

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA
RELATED TO THE 2006 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

As a follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has issued several publications, and has actively participated in meetings on international migration and development. ESCWA is planning future activities related to international migration, including a joint United Nations project on national capacities to deal with international migration. ESCWA is planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the near future.

A. COMPLETED AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF ESCWA RELATED TO
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The following lists various reports recently issued by ESCWA on international migration and development. It also mentions meetings in this field in which ESCWA participated.

- Wallchart on *International Migration and Development in the Arab Region*

This wallchart, issued in 2007, is based on background papers of the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in the Arab Region, which was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 15 to 17 May 2006. It was prepared in light of the regional and global events undertaken to account for the various dimensions of international migration, including the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York, from 14 to 15 September 2006. This wallchart highlights the social, economic, political and demographic aspects leading to and resulting from international migration in the Arab Region.

- Population and Development Report, Third Issue on *International Migration and Development in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities*

The Population and Development Report (PDR) is one of a series of reports published by ESCWA. The third issue of this series, published in December 2007, examined the relation between international migration and development, highlighting the activities of ESCWA in this area. It analysed the patterns and trends of Arab migration as well as migration policies adopted by Arab countries.

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The bulletin also explained how international migration can be viewed as an opportunity for equitable social and economic development.

- Fact-sheet on *International Migration and Development in the Arab Region*

This fact-sheet was issued in 2007. It briefly examined current and projected international migration trends in the region, addressing labour migration to the Gulf countries, the impact of migration on the age and sex structure of the population, the impact of migration remittances and the causes and implications of the emigration of highly skilled workers in the Arab region.

- Paper on *Labour Migration in Arab Countries*

This paper was presented at the Sixth Session of the Social Development Committee, held in Amman, Jordan, from 5 to 7 March 2007. It focused on the economic and social implications of

ESCWA will contribute to a paper on *International Mobility of Arab Youth in a Globalized World: Trends, Challenges and Potentials*. This paper, prepared by IOM, will analyse the underlying demographic, economic and social factors impacting migration in the Arab region, with special emphasis on youth. An analysis of the characteristics of young Arabs and their propensity to migrate will be provided, with a focus on gender, skills and levels of education. Main sending countries, such as Egypt, and receiving countries, such as Kuwait, will be analysed looking at factors such as education, duration of stay, as well as the role of youth in transnational communities. A section of the paper will analyse the impact of migration of young people on development in the Arab region, including the emigration of highly skilled workers. The paper will conclude with policy options for better management of migration of young people, including formulation of integrated policies that build on the individual capacities of migrant youth and address youth participation in the development process and their integration into public life. This paper will be presented during the Expert Group Meeting on Reinforcing Social Equity: Integrating Youth in the Development Process, to be organized by ESCWA in Doha, Qatar, on 8 January 2009.

Lastly, ESCWA and the International Organization for Migration are planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in the near future. The MOU will explore various ways of collaboration between ESCWA and IOM in the area of international migration and development.

NOTE

¹ See http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=other_ar&field_name=ID&FileID=376 (accessed 26 February 2009) (in Arabic).

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