

TWELFTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

New York, 20-21 February 2014



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Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

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New York, 20 and 21 February 2014



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DESA

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PREFACE

The twelfth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 20 to 21 February 2014. It was the latest in a series of annual coordination meetings on international migration convened since 2002 by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat.

The coordination meetings on international migration are convened with the purpose of reviewing the latest evidence on emerging topics in the field of international migration, exchanging information on current and ongoing migration projects, and enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence on migration. Following the adoption by General Assembly of the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in October 2013, the twelfth Coordination Meeting on International Migration reviewed the actions of relevant entities of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. In particular, the meeting discussed how international migration could be integrated into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

CMS	Center for Migration Studies
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
ICAT	Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
LAS	League of Arab States
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OWG	Open Working Group
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIMN	Scalabrini International Migration Network
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration
UN/DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
UNU	United Nations University

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

The Twelfth Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 to 21 February 2014. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN/DESA). The meeting had two main objectives. First, the meeting focused on activities to follow up on and, where relevant, implement the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4) as well as the eight-point agenda for action of the Secretary-General presented in his report to the 2013 High-level Dialogue (A/68/190). Second, the meeting considered how migration could be integrated into the implementation framework of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Additionally, preparations for the 2014 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) were discussed, along with its future directions.

The meeting attracted more than 150 participants, including representatives of Member States, Observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, and the regional commissions as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field of international migration. Also present were invited migration experts.

I. OPENING

Ms. Francesca Perucci, Chief of the Demographic Analysis Branch of the Population Division/DESA, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director. She noted that the adoption of a political declaration at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development demonstrated that, while migration was a complex issue, progress could be made within the United Nations. She observed that the High-level Dialogue had called for close cooperation and a coordinated approach among the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, and civil society. Ms. Perucci then noted that the important relationships of migration with development, with population dynamics, and with human rights were highlighted in the Population Division's *International Migration Report 2013*. She noted that the contributions made to the coordination meeting would be very helpful in preparing the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

II. MIGRATION AND THE POST-2015 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development/DESA, moderated the first panel. The Division was the Secretariat for the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He noted that the declaration of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20") and the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons had mentioned both benefits and challenges of migration. While there had been debate on migration within the OWG, a realistic way to include migration in the forthcoming goals had yet to emerge. The panel would seek to identify pathways to do this.

Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration (SRSG) said that the post High-level Dialogue landscape was at a critical juncture not only with regard to defining the next generation of the global development agenda, but also as far as the role of migration in domestic policies was concerned. The biggest obstacle to integrating migration in domestic policies was opposition coming from anti-immigrant and populist groups in destination countries. Working to change negative perceptions of migrants was therefore an urgent priority. Further, it was important to ensure that

migration took place within the rule of law, as perceptions that migration was occurring outside the law fed into the myth that migration was a threat. The High-level Dialogue had been a watershed event in the evolution of the global debate on migration. Significantly, it had achieved an outcome document by consensus, and the discussions had shown convergence on a wide range of issues. He welcomed commitments to address the plight of “stranded migrants”. Turning to the post-2015 development agenda, Mr. Sutherland urged the framers of the new agenda to recognize that migration contributed to lifting millions out of poverty, and had already contributed to progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). An increase in the quality of mobility could have a profound impact on development. An informal working group of Member States, United Nations entities and experts had produced a document with concrete proposals for integrating migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The informal group had proposed a target on migration under a revamped goal on global partnerships, with indicators on reducing the costs of migration and of transferring remittances, increasing portability of benefits and recognition of skills, combatting human trafficking, and increasing third-country settlement options for refugees. In the coming weeks, Mr. Sutherland would be appealing directly to senior government officials to include migration in the post-2015 development agenda. Further, he was working closely with the Global Migration Group (GMG) and GFMD in accordance with the declaration of the High-level Dialogue. He would also continue to fulfil his commitment to the Secretary-General to systematically assess the challenges and opportunities of international migration and propose solutions.

Mr. Michael Doyle, Harold Brown Professor of U.S. Foreign and Security Policy at Columbia Law School, observed that, at the time the MDGs were formulated in 2001, migration was not perceived as a development issue by either Member States or experts. While migration had been included in the human rights chapter of the Millennium Declaration, there was no common ground to find targets for measuring the implementation of migrant rights. Nearly 15 years later, the international community was much better informed on the benefits of migration for development. Migration had instrumental value by contributing to development in countries of origin, for example through remittances that could be used for human capital development. It also was important to countries of destination, in areas such as relieving labour pressure. Yet migration also had intrinsic value to the migrants themselves, benefiting their own development, or, in the case of forced migration, quite possibly saving their lives. Professor Doyle was convinced that migration was ready for inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. Migration targets should be outcome-oriented and quantifiable, fostering development and enhancing human rights. He recalled that any proposed targets should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART). He felt that the proposal of the SRSRG Sutherland’s informal working group was a worthwhile approach, with its suggestion of a target on migration within a global partnership goal, along with indicators on migration within other relevant targets.

Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations and co-chair of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), acknowledged the multifaceted benefits and challenges of migration discussed by the previous speakers. He reported that the OWG had concluded the first phase of its work in which it had gathered the knowledge that was necessary for framing the future Sustainable Development Goals. The second phase, during which the OWG would build a proposed framework of goals and targets, would commence in March 2014. The third phase would take place after the conclusion of the OWG’s work and would bring together the various strands of work on post-2015. The process was expected to be finished by July, in order to be taken up by the General Assembly in September. The OWG’s purpose was to develop a transformative framework of goals and targets to eradicate poverty and ensure lasting sustainable development. He noted that detailed decisions on indicators were outside the purview of the OWG. All three pillars of sustainable development should be integrated into each of the SDGs. The unfinished agenda of the MDGs would also be included. The goals should be human-centred and sensitive to disadvantaged groups. Primary responsibility for their implementation would belong to Member States. It was important to avoid

traditional North-South dichotomies and to ensure transparency and accountability for stakeholders at all levels. A listing of so-called focus areas was to be released shortly. From these focus areas, a smaller number of more integrated goals would be developed. It was hoped that the final set of SDGs and targets would be agreed by July 2014. The OWG was working alongside the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to ensure that political commitments were commensurate with resources. As the OWG had received hundreds of proposals, Mr. Kőrösi urged participants to be very specific in submitting goals and targets.

In the discussion, participants concurred on the important contributions of migration to development and on the need to include migration in the post-2015 development agenda. In the current policy environment, with limited opportunities for legal migration, migrants were vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda could improve negative perceptions of migrants, ensure policy coherence, promote safe and regular migration, reduce the economic and social costs of migration, assure access of migrants to health and education, and fight human trafficking. One participant observed that migration should be also considered as a human rights issue and noted that that bringing migration under a partnership target such as a reformulated and expanded MDG8 would be insufficient. Mr. Sutherland wondered whether resistance to bringing migration into the development agenda was the result of a lingering view that migration was a failure of development. Mr. Doyle reemphasized the value of a two-pronged approach that would bring both development and rights aspects of migration into the agenda. Mr. Kőrösi noted the importance of distinguishing between what was important, and what we desired to change; it was the elements for change that should be reflected in the SDGs. Moreover, the distinction between goals, targets and indicators should be carefully drawn. In response to another question from the floor, he noted that while the general principle of international partnership for development could be an element of the SDGs, the specifics of multi-stakeholder partnerships in goal areas was beyond the work of the OWG.

III. THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: THE WAY FORWARD

Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon, Permanent Observer of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the United Nations and moderator of the panel, welcomed the important contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) by providing a venue for informal dialogue and cooperation. The High-level Dialogue had affirmed the role of the GFMD as a valuable forum for building trust among all stakeholder by virtue of its voluntary, informal and State-led character.

Ambassador Eva Åkerman Börje, Chair-in-Office of the GFMD, noted that the outcome of an assessment completed in 2011-2012 had called for making the Forum more development-focused, more effective and more sustainable. In order to implement the first objective, there was a need to engage development practitioners, and to ensure that migration was considered in the post-2015 development agenda. To achieve greater effectiveness, the Global Forum would seek greater involvement and ownership by countries, and focus on concrete and relevant outcomes. Steps toward the third objective of a more durable forum included a multi-annual work plan and a more predictable funding framework. Stable funding was particularly important to ensure that lower income countries could host the Global Forum. Ms. Åkerman Börje noted that the Global Forum meeting in Stockholm in May 2014 would include roundtables on integrating migration in global, regional and national development agendas and on migration as an enabler for inclusive economic and social development. As government teams were now preparing the roundtables, she invited coordinated input from the GMG. She welcomed the GFMD's continued dialogue with civil society and noted that the Forum had started to engage the private sector.

Ambassador Esen Altuğ, Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, spoke on behalf of the incoming GFMD Chair. Turkey welcomed the opportunity of chairing

the GFMD. Her country had a wealth of experience to share in the area of migration and development, as Turkey was simultaneously a country of origin, destination and transit of migrants. Turkey's priorities for its Chairmanship included bringing migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda; promoting mobility by reducing obstacles such as visas and similar barriers; ensuring the human rights of migrants; combatting racism, discrimination and xenophobia; promoting cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders to combat irregular migration; linking regional processes with the GFMD, and strengthening partnerships on migration through other fora, such as the G20. In her country's experience, small and medium-sized enterprises were a key driver of development as they served as a foundation for Turkey's successful transition from a country of origin to a destination country for migrants. Turkey was currently considering options for the theme of its Chairmanship and planning to hold various thematic meetings and roundtables.

Mr. John Bingham of the International Catholic Migration Commission noted the wide range of civil society organizations that were working together in the field of migration. Civil society consultations in the lead-up to the High-level Dialogue had led to the formulation of a five-year, eight-point approach. While he was pleased to note the convergence of views on numerous key areas at the High-level Dialogue, he felt that global governance of migration had been overlooked. Mr. Bingham felt that the GFMD was an opportune place to bring forward an action-oriented agenda. He observed that hundreds of civil society and migrant representatives had registered to attend the upcoming meeting in Sweden.

Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Office (ILO), and GMG Chair-in-Office, addressed the meeting through a pre-recorded video message. He thanked the GFMD Chair for initiating a dialogue between the Global Forum and the GMG. In an environment of weak job markets, migrants were vulnerable to discrimination in wages and working conditions, and to exclusion and indifference. It was not beyond the capacity of the global community to deal with discrimination and to recognize the contributions of migrants. ILO promoted labour agreements that encompassed portability of benefits and fair recruitment. He stressed that labour was not a commodity and that adhering to ILO standards would lead to more equitable, inclusive development.

Participants welcomed the presentations of the current and incoming GFMD Chairs and acknowledged the contribution of GFMD in the global debate on migration and development. A joint meeting between the GFMD and the G20 in Turkey would be one option to carry this agenda forward. In response to a question, the current GFMD Chair pointed out that while the GFMD could promote policy coherence, it could not take on a monitoring role given its informal character. Other comments from the floor pertained to using synergies of the GFMD and GMG to advance the protection of vulnerable groups, including refugees and adolescent and youth migrants.

IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2013 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ambassador Yanerit Morgan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, made a presentation on her country's expectations following the High-level Dialogue. The adoption of the Declaration by consensus had been a great achievement that reflected intensive preparations and discussions at the United Nations, including in the Human Rights Council, "Rio+20", and the Commission on Population and Development, as well as at the GFMD. Ambassador Morgan recognized the contributions of the GMG and the SRSG to the success of the High-level Dialogue. By underscoring the linkages between migration, development, and human rights, the Declaration promoted an integrated approach to migration. Further, the Declaration recognized the contributions of migrants to their countries of origin, destination, and transit and gave special attention to the situations of migrant women, migrant

children and “stranded migrants”. The Declaration of the High-level Dialogue gave a strong impetus to integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda, and to strengthen the treatment of migration in the work of the United Nations.

Next, Ms. Perucci of the Population Division moderated a panel of four speakers: H.E. Ambassador Vlad Lupan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, Ambassador Åkerman-Börje, Ms. Michelle Leighton, Chief of the Labour Migration Branch of the ILO, and Ms. Eva Sandis, Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration.

First, the panellists were asked their views on the main issues identified at the High-level Dialogue that should be pursued. Ambassador Åkerman-Börje identified as key outcomes the recognition of the value the GFMD, consensus on the need for enhanced cooperation, and calls to include migration in the post-2015 development agenda. Ambassador Lupan highlighted the issues of reducing the costs of migration, skills recognition, facilitating voluntary return to home countries, and access to services as key issues emanating from the High-level Dialogue. He noted Moldova’s commitment to fighting human trafficking, to developing the domestic economy, and to addressing governance challenges. In this regard, he stressed the importance of regional cooperation frameworks. Ms. Leighton emphasized that the entire eight-point action agenda of the Secretary-General was a key outcome of the High-level Dialogue and that it would be difficult to favour one topic over the others. In order to eliminate the exploitation and abuse of migrants, to reduce the costs of labour migration, or to improve public perceptions of migrants, better research and data were needed. Ms. Sandis agreed that migration should be mainstreamed in the post-2015 development agenda and recalled that the NGO community had also proposed an eight-point action plan for the High-level Dialogue. The central goal was to create human rights based and people-centered migration policies and practices. Priority areas for the NGO community included the situation of migrants in transit and at borders, especially women and children, and eliminating corruption and exploitation in migrant labour recruitment.

In the ensuing discussion, participants underlined the importance of both the human rights and development dimensions of migration. With regard to the expected outcome of the post-2015 agenda, panellists noted that it was a matter of non-discrimination, of “leaving no one behind”. Bringing migration into the development agenda would enable development actors to better understand the importance of migration for development. It would change the debate in countries and lead to a more positive discussion on migration. Concrete targets and indicators on ratification of relevant international instruments on migration would raise awareness and accountability, including on the part of governments.

The second question for the panellists concerned the roles of various actors in the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. In this regard, Ambassador Åkerman-Börje emphasized the role of the GFMD and highlighted her efforts to engage with, and enhance ownership of the Forum by, Governments. Greater collaboration between the GFMD and the GMG would be conducive to moving the GFMD forward. Ambassador Lupan recalled that Chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), one of the most important agreed texts on migration to date, could provide guidance for joint action. As the United Nations had a unique role in bringing the international community together, the convening of a periodic High-level Dialogue should be considered. While Member States were ultimately responsible for keeping migration on the agenda of the United Nations, he welcomed the technical guidance of the GMG. Ms. Leighton replied that the GMG stood ready to cooperate with Member States and that the Group was developing goals, targets and indicators to be proposed for inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. The Group was also promoting closer cooperation among entities at the field level as well as a stronger collaboration with civil society. Ms. Sandis urged Member States to develop mechanisms for more regular consultation with civil society, and ensure adequate funding for the participation of civil society at high-level events in both the United Nations and the GFMD.

The panel was followed by a special presentation by Mr. François Crépeau, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, on implementing a common human rights framework in migration policies. Professor Crépeau remarked that the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue recognized that migrants were human beings with rights, regardless of their status. The fact that human rights had been discussed throughout the High-level Dialogue, not just at the roundtable focusing on human rights, showed the importance of bringing the migration debate into the United Nations. The Declaration also called for increased cooperation among various actors, which would require improved migration governance. Mr. Crépeau felt any future arrangements should be based within the United Nations in order to ensure that they would benefit from the human rights dimensions present in the organization, and the abilities of the specialized agencies to deal with migration in all of its complex dimensions. Mr. Crépeau called for a periodic High-level Dialogue every three to five years with a rights-based declaration and plan of action. This, combined with the annual GFMD, could create synergies, allow for monitoring progress, inspire fresh ideas, and lead to new avenues for cooperation. He observed that the Declaration also highlighted challenges of irregular migration and argued that Member States should create regular migration channels, address the “addiction” of certain economic sectors to low labour costs, and also combat migrant smuggling. Government policies should move away from the criminalization of irregular migration and should fight negative stereotypes. The Declaration had also emphasized the need to respect international labour standards and migrants’ rights in the workplace, the focus of Mr. Crépeau’s annual report in 2014. Lastly, he stressed the importance of keeping a focus on the human rights of migrants, regardless of their status, when mainstreaming migration into the post-2015 development agenda, and of ensuring that migrants were treated in accordance with the rule of law and had access to human rights protection mechanisms.

Much of the discussion centered on battling anti-immigrant sentiment and improving perceptions of migrants. Participants felt that it was difficult to counter the negative immigration discourse in countries. Mr. Crépeau believed that this was due to the exclusion of migrants themselves from the discourse. Such exclusion could not be changed easily, and thus independent institutions such as courts had an important role to play. It was also observed that many of Mr. Crépeau’s points had also been addressed in the resolution on new trends in migration: demographic aspects, adopted by the Commission on Population and Development in 2013.

The presentation was followed by an interactive tour-de-table, during which representatives of United Nations entities and other participants made brief presentations on the actions of their organizations in follow-up to the High-level Dialogue.

The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) noted that migration had been included in the global survey conducted as part of the operational review which was being prepared for the special session of the General Assembly on “ICPD Beyond 2014”. Recommendations on migration and human mobility had also been included in the report of the global thematic consultation on population dynamics conducted as input to the post-2015 development agenda. As co-chair of the KNOMAD project on demographic impact of migration, UNFPA would convene a seminar on migration assumptions in population projections.

The representative of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) described the organization’s work in fighting human trafficking and migrant smuggling. As the custodian of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, UNODC was focusing on both prevention and prosecution of crimes. Another area of work consisted of knowledge sharing, including an online database on human trafficking case law. UNODC produced a biennial global report on trafficking in persons, the next of which would be released in 2014. UNODC had been working with United Nations partners to develop indicators for monitoring

and accountability.

The United Nations Regional Commissions played an important role in mainstreaming migration as it was often easier to achieve consensus in negotiations at regional preparatory meetings, which would then feed into global processes. The post-2015 development agenda would have to be adapted to regional priorities and characteristics. The five Regional Commissions were all working closely with partners in their work related to migration.

The representative of the World Bank highlighted the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), a global platform for bringing together migration knowledge. The World Bank was working with many partner agencies to improve the evidence base on the impact of migration on development.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was working to improve the availability of migration data in the region. The Conference of European Statisticians had selected the topic of migration statistics to be discussed at its upcoming plenary session. In October 2013, ECE had organized a workshop for countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on migration and development statistics and data issues, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. One ECE task force was studying the measurement of the socio-economic conditions of migrants. A second task force was working on establishing a common statistical definition of circular migration.

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) was conducting research to demonstrate that respect for migrant rights was beneficial for both countries of origin and destination. In honour of the CMS's 50th anniversary, it would be issuing a special edition of International Migration Review with contributions of leading scholars and hosting a thematic meeting on South-South migration. Another area of work concerned refugee protection gaps. CMS was also participating in a civil society working group on migration and diaspora.

The representative of IOM highlighted initiatives that corresponded to the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda. For example, in the area of human rights, IOM was increasingly offering advice and assistance on protection and on alternatives to detention, as well as access to health care. It was launching a public-private alliance on reducing costs of migration. IOM was also enhancing its efforts to protect vulnerable migrants. As Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), IOM was seeking to strengthen work on prosecution of traffickers. The Organization was also working on an operational framework for aiding "stranded migrants", on a global campaign to improve public perception of migrants, and on the new international migration poll, together with Gallup. Partnerships were being strengthened with all stakeholders, including the GMG, GFMD and civil society.

The ILO had held a tripartite technical meeting on labour migration in November 2013 to set an agenda for follow-up to the High-level Dialogue. Specifically, the meeting had considered the role of migrant workers as agents of innovation and change. The ILO was also conducting a wide-ranging consultation on recruitment practices. Other areas of work included labour market needs assessment and skills recognition to avoid "brain waste". Further, the ILO was fostering cooperation, coordination and social dialogue in order to implement rights-based labour policies with stakeholders, including civil society and the GMG.

The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) highlighted four priorities in the field of migration. First, her Office advocated for the integration of migrant rights and access to development into the post-2015 development agenda, including access for refugees to labour schemes in host countries. Second, UNHCR continued to highlight the need for refugee protection and solutions in mixed migration flows. Third, she highlighted the protection needs of refugees and asylum-seekers rescued at sea. Fourth, the Office supported the initiative led by the United States and Philippines

on “stranded migrants”.

The representative of the European Union (EU) noted that the political declaration of the High-level Dialogue showed a large degree of consensus among the international community on migration and development. For the EU, the High-level Dialogue had underscored the need to include migration in the post-2015 agenda, and to revise its own policy framework. Improving the evidence on migration and development would help translate the holistic view of the Declaration into concrete action. The EU would be working with low-income countries in this regard. It was not possible to prioritize between labour mobility and human rights. The EU would be developing programmes on vulnerable migrants and trafficking, as well as assisting migrants caught in humanitarian crises.

The International Metropolis Project would be holding its annual conference on migration and development in November 2014, with a focus on forced and irregular migration in the Mediterranean region. Metropolis was in the process of establishing a migration and integration management training organization which would offer intensive courses for migration and integration professionals. Metropolis was also developing a project on the development benefits of reintegration.

The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) had completed reports on migration policy and the role of civil society for a number of countries. SIMN was implementing a data collection system in its network of migrant centres and shelters around the world. It was also promoting a sustainable livelihoods programme in countries of origin, as well as convening the fifth International Forum on Migration and Peace in Berlin in June 2014.

The League of Arab States (LAS), together with IOM and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, had established a working group on migration, whose primary focus would be mainstreaming migration into development policies. The LAS had completed a manual on migration and development and was starting a report on international migration in the Arab region. It was also pursuing the establishment of a regional consultative process on migration.

V. TOWARDS BETTER DATA AND INDICATORS ON MIGRATION

In opening Friday morning’s session on better data and indicators on migration, Mr. David Khodour of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) noted that policy work should be based on rigorous analysis of data. In particular, the lack of migration data from developing countries was a major impediment to understanding migration phenomena and formulating policies in the global South.

Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of UN/DESA, explained the role of the global statistical community in preparing for the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. She noted that the quantitative targets of the MDGs had been a powerful communication tool. Ms. Osaki-Tomita highlighted the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission’s Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress to ensure that a robust statistical measurement approach was incorporated from the outset in preparing for the post-2015 development agenda. In this regard, the Statistics Division was preparing statistical notes on the various thematic issues with a view to informing the debates from a statistical viewpoint. International migration did not appear as a stand-alone development issue, but was integrated in the notes on population dynamics, social protection, promoting equality, and human rights. The statistical notes highlighted that data on migration suffered from lack of availability and international comparability. The Secretary-General’s report to the 2014 Statistical Commission on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2014/20) had suggested developing a global initiative to improve migration data for evidence-based policymaking and establishing a global programme to enhance the capacity of countries to improve

the collection, processing and analysis of international migration data.

Mr. Frank Laczko, Director of Research at IOM, reported on a one-day retreat that had been convened at the United Nations in New York on 21 January 2014 by the GMG Working Group on Data and Research, in collaboration with the KNOMAD and the SRSG for Migration. The goal of the retreat had been to propose a limited set of indicators on international migration and development, which could be considered for inclusion in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Participants had considered an array of proposed indicators, evaluating them according to SMART criteria. The report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons, which guided the discussions, allowed for three possible approaches. First, a global partnership on migration and development could be linked to Goal 12 of the report. Second, the impact of migration as an enabler for development could be assessed across several goals. Third, targets in other spheres, such as health and education, could be disaggregated by migration status. The retreat had concluded that the most obvious candidate for inclusion in post-2015 was an indicator on reducing the cost of remittances, which was already a target of the G20 and was monitored by the World Bank. There was also broad agreement that indicators on refugee resettlement and on human trafficking could be ready for inclusion, while indicators on skills recognition, portability of social security benefits, recruitment costs, and diaspora contributions would require additional data collection.

Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of the Population Division of UN/DESA, presented an analysis of country statements from the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Among the elements of the Secretary-General's eight-point plan, protecting the human rights of migrants was the one most often mentioned by Member States, followed by enhancing migration partnerships and cooperation. The most commonly mentioned policy priority was integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda. Mr. Hovy then described the common set of indicators for the Migration Profiles, created in response to a request from the GFMD, in order to facilitate international comparisons. The indicators, recently updated on the website of the Population Division, provided comparable migration indicators for all countries in the world. The profiles included information on the adoption of legal instruments related to international migration, general demographic indicators, development indicators, remittance flows, and indicators on the international migrant stock by age and sex, refugees, and the stock of tertiary students studying abroad. Mr. Hovy also highlighted some of the findings of the Population Division's *International Migration Report 2013*, including the importance of south-south migration, the role of migration as a driver of population growth in developed countries, and the age profile of migrants. He noted the rapid ratification of protocols on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, which was in contrast with the slow take-up of conventions on the rights of migrant workers.

In the discussion, participants reflected on the relationship between weak evidence and misperceptions of migration among the public and policymakers. For example, the number of international migrants in a given country was often overestimated by the public at large. It was noted that short term international migration, such as seasonal or circular migration, was not captured well in existing statistics. Measuring the scope of irregular migration, and the access of irregular migrants to services, also remained a daunting task. Countries should be encouraged to make better use of existing administrative data. Some participants raised concerns that focusing on SMART criteria would discourage the adoption of indicators for which data were not readily available, thus holding back progress in moving the migration agenda ahead. The panellists concurred that lack of data should not rule out important indicators, and noted that the MDGs had driven statistical development in areas and many countries. Qualitative indicators, including on migrants' own impressions of their well-being, should also be considered.

VI. REDUCING COSTS OF MIGRATION AND LEVERAGING ITS BENEFITS

The second session on Friday morning, moderated by Ms. Diana Alarcón of the Development Policy and

Analysis Division of UN/DESA, focused on the economic benefits of migration and how best to realize them. In his keynote address, Mr. Lant Pritchett, Professor of the Practice of International Development at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, expressed his view that lowering border barriers would be the easiest way to improve development in low-income countries. Restrictions on mobility caused massive differences in labour costs, although the workers had the same intrinsic productivity. For example, for a low-skilled worker from a developing country, the gain in salary from working in the United States averaged more than twice the base salary in the home country. Potential gains to lowering barriers on mobility dwarfed gains from avenues more commonly proposed, including easing movement of capital and goods, or development aid. However, the opposition of voters in rich countries was a huge obstacle to lowering such barriers. Currently, there was no voice in the international system advocating for greater labour mobility. Mr. Pritchett offered the idea of establishing an international organization that would promote labour mobility, with voluntary accession by Governments. This organization could encourage the adoption of bilateral agreements and serve as an arbiter for solving disputes arising out of such agreements.

In the second presentation of the session, Mr. Dilip Ratha, Manager of the Migration and Remittances Unit at the World Bank, said that the high costs of labour recruitment, including recruitment fees, document costs, and transportation costs, could amount to several months of wages and were borne largely by migrants and their families. To identify ways of reducing recruitment costs, KNOMAD was gathering information on recruitment costs by occupation for bilateral corridors. Mr. Ratha suggested actions that could be taken by both sending and receiving countries to address these concerns, including negotiating employment conditions, regulating recruitment agencies and employers, and educating migrants about their rights. Actions could also be taken on visa policies, passport issuance, and job matching. He expected that reducing recruitment costs would also contribute to reducing irregular migration and migrant smuggling.

Mr. Massimo Cirasino, Manager of Financial Infrastructure and Remittances at the World Bank, noted that international remittance prices were high for many reasons, including underdeveloped financial infrastructures in sending and receiving countries, limited competition, a lack of transparency, regulatory obstacles, and difficulties in obtaining documentation that would allow migrants access to the formal banking sector. He recalled the “5 by 5 Initiative”, a statement in which G8 and G20 Heads of State had committed to “... achieve the objective of a reduction of the global average costs of transferring remittances from the present 10 per cent to 5 per cent in 5 years through enhanced information, transparency, competition and cooperation with partners.” According to recent data from the World Bank’s Remittance Prices Worldwide database, significant progress had been achieved. Thus, 68 per cent of the 220 corridors which had been evaluated had remittance costs below 10 per cent, and 47 of these corridors, or 20 per cent, were below the five per cent target. Further work was needed to continue to lower remittance costs, including ensuring that every corridor was served by a few reliable and widely available remittance service providers with a cost of five per cent or below.

A number of participants expressed concerns about a possible trade-off between the rights of migrants in host countries and the number of migrants to be admitted. In response, Mr. Pritchett observed that offering more rights to migrants made migration more expensive from the economic view, and that voters in host countries were quite hostile to the idea of immediately extending full rights to migrants. In relation to recruitment costs, participants noted that the current state of border restrictions empowered corrupt behaviour in origin, transit and destination countries. There was a role for recruitment agencies, but these agencies needed to be regulated. Participants welcomed the effort to collect data on recruitment costs, which would increase transparency. One participant called for clarity in identifying the entities that should be responsible for bringing about the reduction of recruitment costs. Participants also pointed out that remittances allowed for broader financial inclusion of migrants and their families.

VII. SELECTED PRESENTATIONS ON DATA AND INDICATORS ON MIGRATION

Ms. Warda Henning of UNODC reported on her office's work in gathering data on trafficking in persons. Fighting the crime of trafficking would make migration more safe and humane, which would have benefits for development. UNODC produced a global report on trafficking every two years. The report from 2012 contained data on trafficking from 132 countries and information on trafficking legislation from 163 countries. In 2009, 76 per cent of trafficking victims were women and girls, while sexual exploitation and forced labour were the most common forms of exploitation of trafficked persons. The report had found that while countries had improved their laws to combat human trafficking, implementation remained a concern. Ms. Henning highlighted a voluntary reporting system on migrant smuggling and related conduct, a tool for States in South-East Asia to collect and share information on migrant smuggling and irregular migration. UNODC was working United Nations partners and Governments on trafficking indicators. Following Ms. Henning's presentation, participants stressed the value of national ownership and called for collaboration between countries of origin, destination, and transit in prevention, investigations, and prosecutions. Some participants felt there had been too much emphasis on a criminal approach in this area. Ms. Henning replied that indeed UNODC was increasing its focus on prevention of human trafficking.

Mr. David Marshall of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) noted the growing demand for indicators for use in human rights assessments such as the universal periodic review and in furthering national implementation of human rights obligations. In 2012, OHCHR had released the publication *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation* which outlined the development of structural, process and outcome indicators on human rights. The guide had not specifically dealt with indicators on the human rights of migrants, however. To address this issue, KNOMAD was funding an initiative, in collaboration with the GMG Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender, to draft indicators on the rights of migrants to health, education and decent work. An expert group meeting would be held in March 2014, and the results made available to the GFMD meeting in May 2014. Participants welcomed the increased use of quantitative indicators in the reporting of States parties to treaty bodies.

Ms. Tendayi Bloom, research fellow at the United Nations University (UNU) in Barcelona, Spain, informed participants about a recently formed migration network. The network brought together more than fifty researchers working across the UNU institutes focusing on health, regional integration, culture, the environment, and governance as well as forced migration. The network had recently launched a website¹ that provided comprehensive, searchable access to the UNU's extensive existing work on migration. UNU occupied a unique position within the international system, between academia and the United Nations, and also had significant connections with civil society. Participants welcomed the breadth of work described by Ms. Bloom, and encouraged UNU to seek or expand collaborations with the Global Migration Group, civil society and academic institutions. They also noted the importance of integrating quantitative and qualitative research methods on migration.

Ms. Ann Pawliczko, Senior Adviser on Emerging Population Issues at UNFPA, presented work on the development of a monitoring framework for ICPD beyond 2014. She observed that, in line with the operational review conducted by UNFPA, ICPD follow-up would focus on promoting sustainable development through equitable achievement of dignity and human rights, good health, security of place and mobility, and good governance. The monitoring framework was being developed through an ongoing,

¹ migration.unu.edu

consultative process. It would have a small number of indicators to limit the reporting burden on countries. Equality and non-discrimination would be addressed through disaggregation of relevant indicators. Ms. Pawliczko presented a number of illustrative indicators intended to promote the developmental benefits of international migration. A final work plan would be presented ahead of the General Assembly special session on ICPD Beyond 2014 in September 2014. Participants observed that the monitoring framework presented by Ms. Pawliczko should not be duplicative of other efforts related to the post-2015 development agenda. Ms. Pawliczko noted that the ICPD agenda was much broader than migration alone. Participants also noted that at the time of ICPD in 1994, migration was just emerging on the international agenda. In the ensuing 20 years, there had been growing recognition of migration as an enabler of development, rather than an outcome of failure of development. Also, there had been increasing focus on human rights in migration discussions.

VIII. CLOSING

The meeting was closed by Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division of UN/DESA. Mr. Wilmoth noted the essential value of the annual coordination meeting in bringing together many organizations and individuals active in the field of international migration policy, data, research, and advocacy within the context of the United Nations. The importance of migration on the international agenda had been reflected in the lively discussions on migration and migrants and the post-2015 development agenda, on the costs and benefits of migration, on the rights of migrants, on improving the data and evidence on international migration and development, and on strengthening cooperation between the state-led GFMD and the work of the GMG. He observed that the coordination meeting was of great value to the work of the Population Division. First, the deliberations during the meeting would serve as an input to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the 69th session of the General Assembly. Second, they would enable the Division to ensure that the technical aspects of its work programme on migration were in tune with the needs and activities of others in the United Nations system as well as of Member States. In closing, Mr. Wilmoth thanked participants for their presentations and contributions to the meeting.