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IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE  
IOM COUNCIL STEERING GROUP**

Geneva, 10 February 2004  
IC/2004/1

**INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2004**

## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2004

1. This note summarizes the International Dialogue on Migration in 2003 and proposes a course of action for continuing this dialogue in 2004.

### International Dialogue on Migration 2003: *Migration in a Globalized World*

2. The International Dialogue on Migration was launched at the IOM Council in November 2001 to provide a forum for Member States and observers to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the field of international migration.

3. The theme of the Dialogue in 2003 was *Migration in a Globalized World*. Its aim was to initiate a constructive discussion on effective policy responses to the changing nature of migration in today's globalized world, with a focus on migration facilitation and management for the benefit of countries of origin and destination as well as for individual migrants and their families. For the first time since its initiation, IOM's membership decided to continue the policy dialogue between Council sessions by holding two inter-sessional workshops over the course of 2003. The first, on **Data Collection and Management** (September 2003), enabled participating states to examine means to enhance their ability to collect and share migration-related data and statistics. The second, on **Trade and Migration** (November 2003, held in conjunction with OECD and the World Bank), brought together for the first time at the global level trade and migration policy-makers to explore areas of mutual interest in the movement of people in today's increasingly mobile world and integrated global economy. Full reports on both workshops will be available in the coming weeks.

4. At the 2003 Council session, the International Dialogue on Migration began with a brief presentation by the administration on migration trends, including the changing international discourse on migration. This introduction was followed by the first public appearance of the Geneva Migration Group (GMG) since its creation, bringing together the heads of agencies of IOM, ILO, UNHCHR, UNHCR, and UNCTAD to highlight the contributions of their organisations to the migration field. (The head of UNODC was not available.) The high-level plenary panel on *Migration in a Globalized World* consisted of keynote speeches from a range of migration perspectives. The speakers highlighted that migration today has entered a new "age" or "paradigm", distinguished from the past by its magnitude and its global reach, and the opportunities this presents for growth and development for all countries of migration and for individual migrants and their families. Following the presentations, delegations were given the opportunity to comment in an interactive dialogue.

5. The second day of the Dialogue included two sessions providing updates on selected regional and thematic developments in migration policy and management. Brief reports were presented to the Council on: the Labour Migration Ministerial Consultations for Countries of Origin in Asia; the Conference on Western Mediterranean Co-operation (5 plus 5); the Italian National Association of Municipalities migration initiative; the Regional Conference on Public Health and Trafficking in Human Beings in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe; the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process); the Economic Community of West African States initiatives in the field of migration; the South

American Conference on Migration; the Regional Conference on Migration (Puebla); and the Berne Initiative. These updates provided an indication of the breadth and depth of national, regional and global initiatives to better understand migration and develop co-operative approaches to its management.

6. The second day also included interactive workshops on two key issues in migration: (1) Labour Migration and (2) Capacity Building in Migration Management. A governmental moderator, an independent expert and an IOM (and ILO in the case of labour migration) expert led each workshop. Reports of the results of the workshops were presented to the plenary session on the morning of the third day of the Dialogue, followed by a general wrap-up of the dialogue.

7. It was emphasised that migration is one of the defining issues of the 21st century, cutting across a broad range of domains and affecting all countries in some way. In order to manage migration and enhance its potential benefits for all, it is important to find common ground and complementary objectives. Initiatives, such as regional dialogues, the Berne Initiative, intersessional workshops, increasing partnerships and the International Dialogue on Migration itself, remain important for sharing experiences and exploring specific migration related issues with greater depth. IOM will continue to serve as a focal point for discussions on migration policy and management and to play a lead role within the international community in this area.

#### **International Dialogue on Migration 2004: *The Costs and Benefits of Migration***

8. The proposed theme for the International Dialogue on Migration in 2004 is ***The Costs and Benefits of Migration***. Participants will explore the positive and negative impacts of migration on a range of stakeholders, including countries of origin, destination and transit, as well as migrants themselves. The discussion will focus on the social, cultural, political and economic implications of migration. This theme has been selected to coincide with IOM's biennial publication, the World Migration Report (WMR), to be published in early 2005. This, the third edition of the WMR, will focus on *Economies of Migration: Costs and Benefits of Migration* and will contain some 20 chapters contributed by experts, academics and policy-makers addressing the implications of migration for a range of stakeholders in the migration process. The linking of the themes of the International Dialogue and the World Migration Report will provide IOM's membership with the opportunity for more in-depth and multi-level consideration of the themes explored. In addition, as part of this, in early 2004 we will be requesting input from the membership on key migration policy concerns and developments, for sharing in advance of the Council discussion.

#### **Structure**

9. As in 2003, the International Dialogue on Migration will cover approximately two days of the four-day Council session.

10. The proposed schedule is as follows:

**Day One: 30 November 2004**

- Morning, end of the meeting: brief **presentation** by the administration setting the scene for the International Dialogue and outlining key issues and themes for discussion.
- Afternoon: **main plenary meeting**, including a high-level panel presentation on the theme of the *Costs and Benefits of Migration*, to be followed by debate.

**Day Two: 1 December 2004**

- Morning: ‘**The Year in Review**’, involving brief updates and debate on a range of significant migration developments in 2003/2004. This could include reports on the International Labour Conference (ILC) on Migrant Labour, the Global Commission on International Migration, the Berne Initiative, as well as selected regional and thematic developments.
- Afternoon: In contrast to 2003, it is proposed to convene **one workshop session** in 2004, so as to allow time on the agenda for more discussion and debate. Participants will be divided into either **two or three** different groups, with each group to simultaneously discuss the **same theme**. This will allow workshops to remain small enough to facilitate an interactive and informal discussion, while at the same time ensuring that smaller delegations do not miss out on any topic in the dialogue.

The administration would like to invite the membership to select **one** of the following proposed themes to be the subject of the Council workshop in 2004.

- (i) ***The Image of Migrants in Society***: This workshop would explore the ways in which migrants are portrayed in both home and host societies, and how these portrayals affect policy-making. It would examine measures to ensure accurate representation of the complexities and types of migration, as well as ways to enhance awareness of the positive contributions of migrants to societies.
- (ii) ***Migration and Development***: This workshop would explore the nexus between migration and development, from the perspectives of both countries of origin and destination. It would examine not only concerns such as brain drain and the labour market impact of migrants, but also the potential for migrants abroad to contribute to development in their country of origin, e.g. through remittances, foreign investment, brain circulation, diaspora contact and networks, training and skills enhancement. It would explore the significant role of remittances in the global economy and in the economies of many States today, and means to enhance the development potential of these resources.

- (iii) **Return Migration:** This workshop would highlight measures to ensure the safe and orderly return of migrants to their countries of origin, e.g. at the end of a temporary work permit or study abroad, when not authorized or no longer authorized to remain in the host country, when stranded abroad, or when conditions in the country of origin permit return or repatriation in safety. The workshop would also examine ways to ensure successful reintegration of migrants into their home communities.

#### **Day Three: 2 December 2004**

- **Morning:** Report of each workshop group to the main plenary session followed by wrap-up of the Dialogue.

#### **Inter-sessional Workshops**

11. Given the positive response to the 2003 inter-sessional workshops and the opportunity these provide for more in-depth consideration of a migration issue, IOM plans to hold two such workshops in 2004, subject to the availability of appropriate funding. The administration will seek donor support, particularly to facilitate the participation of governmental experts from developing countries.

12. The themes proposed are:

- (i) **Health and Migration:** With more and more people on the move worldwide than ever before, the question of the relationship between public health and human mobility is becoming increasingly pertinent for a wide range of stakeholders. Topics to be explored could include the implications of globally mobile populations for national and international public health, issues arising from increasing circular/temporary movement of citizens and migrants, access to health services, and the migration of health workers. **WHO will be a collaborator and the administration is currently exploring the possibility of partnering with other organizations,** with a view to facilitating an exchange of views and experiences between experts, policy-makers and government officials from both the migration and the health communities.
- (ii) **Trade and Migration (follow up to 2003):** There have been many calls for a follow-up to the joint IOM-OECD-World Bank Trade and Migration workshop held in 2003, which brought together the migration and trade communities for the first time in an international context. In 2003, the focus was on a broad overview of the interlinkages between migration and trade, including in Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), as well as in bilateral and regional agreements for temporary labour migration. In 2004, it is proposed to focus on a few issues that might benefit from deepened dialogue and mutual understanding between the trade and migration communities. More details on the specific content of the workshop will be presented to the membership shortly. **Discussions are underway with the WTO, the World Bank and other potential partner organizations.**

### **Steering Group Schedule for 2004**

13. IOM proposes to convene three meetings of the informal Council Steering Group to prepare the International Dialogue on Migration for Council 2004. The first meeting will be held on 10 **February** 2004, the second in the **spring**, and the final one in **October** to provide an update to the membership just prior to the Council session.

### **Notional Schedule for 2004 International Dialogue on Migration**

February	<i>Informal Council Steering Group</i>
June	<b>Health and Migration Inter-sessional Workshop</b>
Spring/Summer	<i>Informal Council Steering Group</i>
Summer/Fall	<b>Trade and Migration Inter-sessional Workshop</b>
October	<i>Informal Council Steering Group</i>
November/December	<b>IOM Council International Dialogue on Migration</b>