



# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
13 December 2010

Original: English

---

## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 19th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Mr. Pierre (Vice-Chairperson). . . . . (Haiti)

## Contents

Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development  
(*continued*)

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(c) International migration and development

---

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

10-60505 (E)



Please recycle A recycling symbol consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.

*In the absence of Ms. Ochir (Mongolia), Mr. Pierre (Haiti), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 17: Information and communications technologies for development** (*continued*) (A/65/64-E/2010/12, A/65/78-E/2010/68 and A/65/276)

1. **Mr. Čekuolis** (Lithuania) said that the fifth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), held in Vilnius earlier in the year, had been a success, bringing together more than 1,400 representatives from nearly 100 countries across all stakeholder groups, with an additional 600 participants contributing remotely. He welcomed the increase in remote participation to allow those with limited travel funds to follow and participate in the process online, and noted that the strength of IGF lay in its cooperation among multi-stakeholder groups based on the exchange of information and best practices.

2. IGF, which had become the prime forum for addressing the opportunities and challenges created by the rapid development of the Internet, was perceived as a successful platform for discussions on a wide range of issues and provided an excellent framework for an ever-evolving, self-improving and non-binding multi-stakeholder approach.

3. His Government strongly supported the continuation of IGF and the renewal of its mandate for another five years, noting that the principles for its functioning must be maintained in accordance with paragraph 77 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. It looked forward to discussing possible improvements to the Forum in the context of the relevant working group, taking into consideration the work it would undertake over the coming months, and hoped that the United Nations General Assembly might focus its discussions on the issue of the continuation of IGF.

4. **Mr. Alimov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was heartened by the growth in the use of information and communications technology both by businesses and by the general public in developing countries, largely attributable to the spread of mobile telephony. While access to the Internet was growing in those countries, the digital divide between the developed and the developing world remained substantial, particularly where broadband access was

concerned. The situation in those countries was further complicated by the emergence of new, qualitative obstacles to Internet use, associated with controls on the content of portals, the shortage of trained technicians and measures to safeguard confidentiality and ensure information security.

5. The Russian Federation commended the regional economic commissions — in particular the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific — alongside relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system, notably the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), on their efforts to implement the action lines of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. It also noted with appreciation the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development and commended United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on that initiative, drawing attention, in particular, to the recommendations formulated by the eleventh Round Table in 2009. Reviewing other continuing initiatives in the area of information and communications technology, he expressed his delegation's support, in particular, for the flagship publication by the United Nations on the issue of electronic government — the *United Nations E-Government Survey* — and its key element, the e-government development index.

6. His delegation also supported the continued strengthening of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a specialized subsidiary body of the United Nations system and expressed its hope that the additional responsibility vested in it to assess the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society would not distract it from its core function of analysing the scientific and technological policies of countries and developing recommendations for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

7. Moving on to the issue of Internet governance, he explained that the Russian Federation's approach to the issue was informed by the need to ensure that it was genuinely international, that States participated on an equal footing in the process, that they retained sovereign rights over administration of the Internet within their borders and that the Internet's functioning, security and stability should be assured, with due respect for its multilingual nature. In that context,

while his delegation supported the continued existence of the Internet Governance Forum, it believed that its operation to date had not yielded the hoped for results, despite the considerable resources invested in it. To remedy that situation, the Russian Federation suggested that the Forum's operation should be placed under the auspices of ITU, thereby boosting the participation of national communications authorities, raising its profile with the business sector and ensuring the adoption and implementation of essential decisions in that field.

8. **Mr. Holtz** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported the continuation of the bottom-up, multi-stakeholder-led model for the Internet Governance Forum, which enabled it to keep pace with the expectations and needs of all stakeholders. The scale and range of interaction among them would not be as effective if IGF sought to take decisions or recommendations, which would impose procedural constraints, limit its scope and slow down the pace of dialogue and consensus-building, thereby hindering the Forum from keeping pace with the fast-evolving Internet.

9. The forthcoming introduction of non-Latin scripts into the domain-name system would create much greater cultural diversity, more local content and increase access among users, including small business, in many developing countries. His delegation welcomed the spread of multilingualism on the Internet and noted that the session on Internet governance for development at the fifth meeting of the Forum demonstrated that the interests of developing countries were at the centre of its work.

10. His Government also supported the establishment of a working group by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and recommended that it work in an open and fully inclusive way in taking stock of the self-improvements made to date and considering what further improvements could still be made.

11. The IGF secretariat and the Government of Lithuania, as host of the Forum's fifth meeting, were to be commended for introducing technical improvements in remote conferencing that had led to increased participation overall and by stakeholders from developing countries in particular.

12. The national initiatives described by some Member States, such as Sri Lanka and Uruguay, on the

previous day, especially those relating to information and communications technologies (ICT) and education, were examples of experiences that could be showcased, discussed and replicated through the IGF process and related national and regional forums, and one of the reasons his Government valued the current IGF model.

13. **Mr. Fareed** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that UNIDO was fully committed to harnessing information and communications technologies (ICT) for development and international efforts to bridge the digital divide; access to ICT enhanced economic development and global connectivity, and fostered education, which could significantly improve standards of living. In developing economies, the well-prepared use of ICT could boost the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and develop their capacity to integrate effectively into global supply chains. UNIDO encouraged global business players to form effective linkages and turn the digital divide into an opportunity for all. In that respect, UNIDO had successfully established business partnership programmes with leading ICT firms, including Microsoft and Hewlett Packard.

14. Its partnership with Microsoft recognized the importance of ICT to advance sustainable industrial development in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and focused on promoting the growth of micro- and small-scale enterprises through the use of ICT and fostering e-business initiatives, particularly in rural areas. For example, the Business Information Centres programmes and computer refurbishment pilot project in Uganda had been extended to other countries.

15. The Graduate Entrepreneurship Training through IT (GET-IT) programme, launched by UNIDO and Hewlett Packard in May 2008, had set up 43 GET-IT centres in 13 countries, certified 150 GET-IT trainers and trained more than 18,000 students in Africa and the Middle East. Building upon that programme, in 2010, that partnership had been expanded to Asia and Latin America, through a learning initiative for entrepreneurs (HP-LIFE), which enhanced entrepreneurship and IT skills for meeting business challenges. Ten new LIFE training centres were being set up in Brazil, and partners were taking initiatives to promote the programme in China and India in close cooperation with UNIDO field offices.

16. In conclusion, he said that UNIDO publications on building ICT competences in SMEs were available in hard copy or on its website.

17. **Mr. Fowlie** (International Telecommunication Union (ITU)) thanked the representatives of the Group of 77 and China and the European Union for their endorsement of the report entitled “A 2010 Leadership Imperative: the Future Built on Broadband” of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, an initiative of ITU and UNESCO, which had been presented to the Secretary-General at an official side event of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission’s outcome report, which included a high-level declaration calling for broadband inclusion for all, comprised a detailed framework for broadband deployment and 10 action points for mobilizing all stakeholders to prioritize the roll-out of broadband networks.

18. Broadband had extraordinary potential for human progress. Aside from its value as a tool to help deliver health care, government and education services, it could also help to advance development and generate economic activity. For example, online financial services could provide millions of people with greater access to credit and control over their personal economies. Broadband networks could help manage climate change, natural disasters and other global crises, and in the coming years, robust broadband networks would be as vital to economic growth as were roads, bridges and electricity.

19. As the Secretary-General had indicated to the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, to make the best use of broadband for the people, Governments should place it at the top of their national development agendas and speed up its roll-out; it also needed to become much more affordable. Investing in ICT, particularly higher-end technologies such as broadband, had a direct positive effect on gross domestic product (GDP), and the content generated via that technology could strengthen social cohesion by promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and transmitting local culture to other parts of the world. The information society must go beyond connectivity to embrace information literacy and multilingualism.

20. **Mr. Stanislavov** (United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)) said that communication for development was a cross-cutting function, applying specific

principles and methodologies across all sectors, in development contexts as well as in disaster preparedness and response. One of the key performance indicators in the new UNICEF country programme documents consisted of communication for development approaches.

21. UNICEF fully supported the inter-agency effort and would be hosting the twelfth United Nations Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development in India in November 2011, which would focus on how communication strengthened efforts on behalf of, and with, adolescent girls. The Fund looked forward to discussions and planning for that event with agencies, partners and interested Member States on the importance of communication at all levels in meeting the rights of children, their families, communities and countries.

## **Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence**

### **(c) International migration and development (A/65/203)**

22. **Ms. Zlotnik** (Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/65/203), and highlighted its salient points. Multilateral assistance to projects on international migration and development had reached about \$250 million; the European Commission, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America had been among the major donors. Projects were increasingly being implemented via joint activities of members of the United Nations system; other key actors included the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. The Global Forum on Migration and Development would be holding its fourth meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in November.

23. **Mr. Bassompierre** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that migration and mobility, if managed well, could benefit both origin and destination countries, reducing poverty in

developing countries and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

24. Within the framework of its Global Approach to Migration, the European Union sought to integrate migration concerns into its development cooperation and partnership initiatives, aiming to harness the positive aspects of migration for the mutual benefit of the European Union and its partner countries.

25. The European Union and its Member States supported the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which had been successful in allowing States to identify common ground on a broad range of issues related to migration and development, including fostering cooperation between origin and destination countries, enhancing emigrants' contribution to development, preventing brain drain, facilitating temporary migration and protecting migrants' rights.

26. It was vital that the Global Forum remain state-led, informal and voluntary, since its processes allowed States to discuss migration and development questions without the sensitivities sometimes observed in other forums. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development should continue to play an active role, including in the discussions on the future of the Forum.

27. **Mr. Ould Cheikh** (Mauritania), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, recalled that at the Millennium Summit, world leaders had agreed to take measures to protect the human rights of migrant workers and their families and halt acts of racism and xenophobia against them. The Arab countries bordering the Persian Gulf, which attracted the majority of migrants in Arab countries, were a society where harmony and tolerance prevailed, ensuring human rights for all legal immigrants. Arab values, traditions and legislation ensured that migrant workers enjoyed their rights and dignity, and those countries had been accommodating large numbers of immigrant workers for decades.

28. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, had considered international migration to be a key issue demanding attention because of its great impact on population trends, development and livelihoods. As a follow-up to that conference from an Arab perspective, the Arab countries had adopted the Doha Declaration, which had been the outcome of the

Arab Conference on Population and Development, held in Doha in May 2009.

29. **Mr. Farias** (Brazil) observed that while globalization had led to an unprecedented expansion in flows of goods, capital and information, the movement of labour had been much more restricted. The recent financial and economic crisis had exacerbated the vulnerability of migrant workers and their families. In addition to being among the first to lose their jobs, migrants tended to be blamed for some aspects of the crisis, such as unemployment in the destination countries, and consequently to be exposed to discrimination and xenophobia. Countering such negative phenomena would demand human rights-based regulations and policies promoting access to decent work, health care, education and adequate housing.

30. As opportunities for regular migration diminished, owing to the imposition of more restrictive policies, migrants became more vulnerable to indecent working conditions and to trafficking.

31. Another consequence of the economic crisis was the decrease in remittances, which negatively affected both job creation and income in countries of origin and lessened the scope for new productive investments.

32. While obstacles to development persisted in their own country, people would look for a better life for themselves and their families abroad. Therefore, the international community must support developing countries in the implementation of their development policies and help them to create new opportunities in their own economies. Development cooperation must be made more effective, not through the imposition of preconceived frameworks and conditionalities, but through the fostering of national capacities in accordance with developing countries' own plans and priorities, and through elimination of protectionism and other barriers that prevented developing countries from competing equitably in international trade.

33. **Ms. Isler** (Switzerland) observed that while growing numbers of Governments were beginning to see migrants as important agents for development, benefiting countries of origin, transit and destination alike, migration was still widely seen by the public as a problem. Only if it proved possible to change the public's distorted perception of migrants would they be able to fully deploy their gifts and capacities in favour of sustainable development. Switzerland was

convinced that the United Nations must play a key role in engaging Member States in a constructive dialogue to that end. It remained strongly committed to the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and looked forward to both the informal thematic debate on international migration and development, to be held in 2011, and the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to take place in 2013.

34. **Mr. Gutiérrez** (Peru) said that dealing with international migration required an integrated approach in order also to take into account the positive contributions of migrants to national economies, societies and cultures. Peru considered the principle of shared responsibility to be fundamental to a comprehensive dialogue between source and destination societies to relate the management of migration to the promotion of development. Having that dialogue would demand political coordination and respect for international law.

35. Currently, the number of Peruvian migrants was estimated at 3 million, or about 10 per cent of the population. The Government had been progressively implementing measures to improve services for them and to improve the relationship between them and Peruvians living in Peru. As a result of that inclusive policy, remittances from overseas Peruvians had become an important contribution to the balance of payments, amounting to about 2.2 per cent of the gross domestic product. Peru urged countries to design mechanisms to make the transfer of remittances easier and less expensive, recognizing that they were private transactions and in no sense represented official development assistance. It welcomed initiatives by certain developed countries and international organizations to that end.

36. It was unethical to allow the unrestricted circulation of capital, products and services across borders and at the same time increasingly restrict the free transit of persons. In recent times, however, some developed countries had been implementing repressive laws infringing the rights of migrants. Peru firmly rejected such xenophobic and discriminatory actions. The best way to prevent uncontrolled migration was through the promotion of job-creating free trade and investment. A person with a decent job would be much less inclined to emigrate than an unemployed worker.

37. Migrants and their families had been hardest hit by unemployment during under the economic crisis, and remittances to developing countries had dropped. However, the negative effects of the financial crisis could also be seen as an opportunity. A brief period of stabilization would give way to faster production and consumption worldwide, rapidly creating a scenario in which migrants' traditional creativity and entrepreneurial skills could meaningfully contribute to the world economic recovery.

38. Addressing the problems relating to migrants and defending their legitimate rights was not only a matter of justice and moral duty, but also a pragmatic way to lay the foundations for prosperous economic, social and human development.

39. **Mr. Mashabane** (South Africa) observed that almost half of international migrants were women. Policies and programmes on international migration should therefore be gender-sensitive, ensuring protection of women migrants from all forms of violence and abuse. His delegation welcomed efforts by the United Nations system and other international organizations to harness international migration in support of development efforts, to protect migrants in vulnerable situations, and to advocate for a rights-based approach to international migration. It was prepared to support a comprehensive multilateral approach to strengthening the United Nations system in those areas.

40. In 2006, the African Union had adopted a Migration Policy Framework for Africa which highlighted priorities such as upholding the humanitarian principles of migration, promotion of the positive aspects of legal migration and consideration of the positive contribution that emigrant groups could make in areas such as technology and skills transfer. Those principles were still valid.

41. A serious concern to many developing countries was emigration of skilled workers, particularly in the medical field. In that regard, South Africa applauded the adoption by the World Health Assembly of the Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, which required States to refrain from recruitment in countries in the developing world facing critical health-care shortages. Assistance by the international community to strengthen health systems, including the training and

retention of health personnel that were in short supply in developing countries, was essential.

42. Cheaper, faster and safer means of sending remittances should be promoted, but at the same time remittances could not be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance or debt relief. Support should also be given to developing countries seeking to address migration issues within their development strategies.

43. **Mr. Daoud** (Sudan) said that migration should not be viewed solely from the economic perspective; it was a phenomenon that served to bridge the gap between different peoples and cultures and promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The international community should therefore do more to ensure that migration benefited the key parties concerned, namely, migrants and sending and receiving countries, and, in that regard, effective measures should be taken to meet migrants' needs.

44. Expressing concern about the rising incidence of xenophobia and racial discrimination against migrants and the difficulty of social integration in some host countries, he called for efforts to ease the integration process, afford migrants their fundamental rights and promote dialogue among civilizations.

45. The Sudan had long been a country of origin for migration, but it was now receiving migrants from elsewhere in Africa, together with numbers of Sudanese returnees. Describing that new state of affairs as a significant challenge for a country which already lacked the resources needed for reconstruction, he urged the international community to provide the Sudan with capacity-building assistance in the areas of migration, peacebuilding and sustainable development. He furthermore appealed to the international family to support the Sudanese Government in its efforts to encourage talented and qualified Sudanese nationals to return to the Sudan to contribute to reconstruction and development efforts.

46. **Mr. Papameletiou** (Greece) said that the issue of migration and development was extremely important for Greece, which had traditionally been a country of emigration and had a long experience of successful engagement with its expatriate communities. However, over the past 20 years, Greece had become a recipient country, with migrants today forming almost 9 per cent of the country's population. Their economic contribution was important both for Greece and for

their countries of origin. Due to its geographical position, Greece was also a transit country, on Europe's front line against the influx of undocumented migrants, often facilitated by organized crime and criminal networks.

47. In November 2009, Greece had hosted the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, whose main objectives had been to highlight the links between migration and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to strengthen the human development aspects of migration and to submit workable policy recommendations. The meeting had also explored ways to improve the mainstreaming of migration into development planning, to address issues of migrant empowerment and integration, as well as reintegration of returning migrants, and to better streamline the gender perspective in the migration and development nexus.

48. **Ms. Popovici** (Republic of Moldova) said that migration was a key element in the national development policies of the Republic of Moldova, one of the countries most affected by migration in its region. Mobility, a relatively new trend in her country, had had both positive and negative effects on economic and social development. The circulation of people produced wide dissemination of knowledge, innovation and development by assimilating best practices in organization of work and social behaviour from more sustainable and prosperous environments. Mobility also helped to raise living standards and reduce poverty.

49. However, massive migration flows had significantly distorted the national labour market. The economically active population had decreased by one fifth, and the population exodus, combined with a low birth rate and a high mortality rate, had contributed to drastic ageing. Her Government therefore accorded high priority to the evaluation and efficient management of migration flows, the proper monitoring and reintegration of returning migrants, the creation of good job opportunities to stem the exodus of the labour force and expertise, and the promotion of remittance investments in local business.

50. The fourth Congress of the Moldovan Diaspora, held on 14 October in Chişinău and organized in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), had adopted a resolution on

strengthening relations between Moldovan migrants and their home country and increasing their involvement in social, economic and political life. In 2008, the Government had adopted a national action plan to stimulate the return of Moldovan migrant workers, complete with information campaigns regarding opportunities and facilities for employment and entrepreneurship. A Centre for Information on the Labour Market, launched with support from the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation, provided a range of consultation services and employment information, and a strengthened network of employment agencies had been made more accessible to the population.

51. Under the Pilot Project for the Attraction of Remittances in the National Economy (“PARE”) — a project aimed at harnessing remittances for the development of the private sector and thereby encouraging the return and reintegration of Moldovan citizens — the Government provided grants to cover 50 per cent of private business investments in the country.

52. Nonetheless, the role of international organizations and development partners remained crucial for monitoring legal and illegal migration, as well as for developing and implementing a legal framework for that purpose. Her delegation appreciated the work and support of the IOM Mission in Chişinău, the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and others, which developed comprehensive projects in the field of migration in the Republic of Moldova.

53. A special priority for her Government was cooperation with the European Union on migration issues, particularly within the framework of the Mobility Partnership that had been in effect for over two years. Partnership projects were multidimensional, encompassing institutional development, capacity-building and the provision of assistance to Moldovans abroad. An important element of those projects was the Extended Migration Profile, an effective tool for gathering and analysing data with a view to enhancing coherence between migration and development policies.

54. International non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the Republic of Moldova also carried

out various assistance programmes for migrants, especially for victims of human trafficking. Her Government was entering into a series of bilateral agreements to foster the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims in their home countries in that connection, the human rights dimension was crucial to both countries of origin and countries of destination, and to balancing population mobility both regionally and worldwide. Her delegation hoped that it would be addressed productively at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in 2013.

55. It had become clear that legislative constraints on migration by countries of origin or of destination did not contribute to reducing illegal migration but could actually intensify it, together with human trafficking and crime. Creating opportunities for the legal, balanced movement of persons and for constructive dialogue with all stakeholders would be much more effective. Moreover, adequately managing migration and strengthening its link to development would be important factors in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

56. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that it was in the collective interest to develop collaborative approaches to facilitate migration and strengthen its links with development of both sending and host countries. While globalization had dismantled trade barriers, bringing unprecedented mobility of goods and capital, labour mobility still faced daunting challenges. While foreign capital received preferential treatment, foreign labour often faced discrimination and intolerance. That should not be the case. The international community should take expeditious measure to liberalize markets for the movement of service provided under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Enhanced labour mobility could contribute to orderly, safe migration and prevent migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

57. Migrant workers bore high economic, social, and political costs. In recent years, the benefits of migration had plummeted for unskilled workers, primarily due to the higher cost of migration and falling wages abroad. Workers often borrowed at high interest rates to finance migration. Many worked in low-paid, hazardous conditions and were vulnerable to exploitation. Exploitation of migrant workers and discrimination against them must be eliminated by ensuring protection, fair treatment, decent work, equal



pay for equal work, legal recognition of migrants' status and a simpler integration process.

58. Governments and the private sector should work together to facilitate remittance flows. Host countries must ensure unhindered transfer of funds to countries of origin with minimal transaction costs; sending countries should help migrants use remittances properly and invest in productive sectors. Remittances from over 6 million Bangladeshis living abroad currently exceeded 15 per cent of the country's gross domestic product; in terms of boosting economic development, that inflow was nearly five times more effective than official development assistance and 10 times more effective than the previous year's foreign direct investment.

59. The current financial crisis had led many receiving countries to introduce policy reforms that placed migrant workers at a disadvantage. In many economies seeking to bring about recovery through job creation, migrant workers could be part of the solution. Countries affected by the financial crisis should therefore continue to welcome migrants and provide for their well-being.

60. Sending countries should provide better support to migrants prior to their migration (for example, information about destination countries) and facilitate their return and reintegration. Steps should be taken to reduce migration costs and to implement policies that helped to channel migrant remittances and skills learned abroad into national development. As a major source of short-term migrant labour abroad, Bangladesh wished to emphasize that greater cooperation was needed between sending, transit and host countries in order to ensure greater protection and welfare of migrant workers, and to harness linkages between migration and development.

61. **Mr. Mičić** (Serbia) said that, because the effects and consequences of migration surpassed national boundaries, Serbia had decided to align itself with European policy and strategy for the management of migration flows. Serbia had faced many migration challenges and continued to provide shelter to many refugees and internally displaced persons. Many young, educated Serbs had left the country and at the same time, some Serbian citizens were returning under readmission agreements. In 2009, with important input from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Serbia had adopted the Strategy for the

Management of Migrations, aimed at setting up and implementing mechanisms for comprehensive and consistent monitoring of migration flows; completing the strategic, legal and institutional framework for unified management of migrations; protecting the rights of migrants; creating of conditions for their integration and social inclusion; and raising awareness of the importance of migrations.

62. Two major problems aggravating the situation in Serbia were the average age of its population, 40.7 years (its ageing population was the fifth largest in the world), and its high unemployment rate, compelling its youth to seek employment abroad. To reduce the pressure on such migration, Serbia had adopted a national strategy to manage youth migration flows and was interested in setting up programmes and projects with a view to temporarily bringing back members of its highly-educated labour force employed from abroad or using their knowledge and skills at a distance for the purpose of strengthening the economic, scientific and technological development. Affording its youth an opportunity to study abroad and ensuring their return would also boost development. Better data collection and cooperation among scientists and scholars, at home and abroad, would be crucial.

63. Serbia fully supported the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which had established itself as a platform for interactive dialogue and policy exchange, and as a strategic tool for promoting dialogue among Governments and international organizations. The forthcoming Forum would be an excellent opportunity for discussing the issue of reducing the cost of migration and maximizing human development.

64. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that migration ranked high on Sri Lanka's development agenda, since some 1.8 million Sri Lankans currently resided and worked abroad — equal to 25 per cent of the employable population and about 8 per cent of the total population. That expatriate migrant labour force, comprising highly skilled professionals and semi-skilled workers, made a significant contribution both to Sri Lanka and the host countries.

65. Private remittances from Sri Lankan migrants had significantly augmented foreign exchange reserves and national income and would reach an estimated \$3 billion in the current year. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, remittances had shown

greater resiliency than other income sources to the effects of the global economic crisis (A/65/203, para. 23). However, Sri Lanka looked beyond remittances in utilizing migration in its development strategies. Following the decisive conclusion of a three-decade long conflict, it was on the verge of rapid economic take-off. The Government was investing heavily in infrastructure and developing productive assets to optimize Sri Lanka's strengths in the post-conflict era, taking many migration management measures to ensure that migration became a key contributor to national development.

66. A rights-based approach to international migration was critical. Sri Lanka had been among the first to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which had been ratified by 42 States, mainly labour-supplying countries. Sri Lanka called on all States to sign and ratify that core human rights convention.

67. Migrants working in the low-skilled segment faced more difficulties than other categories of migrant workers, including a lack of access to basic services. International norms to protect workers in the informal sector, particularly domestic workers were virtually non-existent. The International Labour Organization (ILO) was playing a commendable leadership role in the promotion of a rights-based approach to the management of labour migration. Sri Lanka noted with satisfaction the adoption of a resolution in June 2010 by the International Labour Conference calling for the drafting of an international convention and supplementary recommendation to extend labour standards and social protection to domestic workers.

68. The exclusion of many migrants from essential social services, especially health services, in receiving countries was an issue that had been addressed by the sixty-first World Health Assembly, held in May 2008 and chaired by Sri Lanka. Following the Assembly's adoption of a resolution on the health of migrants, Sri Lanka was spearheading a multi-stakeholder and evidence-based process towards developing a National Policy on Health and Migration, with assistance from IOM. It hoped that model could be emulated by other countries.

69. Migration implied an excessive social cost that should be urgently addressed. It led to large-scale breakdown of families, children left behind, and other

negative outcomes. According to the Secretary-General's report, females accounted for 49 per cent of all international migrants. The negative image of women migrants called for a gender-based approach to migration management. Women migrants' contribution to the economies of sending and receiving countries must be quantified in order to accord them the recognition they deserved. Sri Lanka would continue to emphasize skilled migration and discourage unskilled female migration.

70. The 2008 National Labour Migration Policy, monitored by a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, was aimed at improving governance and regulation, providing effective protection and welfare to migrant workers and families, and mobilizing remittances for development. The Policy would play a crucial role in providing technical skills to Sri Lanka's migrant workforce. In addition, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment assisted local agencies in negotiating employment agreements with agencies abroad and providing training to migrant workers throughout the country. Sri Lanka would be taking further measures to encourage skilled migration in the future. It imposed penalties for illegal activities and human trafficking.

71. Convinced that regional consultative processes could play a key role in the field of migration, Sri Lanka had initiated the "Colombo Process" in 2003, with IOM assistance, to manage overseas employment and contractual labour for Asian countries of origin. Sri Lanka also looked forward to the forthcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Mexico. The Forum constituted an important platform for forging international partnerships to optimize the benefits of migration for the development of sending and receiving countries and would contribute to consideration of the nexus between migration and development at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to take place in 2013.

72. In conclusion, he noted the irony that globalization had led to greater integration of everything but human resources, and that restrictions on the movement of persons had become an added structural disadvantage for the developing countries. In the context of both national and international policy cooperation, a long-term approach to migration would best optimize its utility as a development tool.

73. **Mr. Merabet** (Algeria) said that policies relating to the nexus between migration and development must be rooted in the principles of respect for human rights, solidarity, and shared interests. In that connection, it was essential to work towards ensuring universal ratification of the international instruments governing the values and standards pertaining to migrants, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The fact that several developed countries, which were the main destinations of migratory flows, had still not ratified that Convention, was worrisome.

74. Algeria welcomed the adoption, two months earlier, of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which should make it possible to strengthen the institutional framework for combating trafficking in persons in general, and migrants and their families in particular. Aware that the United Nations remained the appropriate forum for addressing the issue of international migration and development, Algeria supported the efforts and activities of the Organization that had culminated in the establishment of monitoring mechanisms such as the High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The work done by those mechanisms thus far would help to protect the human rights of migrants, ease legal migration and lay the groundwork for the High-level Dialogue to take place in 2013.

75. By virtue of its geographic position, and owing to the policies of restriction and refoulement practised by some developed countries, Algeria was becoming a destination country after having served as a point of departure and transit for migratory flows. His delegation felt that the issue of illegal immigration must be dealt with by tackling its root causes, namely, the development gap, political conflicts and instability, and the policies of some developed countries that placed restrictions on the movement of persons and favoured selective migration. At the same time, respect for human rights and the preservation of human dignity must be maintained through a global approach based on prevention, cooperation, solidarity and shared responsibility among source countries, transit countries and destination countries. Algeria had encouraged bilateral, regional and international cooperation to that end, and to promote legal migration, which was likely

to contribute to the development process in both destination and source countries.

76. In 2006, Algeria had hosted the Experts Meeting of the African Union, which had elaborated the African Common Position on Migration and Development adopted several months later in Banjul. The Banjul document was seen as a road map to consistent, concerted, effective action in dealing with migration and the objective causes that fuelled it.

77. Moreover, aware of the importance of economic development in curbing migratory flows and consistent with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africa had chosen to determine its own destiny through ownership of all phases of its development process. Africa's success in that initiative, and in limiting migrant outflows, naturally depended on the degree to which development partners were committed through to providing official development assistance, and committed to investment. International migration posed a challenge to the international community, and as a whole called for shared solutions.

78. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico) said that Mexican society, like that of other countries of the American continent, was the product of migration from all corners of the world. Immigration enriched nations culturally, and helped satisfy the demand for labour, and build and sustain national economies in host countries. Beyond remittances, it also played a relevant role in the economic structure of countries of origin. Mexico sought comprehensive solutions to the challenges raised by international migration. With appropriate policies, migration could be a decisive factor in advancing towards more tolerant, open and universal communities respectful of human rights.

79. The loss of important human capital, stigmatization of the immigrant population, and even criminalization of international migration were among the challenges and concerns that migration raised for countries of origin. Some countries' legal initiatives and actions targeting ethnic minorities amounted to the codification of racism and xenophobia, setting up new barriers between communities and nations. That was unacceptable.

80. Mexico would soon host the fourth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, whose central theme would be "Partnerships for Migration and Human Development: Shared Prosperity, Shared Responsibility". The meeting would be a valuable

opportunity to promote the comprehensive and multidimensional approach he had described, thus helping to generate a balanced and apolitical perception of migration. Mexico hoped that the results of the meeting would easily translate into public policies that addressed the challenges of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination. His delegation welcomed the appointment of Ms. Navanethem Pillay as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which should send a clear message to the entire system about the relevance of human rights in the context of migration.

81. The Forum also provided an optimal framework for cooperation and dialogue among all stakeholders, a dialogue of utmost importance for addressing the various challenges of migration, in a coherent manner. Thus, the fourth meeting of the Forum would include a “common space” to facilitate dialogue among all actors. At the earliest opportunity, Mexico would report to the Assembly on the outcome of the Forum, in line with the practice established by former Presidents, and would reiterate the importance of keeping the item on the Organization’s agenda.

82. The informal thematic debate on international migration to be held in 2011 and the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in 2013 should be integral and multidimensional in nature. The preparatory process for the Second High-level Dialogue should be modelled on the organizational process for the 2006 High-level Dialogue.

83. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines) said that the analyses contained in the report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development (A/65/203), and the 2009 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming Barriers — Human Mobility and Development*, the work of the Global Migration Group and the discussions in the Global Forum on Migration and Development all contributed to a better understanding of the complicated nature of global migration and its impact on development. He expressed appreciation for the report recently distributed by the delegation of Greece on the third meeting of the Forum, held in Athens in November 2009.

84. Filipino migrants were diversely occupied and geographically spread out. More Filipinos had gone abroad during the global financial and economic

downturn, and their remittances continued to increase on a month-to-month basis, helping the Philippines to avoid a recession. For many countries, migration and development had a direct and undeniable link; therefore, the issue and the biennial resolution to be negotiated in the Second Committee were of particular interest and concern.

85. Migrants could also make significant contributions to the economies of host countries. The *Human Development Report 2009* had revealed that migration brought gains in social diversity and capacity for innovation; that immigration increased employment, with no evidence of crowding out locals; and that investment also responded vigorously. The Philippines had one of the most developed programmes for ensuring the welfare and protection of migrants. Its institutions, laws and procedures were the result of many years of experience. Through its Commission on Overseas Filipinos, it even assisted Filipinos permanently migrating to other countries under the regular or legal procedures of receiving States, so that they might have a smoother transition to the new environment and immediately become productive or gainfully employed.

86. While his Government did not promote overseas employment as a means of sustaining economic and social development, it did recognize the significant contributions of migrants to the economies of both sending and receiving States. It was not the policy of the Philippines to send its people abroad but rather to accord the fullest protection to its nationals wherever they might be and regardless of their immigration status. While the Government tried to assist migrants as much as possible, however, there were still many obstacles and challenges faced by the over 10 per cent of Filipinos who were beyond Philippine shores. The new administration of President Aquino recognized those challenges and was duty-bound to provide assistance to Filipinos abroad through a combination of domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral arrangements. It took a broad and multisectoral approach that included active participation by the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations and sought to address the needs of both land-based and sea-based men and women.

87. Discussions in the Second Committee and the upcoming informal thematic debate and High-level Dialogue should be informed by the observation in the *Human Development Report 2009* that large gains to

human development could be achieved by lowering the barriers to movement and improving the treatment of movers. His delegation supported the continuing exchange of ideas through such processes as the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Mexico and the fourth ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour to be held in Indonesia in 2011. He urged countries that had not yet done so to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

88. **Ms. Klein Solomon** (Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that demographic, labour market and economic disparities, combined with instant communication and inexpensive global transportation, had produced the greatest movement of people in recorded history. Nearly every country was involved in the migration process as a country of origin, transit or destination and, increasingly, as all three simultaneously. The industrialized world faced demographic stagnation and shrinking national labour forces while in other countries, birth rates were high and job creation was low. South-South migration had now become as substantial as South-North migration.

89. The two-way migration and development nexus was both positive and negative. Migration could result from lack of development; at the same time, underdevelopment could be alleviated or exacerbated by migration. Thus, migration was neither an absolute obstacle to development nor a magic wand to achieve it. Rather, migration and development policies must be carefully designed to boost the positive potential of migration for development while reducing negative consequences. Migration was in a real sense a manifestation of the individual right to development. Humanely managed migration could support the right to development and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

90. While awareness of that nexus was growing, most government development policies and strategic development frameworks, such as poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), did not systematically integrate migration considerations. However, that was gradually changing. IOM encouraged the international community to make migration a regular component of development policies and planning. IOM was working with a number of countries on mainstreaming migration into their PRSPs and, together with partner

agencies in the Global Migration Group, had prepared a handbook to help countries make the link between migration and poverty reduction a reality. More generally, IOM worked to identify migration policies that were development-friendly and included a stronger development perspective, in pursuit of targets like the MDGs.

91. Helping Governments develop essential capacity to realize the development potential of migration was one of the major tasks ahead, one fundamental to good governance. Without the necessary foundations — comprehensive and coherent policies, fair and properly functioning legal and administrative structures, well-trained personnel — Governments would remain ill-equipped to harness the potential benefits of migration. It was time for governance of migration to become a priority focus at national and international levels and for real capacity-building to be made available for Governments and other stakeholders that needed it.

92. Respect for human rights was a crucial component of migration governance and the foundation for the positive contribution of migration to the development of countries of origin and countries of destination. At the same time, ensuring protection of their human rights was fundamental to making migration a safe, dignified and enriching experience for migrants themselves. Development of full human potential included having a meaningful choice as to whether to migrate or not, underscoring that development began at home. Protection of the rights of migrants was necessary at all stages of the migration life cycle. All forms of discrimination, intolerance and racism must be firmly rejected, and particular attention should be given to the needs of vulnerable migrants, including considerations based on gender, age or health. In times of economic downturn, a special effort was needed to prevent migrants from being singled out and stigmatized. Concern for the well-being of migrants was embodied in the constituent documents of IOM and had been reflected in its activities, projects and programmes since its creation nearly 60 years previously. IOM was committed to working towards effective respect for the human rights of all migrants.

93. Even if, historically, migration had not been an issue of deep inter-State discussion and cooperation, most Governments had come to realize its importance, as evidenced by the doubling of IOM membership, making it the principal intergovernmental organization on migration. Partnerships were paramount and

initiatives at national, regional, interregional and global levels should be complementary. IOM firmly believed that dialogue was crucial to understanding international cooperation on migration. The 2006 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had been a milestone, fostering a spirit of positive debate. The Global Forum enabled States to build on the outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue by identifying practical, action-oriented ways to address links between migration and development, adding depth and breadth to the mosaic of existing opportunities for informal discussion at the national, bilateral and regional levels. The regional consultative process on migration was another key mechanism.

94. Perhaps the best indication of the growing confidence in inter-State dialogue on migration was the evolution from focusing almost exclusively on the economic aspects of migration, and remittances in particular, to recognizing and discussing migration as a social phenomenon as well, with implications for health, gender, children, family relations and the rights of migrants regardless of their status. IOM commended the Government of Mexico for its leadership in addressing those topics constructively as the Forum Chair, seeking to identify practical approaches while emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility. She hoped that spirit would inform the thematic debate on international development and migration in 2011 and the preparations for the second High-Level Dialogue in 2013. IOM was committed to supporting the success of such inter-State and multi-stakeholder dialogues and cooperation.

95. As inter-State cooperation grew from strength to strength, partnerships between agencies were equally fundamental. IOM was mandated by its member States to address migration in its multiple facets. At the same time, IOM recognized the valuable expertise of other agencies and entities on various aspects of migration and welcomed their involvement, for example through the increasingly coherent work of the Global Migration Group, the coordination mechanism for 14 United Nations agencies (recently joined by UN Women and the World Health Organization) plus IOM and the World Bank. The Global Migration Group could play a key role in magnifying the benefits and minimizing the negative effects of migration, for example by optimizing coherence and complementarities in policies and programming. IOM was committed to helping the international community realize the full

development potential of migration, and to promoting more orderly and humane migration, in full respect for the human rights of all migrants.

96. **Ms. Barth** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the challenges associated with the protection of migrants and the regulation of migration were central issues of governance and public debate around the world. Migration was about labour. In the recently published *International labour migration: A rights-based approach*, ILO estimated that some 105 million of the total 214 million people living outside their countries of birth or citizenship in 2010 were economically active and engaged in the world of work. Migration served as an instrument to adjust the skills, age and sectoral composition of national and regional labour markets, and provided responses to fast-changing needs for skills and personnel resulting from technological advances, changes in market conditions and industrial transformations.

97. Migration was often driven by globalization and the dynamics of development itself. For example, increased global mobility of capital and evolutions in technology also required international mobility of labour and skills. On the demand side, competitive pressures provided incentives for recruiting and hiring workers, particularly those who were often compelled to accept lower labour standards and more precarious and “flexible” employment. On the supply side, availability of labour was assured by what might be the biggest failing of globalization: its inability to create enough decent jobs in countries with growing and young populations.

98. The global financial crisis was having an enormous impact on labour mobility and labour migration and was changing the perceptions of migration and migrants. Data compiled by ILO pointed to the multiple impacts of the crisis on migrant workers, who were disproportionately unemployed and affected by worsening working conditions. With limited access to social protection, migrant workers had no choice but to accept whatever work they could find. Moreover, the scapegoating of migrants and xenophobic violence against foreigners were on the rise throughout the world.

99. The experience of developed and developing countries showed that reducing exploitation and ensuring equality were essential elements for building prosperity, social cohesion and democratic governance.

Over the previous century, a comprehensive body of laws on migration had focused on three overarching issues: treatment of migrant workers and non-discrimination between migrant workers and nationals in the realm of employment and work; application of universal human rights regardless of migrations status; and enforcement of the broad array of International Labour Standards providing protection in treatment and conditions at work.

100. The ILO *Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration: non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration* contained a set of guidelines for developing, strengthening, implementing and evaluating labour migration policies and practices. The Framework was based on international standards as well as a set of best practices. It called for expanding public support for employment intensive recovery measures in both origin and destination countries, strengthening labour standards to ensure decent work conditions for all migrant workers despite their status, and wider ratification and application of all relevant ILO and United Nations conventions.

101. The challenges of meeting labour needs, ensuring productivity, competitiveness and ultimately improving the lives of all in a globalized world were leading to increased migration and diversity everywhere. How societies embraced migrants would determine whether they succeeded in building justice, dignity, democracy and human security. ILO stood ready to assist its constituents in that regard.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*