UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division
Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration
New York, 17-18 February 2011

Remarks by Richard Morgan, Director, Policy and Practice, UNICEF
on behalf of the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG)

17 February 2011

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Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

I am very pleased to speak on behalf of the Global Migration Group (GMG) today at the *Ninth Coordination Meeting on International Migration*and wish to thank the Population Division of UN/DESA for organizing this very important event.

Asthe Chair of the GMG,I would like to take the opportunity to thank the current and former Chairs of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Mexico and Switzerland, as well as the Office of the President of the General Assembly for their presentations this morning.

In 2011, the GMG will continue to promote a practical approach to mainstreaming migration in national development planning, with an emphasis on capacity development and support to institutions and government stakeholders. Furthermore, in accordance with its terms of reference, the GMG will continue to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional human rights instruments and norms relating to migration. The GMG will also focus on common policy issues of interest to all stakeholders, through analysis, advocacy and the dissemination of good practices.

We would like to inform Member States and civil society stakeholders that the GMG Chairs for 2011, UNICEF and UNESCO, will have a single workplan this year, including the follow up of key priorities and outcomes of the 2010 GFMD held in Puerto Vallartalast November. We are also thankful for the contributions of OHCHR, the former Chair of the GMG, to the workplan.

Thematic focus of the GMG in the first half of 2011

In light of the current International Year of Youth (12 Aug 2010 – 11 Aug 2011), the GMGwill be focusing on adolescents and youthduring the first half of 2011, aiming to bring greater attention to this particular age group within the discussion on international migration. This theme will be considered from
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Planned activities and outputs

As mentioned this morning by Ambassador Heidi Schroderus-Fox of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF, has been invited by the PGA to speak at the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development, as Chair of the GMG. Mr. Lake is looking forward to working closely with the PGA office and Member States as well as all of the GMG agencies for the preparation of the informal debate.The GMG hopes to support preparations leading up to the informal debate and highlight some key areas, including humandevelopment, human rights and gender issues, that deserve special consideration in the international migration dialogue.

In order to support the Member State process, the GMG is hoping to host a two-day Practitioners Symposium, in advance of theinformal thematic debate in the General Assembly. This Symposium will be convened on the cross-cutting topic of: *"Migration and Development: Taking Joint Action Now on Challenges and Opportunities for the Future"*.

The Symposium would bring together decision makers, representatives, practitioners and stakeholders working on migration and development—including international organizations, governments, civil society and private sector— to provide practical solutions and policy recommendationswhile addressing future challenges in the context of migration and development. The Symposium will aim to improve cooperation and coordination between and within countries of origin and destination, emphasising the point that timely and effective migration and development policies can have a positive impact on future development challenges.

The GMG will make a special effort to ensure broad