

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Analysis prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

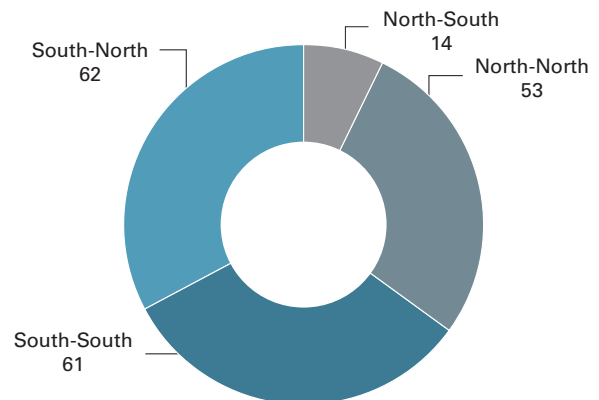
THREE CENTRAL MESSAGES

- » International migration is a key component of the globalization process
- » International migration is a positive force for development, both in countries of origin and in countries of destination
- » It is possible and advisable to strengthen international cooperation on international migration

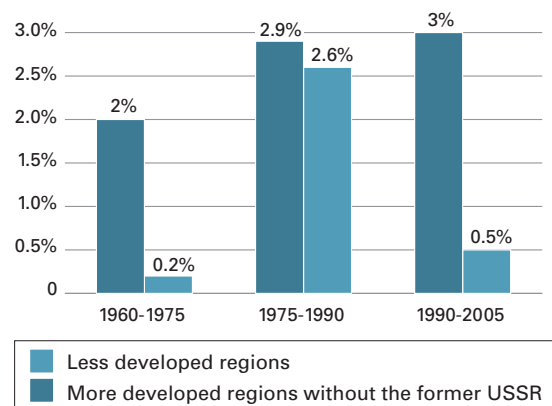
We are in a new migration era

- » Since the late 1980s: migration has been rising rapidly...
- » ...but there is a freer flow of goods and capital than of persons
- » Barriers to the movement of low-skilled workers persist

The number of international migrants is almost equally divided into three types
(cumulated migrant stock — millions of persons)



Migration to industrial countries is more steady than that to developing countries
(rate of growth of the migrant stock)



It is possible and advisable to strengthen international cooperation on international migration

MODES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION REGARDING MIGRATION

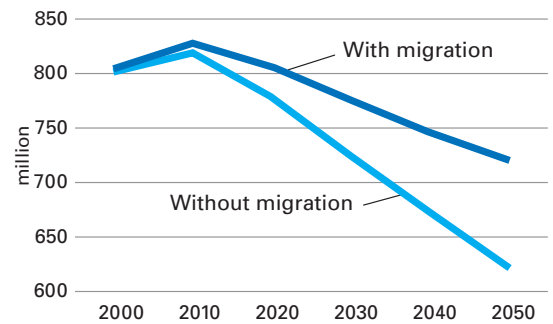
- » The outcome documents of United Nations conferences and summits
- » United Nations Conventions, with varying degree of coverage
- » International organizations
- » Global initiatives
- » Regional processes
- » Bilateral agreements

Migration policies

- » Migration policies have become somewhat less restrictive
- » There is great diversity of policy stances
 - Some countries allow permanent migration selected on the basis of skills or family ties
 - Many allow temporary admission often under work permits
- » There is growing preference for temporary migration schemes

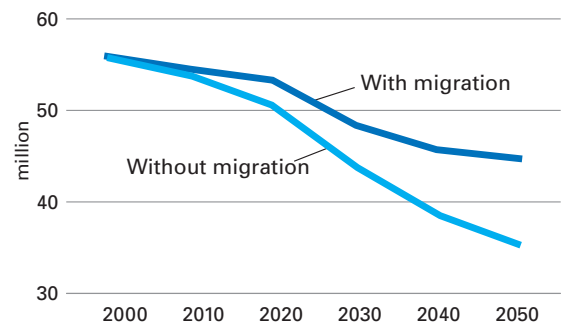
Without migration, the labour force would decline drastically in developed countries

Without migration, the labour force would decline drastically in developed countries

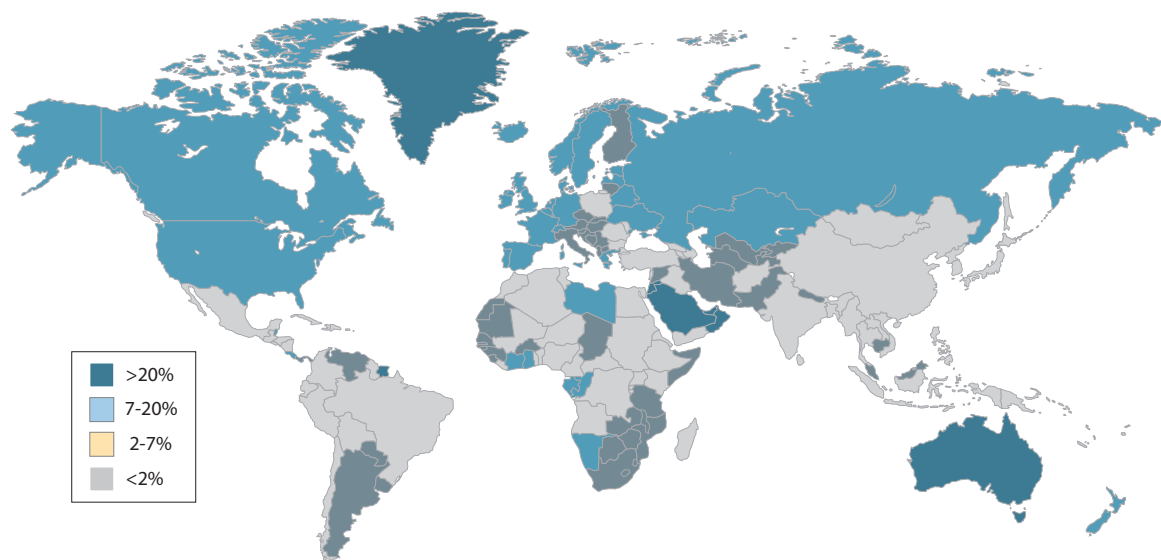


In some countries, this effect would be catastrophic: Germany

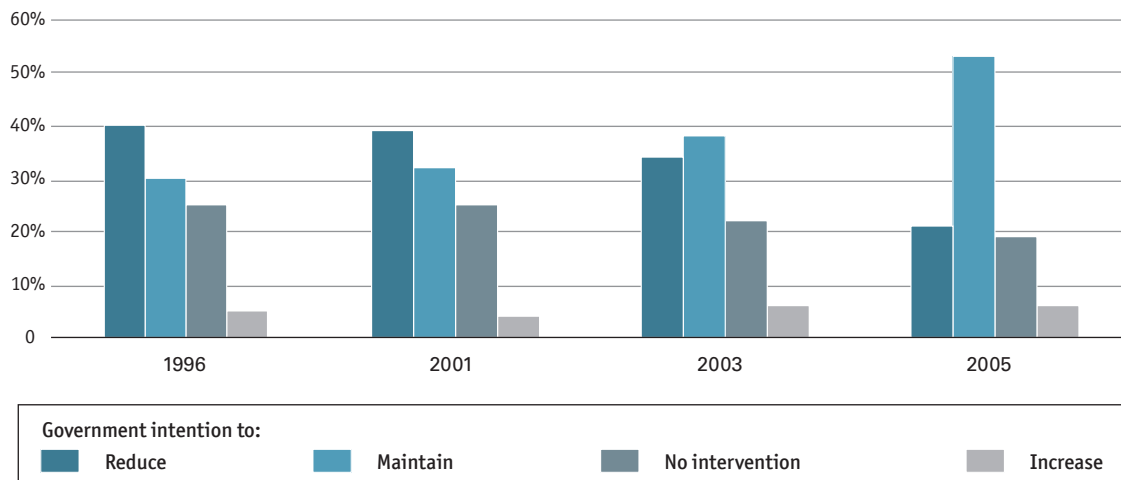
Projections of population aged 15-64 with and without international migration (medium variant)



Migrants constitute high proportions of the population in few countries (migrants as percentage of the population, 2005)



International migration policies have become somewhat less restrictive



International migration is a positive force for development, both in countries of origin and in countries of destination

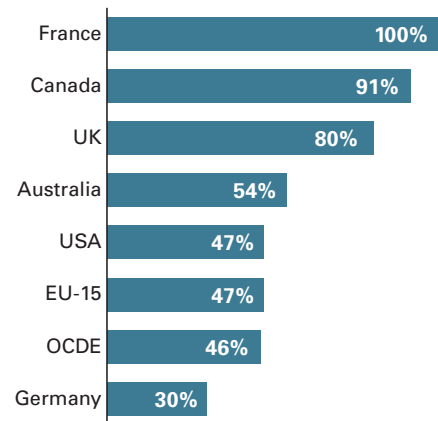
For countries of destination

- » There are some adverse but small effects on low-skilled workers
- » Most migrants complement local workers and therefore contribute to economic growth
- » Growing educational levels and population ageing increase the positive effects of migration
- » Migration has additional positive effects on economic growth: entrepreneurship, diverse supply of services, etc.
- » Main drawbacks: achieving the mutual adaptation of migrants and host societies is not easy ... and irregular migration is not desirable

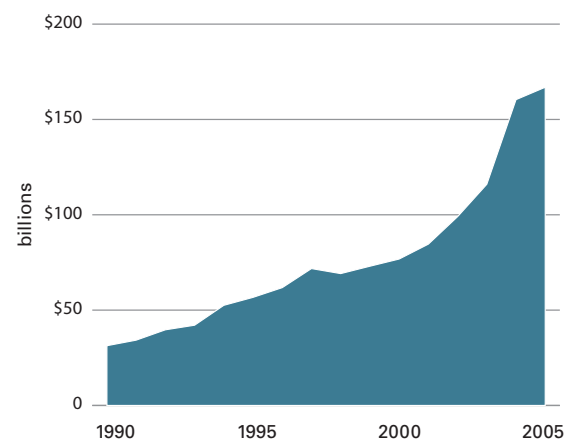
For countries of origin

- » International migrants are usually not among the poorest persons in communities of origin
- » The development of migrant networks lower the risks of migration and may enable poorer persons to migrate
- » Remittances increase family welfare but their macroeconomic effects are less clear-cut
- » Many benefits stem from a close relation between communities of origin and migrant communities abroad
- » Return migration and circulation permit countries of origin to reap greater benefits from migration
- » Main costs: "brain drain", which may not be necessarily compensated by higher incentives to acquire training in order to migrate

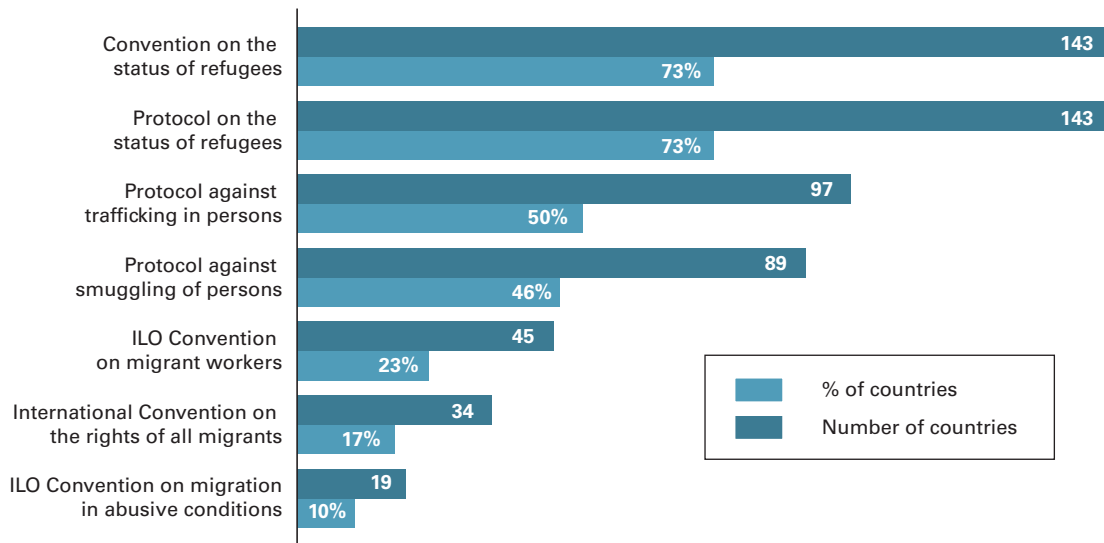
Migrants with tertiary education as percentage of the increase in all migrants aged 25 or over, 1990-2000



Remittances received by developing countries



Status of ratification of international instruments relative to international migration



Common interests on migration and an agenda for international cooperation

- » Ensure the protection of the rights of all migrants and prevent their abuse or exploitation
- » Co-development as the framework to realize the potential of migration as a force for development:
 - Leveraging the use of remittances
 - Strengthen ties with migrant communities
- » Global concerted approach to the formation of human capital