



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

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**OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECOND HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:
OUTCOMES FOR GLOBAL MIGRATION GOVERNANCE
AND IMPLICATIONS FOR IOM**

OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECOND HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: OUTCOMES FOR GLOBAL MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR IOM

Introduction

1. A key migration governance event, United Nations second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, was held on 3 and 4 October 2013 in New York. This event was truly a milestone: it was only the second time in the United Nations history that the General Assembly has formally considered the question of migration.

2. This paper is structured in three parts that provide an overview of: the High-level Dialogue substantive outcomes; how the Administration intends to build on the High-level Dialogue's consensus; and how the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue influence IOM as an institution.

Overview

The High-level Dialogue – a milestone for migration governance

3. The High-level Dialogue marked progress in the quality of discussions, showing that – despite multidimensional realities in countries of origin, transit and destination – multilateral dialogue on migration can be substantive and result in consensus, as was abundant in the statements in plenary sessions and the four round tables.

4. The United Nations General Assembly States unanimously adopted the High-level Dialogue Declaration, which calls on all relevant United Nations entities, IOM, Global Migration Group (GMG) members and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation within their respective mandates to better and fully address the issue of international migration and development.

High-level Dialogue preparations

5. The High-level Dialogue proved that migration stakeholders have much more in common than was often apparent in the past, and also validated migration initiatives and processes in the following ways:

- (a) The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination's publication,¹ the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda,² IOM's six key recommendations,³ the

¹ This publication, entitled *International Migration and Development: Contributions and Recommendations of the International System*, was coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and IOM and published 2013. Available free of charge in PDF format from IOM online library:

http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=1023.

² This eight-point agenda was included in the Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/68/190). For an overview of the agenda, see www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sgsm15367.doc.htm.

³ These recommendations are contained in the IOM position paper entitled 2013 United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Available from www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/IOM-Position-Paper-HLD-en.pdf.

GMG joint statement and position paper to the High-level Dialogue⁴ and the civil society organizations' 5-year Action Plan⁵ all demonstrated a convergence of views on key migration issues.

- (b) The High-level Dialogue also recognized the efforts of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in the realm of international cooperation and dialogue.
- (c) As Chair of the GMG, IOM led the Group's preparations for the High-level Dialogue and made statements in this capacity to the plenary session and to the dedicated side event.

Substantive outcomes of the High-level Dialogue

6. One substantive outcome of the High-level Dialogue was greater recognition of the relevance of migration for all countries. Key messages that stood out are:

- (a) The centrality of the human rights of migrants. Respect for rights needs to take centre stage – both as an end in itself and as a condition for harnessing the benefits of migration for migrants and societies.
- (b) The critical links between migration and development and the relevance of migration for the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. More than 50 delegations referred explicitly to the need to consider migration in designing development strategies of the future.
- (c) The concern for stranded migrants and migrants caught in crisis situations, as well as the attention of the international community to the widespread hazards, distress and abuse suffered by migrants in transit and destination.

Follow-up to the High-level Dialogue

7. The High-level Dialogue Declaration acknowledges that human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development, recognizes the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and development and calls on all relevant United Nations entities, IOM, GMG members and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development to strengthen cooperation within their respective mandates, and to consider migration issues in their contributions to the preparatory process that will establish the post-2015 development agenda.

8. The central challenge in developing this joint action is that the High-level Dialogue did not establish any formal follow-up mechanisms. In this regard, partnership and continuity will be vital in developing joint follow-up action, and this requirement should be considered in the work of the GMG troika, and in the interactions of the GMG with other entities.

Building on the High-level Dialogue consensus

9. Following the recognition of IOM's expertise in the High-level Dialogue Declaration and in numerous statements of representatives of IOM Member States, the Administration

⁴ UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development 2013 – Statement by the Global Migration Group: "International Migration and Development", delivered by the IOM Director General in his capacity as Chair of the GMG on 4 October 2013; and the GMG Position Paper: "International Migration and Development". Both are available from www.globalmigrationgroup.org/en/gmg-documents.

⁵ The 5-year Action Plan for Collaboration. Available from <http://hldcivilsociety.org/five-year-action-agenda/>.

will continue to support Member States in addressing the issue of migration and development in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

10. In response to the main issues highlighted in the Secretary-General's eight points, in the statements by Member States, in civil society organizations' statements and in the recommendations made by the GMG and IOM itself, the Administration has identified the following areas as priorities for action.

Migration and development: United Nations post-2015 development agenda

11. IOM believes that human mobility is one of the transformative issues for development that must be integrated into the future United Nations post-2015 development agenda, in order for the agenda to be meaningful. Consequently, the Administration will continue to advocate for migration to be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda as a focus of the renewed global partnerships goal, as well as an issue to be mainstreamed into other relevant goals, with a view to adopting a truly inclusive approach to sustainable development in both developed and developing countries.

12. The Administration will continue to deliver expert support to ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, including:

- (a) Consultations and cooperation with the GFMD, the GMG and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development and other relevant partners, to provide technical advice to governments on ways to integrate migration into the post-2015 development agenda.
- (b) Research on the relationship between migration and the central development issues. For instance, the Administration will continue to support the production of reports and briefs with UNU-MERIT and Maastricht University, to facilitate evidence on eradicating extreme poverty.
- (c) Engagement in capacity-building and work for the conceptualization of migration and development training manuals.

Migrants in crisis situations

13. The Administration will continue its efforts to address the crucial issue of migrants caught up in crisis situations, based on IOM's extensive operational experience; on the management of the Migration Emergency Funding Mechanism established in 2011; on the best practices identified during the 2012 International Dialogue on Migration that had the overarching theme of "Managing migration in crisis situations"; and on the Migration Crisis Operational Framework.

14. The United States of America and the Philippines steer the State-led process – initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development – of clarifying roles and responsibilities and identifying concrete operational measures and capacity needs to improve the preparedness and response capacities of States and other stakeholders in protecting migrants caught in crisis situations. The Administration has offered its full support to the co-chairs.

Perception of migrants

15. Building on earlier efforts in Africa, Western Europe and Eastern Europe, the Administration plans to launch in early 2014 the IOM global information campaign on the contribution of migrants, to improve the general perception of migrants and highlight the benefits that migrants bring to countries of origin and destination. The Administration aims to launch the campaign in several stages, in 50 target countries, with a view to achieving long-term and worldwide outreach.

Human rights, prevention of exploitation and reducing the cost of migration

16. The Administration plans to launch in the near future a major initiative on ethical recruitment – the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). The Administration seeks to mobilize support offered in the form of a public–private alliance on fair and ethical recruitment.

17. Recent events in the Mediterranean and beyond have highlighted the urgency of the issues of stranded migrants, mixed flows and irregular migration. In October 2013, IOM shared with Member States of the European Union a discussion paper entitled Addressing complex migration flows and upholding the rights of migrants along the central Mediterranean route. The Administration is seeking cooperation with partners to find more comprehensive solutions to save lives and address root causes.

Evidence base

18. Efforts will continue to improve evidence-based policymaking. This includes improving the collection, analysis and sharing of existing migration data (e.g. more than 10 Migration Profile exercises will be implemented in the period 2013–2014).

19. In 2013, IOM published the *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development*, which is the first global report to focus on the well-being of migrants and was produced using the findings of the Gallup World Poll. The Administration plans to launch various pilot projects in 2014 to monitor the well-being of migrants systematically and obtain additional insights into the situation of migrants worldwide and the migration–development nexus.

20. Similarly, the Administration will continue to work with the GMG Working Group on Data and Research, as well as other research bodies, on a practical guide on migration and development data to assist countries in collecting accurate, up-to-date data on international migration and on the contributions of migrants and migration to global development.

21. Lastly, the Administration will continue to study the linkages between environmental change and migration, for instance in the framework of the project funded by the European Commission entitled Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy. The project foresees six large-scale country surveys in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean during 2014.

Enhanced migration partnerships and cooperation

22. The Administration will continue to foster and strengthen partnerships for consultative processes on migration. One clear example of cooperation resulting from the High-level

Dialogue is the partnership between IOM, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; a partnership that will continue to support States in the region to set up a regional consultative process (RCP) in the framework of the League of Arab States.

Outcomes influencing IOM as an institution

23. The High-level Dialogue demonstrated that IOM's status as a non-UN agency has, in addition to its advantages, made it challenging for IOM to be able to contribute to broader United Nations processes. The High-level Dialogue has also shown that misconceptions about IOM persist and that there are risks of duplicating and diminishing IOM's mandate-based work. At the same time, the High-level Dialogue also highlighted that migration will increasingly be a subject that the United Nations addresses: many Member States called for greater United Nations involvement in migration issues.

24. Given the interconnections of migration with development, human rights and humanitarian issues, the United Nations will invariably seek to address migration through its own structures. For example, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its High-level Committee on Programmes have considered migration issues throughout the year and are likely to continue reviewing the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue. It is uncertain whether IOM will be invited to continue its ad hoc participation in these two bodies. It will consequently be important to consider the way in which migration as a phenomenon will influence the development of the IOM-UN relationship, inter alia:

- (a) Through the decision of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance to establish a working group so that the IOM membership can review the IOM-UN relationship, considering the advantages and disadvantages of the status quo in greater detail.
- (b) Through the Administration's recognition of the need to strengthen and clarify relevant policies in key areas, such as migration governance, the rights of migrants and migrant protection, responses to mixed migration flows, humanitarian policy relevant to IOM's mandate, and IOM's work in migration and development contexts.
- (c) Through the renewed impetus that the Administration has gained from the High-level Dialogue to pursue a partnership approach to enhance synergies with relevant and varied partners, including States and state-led processes (GFMD, RCPs); the United Nations and mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation (GMG, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, United Nations country teams); and civil society and the private sector.

25. Notwithstanding the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue, the Administration's position on the institutional implications for IOM-UN relations remains unchanged: the Administration is neutral on this question out of full respect for Member States' sovereign right to determine what that relationship should be. The Administration has no position other than to adopt a supportive role at the technical level to assist the Member States as they debate this topic.

Conclusion

26. This paper has presented the Administration's overview of the High-level Dialogue, and, more specifically of: the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue; how the Administration will build on the High-level Dialogue consensus; and the subjects brought to light by the

High-level Dialogue that are relevant to the Organization's institutional position, particularly IOM's relationship with the United Nations.

27. The High-level Dialogue has provided a consensus and a call for action – but the real work starts now to establish follow-up mechanisms, particularly for defining details, mobilizing support from all stakeholders and the actual implementation of the recommendations.