

IOM'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

International Organization for Migration

The debate over international migration has acquired in recent years a sense of urgency not perceived before. More than ever, the very nature of international migration is in question – is it primarily due to global economic disparities, or is it increasingly a response to globalisation? Is migration desirable, and should it be facilitated? Or is it undesirable and needs to be discouraged? Issues such as the mobility of labour in a globalized economy and the resulting consequences on host and origin societies due to increased human mobility, emerging population and demographic dynamics, as well as enhanced security concerns, including issues related to human security all contribute to the view that the collective capacity to “govern” the migration phenomena is not keeping pace with these fast evolving developments.

Though progress has been made to strengthen regional and international cooperation, including the development of new legal instruments, this does not appear adequate to address in a holistic and coherent manner the contemporary challenges posed by migration. International organizations can provide a platform to facilitate the shaping of a more comprehensive policy framework, overcome existing gaps, help clear misperception and su45xit dialogue and confidence building. The High-Level Dialogue (HLD) called for by Resolution 58/258 of the General Assembly can build on a number of notable developments that have taken place since the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was

- International cooperation on migration is now firmly set in train and will increase, but not without disturbances. Countries sharing common interests along geographical and/or thematic lines will form or build on dialogue mechanisms, and these will evolve as interests and alignments change.
- Competition for highly skilled labour is increasing and will continue to do so. Demand for labour at all

As a contribution to discussions on how to effectively address the above issues, IOM has developed a schematic model for migration management which clusters migration management activities in the four broad areas of migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and addressing forced migration. Crosscutting activities include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration. IOM's own activities, including policy guidance, research, promoting international cooperation, capacity building and technical cooperation activities fall within each of the four boxes identified in the model.

B. SUGGESTED THEMES FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

The High-Level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development can carefully build upon a number of governmental and intergovernmental initiatives which have been supported or promoted by the United Nations, IOM and other relevant institutions since Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, and could make use of the expertise, savoir faire and networks which have been developed in the course of these initiatives to prepare and organize the HLD, and pursue eventual follow up action if appropriate.

IOM in particular would suggest the following areas as useful themes on which the HLD could focus some of its deliberations.

1. The importance of moving from a uni-dimensional approach to **a comprehensive and cooperative approach to migration management** must be seen as a priority and has been a significant theme of IOM's approach to migration management for several years. Identifying essential component parts of a national migration policy is one important step in the development of a strategy to manage migratory flows. The development of a comprehensive approach would require consideration, among others, of policy elements such as: opportunities for legal migration, effective border management arrangements (for the security of borders, protection against crime, maintenance of the integrity of the asylum system), and acceptance and participation of migrants in the host society. But beyond that, the various component policy elements should be developed to take account of the impact one has on the other, and integrated into a comprehensive whole, capable of managing migration in an orderly manner. The HLD would provide an ideal opportunity for the international community to identify issues of common interest and to provide impetus for more effective coordination at the national level of the numerous government agencies involved in the migration management process. Beyond regional mechanisms, there is obviously an ideal opportunity to assess and consider progress achieved through the significant broader global processes mentioned earlier.
2. An increasingly important element of the Organization's work has been in contributing to better **understanding and dialogue at the regional level, through regional consultative mechanisms or processes**

of international migration for individual migrants and societies, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals. This includes the promotion of the role of the diaspora in home country development and the importance of the relationship between countries of origin and their diaspora.

Increasingly, the international community is recognizing and emphasizing the positive effects of

efforts. It also supports initiatives that would ultimately facilitate the replacement of irregular flows with orderly migration channels. In addition, it offers capacity building and technical cooperation activities to enhance capacities of border managers through the operation of passport and visa issuance systems, using biometric information where necessary. HLD may wish to focus on capacity building activities needed in this field.

5. **Migration is linked to policy in the economic, social, labour, trade, health, cultural and security domains**, among others. In the longer term, effective migration management cannot be planned and developed without reference to important adjoining policy fields. For example, the issue of skilled migration that has now become of relevance to trade negotiations; and the question of human mobility impinges increasingly on the development of health policies at both national and international levels. One consideration is the need to enhance commonality of purposes and to avoid duplication between agencies. In this context, IOM was a joint initiator of the Geneva Migration Group (GMG) which brings together the heads of six agencies dealing with migration: IOM, ILO, UNCTAD, UNHCR, UNHCHR, and UNODC. The Geneva Migration Group's aims are to share information and ideas, improve understanding, make effective linkages and provide direction and leadership in a system-wide context. HLD could consider ways of improving and enhancing such efforts.

ANNEX
MANAGING MIGRATION

MAIN AREAS

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Return of Qualified Nationals
Exchange of Expertise
Remittances/ Money Transfers
Overseas Communities
Micro-credit Schemes
Targeted Assistance
Brain Drain and Gain

FACILITATING MIGRATION

Workers and Professionals Students
and trainees
Family Reunification
Recruitment and Placement
Documentation
Language Training
Cultural Orientation
Consular Services

REGULATING MIGRATION

Systems for visa, entry and stay
Border Management
Technology Applications
Assisted Return and Reintegration
Counter-Trafficking
Counter-Smuggling
Stranded Migrants

FORCED MIGRATION

Asylum and Refugees
Resettlement
Repatriation
IDPS
Transition and Recovery
Former Combatants
Claims and Compensati