



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

IC/2013/4

Original: English
26 September 2013

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON
THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION**

21 October 2013

2013 AND 2014 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

2013 AND 2014 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

1. This discussion note informs the Member States of the overarching theme for the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) in 2014 and provides an overview of IDM activities in 2013 since the last Informal Consultations, which were held on 2 May 2013. It also asks the membership to select topics for the intersessional workshops to be held during the 2014 IDM.

2013 IDM: Diaspora Ministerial Conference - *Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States*¹

2. In response to the fast-growing interest of governments in diaspora issues, in 2013 IOM replaced the usual two IDM workshops with one high-level event, the Diaspora Ministerial Conference. This was the first ever global conference of ministers and high-level officials in charge of diaspora policies and was held in Geneva on 18 and 19 June 2013. The Conference took place at a very important time in terms of the overall global migration and development agenda, shortly before the second United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013, the follow-up to the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development in 2014, the review of the Millennium Development Goals and discussion of the post-2015 development agenda.

3. More than 600 participants from governments, academic circles, the private sector and the media attended the Conference. Fifty-five cabinet-level speakers shared their experiences and good practices in engaging diasporas for development in countries of origin and destination. The Conference showcased the relevance of diaspora engagement to the global policy agenda and offered a platform for exchanging views on policies, practices and the issues and challenges facing governments and their partners in engaging with diasporas. It reaffirmed the relevance of IOM's 3E approach to diaspora development, namely, to enable, engage and empower transnational communities as agents for development. The Conference produced a set of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by IOM, at the High-level Dialogue in October 2013, and during discussion of the post-2015 development agenda.

4. The Conference deliberations highlighted the need for States to acknowledge the transnational nature of diasporas and called for the design of local and global strategies aiming to harness their potential. There is no single global approach to diasporas, but rather a multitude of possibilities that enable diasporas to reach their full development potential and that effectively engage them and empower them to make a difference in the countries they come from and live in.

5. The participants highlighted the importance of an enabling environment in both countries of origin and destination in order to maximize the potential of diaspora engagement. In this respect, effective policies relating to integration, social protection and citizenship are essential, and the Conference underlined the importance of strategic partnerships between States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to create the conditions enabling diasporas to engage and thereby empowering them to share and transfer resources.

¹ For further information on the Conference, including the final agenda, list of participants, background paper and presentations, visit www.iom.int/cms/idmdmc or <http://diaspora.iom.int/>.

6. The participants acknowledged the role that diasporas can play both during and after a crisis and showed how appropriate frameworks and structures can enhance diaspora engagement in post-crisis recovery processes. They drew attention to the needs of vulnerable migrants and diaspora groups, in particular diaspora children displaced by crisis. Frameworks for cooperation to address these needs, also in the interests of sustainable development for all, are crucial.

7. Lastly, many of the ministers present at the Conference called for a new vision and new policies to deal with diasporas as bridge builders in a world of pluralistic, multicultural and transnational societies.

8. Further information on the Conference deliberations and recommendations and on the good practices shared by the participants is to be found in the report of the Conference, *Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States*.² A summary of the Conference conclusions is appended as Annex I.

9. As part of its usual efforts to maximize the utility of its programmes for the membership, the Administration will conduct an online survey among the participants in order to obtain feedback on the Conference.

2014 IDM – Human mobility and development: emerging trends and new opportunities for partnerships

10. At the Informal Consultations held on 2 May 2013, the Administration proposed two possible overarching themes for the 2014 IDM: (a) Human mobility and development: What kind of approaches in a constantly changing global context; and (b) Emerging migration trends – new opportunities for partnership. The Member States expressed great interest in both proposals and asked the Administration to merge them and present a new, comprehensive proposal at the next Informal Consultations. The new overarching theme for the 2014 IDM is therefore: Human mobility and development: emerging trends and new opportunities for partnerships. Under this broad theme, Member States will be able to discuss the topics proposed under each of the previous two themes.

11. The Administration now invites the Member States to consider the possible intersessional workshop topics described below, or such other topics related to the overarching theme that they might wish to propose at the Informal Consultations. Two topics are to be selected for the IDM intersessional workshops to be convened in 2014.

12. In an effort to maximize cross-fertilization between the Organization's various activities, the IDM theme for 2014 is consistent with the subject of the recently issued *World Migration Report 2013*, i.e. migrant well-being and development. While not claiming to cover all possible future migration scenarios, the topics suggested below are in line with the concerns and priorities raised by the membership during the IDM consultations and with issues brought to the fore in other processes and dialogues for cooperation on migration, including the High-level Dialogue, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Diaspora Ministerial Conference.

² Available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic from the IOM Bookstore (<http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/>), the IDM webpage (www.iom.int/cms/idmdmc) and the Diasporas and Development website (<http://diaspora.iom.int/>). Hard copies are also available in English.

Migration and families

13. Migration holds significant development potential for migrants and their families, especially in the form of economic benefits. At the same time, families are traditionally a significant force for social cohesion and societal development in both countries of origin and destination. It is therefore important to study the impact of new migration realities on the well-being of families in order correctly to assess the contribution of family migration to development. Family migration faces mounting challenges that are exacerbated by the growing global trend towards labour mobility and restrictive migration policies. The challenges are social and economic in nature and range from lengthy separations, with members of the same family becoming transnational and located in various countries, to changes in intrafamily gender roles and tension in families and the societies they live in. For example, separation may deprive children of their parents and leave the elderly without social support, thus setting back the development of families and communities at home. There is little information on the downside of family migration in countries of origin, destination or transit and the matter has been given scant policy consideration. The situation of children left behind, migrating alone or with their parent(s) calls for special attention. Such children are particularly vulnerable and often exposed to poverty, social exclusion, forced labour, trafficking and other risks.

14. The world currently has over 1.8 billion young people aged between 15 and 24 (about half the world's population of 7.2 billion people is under the age of 24) and they have become powerful agents of change and development.³ Young people help close development gaps, energize ageing societies and their shrinking labour forces and are key drivers of diaspora engagement in countries of origin and destination, bridging cultures and societies. Sadly, however, poverty and unemployment in countries of origin and/or destination, and discrimination and social exclusion in countries of transit and destination, pose huge obstacles to the full realization of the rights and capabilities of young migrants. The consequences for economic and social development can be tragic. The absence of a gender-based analysis of migration lessens understanding of the impact of migration challenges on vulnerable youth, whose contribution to development is therefore not maximized.

15. This workshop would aim to foster understanding of the reality of family migration by discussing the vulnerabilities and protection challenges entailed by the process of migration. More specifically, it would consider inter alia: (a) the differential and challenging effects of migration on families and their rights, focusing on groups facing specific vulnerabilities (e.g. children, young people, the elderly); (b) the positive and negative impact of family migration in general, and parental migration in particular, in countries of origin and destination alike; and (c) the comprehensive policy approaches that exist to address migration/development challenges affecting families at home and abroad. It would also recommend new tools and policies for tackling family migration.

16. Sound and reliable sex- and age-disaggregated family migration data are lacking, making it difficult for governments to identify needs and target groups for policies and programmes. The participants would discuss how to collect and share such data, which are crucial for the design of appropriate and well-informed policies. Finally, the workshop would advance the dialogue on the complex situation of young migrants, and would assess how available policies and mechanisms respond to the challenges they face and how they increase migrants' well-being by harnessing their huge potential for development.

³ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *Adolescent and youth demographics: A brief overview*. Available from: [www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/factsheets/One pager on youth demographics GF.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/factsheets/One%20pager%20on%20youth%20demographics%20GF.pdf).

South-South migration

17. Global social and economic factors have led to considerable variations in migration patterns, traditionally identified with South-North, developing-developed country migration flows. Economic growth in the South (for example, in Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa, or the BRICS), the impact of the economic and financial crisis and restrictive policies in the North, and seasonal patterns, study or retirement have forged new migration pathways. Countries traditionally seen as nations of emigration are increasingly becoming destinations for migrants from both developed and developing countries. Although the total number of migrants living in the South depends largely on how one defines “South”, evidence shows that South-South movements, which are estimated to involve up to 73 million people, are reaching the same levels as South-North flows, estimated at 82.3 million.⁴ According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in 2010, high-income OECD countries (essentially in North America and Europe) accounted for 20 per cent of all emigrants from least developed countries, with countries in the South accounting for the remaining 80 per cent.⁵ The migrants move chiefly within regions, but also, at lower yet gathering rates, between them. According to the World Bank, in 2010 sub-Saharan Africa outstripped all other parts of the world in terms of intraregional migration.⁶ Remittances from the South are as important to least developed countries as those from the North: about two thirds of the remittances received by least developed countries in 2010 originated in other countries of the South.⁷ Data on remittances nevertheless remain limited.

18. North-South migration has received little attention: the 13.7 million migrants from the North living in the South in 2013 account for only 6 per cent of all migrants worldwide, whereas South-North migration accounts for 40 per cent of all migrants worldwide.⁸ The figures are probably bigger, since the available data are poor and flows hard to record. The absence of a common definition of what constitutes “North” and “South” makes it even more difficult to estimate the number of North-South migrants.⁹ The reasons behind North-South movements and the implications for development in both countries of origin and destination need more consideration.

19. Current policy takes little account of these developments, which have not been sufficiently researched. Recent trends are discussed in academic circles and by international organizations, less often by politicians. This workshop would thus aim to raise awareness at policy level by looking at the nature of the trends (temporary or long-term), the factors behind them, their economic and social implications for development, and their policy implications. It would also look at aspects such as labour mobility and regulatory instruments, and assess the role of regional economic communities and regional consultative processes in enhancing capacities and strengthening cooperation at regional and interregional level. It would identify existing policies, frameworks and partnerships for addressing such complex migration patterns.

⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), *Population Facts*, No. 2013/3. Available from: [www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/International Migration 2013_Migrants by origin and destination.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/International_Migration_2013_Migrants_by_origin_and_destination.pdf).

⁵ UNCTAD, *The Least Developed Countries Report 2012*.

⁶ World Bank, *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011*. Available from: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/migration-and-remittances>.

⁷ In 2011, the least developed countries received an estimated USD 27 billion in remittances. Remittances worldwide amounted to USD 489 billion (UNCTAD, op. cit.).

⁸ DESA, op. cit.

⁹ The three most commonly used methods of defining “North” and “South” have been developed by DESA, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

Promoting strategic partnership frameworks for addressing new migration challenges

20. High demographic growth leading to a youthful workforce, coupled with slow economic growth, poverty and conflict in least developed countries, on the one hand, and low population growth and the shrinking workforce, ageing society and economic and financial crisis experienced in developing and developed countries, on the other, have given rise to complex new global migration patterns. The current global trends present significant development challenges as well as huge new opportunities for sustainable development. In such an intricate scenario, migration remains one of the most effective strategies for individuals and their families to improve their lives and promote national development. It is nevertheless a multifaceted phenomenon that presents challenges and can have serious implications for the economic and social development of countries of origin, destination and transit, including with regard to safe and regular migration, labour markets, management of “beyond-the-border skills”, income distribution, poverty and social protection (especially of vulnerable categories: women, children, young people and the elderly).

21. These challenges limit governments’ capacity to respond to the desire for better lives and to provide migrants with protection and respect their rights, such as access to health, education and work. The inability to respond appropriately may consequently promote complex migration dynamics. New, reality-based development strategies, policies and programmes are required to address the risks that migration involves, better harness its benefits and cope with changing patterns. But no State can effectively manage the challenges of migration and unlock its human development benefits on its own.

22. This workshop would look at how inter-State, regional and global partnerships respond to complex emerging migration trends and enable safe and regular migration while protecting and supporting migrants. It would discuss existing regional and interregional mobility partnerships, including regional consultative processes and other forms of informal regional dialogue on migration, and partnerships with and between international organizations, civil society and private sector. It would cover aspects such as border management, travel documents, labour mobility, ethical recruitment, data sharing, protection of migrants in transit, assisted voluntary return, protection and engagement of diasporas, transnational business and facilitation of remittance transfers, and would look at challenges to their implementation and management.

23. The workshop would also present an opportunity to assess how stakeholders have adjusted or need to adjust their partnership/cooperation approaches in response to the global social, economic, environmental and demographic imbalances driving multifaceted migration patterns. It would identify areas that need a new approach or greater cooperation, such as child migrants, unaccompanied migrant children, and support for and engagement of young migrants and diaspora communities. Last but not least, it would examine ways and means of enhancing partnerships involving diaspora organizations, governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, and consider the impact of such partnerships on development, especially at local and community level.

24. When seeking funding for the IDM intersessional workshops, the Administration encourages donors to support the IDM annual programme as a whole, while understanding that some donors may wish to earmark their contribution for a specific workshop. The total budget for the 2014 IDM is USD 250,000 (USD 125,000 per intersessional workshop). Approximately two thirds of that amount will be used to fund the participation of developing country officials from capitals to ensure that the workshops and subsequent publications form an integral part of the Organization’s capacity-building activities.