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

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IOM COUNCIL STEERING GROUP**

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**INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2006**

***Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society***

**28 February 2006**

## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2006

### *Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society*

1. This discussion note provides a brief wrap-up of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) in 2005, and an update on planned IDM activities in 2006.

#### **IDM 2005: Toward Policy Coherence on Migration**

2. The International Dialogue on Migration in 2005 explored the theme “Toward Policy Coherence on Migration” in view of the multidisciplinary and transnational character of migration. At the 90th session of the IOM Council in December 2005, a strong case was made for policy coherence on migration, particularly (i) between the various national ministries addressing different aspects of migration (i.e. justice and home affairs, labour, employment, health, trade, development, social welfare, education); (ii) between migration and development policy in particular; and (iii) between different levels of government (national, regional and local). Strong cases were also made for inter-state and inter-agency collaboration on migration and capacity building in migration management as means for achieving policy coherence on migration. The importance of active engagement of stakeholders at the national and international levels from the business community, migrants’ groups and associations, civil society, non-governmental organizations and others was emphasized. Similarly, the need to engage partner intergovernmental and other institutions in their areas of expertise to foster and ensure policy coherence was underlined.

3. The IDM at the 90th Council session also included a special high-level panel discussion on “Migration and Development: lessons learned and policy approaches” to discuss the findings and results of the IDM inter-sessional workshop on Migration and Development held in February 2005. The discussion represented a true paradigm shift to seeing migration as intricately linked to development, with human mobility offering great opportunities to foster development, but only if properly managed through focused and comprehensive policies. This was followed by an update on the status of negotiations on Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) by Carlo Gamberale, Trade in Services, World Trade Organization. In addition, a session on the “Year in Review” highlighted selected migration developments in 2005. Interest was especially keen in the presentation made on the report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) by Jan Karlsson, Co-Chairperson of the Commission. Mr. Karlsson made clear that the work of the GCIM had been completed, and that attention would now shift to the 2006 UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD).

4. The Council Chairperson announced at the 90th Session that he would prepare a Chairman’s Summary, noting that he had found the discussions particularly rich and fruitful. He invited input from delegations by 15 January on key points from the discussions that they wish to ensure are included in the summary, which he would make available to the UN to inform preparations for the 2006 UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. A report of the 90th Council

session will be available on the IOM web site shortly and copies of several presentations and statements are currently available on the IOM web site.<sup>1</sup>

5. In 2005, IDM inter-sessional workshops were also convened on the subjects of Migration and Development (2 – 3 February 2005) and Developing Capacity to Manage Migration (27 – 28 September 2005). Copies of relevant presentations, statements, background documentation, and the final reports are available on the IOM web site.

### **IDM 2006: Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society**

6. For 2006, the theme “Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society” has been selected by IOM’s membership to guide the IDM. Substantial work has been done in the IDM and elsewhere in recent years to engage governments from around the world in migration policy debate and dialogue. These efforts are bearing fruit and contributing to a better understanding of contemporary migration dynamics as well as to identifying cooperative efforts to address them. Comparatively less dedicated attention, however, has been paid to the role of non-state actors in the migration process and in migration policy dialogue, in particular the business community and civil society organizations. The creation of the Director General’s Business Advisory Board provides added impetus to and avenues for engaging this critical sector, as does IOM’s ongoing work on trade and migration with the WTO and World Bank and on labour migration more generally. Similarly, at the field level, the business community and civil society are engaged in facilitating labour migration and remittance flows, the development of micro-credit enterprise and much more. Diaspora organizations, home-town associations, as well as relief and advocacy groups all have a role to play in migration policy dialogue and operations. IOM’s membership can provide leadership at the international level on the important challenge of integrating these voices into migration policy dialogue and programming.

7. Based on the 25 October 2005 informal consultations, IOM plans to hold three **IDM inter-sessional workshops** in 2006, subject to available funding. In view of the overall theme for 2006, each of the inter-sessional workshops will include a specific focus on partnerships to engage the business community and civil society in migration.

- **Migration and Human Resources for Health: From Awareness to Action, 23 – 24 March 2006 (Geneva).** The large demand for health care workers in the developed world – which is only anticipated to increase with aging and declining populations – and the (positive and negative) developmental and health impact on developing countries make this theme of critical importance in many countries and regions. Participants will explore innovative approaches to managing health-worker mobility for the developed and developing worlds. This seminar will build on reflections at previous inter-sessional workshops of the IDM 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

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<sup>1</sup> Accessible through the “Governing Bodies” link appearing on the IOM homepage (<http://www.iom.int/>).

and the Organization's growing collaboration with WHO and ILO on the migration of health workers. WHO and ILO serve as partners in this seminar, and will bring their expertise and perspectives to the discussion, and take back the results of the seminar to feed into the activities of their respective governing bodies. Participation in this seminar is anticipated by governmental officials from ministries of health, labour and migration, as well as by representatives of the business community, civil society (including health professional organizations) and international organizations active in issues surrounding the mobility of health workers. The Director of IOM's Migration Health Department will participate in the 28 February 2006 informal consultations and provide a more detailed update at that time.

- **Integration: 12 – 13 July 2006 (Geneva).** With greater human mobility, increasing attention is focused on what is required for migrants and receiving communities to function together harmoniously, productively and effectively. In other words, what is the meaning of integration today and is it time for a new conceptualization of the term – taking into account multidirectional paths of migration, transnational migration, temporary versus permanent approaches, the needs of migrants of different generations, and particular integration issues posed by migrants in an irregular situation? Given these factors and others, the rights and obligations of migrants and societies in the integration process will be explored, including the role of receiving communities and the potential role of countries of origin and nationals abroad. Consistent with the overall theme of the 2006 IDM, the role and contributions of business and civil society to the integration process will be a particular focus of attention. The potential security and stability implications of an ineffective integration process are other important topics to be explored. Workshop participants will also consider integration needs in different domains (i.e., employment, education, religion, health care and welfare). Common challenges will be examined and various experiences of successful integration presented (including initiatives at the local level). While the experiences of the traditional immigration countries will no doubt be instructive, integration challenges and approaches in other regions of the world and for non-permanent migrants will be a principal focus of this seminar.
- **The Environment and Migration: October 2006 (date and location to be confirmed).** Natural disasters displacing large numbers of people, such as the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami, the more recent hurricanes and the earthquake in Pakistan, have called renewed attention to the relationship between migration and the environment. While in recent years disaster response has occupied the international community, comparatively little attention has been 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. This workshop is intended to bring together officials from the migration and environmental communities to analyze and explore the links between these fields – with respect to both more foreseeable environmental phenomena as well as catastrophic environmental disasters – and to identify means to ensure proper coherence and planning between them.

8. In addition to the above, IOM is partnering with the Graduate Institute for International Studies, Geneva, to conduct a series of **training and briefing sessions** on substantive migration matters. A number of Member States have asked the Administration to conduct regular briefings on migration issues for the Geneva diplomatic missions, for example on international migration law. In view of the upcoming UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) in September 2006, the first of these briefings will focus on issues of particular relevance to the HLD. A tentative schedule of the planned briefings in 2006 will be provided at the 28 February informal consultation.

9. Periodic briefings will also be provided on substantial migration policy and dialogue initiatives and activities planned or undertaken by IOM together with one or more Member States. For example, in the coming months, the Government of Morocco and IOM will provide a briefing on the recent Migration and Religion Conference held in Rabat in December 2005, as well as plans for follow up, and a similar briefing will be provided on the recently-concluded conference in Benin on Remittances convened by the Government of Benin, IOM, and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States.

10. Finally, to maximize opportunities for the Membership to share migration policy developments and approaches, for each inter-sessional workshop and IDM session at the Council, delegates will be asked to prepare a brief 2 - 3 page overview of the policy approaches by their governments to the issues under consideration, for inclusion in a **migration policy database**. The database will be available on the IOM web site, along the lines of IOM's new International Migration Law web site. A template for such submissions will be provided shortly.