



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**

IC/2005/13

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2005

Towards Policy Coherence on Migration

Discussion Note

25 October 2005

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2005

Towards Policy Coherence on Migration

Discussion Note

1. For 2005, the theme “Towards Policy Coherence on Migration” guides the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM). This discussion note provides an update on IDM activities since the last informal consultation, and on plans for the dialogue at the 2005 Council session. In addition, to facilitate adequate preparation of the IDM in future, this note seeks the views of the membership on the theme to guide the International Dialogue on Migration in 2006, as well as possible inter-sessional workshops in 2006.

Developing Capacity to Manage Migration

2. The second inter-sessional workshop of the IDM on *Developing Capacity to Manage Migration*, held on 27-28 September 2005, was attended by some 175 government migration officials from around the world, representatives of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and independent migration experts. Thanks to the generous support from the governments of the United States and Australia, IOM was able to support the participation of some 60 officials from developing countries. The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to examine capacity building at several levels, including the human resources level, the institutional level, and the legislative and administrative level. It highlighted the role and importance of partnerships in capacity building. The workshop also provided an opportunity to disseminate the International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM) and the Essentials of Migration Management (EMM) to governments, and to stimulate reflection on how to integrate these new tools into national and regional capacity building strategies. A number of delegations stressed the importance of policy coherence on migration and the necessity to link capacity building on migration to this broader objective.

Council 2005: *Towards Policy Coherence on Migration*

3. The International Dialogue on Migration at the Council 2005 will explore the theme *Towards Policy Coherence on Migration* in view of the multidisciplinary and transnational character of migration, and the need for dedicated efforts and attention on migration policy and practice by and within governments and at the international level, to achieve concrete and sustainable results. The discussion will look at the need for coherence **within governments** to ensure consultation and coordination between relevant ministries, e.g. ministries of justice and home affairs, labour, employment, health, trade, development, social welfare, education, at all levels – national, regional and local. It will also look at the importance of active **engagement of stakeholders** at the national and international level from migrant groups and associations, the business community, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and others. Similarly, the need to engage intergovernmental and other partner institutions in their areas of expertise to foster and ensure policy coherence will be emphasized. The need for coherence **between countries** to enhance the prospects for successful and mutually beneficial migration management will be stressed. This topic is particularly timely in view of the heightened attention to

international migration by governments at the national and international level, by various regional and global organizations, the report of the Global Commission on International Migration and preparations for the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development at the UN General Assembly in 2006.

4. Just before the start of the IDM at the Council, IOM's new Business Advisory Board (BAB) will be introduced. The BAB is comprised of chief executives representing a broad cross-section of business interests in all parts of the world and aims to identify and exchange ideas on global issues relevant to migration and business alike, and to develop practical solutions. IOM looks forward to the contribution of the BAB to its work, to the migration debate, and to the effort to achieve policy coherence on migration.

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

- a high-level plenary panel on the theme *Towards Policy Coherence on Migration*,
- a session dedicated to *The Year in Review*, calling attention to selected migration highlights from around the world in 2005, and
- a session dedicated to *Migration and Development*.

6. The high-level plenary will include presentations and discussion at ministerial level on the importance of policy coherence on migration as referred to in paragraph 3.

7. Based on the advice received in previous informal consultations on the IDM, the Year in Review panel will highlight a small number of selected developments in 2005, and allow adequate time for IOM's membership to comment on the presentations and to discuss their views. As with the high-level plenary panel, IOM is expecting ministerial-level presentations on a range of developments in 2005 of interest to the IOM membership.

8. Rather than organize workshops as at previous Council sessions, the Migration and Development panel will discuss the findings and take the results of the February inter-sessional workshop on migration and development further to a political level. It will focus on policy coherence, migration and the Millennium Development Goals, engaging diasporas, and partnerships in migration and development. The report of the February workshop on Migration and Development is now available on the IOM website.¹ In addition, IOM is preparing a background paper which distils a series of findings and policy approaches on migration and development from the workshop report and other sources. The draft document on policy approaches on migration and development will be provided to the membership in advance of the Council session to permit adequate review and reflection in the respective capitals beforehand. As with other IDM panels at the Council, this panel will include ministerial-level presentations from a range of perspectives, regions and expertise. IOM hopes that the discussion will result in the identification of a series of recommendations or proposals which could be made available to the United Nations to assist in the preparation of the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006.

¹ <http://www.iom.int/en/know/idm/iswmd%5F200502.shtml>.

9. As requested at previous informal consultations, the Administration has reserved space in the Council agenda, immediately following the conclusion of the General Debate, for discussion on the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, and its implications for IOM. A copy of the Provisional Agenda of the Council is attached.

International Dialogue on Migration 2006: *Partnerships in Migration - Engaging Business and Civil Society*

10. Early in the year, IOM's membership and the Administration normally work together to select the theme for the International Dialogue on Migration, following the conclusion of the previous year's Council. This year, the Administration proposes to the membership to advance the planning process and select the themes to guide the IDM for 2006, as well as for the inter-sessional workshops already now. This would give the Administration more time to prepare the inter-sessional workshops, conduct related research, establish desired partnerships and seek needed funding. By reaching agreement now, both the Administration and the membership will be able to plan ahead more effectively and thereby ensure the appropriate quality.

11. Regarding the theme to guide the IDM in 2006, the Administration proposes ***Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society***. 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 debate and dialogue. 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 the migration policy dialogue, in particular the business community, and civil society organizations in general. The creation of IOM's Business Advisory Board has added impetus to, and provided avenues for engaging this critical sector, as does IOM's on-going work on trade and migration with the WTO and the World Bank and on labour migration more generally. Similarly, at the field level, the business community and civil society are engaged in facilitating work-related migration, remittance flows, the development of microcredit 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.

12. IOM seeks the views of its members on the topics for the two inter-sessional workshops to be convened in 2006. The Administration wishes to take this opportunity to request delegations to give consideration to the three 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 2006 inter-sessional workshops at the informal consultations.

- **Migration and the Environment:** this theme has been proposed previously and it was agreed to defer it to 2006. Natural disasters that displace large numbers of people, such as the devastating Asian Tsunami, and the more recent hurricanes in the Americas and earthquakes in Pakistan and India, have dramatically demonstrated the relationship between migration and the environment. Although in recent years disaster response has occupied the international community, relatively little attention was paid to the long-term migration consequences of such predictable environmental forces as global climate change, the

greenhouse effect, deforestation, desertification, river erosion and other identifiable climatic and environmental trends. This workshop would bring together migration and environmental officials to analyse and explore the links between these fields and focus on both predictable environmental phenomena and catastrophic environmental disasters, and to identify the means to achieve and ensure proper coherence and planning in their regard.

- **South/South Migration:** Some 40 per cent of all migratory flows are South/South, as are some 45 per cent of remittance flows, yet most 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 a previous IDM informal consultation as the overall theme for the IDM in 2005 and, while not endorsed for 2005, 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 migration-related capacity building needs of countries of the South would be explored.
 - **Migration of Healthcare Workers:** the strong and continuing demand for healthcare workers in the developed world, which is expected to further increase in view of ageing and declining populations, and the positive and negative developmental and health impacts on developing countries, make this theme of critical importance for many countries and regions. This theme would usefully build on reflections at previous inter-sessional IDM workshops on migration and health in 2004, on migration and trade in 2003 and 2004, and on migration and development in 2005, as well as on IOM field work and its growing collaboration with WHO and ILO on the migration of health workers.
13. IOM is looking at dates in the first and third quarters of 2006 for the two inter-sessional workshops of the IDM to be convened next year.

Annex

MC/2171

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

NINETIETH SESSION

to be held in Conference **Room XVII**,
at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
Tuesday, 29 November to Friday, 2 December 2005

Tuesday, 29 November 2005

10.00 - 11.00

**Opening procedures, election of officers and admission of
new Members and observers**

- Item 1: Opening of the session and credentials of representatives and observers
- Item 2: Election of officers
- Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

