



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

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON
MIGRATION**

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2006

Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society

Discussion Note

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2006

Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society

1. IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) provides a forum for governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to identify and discuss key issues and challenges in the field of migration, in order to explore policy issues of common interest and the means to cooperate in addressing them. The dialogue takes place at the annual Council sessions and at intersessional workshops where the multidisciplinary aspects of migration, and important linkages with related policy fields, such as trade, health and development are explored.
2. In 2006 the theme ***Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society*** guides the IDM. This discussion note provides an update on IDM activities since the last informal consultation, and on plans for the dialogue at the 2006 Council session. In addition, this note seeks the views of the membership on the theme to guide the IDM in 2007 as well as possible intersessional workshops in 2007.

Migrants and the Host Society: Partnerships for Success

3. The second intersessional workshop of the IDM in 2006, *Migrants and the Host Society: Partnerships for Success*, held in Geneva on 12-13 July, was well attended with nearly 200 participants coming from 62 countries. A range of international organizations (including UNHCR, UNFPA, ICMPD, ILO, IFRC, OIF), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and private sector entities were also represented. Thanks to the generosity of the Government of Australia, IOM was able to support the participation of nearly 30 officials from developing countries or countries in transition, ten of whom as speakers at the workshop.
4. In keeping with the overall IDM theme for 2006, this Workshop provided an opportunity for states and other stakeholders to examine the evolving concept of integration today, its multifaceted dimensions, strategies for making it successful, the role of principal stakeholders and the need for cooperation among them to make the development of effective integration policies and practices possible. Panellists representing a variety of viewpoints – countries of destination and of origin, civil society, and the private sector – interacted with an active group of participants to discuss the complex challenges facing all stakeholders, and the need to form partnerships to achieve solutions.
5. With greater human mobility, increasing attention is focused on what is meant by and required for migrants to function productively and effectively in a new society. The participants examined the *meaning of integration* today, and the rationale for a new conceptualization of the term – taking into account multidirectional paths of migration, transnational migration, temporary and permanent approaches, multiple generations of migrants and the particular issues of integration posed by migrants in an irregular situation. In addition, integration needs in *different domains*, i.e. employment, religion, health care and welfare were discussed. The *rights and obligations of migrants and societies* in the integration process, including the role of countries of origin and of destination, diasporas, the private sector and the media/public opinion, as well as the potential security and stability implications of ineffective integration were considered through a “whole of society”

approach, with a clear recognition of the need to tailor integration policies to the specific needs and expectations of both the migrants and each different host society.

The Environment and Migration

6. The Administration regrets to inform the membership that due to a lack of sufficient funding it will not be able to organize the third intersessional workshop of the IDM this year on the theme of the *Environment and Migration*, planned for 24 and 25 October in Bangkok, Thailand. Following the membership's decision to address the relationship between environment and migration, the Administration approached a number of governments, organizations and agencies in search of financial support for the event, including the World Bank, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Foundation for Population, Migration and the Environment (PME) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Unfortunately, it was not possible to secure adequate funds for the organization of the workshop in time, despite a generous offer of a contribution made by UNFPA and a proposal to cover venue costs made by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The Administration expresses its gratitude to both organizations and its particular appreciation to the Royal Thai Government for its kind offer to host the workshop.

7. The Administration wishes to take this opportunity to request the IOM membership to consider whether to defer the workshop on the theme of the *Environment and Migration* to 2007, or to cancel it. In the event of a deferral, IOM would like to revisit the issue of the location of the workshop and seek the membership's views as to the venue. If the membership decides to hold this workshop in 2007, it would be in addition to the two intersessional workshops on the theme of next year's IDM, and only in the event that adequate funding is secured.

Future Funding of the International Dialogue on Migration

8. Although this is the first time since the creation of the IDM in 2001 that a workshop has had to be postponed due to the lack of funds, a workshop-by-workshop funding approach increases the risk of such outcomes and prevents long-term planning. This has an adverse impact on cost-effectiveness and the rational utilization of human resources. The Administration therefore reiterates its proposal made in 2006 for a **new approach to financial support for the IDM** that would aim to fund all intersessional workshops on an annual rather than on an individual basis. The rationale for this new approach is to:

- fulfil commitments made to the IOM membership regarding the specific themes selected in advance for discussion, and ensure continuity of the discussion among the IOM membership;
- facilitate the sponsorship of the participation of a maximum number of representatives from developing country Member States – which corresponds to the major part of the budget for each workshop – by enabling IOM to define precisely what amount will be available for each workshop, and to have a realistic and efficient planning cycle for the sessions concerned;
- utilize human and financial resources more rationally and cost-effectively by consolidating funding request efforts, and
- reduce operational costs (airfares in particular) through timely advance preparation based on the advance knowledge of the overall budget.

Council 2006: Partnerships in Migration: *Structure and Themes*

9. In recent years, substantial efforts have been made in the IDM and elsewhere to engage governments from around the world in a global migration policy dialogue. The recent United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, is a further demonstration of the growing interest of the international community in migration issues, with a focus, *inter alia*, on how to mainstream migration into development policies at national and international levels in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These efforts have been successful in contributing to a better understanding of contemporary migration dynamics and have identified and guided cooperative efforts to address them. Comparatively less dedicated attention has, however, been paid to the role of non-state actors in the migration process and migration policy dialogue, in particular the business community and civil society organizations. The creation of the Director General's Business Advisory Board in 2005 has added impetus to, and provided avenues for, engaging this critical sector, as does IOM's ongoing work on trade and migration with the WTO and the World Bank. Similarly, at the field level, the business community and civil society are engaged in facilitating work-related migration, remittance flows, the development of micro-credit enterprises, and much more. Diaspora organizations, hometown associations, and relief and advocacy groups all have a role to play in migration policy dialogue and operations. IOM's membership is uniquely placed to provide leadership at the international level in order to respond to the important challenge of integrating their voices into a truly global migration policy dialogue and programming.

10. The programme for the International Dialogue on Migration at the next Council will include the following:

- (a) A special session bringing together members of the Global Migration Group (GMG) so that the IOM membership can interact with them following the HLD and ask questions related to their respective areas as well as to the activities of the GMG as a whole.
- (b) A high-level session dedicated to *Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society*, to give various stakeholders an opportunity to present their views and share experiences on opportunities for partnerships on migration.
- (c) A session on the International Migration and Development Initiative (IMDI) following the side event convened by IOM on this matter on the margins of the HLD and other consultations with the membership. An updated version of the IMDI concept paper will be provided, taking into account the various comments and suggestions made to date. The Administration will present for discussion some potential concrete activities to be developed within the overall framework of IMDI, as well as proposals for governance and funding structures.
- (d) A session dedicated to The Year in Review, calling attention to selected migration highlights from around the world in 2006. IOM is expecting ministerial-level presentations on a range of developments in 2006 of interest to the IOM membership.

International Dialogue on Migration 2007: Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy

11. Consistent with past practice, at the October informal consultations on the IDM, the Administration proposes and the membership ultimately selects the theme to guide the IDM for the coming year, as well as the topics for the intersessional workshops.

12. Regarding the overarching theme to guide the IDM in 2007, the Administration proposes ***Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy***. In seeking to promote internal coherence and maximize opportunities for cross-fertilization between different activities pursued by the Organization, the theme proposed for the IDM next year is in line with the topic of the World Migration Report 2007, which will be briefly presented to the membership by the Administration at the informal consultations on 19 October. This theme is also consistent with the overall Migration Policy and Research Programme of IOM for the coming year, which will be focused, in broad terms, on how migration, and labour migration in particular, can be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and of destination. IOM is drawn to this theme given the high level of interest generated in the subject by the recent United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and the work of IOM with its partners in the Global Migration Group (GMG) and beyond to help realize the development potential of migration.

13. Increasing cross-border movements of people is an integral part of globalization, and addressing its challenges lies at the heart of the response to globalization. In recent international consultations on migration, many governments and private sector representatives have recognized the need for more equitable, effective and efficient human mobility at the bilateral, regional and global level. With migration being an inevitable and potentially beneficial reality, there is a need to promote managed mobility, whether for temporary or permanent migrants and at a variety of skill levels. The Administration proposes that IDM in 2007 look at migration management challenges that need to be addressed in view of the changes occurring with respect to labour markets at different levels, including at the global level. The objective will be to identify ways in which these challenges can be addressed and the means to strengthen policy dialogue and programming to increase the effectiveness of migration management in the context of the dynamic global economy.

14. IOM seeks the views of its members on the topics for the two intersessional workshops to be convened in 2007. The Administration wishes to take this opportunity to request delegations to give consideration to the four topics listed below, or such other topics as the membership might wish to propose at the informal consultations, and to select two topics for the 2007 intersessional workshops during the informal consultations.

The Environment and Migration

15. Natural disasters displacing large numbers of people, such as the devastating Asian tsunami, and the more recent hurricanes and earthquake in Pakistan, have drawn renewed attention to the relationship between migration and the environment. While in recent years disaster response has occupied the international community, comparatively little attention was paid to the long-term migration consequences of predictable environmental forces such as global climate change, the greenhouse effect, deforestation, desertification, river erosion and other identifiable climatic and environmental trends.

16. This workshop is intended to bring together officials from the migration and environmental communities, the private sector, IGOs and NGOs to analyse and explore together the links between these fields. The workshop intends to focus on the movement of people as a result of more foreseeable environmental phenomena, rather than as a result of emergencies caused by catastrophic environmental disasters, while recognizing the link between environmental degradation and the occurrence of such disasters. The workshop would analyse the various forms of environmental degradation resulting in the movement of people, including those forms caused by population movements themselves, the current responses of the international community, and the need for the establishment of partnerships within and between governments as well as between pertinent stakeholders (IGOs, private sector and civil society) with a view to ensuring a coherent and planned response to current and potential movements.

17. The workshop venue will be discussed at the informal consultations, should the membership confirm its interest in this topic. Provided sufficient funding is made available, the Administration suggests that this workshop be organized during the first quarter of 2007 and in addition to the two intersessional workshops selected by the membership in the context of the overall theme for the IDM.

Making Global Labour Mobility a Catalyst for Development

18. It is now widely recognized that migration holds significant potential for the development of countries of both origin and of destination. In countries of origin, the benefits of migration include the positive impact of remittances on poverty reduction, foreign reserves and the balance of payments; knowledge and skills-transfer, and the reduction of unemployment and underemployment. In countries of destination, migration can help mitigate labour shortages, enrich the human capital of host countries, and improve the flexibility and productivity of their economies. It is also acknowledged that globalizing forces, including reduced barriers to the movement of goods, capital and services worldwide inevitably have implications for the movement of people. However, the mobility of people has not benefited from the same level of liberalization as has the mobility of capital and goods, and legal opportunities for migration remain limited.

19. At the same time, the demand for migrant workers today is high, and the supply is even higher. Current demographic realities indicate that this trend will continue. The lack of adequate legal channels for labour migration leads to a growing supply-demand imbalance in the labour market, which not only limits economic growth but also fuels irregular migration and creates an attractive environment for the malicious trade of human traffickers and smugglers, and exploitation by unscrupulous employers. Migrant workers in an irregular situation are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations and abuse. Therefore, it is a priority to identify measures to ensure that it is not smuggling rings that do the matching, but that governments and private recruiters ethically and effectively channel labour migration into safe, legal, humane and orderly avenues. This would maximize the societal and human development potential of the global mobility of people, and also improve the protection of migrants' human rights and help to counteract irregular migration.

20. The workshop would look into what is currently being done and what could still be done to be able to assess more reliably current and emerging gaps in the international labour market. The workshop would also seek to focus collective efforts by relevant stakeholders, including governments and employers, on the necessary means to create a better match between labour supply and labour demand today and in the future. This could be achieved by developing and implementing effective, comprehensive and coherent approaches to

migration management and other necessary complementary measures, such as investment in human resource development in both countries of origin and of destination in those sectors that will clearly be in demand in tomorrow's global economy.

Free Movement of Persons in Regional Integration Processes

21. With growing regional and global economic integration, a number of regional economic and political institutions are considering the extent to which the free movement of persons within defined territories for the purpose of engaging in an economic activity (i.e. the European Union, CARICOM, SADC, ECOWAS, MERCOSUR, etc.) is to be permitted, while a number of others are considering developing special schemes of this sort.

22. This capacity-building workshop would bring together representatives of governments and regional institutions to share their experiences with regard to the operation of existing or nascent regional integration processes, and to discuss various ways in which they provide for freedom of movement of persons. The objective of the workshop would be to identify the migration-related measures such as legislation, administration, technology, training, interstate cooperation needed to facilitate regional integration efforts and support regional mobility. The workshop would also explore the ways in which economic integration, trade liberalization dynamics, and migration dynamics influence the elaboration of regional legal frameworks governing the movement of persons. The primary goal would be to assist those regions looking to develop or to improve the implementation of regional regimes providing for freedom of movement by offering them the opportunity to learn from the experiences of states and institutions in other parts of the world having addressed similar issues.

South/South Migration

23. Some 60 per cent of all migratory flows are South/South, as are some 45 per cent of remittance flows, yet the principal international focus has been, and continues to be, on South/North migration. The patterns, challenges and opportunities of South/South migration, including internal migration, require dedicated focus and attention. This theme was proposed at previous IDM informal consultations as a potential overall theme for the IDM and, while not endorsed at the time, was of general interest. Recent IOM research on internal migration and development in Asia, as well as planned work on this subject in Africa, could make a useful contribution to this workshop. In addition, the particular capacity building needs in migration for countries of the South would be explored.

24. IOM will select appropriate dates for the intersessional workshops of the IDM to be convened next year, taking into account, to the extent possible, the need to avoid any conflicts of dates with other important events outside IOM.