

IUSSP ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF

The IUSSP Committee on South to North Migration (1991-1995) continued to look at systematic patterns that linked sending and receiving countries into migration networks. The Committee took up the agenda of improving theoretical understanding of how international migration systems developed and continued across space and time. Subsequently the Committee looked at changing patterns of international migration in the contemporary world and policy measures utilized by sending countries to promote labor export and to utilize

The IUSSP Council has also resolved that a new Scientific Panel on International Migration be set up in the 2004-2005 period to continue to push forward knowledge of international migration. While the agenda for this group is still being determined, a logical next step would be to examine more closely the extent to which the propositions listed above hold up empirically in different migration systems and whether there are types of international migration flows in today's world that are taking on greater importance as globalization forces proceed. Other issues are also important. For example, relatively little attention has been given to the role of complex institutions in structuring international migration flows across countries or to the growing importance of temporary policy measures that permit governments to allow easy access to foreign nationals considered to be "desirable" migrants while keeping out unskilled migrants who are perceived as competitors with nationals for unskilled work. In addition, displacements of populations within and across national borders as a result of military conflict, famine, environmental deterioration, and poverty continue to raise questions regarding the extent to which countries need to keep access open to refugees and displaced persons for humanitarian purposes.