



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**

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2004

Valuing Migration: Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges

24 May 2004

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2004

Valuing Migration: Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges

1. This note summarizes the informal consultation held on 10 February 2004 and provides an updated course of action for the International Dialogue on Migration in 2004.
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, with a view to enhancing understanding of and cooperation in migration.
3. At the 10 February 2004 informal consultation, IOM's membership reflected on the International Dialogue on Migration in 2003, and began planning the Dialogue for 2004. 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. At the 10 February 2004 informal consultation, widespread support was expressed for both the policy dialogue at the 2003 Council session and for the two intersessional workshops held over the course of 2003. The full report of the **Trade and Migration** workshop (November 2003, held in conjunction with OECD and the World Bank) is available on the IOM website http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/tms_200311.shtml as is the report on the **Data Collection and Management** workshop (September 2003), http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/isw_200309.shtml.
4. IOM's membership emphasized 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, are important for sharing experiences and exploring specific migration-related issues in 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: *Valuing Migration: Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges*

5. At the 10 February 2004 informal consultation, IOM proposed the theme of *The Costs and Benefits of Migration* for the International Dialogue on Migration for 2004. IOM proposed exploring the social, cultural, political and economic implications of migration for all countries of migration as well as for migrants and their families. This theme was proposed to coincide with IOM's biennial publication, the World Migration Report (WMR), to be published in early 2005, which will focus on *Economies of Migration: Benefits and Costs of Migration*. Participants at the informal consultation supported linking the themes of the International Dialogue and the World Migration Report to provide an opportunity for more in-depth and multilevel consideration of the themes explored.

6. Nonetheless, the proposed title of *The Costs and Benefits of Migration* was not endorsed. It was seen by some participants as overly focused on economics without giving sufficient recognition to the human dimension of migration. IOM appreciates the concerns expressed and has modified the proposed theme to *Valuing Migration: Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges*, providing a more positive and human connotation to the effort to assess the implications of migration.

Structure

7. The agreed schedule for the Dialogue 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 *Valuing Migration: Benefits, Opportunities and Challenges*, 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, there will be **one workshop session** in 2004. 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 any topic in the dialogue.

Day Three: 2 December 2004

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

8. When asked to select **one** theme for the workshop at the Council from among (1) the image of migrants in society, (2) migration and development, and (3) return migration, participants overwhelmingly supported the theme of **Migration and Development**. On reflection, in view of the strong support for this theme as well as the breadth and complexity of this issue, the Administration would like to propose that *Migration and Development* be the theme for the first intersessional workshop in 2005. This would permit a more in-depth and full two-day consideration of the issue, as well as the possibility of partnership with other organizations active in this field.

The Administration would propose to hold this intersessional workshop in the first half of 2005, and would adjust IOM's research agenda for the coming months to permit work on this subject in advance of the workshop.

9. For your convenience, the concept of a *Migration and Development workshop* is repeated here. 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.

10. Should the proposal to have Migration and Development as the first intersessional workshop in 2005 be acceptable to the membership, the Administration would propose that the theme for the workshop during the 2004 Council be *The Image of Migrants in Society*. This theme relates more closely than *Return Migration* to the overall theme of *Valuing Migration*. The concept for the workshop is repeated here.

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.

Intersessional Workshops

11. In 2004, there will be two intersessional workshops, subject to the availability of appropriate funding. The first, on **Health and Migration, will take place 9-11 June, in collaboration with WHO and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention**. Migration and health experts from the capitals of IOM's and WHO's Member States and observer governmental and non-governmental organizations have been invited to participate. Dr. Danielle Grondin, Director of IOM's Migration Health Service will make a brief presentation at the 24 May informal consultation on the status of preparations for the workshop and will be available to answer any questions you may have. (Further information can be found on the IOM website at **Seminar on Migration and Health, 9-11 June 2004** http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/smh_200406.shtml.)

12. The second intersessional workshop in 2004 will be on **Trade and Migration (follow-up to 2003)**. This workshop, which will take place in the autumn, will be prepared in collaboration with the World Bank, OECD and other partners. It will aim to deepen the dialogue and mutual understanding between the trade and migration communities on a few key issues relevant to Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services and to labour mobility more generally. More details on the specific content of the workshop and the date will be presented to the membership shortly.

13. In addition, to further the Dialogue's aim of enhancing understanding of migration, at the 24 May informal consultation, a brief questionnaire will be presented to all Members and observers, requesting input on key migration policy concerns and developments, for sharing of results in advance of the Council discussion.

Schedule for 2004 International Dialogue on Migration

10 February	<i>Informal Council Steering Group</i>
24 May	<i>Informal Council Steering Group</i>
9-11 June	Health and Migration Intersessional Workshop
Fall	Trade and Migration Intersessional Workshop
October	<i>Informal Council Steering Group</i>
November/December	IOM Council International Dialogue on Migration