

# **Workshop on Migration Profiles: Developing evidence-based Migration and Development Policies**

**30 June 2011**

## **Introductory Session**

Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to jointly welcome all of you today, the eminent list of speakers before, certainly indicates the significance of the Workshop and magnitude of the topic “*Migration Profiles: Developing evidence-based migration and development policies*”.

To this end, I also wish to especially thank the Government of Switzerland, current President of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Governments of Argentina, Ghana and Moldova, with whom we are honoured to co-organize this important meeting, along with our long-standing partners in the context of the Migration and Development Series, namely (IOM, UNFPA and the MacArthur Foundation).

Migration profiles portray key trends and dynamics crucial to acquiring a general picture of inward and outward migration. Migration Profiles, an evidence-based approach to policy-making, promote policy coherence on migration and development, involving a broad range of stakeholders. I will highlight three central characteristics, on which our experts will expound momentarily:

First, migration profiles comprise national, regional and international migration data, which are made readily available in a user-friendly format; Secondly, these profiles offer a systematic and comparable framework adaptable to the specific needs of countries; And thirdly, migration profiles are initiated and developed *by* governments and involve national, regional and local actors which contribute to building and to developing capacities within the Governments.

This last point is particularly significant to UNITAR, the principal training arm of Member States within the UN system.

As many of you are aware, UNITAR's aims to strengthen the capacities of its beneficiaries, who represent their countries as delegates, policy planners and administrators through targeted training and research on knowledge systems. UNITAR is committed to supporting processes which promote knowledge, information, and awareness to address contemporary challenges such as the ones posed by international mobility. It is envisaged that UNITAR's beneficiaries will benefit from the goals of this workshop and develop viable evidence based national policies on migration and development.

Following the General Assembly's first High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006, UNITAR established a face2face platform for information sharing and exchange of migration policy and practice, known as the Migration and Development Seminar Series. To date, this Seminar Series has informed thousands of policy makers and other migration stakeholders at UN Headquarters. Further, it has built up a

substantial wealth of knowledge, which you may retrieve from UNITAR's website.

As Michele stressed earlier, in light of the second General Assembly's High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development scheduled in 2013, UNITAR along with its partners, will continue to offer this learning platform to deepen our collective knowledge and understanding of topics related to international migration.

I will conclude here, as we all look forward to the following insightful presentations planned for this symposium; to this end, I wish you enriching discussions and thank you for your participation.

\*\*\*\*\*