



Migration and Development Seminar Series
***Migration Profiles: Developing evidence-based
Migration and Development policies***

30 June 2011

United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room A (NLB)

**Opening Remarks by Ms. Michele Klein Solomon, Permanent Observer of IOM to
the United Nations**

- On behalf of the International Organization for Migration, the principal inter-governmental organization on migration, I would like to express deep appreciation to the Swiss Government for their partnership in organizing this event on Migration Profiles as part of their Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in 2011. IOM views the convening of regional and local events on substantive issues throughout the year as aiding the advancement of policy thinking and practice on migration and development.
- Moreover, we believe today's discussion will help stimulate delegates' critical thinking on international migration and development, not just through the GFMD process, but also looking forward to the UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013.
- IOM firmly believes that policy-making on migration needs to be evidence-based. Far too many policies in this field are driven by lack of adequate information, misinformation, misperception and even bias. For many governments, national level data on migration is limited, and what does exist is scattered amongst many ministries which may have limited regular interaction with one another. For some, migration is a relatively new area of policy focus and has not yet received the dedicated attention that it warrants to ensure coherent, comprehensive and balanced policy making.
- It is for this reason that IOM welcomed the initiative of the European Commission several years ago to suggest the development of national Migration Profiles, to map current migratory trends and dynamics and bring together in one place disparate national sources of information relevant to migration.
- IOM has therefore responded to this call and worked both with the European Commission and several other donors, as well as drawn on internal IOM resources, to assist national governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe to develop their national Migration Profiles. Beyond this, IOM is working with these governments and more to help them develop the national, inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder capacity to be able to regularly update and maintain their Migration Profiles as a means to ensure evidence-based and well-informed national migration policy, particularly as it relates to development objectives. Multiple ministries, partner



intergovernmental and non-governmental experts at the national level are all brought together through a consultative process. These so-called Extended Migration Profiles are designed to ensure national level ownership and sustainability of these efforts.

- Let me underscore that IOM's Director General, William Lacy Swing, believes that every country should have a Migration Profile and has offered IOM's assistance to any and all governments for the creation of their own national Migration Profile, which governments working together with national level stakeholders can then update and maintain regularly as a basis for national capacity building and coherent policy making.
- In the same vein, IOM is working through the Global Migration Group (GMG) Working Group on Data and Research, which it co-chairs with UN DESA, to identify core indicators on migration available from internationally-recognized sources that the GMG can offer as coordinated input to national government's subsequent development of a country-led Migration Profile, with the assistance of IOM and other partners in country. You will hear more about these GMG efforts later this morning from our GMG Chair in Office, UNICEF, which IOM welcomes most wholeheartedly.
- I hope that my IOM colleague, Dr. Frank Laczko, Head of Research and Publications, who has spearheaded IOM's Migration Profiles work, will also share with you the key results of the recently concluded Swiss GFMD Chair, IOM and World Bank workshop on "Managing Migration for Development: Policymaking, Assessment and Evaluation", which aimed to advance coherence, capacity and cooperation on migration and development through the sharing of information and experiences on impact assessment and evaluation tools.
- Finally, as my colleague Yvonne from UNITAR will surely highlight, UNITAR, IOM, and UNFPA, supported by the MacArthur Foundation, jointly organize the Migration and Development Seminar Series here in NY. We launched this initiative in 2005 to help prepare delegates for their engagement in the first UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006, and we are pleased to associate this Series with today's event. As co-organizers of the Series, we try to orient the themes of the Series – which holds sessions some 6 to 8 times a year -- towards timely Migration & Development topics, including those under consideration by the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Now that the Member States have asked for the convening of a second HLD in 2013, we will endeavour to have the Series meet your need to discuss and explore pertinent themes in preparation for that debate. We encourage all missions and other stakeholders to continue their engagement with this Series, and would welcome your suggestions for the types of topics you would like to see addressed, to best strengthen your expertise on migration and development issues and ensure a constructive and productive HLD in 2013.
- We hope that you will find today's event both valuable and inspiring in advancing your country's migration policy making as well as greater collaboration and cooperation in the field of migration more generally. Thank you.