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

**INFORMAL MEETING OF THE  
IOM COUNCIL STEERING GROUP**

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**INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2005**

***Toward Policy Coherence on Migration***

**22 June 2005**

## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2005

### *Toward Policy Coherence on Migration*

1. For 2005, the theme of “Toward Policy Coherence on Migration” will guide the International Dialogue on Migration. This discussion note provides an update on the planning of the dialogue and its activities for this year.

#### **March 2005 Informal Consultation**

2. At the March 2005 informal consultation on the International Dialogue on Migration, IOM proposed the theme of “*Toward Policy Coherence on Migration*” to guide the International Dialogue on Migration for 2005. IOM proposed this theme in view of the multidisciplinary and transnational character of migration, and the need therefore for dedicated effort and attention within governments and at the international level on migration policy and practice to achieve purposeful and sustainable results. Coherence is needed **within governments** to ensure consultation and coordination between relevant ministries, i.e. justice and home affairs, labour, employment, health, trade, development, social welfare, education, at all levels of government – national, regional and local. In addition, policy coherence also depends on the active **engagement of stakeholders** at the national and international levels from migrants’ groups and associations, the business community, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and others. Similarly, partner intergovernmental and other institutions need to be engaged in their areas of expertise to foster and ensure policy coherence, as with the migration and asylum nexus, or with migration for development. Coherence is needed as well **between countries** to enhance prospects for successful and mutually beneficial migration management. Critical in this regard are initiatives fostering inter-State dialogue and cooperation, such as the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration and the Berne Initiative.

3. Wide recognition of the importance of policy coherence was expressed at the March consultation, and the topic was seen as particularly timely in view of enhanced attention to international migration by governments at national and international levels by various regional and global organizations, and in light of the work of the Global Commission on International Migration. While migration in the developing world was proposed as a possible alternative theme, the majority of IOM’s membership expressed a preference for consideration now of policy coherence, with a view to possible consideration of migration in the developing world later, either as the theme of the dialogue at a subsequent Council or at an intersessional workshop.

#### **Intersessional Workshop: Developing Capacity to Manage Migration: 26 to 27 September 2005**

4. After some discussion, it was agreed that there would be one more intersessional workshop in 2005, following on the Migration and Development workshop convened from 2 to 3 February 2005. In view of the direct relevance and importance of training and capacity-building in migration management to policy coherence in this field, the second intersessional workshop of the International Dialogue on Migration in 2005 will be on **Developing Capacity to Manage Migration, from 26 to 27 September 2005**. This workshop will provide an opportunity to explore lessons learned and effective practices in capacity-building, as well as

how to make effective use of new capacity and coherence building tools such as the **Berne Initiative International Agenda for Migration Management** and IOM's **Essentials of Migration Management** training and capacity-building manual. Invitations for this workshop have been sent to IOM's membership through diplomatic representations in Geneva, and the 22 June 2005 informal consultation will afford an opportunity for IOM to update the membership on planning for this important event.

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

5. Regarding the programme for the International Dialogue for Migration at the Council, the following was discussed: a high-level plenary panel on the theme *Toward Policy Coherence on Migration*, a session dedicated to *The Year in Review*, calling attention to selected highlights from around the world in migration in 2005, and a session dedicated to *Migration and Development*, to discuss the findings and results of the February intersessional workshop. While *The Year in Review* session is not a high priority for some delegations, other delegations, particularly those from developing countries, find it difficult to stay abreast of the major developments in migration and therefore appreciate this annual stocktaking by IOM.

6. Instead of workshops as conducted in previous years, IOM proposes to hold a plenary discussion on **migration and development**. IOM's February 2005 **intersessional workshop** was held on this issue. At that workshop a number of key issues related to migration and development were discussed – policy coherence, migration and the Millennium Development Goals, engaging diasporas, and partnerships in migration and development. In view of the requests of a number of Member States for this theme to be taken up again in the Council in 2005, IOM proposes that a part of the International Dialogue on Migration at the Council in 2005 be dedicated to this subject to carry the discussion further.

7. Specifically, IOM proposes to present the report of the Migration and Development workshop to the membership by the end of the summer, and to distil from it and from other sources a series of findings or effective practices on migration and development. The draft effective practices document will be provided to the membership in advance of the Council session to permit adequate review and reflection in capitals ahead of the Council discussion. Specific focus will be on the theme of engaging diasporas, which will enable the Council to carry forward discussions on this theme that began with a workshop in the Council in 2002 and continued at the intersessional workshop in February 2005. In addition, IOM will prepare a stocktaking of policies and practices on migration and development with a view toward maximizing the developmental potential of migration.

8. It is clear that the role of diasporas with respect to home countries, while discussed in many fora, has not been explored in a comprehensive way and the nature of the relationship is multifaceted (this is most evident in the variety of activities IOM itself undertakes with diasporas, including out-of-country voting in elections in home countries, participation of expatriates in compensation programmes, return of talent and more).

9. While participants at the 2002 Council workshop and the 2005 intersessional workshop identified a number of effective practices, these were not pursued in great detail. In addition, a preliminary analysis of the diasporas questionnaire that was distributed to the membership in advance of the workshop was delivered at the intersessional workshop with the promise of a more in-depth analysis at a later date.

10. At the IOM Council session this year, the Administration proposes a more in-depth discussion on engaging diasporas. The Administration will present the final report of the questionnaire, and other speakers will present additional details on a number of effective practices identified in the document mentioned above. Discussion will focus on overcoming obstacles to closer government-diaspora relations as identified at the intersessional workshop: lack of trust; diversity of diaspora groups; division of interests between the host and origin countries as well as within the migrant communities; and incoherence of policies toward diasporas. The result of this discussion would be identification and further elaboration of effective practices on engaging diasporas in the development of countries of origin, in a non-negotiating approach resulting in non-binding results.

11. It was emphasized at the March informal consultation that adequate time for discussion and for Member States to express their views is an important guiding principle to be taken into account in the scheduling of the Council programme. The Administration will respect this principle. In addition, as requested at the March informal consultation, the Administration will make time available at the Council for discussion of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration and its implications for IOM.

12. An update on planning for the Council's consideration of *Toward Policy Coherence on Migration* will be provided at the 22 June 2005 consultation.

Annex

**Notional Highlights**

**IOM Council 2005**

**International Dialogue on Migration 2005**

***Toward Policy Coherence on Migration***

- **Special Event** (morning of first day) – (to be determined)
- **High-level Plenary Panel on *Toward Policy Coherence on Migration*** (afternoon of first day)
- **The Year in Review** (morning of second day)
- **Migration and Development** (afternoon of second day)
  - Identification and discussion of effective practices, with particular focus on diaspora support to development