



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

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON  
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MIGRATION**

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**INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2009**

***“Human Rights and Migration:  
Working Together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration”***

20 October 2009

## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2009

### *“Human Rights and Migration: Working Together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration”*

1. This discussion note provides an update on International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) activities in 2009 since the last Informal Consultations on 28 April 2009 and prepares for both the IDM at the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council and IDM 2010. “Migration and Social Change” is the selected overarching theme for the IDM in 2010, and this note proposes four possible intersessional workshops, among which the membership is requested to select two.

#### **IDM 2009: Human Rights and Migration: Working Together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration**

2. The second IDM intersessional workshop for 2009 took place in Geneva on 9 and 10 July 2009 and explored “**Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of Migrants: Ensuring the Protection of Human Rights**”. It was attended by more than 200 participants representing 69 governments, 12 international organizations, 13 non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the media.<sup>1</sup> The panellists and participants shared national, regional and international experiences, effective approaches and lessons learned in protecting and assisting migrants who, through trafficking or otherwise, have been exploited and abused.

3. Firstly, there was general consensus among participants that the exploitation of migrants is a broad phenomenon, one specific category of which is trafficking in human beings. Participants highlighted that migrants who suffer abuse and exploitation need assistance and are entitled to protection of their human rights, regardless of their administrative category or migratory status. They also underlined the importance of empowering migrants at risk by educating them about their rights at all stages of the migration cycle, from pre-departure to return.

4. Secondly, the participants analysed current approaches to defining and combating human trafficking and migrant exploitation, emphasizing the importance of a “needs-first approach” in responding to the vulnerabilities of migrants who are abused and exploited but may not necessarily be identified as meeting the strict definition of a trafficked person.

5. Thirdly, participants stressed that trafficking in persons and exploitation of migrants cannot easily be separated from other aspects of migration and consequently need to be addressed within the broader context of migration governance. A more effective application of the human rights of *all* migrants and a balanced approach to preventing irregular migration and opening adequate legal migration channels will benefit migrants and societies as a whole and enhance the protection of particularly vulnerable groups, such as trafficked persons. Forging broad-based partnerships, including both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, at all stages of the migration process is a crucial step towards this goal.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on the workshop, including the final agenda, list of participants, background paper and presentations, please visit <http://www.iom.int/idmtrafexp>.

6. As part of the Organization's efforts to maximize the utility of its programmes to the membership, a survey was distributed to participants in order to obtain feedback on the workshop. The majority of respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the workshop, the quality of the presentations and the opportunity it provided to improve their understanding of the issues and learn from the experiences and practices of other States and stakeholders. Comments made regarding the availability of additional material and resources and the quality of interpretation at the workshop will be taken into serious consideration in the organization of future IDM workshops. More detailed results are provided in the annex to this discussion note.

### **Ninety-eighth Session of the Council**

7. Highlights of the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council (23-26 November 2009) will include the following:

- (a) a keynote address on *Migration, Human Rights and the Economic Crisis* (23 November);
- (b) a special interactive session with the *Global Migration Group (GMG)*, with an introductory presentation by current Chair Carlos Lopes, UNITAR Executive Director, followed by discussion by heads of agencies and the IOM membership of the economic crisis and the GMG's priority areas of work (24 November);
- (c) further to discussions on the topic at the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council in 2008, a presentation by the Administration on *Irregular Migration and Mixed Flows: IOM's approach*, followed by questions and answers with the membership (25 November);
- (d) a panel discussion entitled *Human Rights and Migration: Working Together for Safe, Dignified and Secure Migration*, the theme of this year's IDM, with high-level presentations followed by discussion (25 November);
- (e) *Highlights of Global and Regional Migration Dialogues*: high-level plenary presentations and discussions of selected recent and forthcoming migration dialogues (26 November).

### **IDM 2010: Migration and Social Change**

8. At the informal consultations held on 28 April 2009, the Administration proposed two possible overarching themes for the 2010 IDM. At the request of the membership, a follow-up survey was sent out in May to allow delegates to consult with their capitals. The vast majority expressed a preference for the theme of "**Migration and Social Change**". The proposed alternative theme was "South-South Migration". The Administration wishes to take this opportunity to request delegations to give consideration to the potential intersessional workshop topics listed below, or such other topics related to the overarching theme as the membership might wish to propose at the informal consultations. Two topics should be selected for the IDM intersessional workshops to be convened in 2010. Dialogue among governments and between governments and other stakeholders is at the heart of the workshops, which aim to identify lessons learned, effective practices and practical solutions and to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships on migration matters.

*A. Social change as a driver of migration*

9. Demographic trends, revolutionary advances in communications and transportation, mounting global economic integration, important shifts in production and labour market structures around the world and changing gender roles are all part of ongoing socio-economic changes and are the key factors driving and transforming the face of migration. Likewise, the global economic crisis and its social consequences have had intense repercussions for migrants and migration. The general interplay of social changes has also made contemporary migration increasingly varied in terms of patterns and composition, including short-term, long-term and permanent movement, growing class diversification, and the “feminization” of flows, as more and more women migrate independently or as heads of household.

10. This workshop would consider the implications for migration management of the increased complexity of the movement of people as a result of multifaceted social changes. How can States anticipate and respond to the resulting transformations of migration trends and scenarios? As mobility is an essential feature of today’s world, what measures can be taken by all stakeholders to make migration as positive and beneficial as possible? Most importantly, how can policymakers tackle the social repercussions of the current economic crisis, particularly the way in which they affect migrants and their families? How can migrants contribute to effective solutions in times of economic downturn?

*B. Migration and transnationalism: opportunities and challenges*

11. Transnationalism – people belonging to or having ties with more than one society over the course of a lifetime – is a prevalent phenomenon. Transnational families are becoming increasingly commonplace, with a range of implications for family unity, children and gender and generational roles. Likewise, networks are being recognized as an ever more important factor in social life, and in the lives of migrants in particular. As a result of these trends, a growing number of countries of origin are actively reaching out to their expatriates and diasporas, seeking to encourage a sense of belonging and contributions to the home society. At the same time, countries of destination are rethinking traditional policy approaches to integration of migrants and resettlement of refugees to factor in the phenomenon of transnationalism.

12. This workshop would be an opportunity to discuss the implications of transnationalism and migrant networks for States, societies and individuals. What innovative policy approaches are needed to make transnationalism work for individuals and societies? How is the concept of family changing in the light of transnationalism and in what ways can the disruptions that spatially separated families may experience be offset by specific policies and programmes? What are the benefits and challenges for countries of origin, transit and destination in supporting migrant networks and diaspora engagement? What is the role of migrant networks and transnational linkages in resettlement? What role do migrant networks play in the temporary or permanent return of migrants?

*C. Societies and identities: the multifaceted impact of migration*

13. Migration is a catalyst for change and development – it has the potential to enrich not only the economies, but more importantly perhaps the culture and societies of both countries of origin and destination. For example, while financial remittances are now widely recognized

as a product of migration, social remittances, including the transfer of ideas, behaviours, identities and social capital, have received much less attention. At the same time, migration transforms notions of national and personal identity and some societies struggle with the process of redefining their collective identities and maintaining social cohesion in the face of increasing diversity. Lastly, migrants themselves may bring new ideas to their host countries, while at the same time some migrant communities may hold on to lifestyles and traditions they associate with their places of origin, even if those places have since changed. Such tensions need to be negotiated in daily social interaction.

14. This workshop would examine the social and cultural implications of contemporary migration. How can the beneficial impacts of social remittances be strengthened, for instance in societies emerging from conflict? How do countries respond to social transformations regarding gender roles brought about by migration? How do societies manage growing diversity, such as religious pluralism, and what does it mean for integration policies? What are the most effective practices in fighting racism, discrimination and xenophobia? How can the potentially negative impacts of growing and changing mobility on the continuity and stability of social and community structures be mitigated?

*D. Changing cities: social impacts of migration*

15. Although long-distance international flows of people are no doubt significant, migrants often remain in their own country or move to a neighbouring one. Internal migration, and migration to cities in particular, has long been an important form of mobility whose policy implications merit closer analysis. Flows of labour migrants from rural areas to big cities on a permanent, temporary or seasonal basis, the depopulation of regions experiencing economic decline, the attraction of migrants to urban centres in their own or immediately neighbouring countries, and movements in response to environmental events and processes are only some of the phenomena that can be observed.

16. This workshop would address the social impacts of migration on urban areas. It would focus on the practical responses to such changes and fluctuations in population distributions for policy and planning. What policy tools can help governments address the social impact of migration-related urbanization? What measures can be put in place to counter ghettoization and social segregation resulting from migration into urban areas and to deal with the associated challenges? What types of responses are required in such areas as urban planning, infrastructure and public health? What are the needs of particular groups of migrants, such as seasonal workers, women or indigenous people, in an urban context? What are the social consequences for migrants' families and communities of origin in the context of rural-urban migration? How do societies adapt and respond to such changes, when, for instance, rural to urban movements transform rural ways of life and migrants are exposed to an urban culture and lifestyle?

## Annex

2009 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION – INTERSESSIONAL WORKSHOP  
“TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANTS:  
ENSURING THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS”

### PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION SURVEY<sup>2</sup>

#### **GENERAL APPRECIATION: 100% OVERALL SATISFACTION**

- There were several requests for **material and resources**, e.g. workshop presentations, a webpage providing additional material, a list of the main organizations working to fight trafficking and exploitation, or a compilation of international instruments and IOM publications in electronic format.

#### **OBJECTIVES: 80% LEARNING BENEFIT**

The workshop helped enhance **understanding** of the issues (88%), helped identify measures of international **cooperation** (79%), contributed to **mutual learning** among governments and other players (81%), and helped identify **effective policies** (74%).

- In their comments, 35 per cent of participants confirmed that the workshop afforded them the opportunity to learn from other States, develop ideas and share experiences and good practices.
- As regards policy solutions, 12 per cent of participants questioned whether the workshop helped to develop concrete policies; they saw it rather as a forum for identifying challenges and exchanging experiences and good practices.
- In numerous comments, participants reflected on the need for further action and greater commitment to cooperation by governments.
- A few participants felt that the discussions had concentrated on trafficking in persons at the expense of migrant exploitation.

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<sup>2</sup> The figures and comments presented below are based on a survey distributed to participants at the second IDM intersessional workshop for 2009. The response rate was 23 per cent (43/190). Questions left unanswered were not counted.

## **WORKSHOP CONTENT AND FORMAT: 80% SATISFACTION**

Approximately 80 per cent of participants were satisfied with the **quality of the presentations**, the **composition of the panels**, the **time allocated for discussion**, and the session **“Migrant’s Voice”**.

- The majority of comments commended the competency of the speakers and the broad range of issues presented.
- A small number of participants indicated that the panels would have benefited from greater representation of the private sector, migrants and civil society.
- Some participants indicated they would have found shorter and more focused presentations more desirable, and would have preferred to have more time for discussion.
- The session “Migrant’s Voice” received particularly enthusiastic responses, as participants found it to be a powerful and poignant counterpoint to the discussions.

The **side event** attracted 60 per cent satisfaction rates, while 5 per cent of participants expressed criticisms and 35 per cent left the question unanswered.

- The side event was deemed informative and useful, the principal criticism being that the absence of interpretation made it inaccessible for participants not comfortable in English.