, information, technology, and practices – also provide a significant benefit to migrants and their families.

While labour migration opportunities, diaspora-related initiatives, and social and financial remittances can be powerful development tools, they are by no means a complete solution to the lack of opportunity and discrimination that so often prompts migration in the first place. Neither are they a substitute for government programmes and critical support systems in developing countries. Rather, they should be seen as complements of sound economic and social policies designed to improve people's lives.

Further, while migration can aid development and reduce poverty, it can also create significant challenges to development. For example, as workers with specialized skills often migrate in search of better opportunities, labor markets in developing countries of origin may experience a decrease in the availability of skilled labor. Migration also can increase social inequity, particularly in countries of origin, as families receiving remittances are better able to afford everything from basic necessities to health and education services than those who do not receive these benefits. And migration also has social costs, most notably the disruption of families when spouses, children, and the elderly are left behind. This is especially true when women migrate, often increasing the need for critical support services.

Finally, while all migrants may face heightened risk of discrimination, migrants in irregular situations are more vulnerable to abuse of their fundamental human rights, often being denied even the most basic labor protections, due process guarantees, personal security and access to health services. Many are afraid or unable to seek protection and relief from authorities. And while trafficking affects women, men and children of all ages, migrant women and girls are at increased risk of trafficking, as well as gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health problems.

### ***Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development***

Children and young people also are increasingly affected by international migration. As earlier mentioned, globally there are approximately 35 million international migrants between the ages of 10 and 24 years, with significant regional variations.

Earlier this week, the GMG hosted a symposium here in New York to address the ways international migration affects the lives and well-being of these young people, both migrants and non-migrants. This symposium brought together participants from Member States, GMG member agencies, civil society and academia, and it also provided a forum for young migrants themselves.

During the symposium, we reviewed the latest evidence of the impact of migration on children and young people, and discussed trends, including the rise in youth migration through both regular and irregular channels. We also discussed the challenges young people face, whether they migrate alone, are accompanied by parents or family members, stay behind in countries of origin, or are born in countries of destination.

We learned that young migrants are a very heterogeneous group, and leave home for many different reasons. Many migrate in search of employment. But many others flee their countries of origin because of persecution, armed conflict and other violent threats. Still others leave home due to natural disasters and the intensifying effects of global environmental change. We discussed the heightened risks of exploitation and abuse so many young migrants face, especially those in irregular situations, who are unaccompanied by parents, and especially those who are smuggled and trafficked.

The symposium also documented the beneficial impact of remittances on young people, families and communities in countries of origin. In particular, children and young people living in remittance-receiving households have better education and health outcomes. However, the Symposium also addressed the psycho-social impact on children and young people living in households where one or both parents were working abroad.

### ***Benchmarks of International Cooperation***

Clearly, international migration is an increasingly global phenomenon requiring a truly global approach, anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international legal standards and instruments.

The process to develop such a framework began in 1994 at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. The Programme of Action underlined the need



for a comprehensive approach to the management of migration and policy development, calling for international support to governments in terms of capacity building, training and mutual cooperation.

Twelve years later, participants at the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development agreed on the pressing need to further complement national migration and development strategies with strengthened bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation (A/61/515).

More recently, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) has made significant strides towards a more comprehensive, balanced and cooperative approach to international migration.

With most migration taking place within regions, regional collaboration is critical. To that end, the GMG works at the regional level with Member States to support cooperation, to carry out projects, to develop networks, and to provide support. Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs) have emerged in most regions across the world over the past 20 years and now constitute important building blocks for developing mutual understanding, capacity and cooperation on the multidimensional aspects of migration.

We also work to build national capacity, supporting Governments' efforts to mainstream migration into national development plans. We recently published a Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning. We will pilot the Handbook in four countries during the course of 2011.

Under the Joint Migration and Development Initiative, we have allocated 10 million euros to 54 migration and development projects carried out by local governments and civil society organizations in 16 countries. We are also implementing 14 projects on youth, employment and migration, worth 80 million US dollars, as part of the MDG Achievement Fund.

By carrying out these projects, we are developing indicators to monitor and evaluate their results and to assess their impact on development. We will share our experience with the Global Forum at workshop in June of this year.

In these ways and others, the GMG is committed to supporting Member States' efforts to improve the lives and well-being of migrants and enhance the contribution of migration to poverty reduction and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

### ***Three Key Areas for Increasing International Co-operation***

As we take stock and look ahead to the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, it is clear that much more remains to be done. Dialogue, consultation, and partnerships have never been more important. We have more to learn from each other than ever before. Speaking on behalf of the GMG, I would like to outline three key areas in which we might focus our joint efforts.

*First, any international framework must embrace a proactive and human rights-based approach to regular and safe migration.* The benefits of migration for development can only be truly maximized when migration occurs out of choice, safely, and through regular channels.

Therefore, stakeholders in countries of origin, transit and destination must work in partnership to facilitate regular migration.

International cooperation in this area should include: promoting economic growth and sustainable development so that migration can take place as a matter of choice rather than out of necessity of migration; developing policies for regular migration in the context of bilateral, regional and global frameworks; allowing for temporary movement of persons in a manner that benefits both countries of origin and destination and protects the rights of the migrant; providing coordinated assistance to victims of trafficking and to smuggled migrants; cooperating to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants; improving integration and reducing the incidence of xenophobia, racism and discrimination against migrants; and protecting, respecting and ensuring the human rights of all migrants and members of their families..

*Second, we must strengthen international efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families.* As a starting point, the GMG urges those states that have not yet done so to ratify and implement all relevant international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the ILO Conventions Nos. 97 and 143 on migrant workers, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The rights contained in these Conventions protect migrants, allowing them to live safe and dignified lives, and to maximize their contributions as productive workers, entrepreneurs and members of society. In particular, enforcing labor rights facilitates migrants' access to essential services and decent living standards. This not only benefits host countries but also accelerates progress toward the MDGs by promoting development and enhancing equity.

International cooperation in this area should include: devising rights-based, gender-sensitive policies for recruiting migrant labor, with a view to facilitating migrants' access to decent work, skills recognition and training; increasing the portability or transferability of social security benefits, such as pensions and health insurance; and developing policies against discrimination and exploitation in the workplace.

*Third, we must work together to ensure that the potential for migrant remittances is fully realized.* As previously discussed, remittances are a key benefit of migration, improving the standard of living both for migrants and their dependents. While significant progress has been made in recent years to maximize the value of migrants' remittances and reduce transaction costs, further effort is needed to strengthen formal remittance channels and make use of new technologies.

To that end, discussion should focus on how we can work together to promote greater transparency, accountability, efficiency and competition in the remittance service industry. This should include advocating for appropriate regulations for telecommunications companies offering financial services. At the same time, we should work to increase migrants' access to financial services in countries of origin and destination, especially in rural areas, and to provide incentives that encourage migrants and their dependents to allocate remittances to household savings, education and health. Finally, we should find new ways of working together to enhance the value of social remittances – skills and experiences that migrants gain and which can further contribute to development in their countries of origin.

*Your Excellencies,*

We have tried to outline the most pressing issues we need to address as an international community to realize the full potential of migration to increase development and improve the lives of millions of migrants and their families. Clearly, international migration is a complex issue, requiring concerted, coordinated effort.

Today's debate carries forward that effort, which began 17 years ago in Cairo and has only increased in scope and complexity since then. Now we must seize the opportunity to build on this momentum and widen the scope and depth of the discussion as we move towards the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

To borrow once again from the Secretary-General, "Migration can be an enormous force for good. If we better manage our shared interests, we can together help to usher in an era where more people than ever before begin to share in the world's prosperity."

On behalf of the Global Migration Group, we look forward to working with you – and engaging with all stakeholders –to achieve that important goal.

Thank you.

## Charting a course for better international cooperation And management in the field of labour migration

*by Thetis Mangahas,  
Senior Migration Specialist and Deputy Director  
ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*

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Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and  
Development  
Organized by the  
UN Headquarters, New York  
Thursday, 19 May 2011

Mr. President, Dr. Koser, Distinguished panelists and colleagues,

*[check against delivery]*

I would like to thank you Mr. President for convening this thematic debate on international migration and for providing the opportunity to highlight important and encouraging milestones as well its key challenges and constraints.

### **Asia-Pacific: A modern day hub of labour migration**

My discussion focuses on Asia and the Pacific. Aside from being the world's most dynamic and populous region, it is also a modern-day hub of labour migration. Some 25 million Asians are employed in countries other than their own.

Migrants from Asia and the Pacific can be found working in almost any occupation in almost any other country as well as their own – their reach is increasingly global. It is a movement that has a growing share of women workers, as well as youth seeking employment and socialor,

or fleeing either economic stagnation or political instability and volatility in their home countries.

More than three million Asians are embarking on journeys for work each year. What's striking about more recent migration patterns though is that, increasingly, many of these migrant workers – an estimated 43% - are remaining within the region. In other words, increasingly, migrants in Asia and the Pacific are crossing borders rather than oceans. It's a sign not only of the region's rapidly developing economies but also of an emerging economic interdependence within Asia and the Pacific.

Migration for employment has become an established structural feature of many Asian economies. Foreign exchange remittances and workers' earnings have proven to be a lifeline for families back home in many Asian migrant sending countries. For more developed economies in Asia and the Pacific with a shortage of both skilled and unskilled workers, the proximity to an available labour pool has resulted in a comparative advantage over their competitors in other parts of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Many of us here today are aware of the significant development contributions that migrant workers make to their host and origin countries. These take the form of enhanced services and improved competitiveness in countries of destination and financial flows through remittances to their countries of origin.

And yet despite these contributions, many migrant workers and their families continue to be subject to labour exploitation and abuse. It is not

unusual to hear and receive reports from migrants of fraud and deception over their contractual arrangements, on earnings, type of work and legal status; the non-payment and withholding of wages; high costs of recruitment and resulting indebtedness; the retention of passports or identity documents by employers and recruiters; physical confinement; the use of intimidation, violence and threatening behaviour. Migrant workers are often denied the right to organize unions in practice and even by legislation. Domestic workers are among the most vulnerable.

I think I speak for many colleagues working on migration issues when I say it's not uncommon to become frustrated over the slow rate of progress and a sense of problems refusing to go away.

It is important to take a longer view and mark milestones and achievements.

**Mr. President, Dr. Koser, distinguished panelists and colleagues,**

To have a good grasp of the accelerating pace of change in the field of the better governance of migration, including measures to eliminate its worst abuses, it is essential to take a hard look at some of the concrete actions being set at the national, bilateral and regional levels in the last decade. Let me center these on the Asia-Pacific region.

We are seeing a strong efforts by governments to review and rearticulate their national laws and policies on the governance of labour migration and the protection of migrants' rights across countries with different levels of development, among them China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam among others. These

revisions reflect legal provisions incorporate fundamental principles and rights at work of all workers.

In 2007, the ten member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued a unanimously endorsed Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. The Declaration outlined the responsibilities of ASEAN governments in managing migration for the regional grouping. It called for, among others, the collaboration in data collection and the ability to access the services of each other's embassies in times of crisis and displacement.

In a parallel measure, the vision of the ASEAN Economic Community for 2015, provided for a freer movement of skilled workers, while simultaneously calling for a mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Since 2007, the ASEAN Secretariat, assisted by the ILO, IOM and UNIFEM, has been convening the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour to encourage tripartite and stakeholder dialogues on migration policy and practice in the ASEAN.

In 2004, the six countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region signed a Memorandum of Understanding affirming the importance of human rights adherence in action against human trafficking. It clearly acknowledged the UN, including the ILO as key development partners. This intergovernmental process has resulted in concrete collaboration on identification and recovery of victims, on the conduct of joint training programs, and in aligning recruitment rules to improve labour migration processes.

In 2005, the Government of the Republic of Korea launched its Employment Permit System, effectively transforming its immigration

policy from a system of industrial traineeship to one in which workers are recruited and ensured the same coverage under Korea's labour protection schemes already entitled to national workers. The EPS also introduced changes by insisting on government-to-government arrangements for recruitment services, in the use of standardized contracts and close monitoring support services for workers. These services form part of the Memorandums of Understanding concluded by the ROK with 15 countries in Asia: (namely: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam). In national and regional fellowships, the ILO has assisted in the training government offices engaged in the Employment Permit System – or EPS – and a convener of dialogue between the member states on issues of common concern.

Return and reintegration services, the last of the government and institutional services to be developed and made part of migration programs in sending countries, have expanded and become part of many migration services in sending countries, clearly part of the learning from the global financial crises. The Philippines leads in setting up systematic processes to improve the employability and adjustment of migrant workers when they return home, providing placement and entrepreneurial services for more effective reintegration back home.

Regional cooperation has not been exclusively nor purely government driven. Trade Unions from Asia (examples of Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Indonesia) have entered agreements with their counterparts in Middle East Countries to facilitate access to legal and other social services for their migrant workers in difficult situations. Recruitment agencies across the sub-region have adopted common codes of practice for better recruitment and employment of migrant workers.



Bilateral labour agreements negotiated and agreed by sending and receiving countries have evolved from what were general and broad statements of cooperation into viable instruments outlining streamlined and transparent processes of recruitment and providing some protection for migrant workers at worksites. The quality of bilateral labour agreements depends on the commitment of the negotiating parties to implement these accords. Often they reflect the imbalanced leverage that receiving countries have in the negotiations, and it is often uncertain which international and national organizations are responsible to monitor and address gaps and issues that may arise.

The above examples are all work in progress. There are neither perfect migration systems nor is there perfect international cooperation. Often, progress means two steps forward and one step back. Systems are not stable – often in times when we celebrate or mark some positive changes, then political events can trigger radical shifts in migration policies and practices.

Admittedly, developing the right policy and legislative responses that balance these different interests and effectively govern migration are relatively complex. Technical solutions, for difficult issues are relatively easier to come by; the more difficult and at times incomprehensible, obstacles are political. Source and destination countries face different sets of policy constraints, All countries need to build institutional capacity and unity of purpose to meet difficult labour migration challenges.

What is obvious is that international cooperation requires consistent and systematic engagement, a continuing conversation on ways to achieve concrete goals in order to move forward. It requires building trust, confidence and it requires patience. In many instances, third party

facilitation in the form of honest brokering can prove to be indispensable in resolving issues and breaking deadlocks in regional processes.

Much of this migration management and the counter-trafficking work – and good practices and lessons learned as a result – has been made possible through partnerships and donor contributions through a number of member States and their international development agencies. While traditionally technical cooperation programs have been supported by better known migration donors including the EU, the United States and Switzerland, among others, it is also heartening to see that donors from Asia and the Pacific, especially Australia, Korea and Japan are now also funding migration related institutional capacity building programs.

In undertaking technical cooperation in the field of migration, the ILO is first and foremost, a normative organization. The ILO's migration strategy is anchored in fundamental rights at work, the international Conventions No. 97 and 143 on migration and the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration. The multilateral framework is a set of non-binding principles and guidelines – the building blocks for sound migration policy and good governance – which can help ensure significant development dividends for migrants, employers, and the countries of origin and destination. It is mutually supportive of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and of course the ILO's own eight core Conventions of the Fundamental Principles for Rights at Work.

Indeed, the ILO's comparative strengths in migration lie in its tripartite structure, the facilitation of mechanisms for achieving broad social

consensus, and its expertise in a diverse set of labour market subjects from employment policy, employment services, social protection, occupational safety and health, social security, vocational and skills training. The individual and collective strengths of governments, workers' and employers' organizations are harnessed for the drafting and implementation of labour migration policy and institution-building programmes. It is this technical assistance that is desired, requested by constituents and delivered by us. So while it may not be as dramatic or visually compelling as other direct assistance and targeted programs, the improvement in policy formulation, implementation and strengthening of institutional capacity is critical to creating a better world of work, not just for migrants, but for all of us.

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

We've learned many things about better approaches to improving migration policies bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally.

1. The first is the importance of shared values as basis for cooperation and collaboration. One of the major challenges in setting multilateral directions for migration policy is arriving at a consensus of values widely shared among source and destination countries. The existing international normative instruments do articulate a set of shared values, rooted in universal principles that can serve as basis for international dialogue and cooperation in migration.

Equality of treatment between migrant and national workers is a cornerstone in international labour standards on migration. Equality of treatment calls for equal protection under the labour law of the destination country and ensures that the hiring of migrant workers does

not yield an incentive from lower costs due to lower wages and substandard working conditions.

2. While states are clearly key actors in the formulation and implementation of migration policy and programmes, social dialogue and systematic engagement ensures that policies take into account the interests of most stakeholders – governments at all levels, migrant workers, social partners (employers and trade unions) and civil society. ILO research on public perceptions on migrant workers shows that in countries where governments have taken an effort to consult and explain its migration policies, there is much greater public appreciation of the value and contribution of migrant workers.

Over three years ago, as part of a mission to work closely with the Greater Mekong countries to improve overseas recruitment policies, I was having a discussion with a senior official of the People's Republic of China on the value and importance of international and regional cooperation on labour migration. Typical to many of the Chinese officials who use symbolic language to explain and describe processes, she compared the six countries of the GMS as boats in a big ocean and regional cooperation as the wind that helps the boats move faster and directs them to the shore. Indeed, strengthening the governance of migration requires that we do have the strong boats with the proper national vision and direction, sufficient capacity and strength; but we also need the winds of cooperation to bring all of us faster and closer to the shore.

Thank you.



Misión Permanente de México

**Intervención del Embajador Claude Heller, Representante Permanente de México  
ante Naciones Unidas durante el Debate Temático Informal sobre la Migración y el Desarrollo,  
19 de mayo de 2011**

Señor Presidente,

Para abordar el tema de la migración internacional y el desarrollo, es necesario visualizarlo en tres niveles:

El nivel global, dentro del cual entra la cuestión sobre cuál es el papel de las Naciones Unidas en torno a la migración y el desarrollo. El proceso iniciado en el 2006 en cuanto a las políticas migratorias y su impacto en el mundo internacional presenta una iniciativa más integral en la materia cubriendo desde el tema de la protección de los derechos de los migrantes hasta el impacto económico, social, jurídico y legislativo de la migración en el desarrollo. El artículo 1 de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas señala en su inciso 3 que uno de los propósitos de la Organización es “realizar la cooperación internacional en la solución de problemas internacionales de carácter económico, social, cultural y humanitario, y en el desarrollo y estímulo del respeto a los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales de todos; sin hacer distinción por motivo de raza, sexo, idioma o religión...y servir de centro que armonice los esfuerzos de las naciones para alcanzar estos propósitos comunes”.

Las Naciones Unidas no ha cumplido su papel como centro para armonizar el tema de la migración internacional. Los Foros Mundiales sobre la Migración y el Desarrollo no pueden sustituir el papel de las Naciones Unidas, ya que en dichos Foros no se toman decisiones vinculantes ni tienen carácter negociador. México favorece una integración de la migración y la cooperación al desarrollo en el marco de la globalización. La acción de las Naciones Unidas ha sido normativa, como la adopción de la Convención de la Protección de los Derechos Humanos de los Trabajadores Migrantes, la cual México presidió.

En este mismo nivel, no se puede ignorar la crisis económica y financiera que estamos viviendo y que impacta a los flujos de personas. Es imperativo que los aspectos políticos, sociales, económicos y ambientales de la migración sean abordados por las Naciones Unidas.

Por otra parte se encuentra el nivel regional o subregional de la migración. En dicho nivel se tienen que tomar en cuenta las particularidades de los diferentes países, regiones y subregiones, ya que es necesario destacar la complejidad de la migración que va más allá de sus regiones. Algunos de estos ejemplos son la Guerra del Golfo en los años noventa y el despliegue de los trabajadores migrantes a consecuencia de este hecho, así como la situación actual en Libia en el mismo aspecto.

Y tercero, está el nivel de los acuerdos bilaterales entre naciones sobre cuestiones de la migración y su impacto positivo en el desarrollo. México, por ejemplo, cuenta con un programa con Canadá sobre trabajadores huéspedes quienes invierten temporalmente su labor profesional para contribuir al desarrollo de ambos países.

Sin embargo, en el mundo actual se han desarrollado políticas restrictivas en cuanto a la migración internacional, especialmente después de los acontecimientos del 11 de septiembre en 2001, las cuales castigan a la migración con consecuencias de xenofobia y grupos de extrema derecha entre las sociedades.

En camino hacia el Segundo Diálogo de Alto Nivel sobre la Migración y el Desarrollo en 2013, México hace un llamado a la Organización para que asuma sus responsabilidades sobre este tema tan importante en la agenda internacional.

Gracias.

## **Migration et développement : l'expérience marocaine**

**1-**L'impact de la migration sur le développement renvoie à la problématique générale des liens des migrants avec le pays d'origine. Ces liens ont été affirmés depuis la Conférence internationale sur la population et le Développement du Caire en 1994 avec constance dans toutes les initiatives internationales relatives à la gestion multilatérale des migrations.

En s'adressant à la troisième réunion à Athènes du FMMD, le SG de l'ONU a insisté sur la migration comme un levier essentiel pour atteindre les Objectifs de Développement du Millénaire par la réduction de la pauvreté et lutte contre les inégalités le partage équitable de la prospérité du monde . LE SG a évoqué à cette occasion l'ère de la mobilité. *« Une ère où les gens traversent les frontières en nombre croissant dans la recherche e d'opportunités et d'espoir pour une vie meilleure. »*

L'importance de la migration et de son lien avec le développement se vérifient également à Pour sa part, l'U.E plaide dans sa politique de voisinage pour la mobilisation des diasporas en faveur du développement de leur pays d'origine.

Dans un tel contexte, la contribution des Marocains résidant à l'étranger (MRE), sous une forme ou sous une autre, au développement de leur pays et de leur région d'origine revêt pour le Royaume du Maroc une importance stratégique. Les MRE qui dépassent trois million et demi et de personnes constituent, en effet, pour le Maroc un atout au plans économique un facteur de rayonnement au niveaux politique et culturel et un enjeu stratégique dans les relations bilatérales du Maroc et particulièrement dans le bassin Méditerranéen.

**2-** La contribution des MRE au développement de la société marocaine est considérable .Elle se mesure notamment à travers l'impact multidimensionnel qu'ils exercent sur la société marocaine aux plans national et local.

**Au niveau économique,** le volume des transferts des MRE a connu une croissance continue depuis les années 1960 pour se situer à environ 9 % du PIB, en 20. Le Maroc est classé parmi les dix premiers pays au monde destinataires de transferts émanant des Diaspora.

Entre 1970 et 2010, le volume des transferts officiels a été multiplié par plus de 150, passant de 320 millions de DH en 1970 à environ 55 milliards DH en 2010.

Les transferts constituent la première source de devises du Royaume. Ils couvrent 25% des importations, représentent 20% des recettes courantes de la balance des paiements et dépassent largement l'ensemble des investissements et prêts privés étrangers au Maroc. Selon les informations disponibles les transferts se répartissent entre la consommation des ménages (71%) et les dépôts bancaires (21%).

Par ailleurs l'épargne des MRE représente 25% des dépôts du système bancaire, soit environ 90 milliards de dirhams répartis sensiblement à égalité entre les dépôts courants et les dépôts à terme.

Dans la plupart des cas **Les transferts de fonds individuels jouent le rôle de filet de Sécurité sociale et servent rarement à des investissements productifs**

**Sur le plan social,** l'émigration a permis- et permet toujours- de pallier dans une certaine mesure les effets négatifs du déficit de développement de certaines régions du Royaume à travers notamment l'absorption d'une partie de la main d'ouvre disponible. Elle constitue à

ce titre un facteur indéniable de régulation du marché de l'emploi en agissant directement sur le volume de la population active que le marché national ne peut pas satisfaire. L'importance de l'émigration dans le domaine de l'emploi et la lutte contre le chômage ont conduit les pouvoirs publics à mettre en place des mécanismes conventionnels pour en organiser la mise en œuvre dans l'intérêt de toutes les parties par la mobilisation d'une approche concertée des flux migratoires entre le Maroc et des partenaires étrangers notamment ceux du bassin méditerranéen.

3-Par delà les retombées macroéconomiques si importantes des transferts, il existe d'autres formes, moins visibles et moins quantifiables, de contribution au processus de développement que l'on peut résumer comme suit :

Les MRE réalisent dans leur région d'origine des micro-projets d'infrastructures et d'équipements de première nécessité, indispensables pour les populations locales. De tels investissements, traduisent l'importance et la solidité des liens que les MRE entretiennent avec leur région et témoignent de l'intérêt primordial qu'ils accordent à l'amélioration de la situation économique et sociale de leurs familles restées au pays.

Ils s'investissent également dans d'autres domaines et tout particulièrement les nouvelles technologies de l'information et de la communication, secteur où ils détiennent un fonds d'expertise et de bonnes pratiques qu'ils mobilisent utilement au service de leur région. Dans un cas comme l'autre, ils contribuent à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des familles par la réalisation des projets favorisant la lutte contre l'exode rural vers les villes en permettant la fixation de la population dans les villages dépourvues d'activités économiques.

-Les MRE ont contribué et contribuent encore de manière significative à la réussite de l'initiative nationale pour le développement humain. Cette action nationale de grande envergure, vise, comme on le sait, à lutter contre la précarité et l'exclusion et à réaliser un développement humain durable au profit des populations déshéritées. Les MRE apportent une précieuse plus-value pour la réussite de cette initiative qui procède également de la volonté des pouvoirs publics de réaliser les objectifs du Millénaire conformément aux engagements du Royaume en l'objet.

Les MRE contribuent également à la réussite de la coopération décentralisée. Celle-ci est par définition initiée et mise en œuvre par les collectivités territoriales. A ce niveau, les MRE servent de catalyseur et de force de proposition pour des projets de développement dans leur région d'origine en plaidant la cause auprès des autorités locales dans les pays de résidence. Ce rôle d'intercesseur dynamique est apprécié autant par les pays d'accueil que par les pays d'origine. Il est également facilité par la double citoyenneté, la double culture, et la double appartenance en somme dont les MRE sont porteurs.

- sur la base des expériences vécues, les pouvoirs public ont été amené à constater que l'attachement des migrants à leur pays d'origine et l'intérêt qu'ils accordent à son développement peuvent être stimulés et amplifiés davantage par les instances régionales qui ont un rôle essentiel à jouer pour susciter les initiatives et projets d'investissement générateurs d'emploi et nécessaires aux populations locales. Leur expérience concrète concernant les actions qui réussissent, et dont la région a besoin, est précieuse pour la mise en place des projets concrets, attractifs et générateurs de revenus facilitant ainsi la pleine implication des MRE dans le développement local.

L'optimisation de la contribution des MRE commande également de relever des défis multiples comme la compétition entre les stratégies nationale et locale, et la fragmentation des questions migratoires entre divers acteurs. Ainsi, les actions mises en œuvre en faveur du développement local doivent-elles être coordonnées et concertées. c'est la condition sine qua non pour créer un environnement favorable des affaires offrant des perspectives prometteuses pour le MRE, qui, après avoir réussi leur projet migratoire entendent s'investir et s'impliquer dans leur région d'origine.

Conscients de ces prés – requis, le gouvernement a mis en place des mesures d'accompagnement de l'initiative économique et commerciale des migrants. Elles consistent en des mécanismes juridiques, institutionnels et financiers lesquels font partie intégrante de la politique migratoire du Royaume. Un exemple de ces mécanismes : la lutte contre la fuite des cerveaux.

**4-**La fuite de cerveaux constitue un préjudice avéré pour les pays d'origine. Les causes du phénomène sont connues. Elles tiennent essentiellement à l'absence de perspectives d'emploi dans les pays du Sud, la polarisation des richesses dans les pays du Nord, et surtout les déséquilibres économiques et sociaux qui affectent plusieurs régions du monde et particulièrement les deux rives de la Méditerranée.

Pour limiter les effets négatifs du phénomène, le Maroc a pris une série d'initiatives visant à se transformer progressivement la fuite des cerveaux en « gain de compétences » via les investissements des MRE, la mise en réseau des contacts et projets, les transferts de connaissances, et d'autres formes de collaboration entre les MRE et leur pays d'origine.

Dans ce contexte, le Maroc a mis en œuvre depuis 2006 une action visant à mobiliser les compétences marocaines résidant à l'étranger baptisée FINCOME (le Forum International des Compétences Marocaines à l'Etranger). La démarche consiste à faire appel aux différentes compétences à l'étranger dans différents domaines qui participent activement à la production de la prospérité technique et scientifique dans les pays de leur résidence, pour accomplir des missions sur place, ou à distance, en appui ou dans le cadre des programmes de développement de leur pays d'origine, sur la base du volontariat de l'engagement patriotique et l'attachement affectif à leur pays d'origine.

Le FINCOM favorise une contribution substantielle au développement du Royaume en tirant bénéfice des compétences des MRE dans les secteurs hautement qualifiés et tout particulièrement l'ingénierie du développement économique et social, la recherche et développement, les technologies de l'information et la communication, le management, l'industrie et la médecine

**5-**De nombreux regroupements en Associations de MRE hautement qualifiés s'effectuent aujourd'hui, offrant un potentiel de coopération dans différents domaines. Ces associations s'investissent dans des actions de terrain au service de la collectivité d'origine selon deux modes opératoires.

Le premier est constitué par des collectifs de migrants issus d'un même village ayant préservé des relations étroites et solidaires à l'étranger. Le second est celui des ONG des migrants ou organisation de solidarité internationale issue de l'immigration (OSIM). Les deux formules apportent l'appui et les mesures d'accompagnement au collectifs de migrants dans leur démarches et fournissent une interface auprès des bailleurs de fonds.

Ces ONG agissent dans différents domaines tels que la réparation des pistes, la restauration des monuments historiques, le creusement de puits l'achat de matériel roulant pour les collectivités locales, la construction d'écoles l'équipement de dispensaires ...etc



6- Pour favoriser et encourager la contribution des MRE au développement de la société marocaine le Maroc fournit au plan national un effort soutenu pour répondre à leurs besoins et à leurs attentes étant précisé par ailleurs que les questions migratoires constituent un axe essentiel de la diplomatie marocaine.

Plusieurs départements ministériels et institutions ont été créés à cet effet pour prendre en charge les questions migratoires ; on peut citer notamment : le MAEC, le ministère chargé de la communauté Marocaine résidant à l'étranger le ministère des Habous et des affaires islamique, le ministère de l'emploi, le ministère développement social, la Fondation Hassan II, le Conseil de la Communauté Marocaine Résidant à l'Etranger et l'ANAPEC.

L'action publique en la matière poursuit un double objectif, à savoir : faciliter l'intégration des MRE dans les sociétés d'accueil et renforcer leurs liens avec leur pays d'origine.

7- La migration ne favorise pas toujours le développement. Des difficultés conjoncturelles multiples ou des contextes spécifiques dans les pays d'accueil peuvent impacter négativement le lien entre migration et développement. C'est ainsi que la crise économique mondiale a mis en exergue la vulnérabilité de certains migrants marocains et surtout les migrants récents. Les difficultés consécutives à la crise se résument comme suit :

-Chômage massif parmi les migrants du fait qu'ils sont concentrés dans les secteurs les durement touchés par la crise, comme la construction, l'industrie et le tourisme et par la mise en oeuvre d'une manière ou d'une autre du principe de la préférence nationale en cas de licenciements collectifs. La mise en oeuvre de ce principe se traduit par la préférence à l'embauche des nationaux et la discrimination à l'égard des migrants.

Pour cette double raison, les migrants ont souffert et souffrent beaucoup plus que les autres catégories de travailleurs du chômage et ont été les premiers à faire les frais de la crise Ce qui se traduit fatalement par la diminution des transferts et le ralentissement des flux de fonds en faveur des familles dans les pays d'origine.

-La dégradation des perceptions des migrants dans les sociétés d'accueil. Ils sont désignés comme des boucs émissaires pour les pertes d'emplois. Il en résulte un débat dont l'intensité et la teneur sont souvent corrélés au nombre d'étrangers présents dans chaque Etat. De manière générale, les émigrés sont dans la plupart des pays accusés de prendre la place des nationaux sur la base d'un argumentaire xénophobe puisant dans le registre du racisme et de l'Amalgame entre immigration et délinquance et l'appel à l'arrêt de migration. La dimension religieuse exacerbe davantage le phénomène d'hostilité et de rejet qui se focalise sur les migrants musulmans auxquels il est reproché en outre le refus de s'intégrer.

- L'immigration est présentée par les partis d'extrême droite comme une menace pour la sécurité et la cohésion nationale. Sous l'influence de ces partis qui ont réussi à imposer leur agenda dans bon nombre des pays du Nord, un consensus émergent s'est construit au sein de l'opinion publique des Etats d'accueil sur le rejet des communautés immigrées. Même les partis de gauche prônent aujourd'hui une politique d'immigration restrictive. Dans un tel contexte un nombre croissant de migrants perdent leurs emplois et basculent dans la vulnérabilité et certains d'entre eux deviennent victimes du trafic et de la traite des êtres humains privés de leurs droits fondamentaux, y compris la liberté de mouvement et de liberté contre les mauvais traitements ainsi que l'accès à la santé, l'éducation et le travail décent.

-Le coût de L'immigration est souvent mis exergue pour justifier des politiques migratoires restrictives. Ce cout a un été initialement occulté, tant les avantages tirés de l'immigration étaient évidents et aussi longtemps que le migrant était censé retourner dans son pays d'origine. Aujourd'hui le migrant s'installe durablement sinon définitivement- et avec sa famille – dans le pays d'accueil. La société d'accueil se doit de prendre en charge la santé, l'éducation, le logement de famille et donc le coût social de la migration estimé à raison ou à tort très élevé. La démagogie populiste s'est emparée de la thématique pour en faire un fonds de commerce électoral. Le résultat est connu.une montée quasi générale des partis d'extrême droite dans les pays à forte concentration d'immigrés.

Comme antidote au phénomène du rejet de l'immigration, les pays du Nord concernés qui ne peuvent pas se passer d'immigrés rêvent d'une migration circulaire. Ce concept est en grande partie un mythe, car, tous les économistes le savent, une entreprise qui a des besoins structurels en main d'ouvre étrangère ne peut pas se permettre de changer de personnel pour plaire aux politiciens qui plaident pour des raisons électoralistes en faveur de la migration circulaire.

En guise de conclusion de cette communication sommaire a propos d je souhaite iusister sur les points ci après :

-Pour renforcer les liens entre la migration et le développement, Il est nécessaire de traiter les causes profondes de la migration en ciblant les politiques de développement dans les régions à fort potentiel migratoire dans les pays d'origine.

-La migration obéit aux lois de la mondialisation et comme tous les phénomènes de la mondialisation, il y a des pays gagnants et des pays perdants de la migration. La migration des personnes qualifiées produit certainement des effets bénéfiques pour les familles concernées. Elle constitue cependant **un transfert de ressources vers les pays du nord.** **Un dialogue** à ce sujet est nécessaire **pour créer des mécanismes de compensation et coopération dans l'intérêt de toutes les parties.**

-La triple expérience en tant que pays d'émigration, de destination et de transit a permis au Maroc de saisir très tôt l'importance du rôle et de l'impact considérable des questions migratoires sur la société marocaine. Il s'est par conséquent doté de sa propre feuille de route comportant notamment les aspects essentiels des questions migratoires dont notamment la migration légale, lutte contre l'immigration illégale et les dimensions politique, diplomatique, juridique, institutionnel des flux migratoires.

-Le Maroc ouvre également dans le cadre de ses relations bilatérales et aux plans régional et multilatéral pour faire admettre une approche globale des rapports socio-économiques si complexes entre les migrants et la société d'accueil sur la base des valeurs communes et partagées, et d'une gestion pragmatique et humanisée des flux migratoires dans le double respect des droits fondamentaux

-La contribution des MRE au développement du Maroc, à son rayonnement et à son ancrage dans le monde est inestimable. Comme citoyens et comme facteur d'enrichissement de la société marocaine, ils font l'objet d'une sollicitude particulière de la part de la diplomatie marocaine. La protection de leurs droits de leurs intérêts et de leur dignité constitue un axe fondamental de la diplomatie marocaine qui dispose à cet égard d'une feuille de route procédant de la politique migratoire du Royaume.

-L'expérience enseigne que les MRE qui s'impliquent le plus dans le développement du Maroc sont ceux qui ont réussi leur projet migratoire. Aussi, la diplomatie marocaine ouvre – elle dans le cadre de la politique migratoire du Royaume – pour promouvoir l'intégration par l'insertion professionnelle des MRE dans les pays d'accueil. Une politique d'intégration réussie des migrants dans le pays d'accueil constitue une condition sine qua non pour leur permettre d'intervenir utilement en faveur du développement dans leur pays d'origine.

-L'impact de la contribution des MRE au plan local est tributaire de la délégation à la région des compétences substantielles pour la gestion des affaires locales y compris les questions migratoires sur la base du principe de la subsidiarité. Il dépend également de la capacité des différents acteurs à faire de leur région un espace économique attractif donnant envie et arguments aux cadres de la région de la servir et à ceux qui ont émigré d'y revenir. L'environnement favorable des affaires, le niveau et la qualité de la vie, les perspectives professionnelles prometteuses et la sécurité de l'emploi comptent parmi les facteurs déterminants d'attraction.

-Dans l'action de mobilisation des pouvoirs publics pour maintenir et faire revenir dans le pays la main d'œuvre et des cadres qualifiés, il y a lieu de mettre en place une structure dédiée pour assurer le pilotage de la coordination et de la convergence des politiques sectorielles en vue de faire travailler ensemble les opérateurs économiques les acteurs des sociétés civiles et toutes les forces vives de la région. L'objectif recherché étant de créer les synergies et les complémentarités nécessaires au service de projets collectifs garant d'un développement local authentique et durable.

-Dans cette démarche collective de mobilisation les MRE peuvent tenir une grande place et jouer un rôle déterminant. Le succès de leurs projets d'investissement au service du développement réside en grande partie dans la bonne gouvernance. Cette exigence implique notamment, des acteurs engagés et responsables, une information disponible et fiable un climat d'affaire favorable grâce à des règles de jeu claires déployées dans un cadre de coopération novateur impliquant les MRE, les autorités régionales et le cas échéant leurs homologues dans les pays d'accueil.

## **Statement by the Netherlands**

**United Nations General Assembly  
Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development  
19 May 2011, New York**

### ***Panel One: The contribution of migrants to development***

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

The Netherlands is actively involved in enhancing, as part of its broader migration and development policy, the positive contribution of migration and migrants to the development of countries of origin. The diaspora can make a difference and play an important role in the development of their countries of origin. The Netherlands government is trying to promote the positive role that migrants can play in various ways:

#### ***Strengthening diaspora organizations***

First of all through strengthening the capacities of diaspora organizations in the Netherlands. The Netherlands government is also in close contact with a wide range of migrant organisations and regularly consults with these organizations. Moreover, we also promote contacts between diaspora organisations active in development and development organisations. Development organisations often have local partners in countries of origin which could also be useful counterparts of diaspora organisations.

#### ***Strengthening diaspora policy in countries of origin***

Secondly, the Netherlands government is active in assisting governments in countries of origin to engage their diaspora in contributing to the development of the countries where they were born. The Netherlands is financing a programme run by the *African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC)*, based in The Hague. With this programme called “Capacity Building for Diaspora Ministries in Africa”, a number of civil servants from several African countries are being trained in how to better engage their diaspora in their national development policy.

#### ***Temporary return of migrants***

The Netherlands government is financially assisting two programmes about temporary return of migrants. The first programme is executed by the *International Organization for Migration (IOM)* and is called ‘Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals’. The programme aims at the temporary return (3-6 months) of 300 migrants to 6 countries of origin: Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Ethiopia, Georgia en Bosnia Herzegovina. The other programme is focussing on the temporary return to Ethiopia and aims to temporarily return 30 migrants for a period of about 6-12 months. We believe that these programmes might increase the capacities of the organisations and enterprises where the diaspora temporarily work, although the exact impact on the longer term still remains unclear.

#### ***EU Diaspora Outreach Initiative***

Within the EU, the Netherlands takes the lead at the EU side in the *Diaspora Outreach Initiative* in the so-called “EU-Africa Partnership for Migration, Mobility and Employment”. The aim is to engage the diaspora in the development of Africa and to build capacity and transfer skills, knowledge and technologies from the diaspora to the African continent. Our first contacts with the secretariat of the African Union Commission look very promising in this regard. In close cooperation with the African Union Commission, the Netherlands is looking for partner countries at the African side willing to take the lead on the issue of engaging diaspora in development.

### ***Voluntary Return Assistance***

For rejected asylum seekers who want to return voluntarily, the Netherlands offers financial assistance and assistance in kind, ranging from help to find a job to assistance with creating small businesses in their countries of origin.

### ***Remittances***

Finally, one of the priorities of the Netherlands’ government policy on migration and development is to “strengthen the link between remittances and development”.

Remittances can contribute directly to the fight against poverty. They provide extra income to households in countries of origin, most of which are developing countries. The GNP per capita and the purchasing power may rise proportionally. Yet, remittances in themselves cannot trigger development. It is up to countries of origin to create favourable economic and political conditions for development.

The great volume of remittances sent by migrants is not, in itself, a sufficient reason to conduct an active remittances policy. The Netherlands is of the opinion that remittances are privately owned money. It is up to the recipients to determine how they will spend the money. The government is not in the position to interfere in how that money is spent. The government can, however, facilitate the creation of favourable conditions in order to enhance the relationship between remittances and development.

In this regard, the Dutch policy with regard to remittances focuses on four different aspects:

1. Improving transparency in the Dutch remittances market
2. Financial sector development in countries of origin
3. Encouraging migrants’ initiatives
4. Using remittances corridor data

These four aspects represent the Netherlands’ framework for action in the field of remittances.

Thank you.

## **Statement by Sweden**

### **United Nations General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development 19 May 2011, New York**

#### **Panel One: The contribution of migrants to development**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

In the past years, the Swedish government has focused primarily on two areas that pertain to our discussion here today: enhancing the opportunities for labor immigration to Sweden and facilitating circular migration and its development effects.

#### **Labor immigration**

Sweden introduced new rules for labor immigration in 2008. The rules have made it easier for people to come to Sweden to work and for Swedish companies to recruit labor from third countries outside the European Union. The legislation is based on employers' needs – not projections of needs or lists of labor shortages – and welcomes labor migrants of all skill levels. It is designed to be flexible so that levels of migration can increase when there is high demand and decrease when demand is less. It also allows temporary migration to become long-term or permanent if the employer's need is also long-term, as is often the case. In these respects, the legislation is one of the most liberal in the world today.

One main driver for the reform was the recognition that there are labor shortages in Sweden that cannot be filled by people living in Sweden or other EU countries. Another motive is the fact that our population is getting older and that fewer and fewer people of working age will have to support an increasing percentage of the

population in the years to come. This may threaten economic growth and the sustainability of our welfare system in the long term. Of course, labor migration is only one of several instruments needed to prevent labor shortages. But it is certainly an important complement to measures which aim to fully utilize the labor already in the country.

### **Circular migration**

It is important to recognize that the patterns of migration are *changing*, partly as a consequence of globalisation. Migration for permanent settlement is increasingly giving way to more temporary and circular migration as a livelihood strategy and preference for many migrants. With circular migration we mean repeat “back-and-forth” movements. Sweden views circular migration as a naturally occurring pattern of mobility that has the potential to benefit countries of destination, to promote development in the migrants’ countries of origin and to benefit the migrants themselves. Instead of focusing on specific programs or projects for temporary labor migration, such as guest worker programs, Sweden is mainly concerned with facilitating what we call “spontaneous circular migration” and its positive development effects – that is to say, movements which originate when the migrant him or herself decides when it is in their interests to migrate to or leave Sweden on a temporary or more long-term basis. Even so-called “permanent migrants” who have permanent residency in Sweden often wish to return to their countries of origin to start businesses or participate in development-related projects, often on a short-term basis. Their desire and willingness to do so depends to a great extent on having a secure status in Sweden, as well as on their successful integration in Sweden.

The positive connections between migration and development are indeed many. In countries of destination, migrants can contribute to filling labor market shortages and help boost economic output. They also contribute to making the host economy and society more dynamic, as history has shown us. When migrants return, either on a temporary or more permanent basis, they transfer new skills and knowledge which can contribute to a vitalization of their countries of origin’s economy and social capital. In this way, “brain circulation” can help to counteract “brain drain.” And of course, the

remittances that migrants send home to their families can be invested in development-related endeavors. Migrants' remittances can also benefit a wider circle and create "multiplier effects" when they stimulate local demand and are used to create new jobs. These are the kinds of effects that we want to facilitate when we talk about promoting circular migration. Therefore, it is important to focus on how to avoid unnecessary barriers to spontaneous circularity, which may go against the natural inclination of many migrants to move back and forth between their countries of origin and destination.

Of course, we realize that the facilitation of mobility itself cannot guarantee positive development outcomes. Whether or not circular migration can promote development depends to a great extent on the empowerment of the migrants and the existence of opportunities and well-functioning institutions in the countries of origin. That is why it is crucial that we develop a coherent approach that takes into account how other policy areas affect and are affected by migration policy. This is one of the reasons why the Swedish Government in 2009 appointed a Parliamentary Committee on circular migration and development.

The Parliamentary Committee was given four main tasks:

- 1) to map out circular migration to and from Sweden using available statistics in order to get a sense of how common this pattern of mobility is,
- 2) to identify the preconditions and obstacles to circular migration in relevant policy areas (i.e. within migration policy, development cooperation policy, social policy, integration policy, etc),
- 3) to analyze both positive and potential negative effects in countries of origin and Sweden and last, but most importantly,
- 4) to propose legislative and other measures to remove unnecessary obstacles to circular migration – in order to promote its positive development effects.

When it comes to development impact, the Parliamentary Committee has found that circular migration benefits both migrants' countries of origin and Sweden in significant



ways. Remittance flows are one example. Another example is the promotion of international trade flows with countries from which many migrants come.

The final report of the Committee includes several proposals, including:

- allowing longer periods of absence from Sweden without the loss of residency status,
  - providing support to diaspora groups and their development-related projects,
  - establishing a website so that migrants can compare transfer fees for remittances,
- and
- achieving better coherence between migration and development policy.

The Committee also analyzed how integration policy, tax policy, and other relevant policy areas affect the preconditions for increased mobility. If anyone is interested, I would be happy to provide more information about the Committee's work after the session.

Thank you.

**Panel Two: Improving international cooperation on migration and development**

Mr. Chairman,

Sweden aligns itself with the statement made by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

We have come to realize that migration truly is an international and interconnected issue. We have also come to realize that the benefits of international migration must be more effectively realized and the negative effects better addressed. The issue of international migration has therefore risen to the top of the global policy agenda, and rightly so. To contribute to a further understanding on how best to maximize the positive and minimize the negative effects of international migration, Sweden – together with Brazil, Morocco, the Philippines and Switzerland – took the initiative to establish the Global Commission on International Migration in 2005. This is also the reason for Sweden's active support to the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The Global Forum provides a State-owned, open-ended, consultative and non-decision-making forum that allows for constructive dialogue on migration and development. The Global Forum provides space for a discussion on the migration and development nexus in an open setting, to find common ground and shared interests, and to learn from one another.

Sweden actively participates in the EU's Global Approach to Migration, including in Mobility Partnerships. This cooperation instrument, while still relatively new, represents a novel approach to cooperation in the field of migration management. So far – for instance in the case of Moldova and Georgia – we have seen this instrument contribute to improved coordination and cooperation between all stakeholders, as well as a much better understanding of common goals and challenges in the field of migration.

Thank you.

## **Panel Two: Improving international cooperation on migration and development**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,

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At the regional and inter-regional level, Sweden actively participates in the EU's Global Approach to Migration, including in its Mobility Partnerships. This cooperation instrument, while still relatively new, represents a novel approach to cooperation in the field of migration. So far – for instance in the case of Moldova and Georgia – we have seen this instrument contribute to improved coordination and cooperation between all stakeholders, as well as a much better understanding of common goals and challenges in the field of migration.

Thank you.



**Remarks by William Lacy Swing  
Director General, International Organization for Migration**

**Informal Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development**

**Panel Two: *Improving international cooperation on migration and development***

**Thursday, 19 May 2011  
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

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Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies; Distinguished Delegates;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak again, this time on behalf of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on the topic of improving international cooperation on migration and development.

*1. A once forgotten issue*

Migration as an issue or priority was absent from most government agendas a decade ago. Nor did migration feature anymore prominently within the UN system in that period; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) do not mention migration, nor until recently did United Nations documents on Least Developed Countries (LDC) and climate change.

*2. A priority now*

Today, however, migration has become a priority for virtually every government in the world. More and more governments have established cabinet posts to handle migration per se, or various aspects thereof, such as diasporas/nationals living abroad. Within the United Nations system, most agencies now are engaged in migration issues and activities. Sixteen of them here formed an alliance on migration -- the Global Migration Group (GMG), and five years ago, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was formed, annually bringing 150 governments together on the issue.

*3. The driving forces*

This change in focus did not happen by accident. The forces driving the prioritization of migration as a priority issue will endure for decades to come:

- (a) demographic trends of an ageing industrialized population and an exponentially expanding LDC youth population without jobs;
- (b) consequential labour market demands that can no longer be satisfied by the domestic workforce;
- (c) widening North-South economic and social disparities; and
- (d) climate change and other man-made catastrophes.

*4. IOM expanding with the times*

The rapidly expanding global interest in migration is also reflected in the evolution of the International Organization for Migration over this period into the only international organization



with a global mandate exclusively devoted to migration. Over the past 15 years, IOM Member States have doubled from 67 to 132; its budget quadrupled to US \$1.5 billion; active projects at any one time expanded from 600 to 2500; and staffing from 1200 to current levels of 7500 staff serving in 440 sites around the globe.

There has also been a concurrent increase in the range and complexity of migration issues and activities on which the international community's assistance in managing migration is sought. In 2007, IOM's membership identified twelve priority areas for action reflecting a broadened understanding of the need for international cooperation on a wide range of migration-related issues. These include effective respect for the human rights of migrants; research; technical cooperation and national capacity-building; operational assistance and advice to build national capacities and facilitate international, regional and bilateral cooperation on migration matters.

#### *5. Partnerships: critical to success*

Partnerships are absolutely critical in this new migration world. IOM is committed to the proposition that dialogue is essential to improving international cooperation on migration. IOM therefore provides support to a number of state-led bilateral, regional and global cooperation initiatives, including the various Regional Consultative Processes on Migration; the GFMD; and the UN General Assembly's efforts in 2006, today, and with a view toward assisting with the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.

Perhaps the best indication of the growing confidence in inter-state dialogue on migration is the evolution from focusing almost exclusively on the security and economic aspects of migration, to the broader implications of migration for health, gender, children, family relations, and migrant rights, regardless of their migration status.

As inter-state cooperation grows from strength to strength, partnerships between agencies are equally fundamental. IOM is mandated by its Member States to address migration in its multiple facets and indeed is the principal inter-governmental organization on migration. At the same time, we recognize the important mandates and valuable expertise of other agencies and entities on various aspects of migration. We welcome their involvement – and are pleased to have welcomed UN Women and the World Health Organization as the most recent members of the GMG.

The recently published, IOM-developed, and GMG endorsed, handbook on *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning*, which will now be pilot tested in several countries, is one illustration of inter-agency cooperation. I am convinced that when we work together, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The GMG can play a key role in magnifying the benefits and minimizing the negative effects of migration, optimizing coherence and complementarities in policies and programming.

#### *Conclusion*

In sum, Mr. Chairman, no single government or organization can manage migration effectively alone. Working together, we must continue to evolve and expand our capacities through partnership, to manage mobility in a humane and orderly manner, and to maximize migration's enormous contribution to human development.

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