



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/65/438/Add.3)]

### 65/170. International migration and development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003, 59/241 of 22 December 2004, 60/227 of 23 December 2005, 61/208 of 20 December 2006 and 63/225 of 19 December 2008 on international migration and development, as well as its resolution 60/206 of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions 62/156 of 18 December 2007 and 64/166 of 18 December 2009 on the protection of migrants and its resolution 62/270 of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development,

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup> its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted on 24 December 2008,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling* the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document<sup>3</sup> and follow-up,

*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 63/303, annex.

<sup>4</sup> See resolution 65/1.



*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup> and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>6</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>6</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>7</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>8</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>9</sup>

*Recalling* the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,<sup>10</sup> and reiterating the call to Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority and the request to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention, particularly in the context of the twentieth anniversary of its adoption,

*Recalling also* the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the eight fundamental Conventions of that Organization and the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

*Recalling further* Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,<sup>11</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,<sup>12</sup>

*Acknowledging* that the 2006 High-level Dialogue provided a useful opportunity to address constructively the issue of international migration and development and heightened awareness of the issue,

*Taking note* of the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming Barriers — Human Mobility and Development*,<sup>13</sup>

*Acknowledging* the complexity of migratory flows and that a significant proportion of international migration movements also occurs within the same geographical regions,

*Reaffirming* the resolve to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families,

*Bearing in mind* the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants, including those perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivations, to investigate such crimes and to

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<sup>5</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>6</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>11</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>12</sup> A/61/515.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.III.B.1.

punish the perpetrators and that not doing so violates, and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims, and urging States to reinforce measures in this regard,

*Acknowledging* the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the international level, including at the United Nations, in relation to development,

*Acknowledging also* the important contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development,

*Recognizing* the need to further consider the role that environmental factors may play in migration,

*Recalling* that migrant workers are among the most vulnerable in the context of the financial and economic crisis and that remittances, which are significant private financial sources for households, have been negatively affected by rising unemployment and weak earnings growth among migrant workers in some countries of destination,

*Noting with concern* that in many countries of destination international migrants are experiencing higher unemployment than non-migrants,

*Recognizing* the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

*Noting with concern* that the financial and economic crisis has increased the risk of misperceiving the economic effects of migration as negative, and noting in this regard that national public planning should take account of the positive effects that migration has in the medium to long term,

*Recognizing* that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

*Recalling* its resolution 63/225, in which it decided to hold a high-level dialogue on international migration and development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013, and to convene at its sixty-fifth session, in 2011, a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>14</sup>
2. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to continue to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration;
3. *Recognizes* the importance of renewing the political will to act cooperatively and constructively in addressing international migration, including

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<sup>14</sup> A/65/203.

regular and irregular migration, to address the challenges and opportunities of international migration in a balanced, coherent and comprehensive manner and to promote respect for and protection of human rights in the development and implementation of policies regarding migration and development;

4. *Emphasizes* that respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the benefits of international migration;

5. *Expresses concern* about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

6. *Stresses* that the penalties and treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their infraction;

7. *Requests* all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration so as to foster a secure, regular and orderly process of migration;

8. *Welcomes* the programmes that allow migrants to integrate fully into society, facilitate family reunification in accordance with the laws and specific criteria of each Member State and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages host countries to take appropriate measures aimed at the full integration of long-term migrants staying legally in the country;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, to continue to support efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations, and to provide them with access to these rights, including rights to legal processes and access to entities, such as national migrant resource centres, that provide advice and assistance;

10. *Urges* Member States and relevant international organizations to incorporate a gender perspective into all policies and programmes on international migration in order to, inter alia, reinforce the positive contributions that migrant women can make to the economic, social and human development of their countries of origin and their host countries, and to strengthen the protection of women migrants from all forms of violence, discrimination, trafficking, exploitation and abuse by promoting their rights and welfare, while recognizing in this regard the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels;

11. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution made by migrants and migration to development in countries of origin and destination;

12. *Encourages* all countries, in accordance with domestic legislation, to take appropriate measures to facilitate the contribution of migrants and migrant communities to the development of their countries of origin;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing the capacities of low-skilled migrants in order to increase their access to employment opportunities in countries of destination;

14. *Also recognizes* the need for Member States to continue considering the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means of maximizing the development benefits and minimizing the negative impacts, including by exploring ways to lower the transfer costs of remittances, garnering the active engagement of expatriates and fostering their involvement in promoting investment in countries of origin and entrepreneurship among non-migrants;

15. *Reaffirms* that there is a need to further address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries and, as appropriate, to encourage opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to take such action, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance, debt relief or other public sources of financing for development;

16. *Reiterates* the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries in order to address the negative impacts and optimize the potential benefits of such migration;

17. *Acknowledges* the need to analyse the impact of certain forms of temporary migration, circular migration and return migration on the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as on migrants themselves;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to address the effects of the financial and economic crisis on international migrants and, in this regard, to renew their commitment to resist unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrants;

19. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, including the Global Migration Group, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, including a gender perspective and cultural diversity, in a more coherent way, in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and with respect for human rights;

20. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their efforts to address migration issues within their respective development strategies in the context of the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the promotion and development of methodologies for the collection and processing of internationally comparable statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination, and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

22. *Notes* the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which is an informal, voluntary, open, State-led initiative and which held its first meeting in Belgium in 2007, followed by its meetings in the Philippines in 2008, Greece in 2009 and Mexico in 2010, as a contribution to addressing the multidimensional

nature of international migration and a step towards promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches, and also notes the generous offer of the Government of Switzerland to assume the Presidency of the Global Forum for 2011;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the announcement by the President of the General Assembly that the informal thematic debate on international migration and development will be held during the first half of 2011;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the organizational details of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including possible themes;

25. *Invites* the regional commissions, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system as well as the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates and within existing resources, to the report of the Secretary-General on this item and to the preparatory process of the High-level Dialogue;

26. *Invites* Member States, through appropriate regional consultative processes and, as appropriate, other major initiatives in the field of international migration, including on international migration and development, to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "International migration and development";

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*69th plenary meeting  
20 December 2010*