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

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON  
INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON  
MIGRATION**

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**INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2007**

***Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy***

**2 March 2007**

## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2007

### *Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy*

1. This discussion note provides a brief summary of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) in 2006, including the IDM session at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Council Session, and information about the IDM for 2007.

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

2. In 2006, the International Dialogue on Migration's overarching theme was "Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society", as endorsed by the Membership. Following on from IDM 2005, which had focused on the need for policy coherence in migration, IDM 2006 was dedicated to the role and responsibility of non-governmental stakeholders, primarily the private sector and civil society, in migration management. While the management of population flows across borders is the right and responsibility of sovereign States, many non-state actors also hold a considerable interest. Governments may consider forging partnerships with other stakeholders to jointly devise effective ways to manage the multiple aspects and challenges of migration. Labour migration schemes, integration efforts and optimising migrant contributions to the country of origin are just a few examples of areas in which opportunities for broad-based partnerships exist.

3. Intersessional workshops in 2006 were convened on the subjects of "**Migration and Human Resources for Health: from Awareness to Action**" (23-24 March) and "**Migrants and the Host Society: Partnerships for Success**" (12-13 July). Relevant presentations, statements and background documentation and the final report of the first workshop are available on the IOM website ([www.iom.int/idm](http://www.iom.int/idm)).<sup>1</sup>

#### *IDM at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IOM Council*

4. The four IDM panel discussions at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IOM Council, held in Geneva on 28 and 29 November 2006, explored many different types of partnerships on migration issues. The session on the **Global Migration Group (GMG)**, chaired by the IOM Director General **Brunson McKinley**, provided an opportunity for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees **António Guterres**, in his capacity as then Chair of the GMG, to brief the Member States on the GMG's recent activities and for Member States to raise their questions and views. Representatives of several of the other GMG member agencies were present: **Ibrahim Awad**, Chief, International Migrant Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO); **Lakshmi Puri**, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); **Odile Sorgho-Moulinier**, Director, Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Geneva; **Mari Simonen**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); **Bacre Ndiaye**, Director, Human Rights Procedure Division,

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information on these workshops can be found in the Discussion Notes for the IDM Informal Consultations held on 22 June 2006 (IC/2006/4) and 19 October 2006 (IC/2006/8), respectively.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and **Luca Barbone**, Sector Director, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank. During the presentations and discussion it was highlighted that the GMG facilitates partnerships between international organizations in pooling expertise, maximising synergies, minimizing the duplication of efforts and enhancing communication, in order to effectively address the needs of States. The Member States' concerns were noted by the GMG, including the desire for more frequent interaction between the membership and the GMG.

5. The opening presentation introducing the IDM theme “**Partnerships in Migration: Engaging Business and Civil Society**”, given by Michele Klein Solomon, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communications (MPRC), highlighted the numerous opportunities for partnerships between stakeholders such as governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, diaspora associations and the media.<sup>2</sup> The panellists in this session represented a wide spectrum of stakeholders: **Arturo Brion**, Labour and Employment Secretary from the Philippines; **David Arkless**, Executive Board Member of Manpower and member of the IOM Director General's Business Advisory Board (BAB)<sup>3</sup>; **Thomas McCarthy**, President of GhanaCoop (a social cooperative started by Ghanaian migrants living in Italy which involves the diaspora in development both in Italy and Ghana); **Jerry Oware**, Manager of Migrants for GhanAfrica (the agri-food production firm of GhanaCoop, located in Ghana); and **Rafael Hurtado**, President of the *Federación de Clubes Zacatecanos del Sur de California* (a migrant association). The subsequent discussion, moderated by journalist **Imogen Foulkes**, revolved in particular around the special interest of businesses in well-managed migration and their role in contributing to migration management, as well as the potential for effective partnerships in enhancing the benefits that diasporas can bring to their countries and communities of origin and destination.

6. In the following session, IOM presented the concept behind the inter-agency proposal for an **International Migration and Development Initiative: Labour Mobility for Development** (IMDI) and engaged in discussion with the membership regarding the initiative. The introductory presentation made by Michele Klein Solomon emphasized that IMDI would bring together relevant actors from the migration and development domains to facilitate the matching of labour demand and supply, enhance the positive developmental impact of migration, and ensure safer and more humane labour movements. She also described the work done to date by IMDI's recently established Inter-Agency Task Force, the members of which are IOM, ILO, UNCTAD, UNHCR and the World Bank (with UNDP and UNFPA acting as observers). The panellists **Konstantin O. Romodanovskiy**, Director, Federal Migration Service, Russian Federation; **Kan Oye Fong Weng-Poorun**, Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister, Mauritius; **Antonio Peñalosa**, Secretary General, International Organization of Employers (IOE); **Austin T. Fragomen, Jr.**, Chairman of the Board for the Executive Committee, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP; and **Luca Barbone**, Sector Director, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank, offered their views on the opportunities presented by such an initiative. After the panellists' presentations, the membership had the opportunity to comment on the initiative and engaged in a question and answer session with IOM's Director General Brunson McKinley, Michele Klein Solomon and

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<sup>2</sup> This presentation and others given at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Council Session can be accessed at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1643>.

<sup>3</sup> The BAB, which was formed in 2005, represents an example of an effective partnership between the private sector and IOM as an international organization.

the panellists. Many Member States requested further information on the goals, working method and feasibility of IMDI. IOM acknowledged that many of the membership's questions could not be answered yet because the IMDI concept continues to be a work in progress. However, the IOM Administration took note of all of the memberships' questions and comments, and undertook to ensure that they would feed into the next version of the IMDI concept paper.

7. The **Year in Review** session highlighted some of the key events and developments at the national, regional and global levels that took place during the course of 2006. These included: a presentation by **Kevin O'Sullivan**, Director of Immigration Policy, Irish National Immigration Service, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland, on the new Irish migration policy; an overview of the achievements of the migration-related activities carried out by the Ibero-American Conference by Ambassador **Maria Elisa Berenguer**, Deputy Secretary General of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB); and a brief outline by the IOM Director General, **Brunson McKinley** of the progress made at the recent EU-Africa Summit in Tripoli, Libya. Furthermore, **Régine de Clercq**, Ambassador for Migration and Asylum Policies, Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs, Belgium, presented the then-current state of planning for the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Belgium in July 2007, flowing from the United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York in 2006. Specific questions and requests for further details were posed to each speaker in a discussion that was moderated by **Peter Bosch**, Head of the Immigration and Asylum Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security.

8. In addition, many Council delegates attended a luncheon event featuring the launch of new IOM **Counter-Trafficking Training Modules**, the development of which was supported by the US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). The Modules were presented by Assistant Secretary of State **Ellen Sauerbrey**, PRM, together with **Kelly Ryan**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, PRM, **Vernon Burrows**, Director Department of Immigration, Nassau, Bahamas, and **Richard Danziger**, IOM Head of Counter-Trafficking. The event was co-sponsored by PRM and IOM.

### **Migration and the Environment: Expert Seminar**

9. A small expert seminar at the academic and technical levels on the topic of migration and the environment is being held in Bangkok on 22 and 23 February 2007. In light of scientific advances in the understanding of environmental change and the high level of interest in its possible repercussions, this seminar aims to revive the discussion on the links between these two fields and identify means to ensure proper coherence and planning between them, fifteen years after IOM and the Refugee Policy Group (RPG) first held a conference on this issue. The purpose of the seminar is to move towards closing the knowledge gap between migration and environmental issues and to begin to examine the nexus between the two by promoting discussion among experts from both communities. The seminar discussions will be summarized in a report which will be made publicly available on the IOM website. The seminar outcomes will be used to provide guidance for IOM's research, policy and programmatic work in this area. In addition, should funding be secured, a larger workshop on the theme of migration and the environment involving a greater number of participants and stakeholders could be envisaged.

10. A workshop on the topic of **Migration and the Environment** had been envisaged for 2006, but could not be organized due to insufficient funding. Member States reiterated their interest in this workshop in a survey conducted after the last informal consultations on 19 October 2006 on the IDM theme and intersessional workshops for 2007 (68% of responses in favour of a migration and the environment workshop, assuming funding is secured). Additional efforts to raise sufficient funds have been resumed in order for this workshop to take place in 2007.

### **IDM 2007: *Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy***

11. Based on the informal consultations with the membership held on 19 October 2006 and a follow-up survey, in 2007 the IDM will have the overarching theme of “Migration Management in the Evolving Global Economy”.

12. Increasing cross-border movement of people is an integral part of globalization and addressing its challenges lies at the heart of the response to globalization. However, mobility of people has not benefited from the same level of liberalisation as capital and goods. Legal opportunities for migration remain limited and where they do exist the necessary information is often not readily available for potential migrants. In order to maximize the potential benefits flowing from an exchange of skills and talents in a globally interconnected economy, human mobility needs to be managed effectively, whether for temporary or permanent migrants, for a variety of skills, and at the bilateral, regional and global levels. The strong interest in the subject of migration and development has given additional impetus to this issue and underlines the need for a dedicated effort in policy and programming to foster the positive and productive linkages between migration and global economic patterns and developments. In aiming for maximum internal coherence of activities and responsiveness to external developments, the IDM theme for 2007 is consistent with the World Migration Report 2007 on the topic of managing labour mobility in the evolving global economy as well as with IOM activities, which focus, in broad terms, on how migration – and labour migration in particular – can be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and countries of destination.

13. Also based on the abovementioned informal consultations and follow-up survey, two intersessional workshops have been selected by the Membership and are planned to be held in 2007, subject to available funding.

### *Making Global Labour Mobility a Catalyst for Development (24-25 May 2007)*

14. It is now widely recognised that migration holds significant potential for both countries of origin and destination. For example, remittances can contribute to poverty reduction and improve foreign reserves and the balance of payment in countries of origin, while knowledge and skill-transfer offer further advantages. In countries of destination, migration can help mitigate labour shortages, enrich the human capital of host countries, and improve the flexibility and productivity of their economies. Although today both supply of and demand for migrant workers are high and the current demographic realities indicate that this trend will continue, adequate channels and programmes for labour migration are limited. Consequently, there is a high risk that the resulting supply-demand gap on the labour market will be filled through the unscrupulous practices of smugglers and traffickers. It is therefore

crucial to find ways for governments and private recruiters to ethically and effectively channel labour migration into safe, legal, humane and orderly avenues. This would maximize the societal and human development potential of global mobility of people, and also improve the protection of migrants' human rights and help to counteract irregular migration. The workshop will look into what is currently done and what could be done to more reliably assess present and future gaps in the emerging international labour market. It will also focus on what can be achieved through collective efforts of relevant stakeholders, including governments and employers, on creating means to better match labour supply with labour demand today and in future.

*Free Movement of Persons in Regional Integration Processes (8-9 October 2007)*

15. A significant trend in recent decades has been growing economic and social integration at regional levels. To differing degrees, regional economic institutions and associations have made arrangements for the freer movement of persons within defined territories for purposes of engaging in economic activity (e.g. APEC, ASEAN-FTA, CARICOM, ECOWAS, EU, MERCOSUR, NAFTA, SADC), while a number of others are considering developing special schemes of this sort.

16. This capacity building workshop will bring together representatives of governments and regional institutions to share experiences with regard to the operation of existing or nascent regional integration processes and discuss various ways in which they provide for freedom of movement of persons. Furthermore, it will explore ways in which economic integration, trade liberalization dynamics, and migration dynamics influence the elaboration of regional legal frameworks governing the movement of persons. The workshop will provide regions looking to develop or to improve implementation of regional free movement regimes with the opportunity to learn from the experiences of States and institutions in other parts of the world that have addressed similar issues. States will be able to exchange information and expertise on the migration-related measures (e.g. legislation, administration, technology, training, inter-state cooperation) needed to facilitate intra-regional mobility as well as discuss the advantages of and challenges related to the development and implementation of free movement regimes.