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

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

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**2014 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION**

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## 2014 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

### Proposed themes

1. The purpose of this paper is to invite Member States to select or make alternative suggestions for an overarching theme for the 2014 International Dialogue for Migration (IDM).
2. The Administration is mindful that at this stage, while various processes are ongoing, it may be difficult to select an overarching theme. It nevertheless believes that the topics proposed would furnish a useful opportunity to follow up events and discussions taking place in 2013 and would thus be of interest to the Member States. It therefore proposes that the overarching theme for the 2014 IDM be chosen from the suggestions below.

### **Human mobility and development: What kind of approaches in a constantly changing global context**

3. This theme would consider current trends and dynamics of human mobility, the implications for human development, and scenarios for future approaches in the constantly changing social, political and economic context. Growing recognition of the migration–development nexus culminated in the first United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 and the launch of many forums for debate and processes at global, regional and national level. That interest is set to surge as the international community moves towards the second High-level Dialogue in October 2013 and the post-2015 development agenda.
4. The linkages between human mobility and development deserve critical analysis, in particular with regard to aspects such as growing South–South migration, family and migration, youth and migration, and gender and migration. Some of the many issues that can be discussed under this theme include the nuanced implications of human mobility on development from the perspective of families, positive human development opportunities and severe consequences for migrants and their families; the issues of unaccompanied children, children migrating alone or with their parent(s) and children left behind by (a) migrant parent(s) without appropriate care deserve particular attention. In all these areas, gender-sensitive analyses are crucial for understanding the reality of family migration and designing appropriate policies. Consideration of the migration–development nexus should take account of the different needs and contributions of men, women, boys and girls. The exchange of good practices on leveraging development opportunities in respect of women, men, boys, girls and families is a key factor when it comes to maximizing the impact of migration on development.
5. Youth migration deserves special attention. Human mobility holds immense challenges and opportunities for youth.<sup>1</sup> Young people under the age of 27 represent 50 per cent of the world's population, yet they are the age group most affected by unemployment, with 75 million young people worldwide out of work.<sup>2</sup> So far, however, little attention has been paid to either the challenges faced by young migrants and their potential for development, or to the

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<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) estimated the number of youth migrants (aged between 15 and 24) at 27 million in mid-2010.

<sup>2</sup> International Labour Office, *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012* (Geneva, 2012).

opportunities that migration has for youth. The justified need to include youth in the development debate raises issues and challenges relating to how to engage them efficiently in international discussion forums and how to enable and maximize the potential of youth migrants for development.

6. Human mobility also holds significant potential for the development of communities through remittances flows.<sup>3</sup> Although it is questioned by some academics, this role can be maximized if appropriate institutional and policy set-ups and structures are provided that look at migrant contributions, not from the narrow perspective of poverty reduction, but from the broader view of economic development of communities, countries and regions.

7. The 2013 World Migration Report will contribute to the global debate on migration and development by focusing on migrants and their well-being and exploring how migration affects migrants' quality of life and human development. It will shed new light on how migrants rate their lives, whether they live in a high-income country in the North or a low- or middle-income country in the South, and considers the implications of all four migration pathways for development (i.e. South–North, South–South, North–North, and North–South).

8. The principal questions that could be asked under this theme include: What policies are needed to cope with the rapidly evolving realities of human mobility driven by the steadily widening gap in equality between the world's regions (different demographic, economic and social situations characterized by declining fertility rates, a rapidly ageing population and a shrinking workforce in some parts of the world, and by high population growth rates, unemployment and a lack of resources in others)? How to address the challenges facing migrants while enhancing migrant contributions to development, with particular attention to women, families and youth?

### **Emerging migration trends – new opportunities for partnerships**

9. The Administration is aware that the South–South migration trend has already been proposed for discussion at the IDM. However, within the context of ongoing development-centred international processes and dialogues,<sup>4</sup> and in view of the forthcoming 2013 IDM: Diaspora Ministerial Conference,<sup>5</sup> it would be timely to dedicate the 2014 IDM to discussing the new global migration perspectives. The IDM would thus benefit from the outcome of the Ministerial Conference and the High-level Dialogue; it would offer the membership the opportunity for a rich dialogue and exchange of views on emerging migration trends while contributing to the negotiation of the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, IOM has garnered a wealth of expertise in the subject thanks to its work with the ACP Observatory on Migration<sup>6</sup>. More recently, IOM and the ACP Observatory prepared a joint background paper for the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2012 Round Table entitled Addressing South–South Migration and Development Policies, which aimed inter alia to examine the

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<sup>3</sup> The exponential increase in such remittances, from USD 132 billion in 2000 to an estimated USD 440 billion in 2010 (not counting unrecorded flows), underscores the important role that migrants play as agents of development.

<sup>4</sup> The 2013 High-level Dialogue and the post-2015 development agenda.

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the Diaspora Ministerial Conference, to be held in June 2013, refer to the annex to the present paper.

<sup>6</sup> The ACP Observatory on Migration, an initiative of the ACP Secretariat funded by the European Union and implemented by IOM with the financial support of the IOM Development Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and Switzerland, is an institution designed to produce data on South–South ACP migration and to enhance research capacities in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to strengthen the migration–development nexus.

impact of South–South migration patterns and their linkages with development and to discuss possible policy solutions that harness the development potential of South–South migration.

10. Until recently, research and international policy on international migration have focused on traditional patterns, such as South–North, developing–developed country migration flows. Global social and economic factors have led to considerable variations in these patterns, and there is evidence that South–South movements have increased significantly, to the point that they are within reach of South–North flows.<sup>7</sup> They have yet, however, to receive the attention they deserve in terms of policy and research. More in-depth discussion is needed of the characteristics of and factors driving South–South migration and of ways to improve the availability of migration data pertaining to this phenomenon.

11. Under this proposed theme, the 2014 IDM would look more closely at new migration patterns, the factors behind them and the challenges and opportunities they imply. Issues covered by this theme include: patterns of South–South migration and factors behind low or high flows of people;<sup>8</sup> partnerships for cooperation (between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and Africa); existing regional and interregional mobility partnerships; border management, travel documents, labour mobility, ethical recruitment as a way to maximize the benefit of migration for labour migration, mobility of highly skilled migrants; free movement protocols and challenges to their implementation; and the role of the diaspora in strengthening cooperation and bridging between communities of the South. Both social/cultural and economic integration are critical to successful migration management, whether the migration is permanent or temporary. The dialogue about integration and the possibilities for integration in the South–South context are still quite limited, and there may be opportunities for IOM to expand this space through the IDM.

12. The principal questions that could be raised under this theme include: How to fill the gap in/narrow the focus of research and international policy in South–South migration? What is the role of regional economic communities and regional consultative processes in enhancing capacity-building and strengthening cooperation at subregional, regional and interregional level? How do diasporas contribute to enhancing cooperation and thus development in sectors such as health, education and the economy? In what measure are diaspora contributions to development facilitated by existing regional, subregional and interregional partnerships? What kinds of subregional, regional and interregional frameworks have been established to engage diasporas and harness their contribution to development? What part can civil society and business play in partnering on migration management and as advocates of the role of migration in development?

13. Once an overarching theme has been selected, more specific workshop topics relating to that theme, and reflecting recent developments and circumstances in the international forums at the time, will be proposed to the membership for selection at the next IDM consultations (autumn 2013). As with all IDM activities, partners will be sought for the organization of the relevant workshops, and a broad range of stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in the light of the specific intersessional workshop themes selected by the membership.

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<sup>7</sup> According to UNDESA estimates, in 2010, 73 million international migrants born in the South were residing in the South, compared to 74 million international migrants originating in the South and residing in the North.

<sup>8</sup> For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa migration to study is an important factor. According to studies run by the ACP Observatory on Migration, 20 to 30 per cent of sub-Saharan African migrants move to study in another African country.



## Annex

**2013 International Dialogue on Migration – Diaspora Ministerial Conference****18 and 19 June 2013****Geneva, Switzerland**

Governments in both countries of origin and destination have increasingly come to recognize the positive socioeconomic role played by diaspora communities. While many countries of origin wish to engage diaspora talents and resources, countries of destination expect to retain their contributions. At the same time, stakeholders are starting to realize that diasporas have an enormous potential to support development.

Over the last ten years, a growing number of countries have established government bodies and institutions with responsibility for diaspora engagement. Some have created intergovernmental and parliamentary committees to coordinate action on both the executive and legislative fronts. Others have created legislative and regulatory frameworks to facilitate diaspora engagement. Others still have established programmes that specifically target diasporas as development agents.

In response to the fast-growing interest of governments in diaspora issues, IOM is organizing the Diaspora Ministerial Conference, which will be held in June 2013 in the framework of the IDM. The Conference will bring together ministers and top officials from the mounting number of government ministries and departments with direct responsibility for implementing diaspora policies and programmes. Participants will have a unique opportunity to:

- Take stock of various government diaspora policies, programmes and initiatives;
- Identify and share the best and most innovative practices and lessons learned;
- Help inform the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development with respect to engaging the diaspora for development;
- Provide recommendations to IOM in order to heighten its ability to respond effectively to government and diaspora community needs at the policy, research and operational levels.

IOM further anticipates that the outcome of the Conference will strengthen collaboration between countries, improve cross-fertilization of ideas and practices and help foster *esprit de corps*, or community interest, among diaspora ministers. The Conference is also an opportunity to promote the creation of a global policy database providing policymakers with up-to-date information on diaspora policies and programmes and relevant evaluation guidelines.

The Conference will build on the recognition of the various kinds of capital (human, social, economic and cultural) that diasporas can bring to both their countries of origin and destination and on the ways to best harness them. Indeed, engaging diasporas implies knowing them, their organizations, their willingness to be agents of development and how to communicate with them. This engagement, however, requires an enabling environment that allows for successful integration – which may be beneficial for the country of destination – and conditions that make

it possible for diaspora members to participate in the development of their countries of origin. Lastly, the Conference will also consider the means available to the international community to empower diasporas wishing to be engaged in both their countries of origin and destination.

Building on IOM's worldwide expertise on diasporas at the policy, research and operational levels, the Conference will be organized around the following broad themes:

- The relationship between diasporas and societies (including issues of definitions, data, institutions, building capacity and trust, building a common agenda/road map, outreach and mapping, but also the contributions of diasporas to host societies);
- The role of diasporas within States (including issues of citizenship, rights and well-being of migrants);
- Policies and practices for harnessing the development potential of diasporas (including social remittances, diaspora bonds, financial aspects of remittances, banking);
- Diasporas and crisis (including issues related to migrants stranded in crisis situations and the role of diasporas in post-crisis contexts).