

**POSITION PAPER IN PREPARATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2006**

International Centre for Migration Policy Development

A. EXISTING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON M

2. *Towards a Global Migration Regime*

In the last few years, the search for viable migration regimes has gone one step further and has now reached the global level. Building on the progressive maturity of the international organisations and the regional processes indicated above, and drawing on the first discussions of migration policy cooperation on the global level within the Berne Initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General last year initiated the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), which has started its work in January 2004.

The GCIM, which is expected to issue its final report to the Secretary-General in mid-2005, aims to bring international migration issues to the top of the global agenda, to analyze shortcomings in approaches by Governments or other bodies to migration, and to make practical recommendations on strengthening the governance of international migration.

These positive developments in multilateral cooperation for managing migration do not mean, however, that migration has become less contentious and more manageable by now. Rather, they are a reflection of the growing challenges posed by migration, which can only be addressed by more coherent, multinational efforts.

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Acknowledging the multiple interests of States in the management of migration may pave the way for defining general principles of migration management and control that are in the interest of all states involved. For example, in today's dynamic migration environment, the reality of migration movements rarely corresponds to any clear-cut categories any longer and States may have interests as both sending and receiving countries.

To be more concrete, several areas where States often simultaneously perceive common, diverging and overlapping migration interests should be mentioned: temporary versus permanent migration; the immigration of highly skilled migrants and the issue of the "brain drain"; the safe-guarding of asylum systems and refugee protection; regional protection solutions and burden-sharing; State sovereignty and national security; and the return and readmission of own and third country nationals. All these issues are potentially fruitful areas for multilateral migration cooperation, if discussed in an open and frank spirit.

2. Defining the scope for cooperation

Defining the scope for international migration cooperation – what issues are open for discussion and negotiation – is first of all a function of the level of negotiations. Thus, for example, setting specific migration quotas and negotiating agreements on temporary migration systems will mostly be done at the