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AD-HOC EXPERT MEETING
ON
CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS TO DEVELOPMENT: TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES

Palais des Nations, 29 July 2009

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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Introduction

The Ad-Hoc Expert Meeting on Contribution of Migrants to Development: Trade, Investment and Development Linkages was convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in Geneva at the Palais des Nations on 29 July 2009. The Meeting was held in accordance with the Accra Accord, which mandated UNCTAD to consider the contribution of migrants to development, including through research and analysis on “the potential benefits and opportunities of trade, investment and development links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities abroad” and on “the potential of migrants’ remittances to contribute to development, maximize benefits derived and minimize costs through policies such as expanding migrant's access financial services”.[1]

Consistent with this mandate, the Meeting addressed issues relating to migration’s trade, investment and development links. The Meeting was organized in three substantive sessions: (i) Migration trends and the impact of the economic crisis; (ii) Trade, investment and development linkages; and (iii) Policy frameworks to enhance migrant's contributions to development. Specific topics addressed included international migration trends and their impacts on development; national and international experiences and lessons learnt in formulating policies and initiatives to maximize development impacts of migration, including by strengthening diaspora networks in both sending and receiving countries. Special attention was devoted to the impact of the economic crisis on migrants and on migration’s positive trade, investment and development impacts, including remittance flows to developing countries.

The sessions were chaired by Mr. Juan Holguin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations. The Meeting was opened by Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, followed by a high-level panel composed of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; Mr. Sha Zhukang, Under-Secretary General of United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Ms. Marielza Oliveira, Associate Director, Governance Unit, United Nations Institute for Trading and Research (UNITAR). Contributors to the substantive sessions included: Mr. Richard Newfarmer, the World Bank; Mr. Ibrahim Awad, International Labour Organization (ILO); Mr. German Palafox, Government of Mexico; Mr. Ravi Bangar, Permanent Mission of India to the

[1] Paragraphs 95 and 170. The Accra Accord also encouraged countries “to take into consideration the development dimension of migration in the areas of global, regional and interregional cooperation with a view to facilitating dialogue and the exchange of information and experience, fostering coordination at the regional and national levels, building common understanding, promoting cooperation, contributing to capacity-building and strengthening partnership among countries of origin, transit and destination in order to take full advantage of the benefits and opportunities that migration brings to the global community”(paragraph 82).

WTO; Mr. Raju Singh, International Monetary Fund (IMF); Mr. Rolph Jenny, Special Adviser to the Chair-in-Office (Greece), Global Forum on Migration and Development; Mr. Manuel Imson, Permanent Mission of Philippines to the United Nations; Mr. Dawit Asgedom, Assistance for a Voluntary Return and Reintegration of African Migrants (AVRRAM); Mr. Pedro de Lima, European Investment Bank (EIB); and Mr. Phil Martin, University of California.

A large number of high-level participants, including at the Ambassador level, participated in the Meeting. Participation was broad-based, including representatives of governments – both Geneva-based and from capitals – international organizations, the private sector, research and academic institutions, and various civil society organizations, including migration-related organizations. The high attendance rate and the broad-based participation was indicative of the strong interest in the issues under discussion and their topicality as migration is increasingly viewed, by both developed and developing countries, as providing important trade, investment and development opportunities. The Meeting enabled fruitful exchange among participants with different background of views, national experiences, research findings and best practices.

Participants commended UNCTAD for its comprehensive, well-documented and evidence-based background document, which amply supported the Meeting's discussions. They also expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for preparing a meeting programme that permitted a rich exchange of national experiences and yielded important insights on key issues. The Meeting successfully responded to the Accra Accord and helped build improved understanding among member states on international migration issues and policies as they relate to trade, investment and development linkage. Many participants expressed interest for UNCTAD to continue and deepen its work in this domain, including in the context of research and analysis and follow- up meetings.

Substantive deliberations of the Meeting are summarized below:

Trends in international migration

Migration has become an integral part of globalization processes associated with increasing integration of national economies, internationalization of production and ownership in goods and services, demographic changes, and emerging employment patterns. Modern communications and transportation has made migration more accessible to the world’s poor. It is a relatively neglected area of globalization as compared to significant attention devoted to freer movement of goods, services and capital. Economic migration through labor mobility has deepened as labor deficits and mismatch are increasing in the North with ageing populations and declining birth rates, and as population growth rapidly outpaces job creation in the South. Labour migration is a mechanism through which equilibrium in world labour markets can be achieved, and global output and welfare increased.

The contribution of migration to development and towards the achievement of MDGs has become significant as flows and the stock of global migrants continue to rise. Migration contributes to economic growth and development by serving as a channel for development finance (remittances), as the transfer of skills and ideas, and the establishment of commercial and cultural networks. Migration is also closely related to human development and the ability to move to improve one's living standard represents a constitutive element of freedom. Thus, increased ability of people to migrate for access to world labour market represents an important contribution to human development.

Over the past 50 years the number of the world's international migrants has more than doubled. Recent UN DESA estimates find that the number of migrants could reach 214 million in 2010, or 3.1 percent of global population. Economic migrants account for over 85 percent of total migrants with the rest being refugees. It is probable that future migration flows will increase further as processes of urbanization and globalization continue their advance, and the full impact of climate and population changes take effect, in both developed and developing countries.

Today, the geographical distribution of international migrants is heavily influenced by the availability of employment opportunities and the relative openness and accessibility of receiving countries. The major destinations of migrants include the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany, Ukraine and France. Migrants represent large proportion of population in such countries as Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Singapore and Bahrain. Major source countries of migrants include Mexico, the Russian Federation, India, China and Ukraine. Global migration flows are fairly balanced among three directions: South-to-North (33 percent of total flows), North-to-North (28 percent of total flows) and South-to-South (33 percent of total flows). North-to-South migration remains more limited (7 percent of total flows). The geographical distribution of migrants' origins differs significantly across receiving countries. In the United States, for instance, Latin America and the Caribbean are the predominant sources of migrants, representing over 50 percent of total migrants, while in Europe, migrants from other European countries, as well as Africa, account for a major proportion.

With the increasing global stock of migrants, the global distribution of migrants has undergone fundamental changes in the past 50 years. A major change consists of the increased concentration of international migrants in developed countries. The share of migrants residing in developed countries increased from 43 percent in 1960 to 63 percent in 2005, and it is further expected to continue to rise. UN DESA estimates that almost all of the increase in the global number of international migrants since 1990 is attributable to an increase of migrants in high-income developed countries.

A parallel evolution has been a diversification in the destination and sources of migration. The number of countries hosting migrants has widened with the number hosting more than a half-million migrants increasing from 30 to 64, between 1960 and 2005. Furthermore, several developed countries have become important source of migrants such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Poland and the United States, demonstrating that developed countries are an important source of migrant workers, and that migration should not be narrowly viewed as a South-to-North phenomenon. It is particularly notable that South-to-South migration flows have become significant. In 2007, nearly half of the migrants from developing countries resided in other developing countries, particularly in adjacent countries such as in Africa where 69 percent of migration is intra-African. In terms of gender composition, in 2007 female migrants accounted for some 49 percent of all migrants, largely unchanged since 1990.

Trade, Investment and Development linkages

Developmental benefits of migration are manifold. **Temporary migration** is particularly beneficial to both sending and receiving countries. In developed countries, temporary migrants outnumber permanent migrants three to one, and between 20 and 50 percent of migrants leave their destination country within 3-5 years. The World Bank estimates indicate that gains from more open temporary migration could generate global welfare gains greater than expected gains from the completed Doha Round negotiations in trade in goods.

Temporary and **circular migration** helps host countries meet temporary labour requirements while providing home countries with essential transfer of experience, skills and technology. Within circular migration, migrant workers return home after the completion of limited-term employment abroad and subsequently cycle through this process numerous times. As such, circular migration offsets brain drain through the continuing return of migrant workers to their home countries. It can also help home country governments to benefit from the significant investments they have made for education and training of highly skilled workers. Otherwise, when these workers migrate permanently, home country governments have lost such investments and lost the opportunity cost of training other nationals who may have opted to return to work in their home country.

Remittances represent one of the largest sources of external private finance for developing countries although they cannot substitute official financial flows. Remittance flows to developing countries in 2008 reached $328 billion, equivalent to 2.3 percent of aggregate developing country GDP. They represent 60 percent of foreign direct investment inflows estimated to be around $559 billion in 2008, and more than double official development aid to developing countries of about $119 billion. Major remittance receivers include India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and France. Several developing countries and transition economies are critically dependent on remittances as a source of income and of foreign exchange. Remittances represent over 20 percent of GDP in Guyana and Lesotho, and over 40 percent in Tajikistan.

Remittances reduce poverty as they provide direct income for the poor. They stimulate consumption of basic needs of poor households, such as education, healthcare and nutrition. Remittances can also be an important source of investment in productive sectors. While remittances increase income, it is yet to be proven empirically that they stimulate economic growth. Taking into account transaction costs associated with migration - such as high recruitment fees and associated economic and social costs - for some poor communities, the contribution of migration to poverty alleviation have remained limited. However, theoretically, remittances may serve to provide collateral to start up small businesses; they may improve macroeconomic stability; or they may improve development indicators such as access to education and health. Remittances in developing countries are also directed at small scale investment such as homes, farms and SMEs, as well as healthcare and education spending, which can generate employment in critical services sectors.

Migration is also a channel for the transfer of **technology, know-how and skills**: migrant workers returning to their home countries are important transmitters of knowledge related to manufacturing, the provision of services, management skills, and knowledge of both external commercial networks and diaspora communities, which can provide opportunities for trade and investment. **Diaspora networks** can generate demand for developing countries' exports produced by SMEs, thereby enhancing the participation of SMEs in trade activities. Diaspora networks can also help to reduce the costs and risks of migration for the migrants themselves.

Receiving countries also enjoy substantial additional benefits from migration. Firstly, migrants make sizable contributions to receiving economies in terms of domestic consumption and the payment of taxes, which can also offset an aging, and non-economically productive population, characteristic of many developed receiving countries. Secondly, the economic benefits of migration in sending countries contribute to benefits in the global economy. Migrants contribute to the expansion of global trade with their knowledge of home country markets as the case of Chinese, Mexican and Indian diaspora clearly shows. Thirdly, international migration responds to real labour needs in receiving countries by fulfilling unmet labour requirements in many lower pay, lower skill level jobs such as those associated with domestic and agricultural work. Many other jobs, including high skill jobs in the services sectors, cannot be met by national workers alone due to demographic changes. Fourthly, migrants bring new scientific, technological and cultural resources to receiving countries that contribute to diversifying and enriching a host country's economic and cultural base.

Migration is not free from **economic and social costs**. Particularly notable among costs associated with migration for sending countries is "brain drain" in high-skilled labour, including medical doctors, which can be addressed through policies that promote circular migration, technology development and stronger diaspora networks and innovative arrangements. For receiving countries, migration can be a source of social friction, and policing and regulating migrant movement across borders, including visa, security and citizenship policies, and regularizing of illegal migrants, are issues that have received increased attention.

Impacts of the global economic crisis

The current global economic crisis has resulted in global recession for the first time in the last 70 years. Contracting demand in developed countries has transmitted recession to developing countries through a retraction of world trade and cross border capital flows. The current economic crisis has resulted in significant increase in unemployment and continues to adversely affect migrant workers. Global unemployment is projected to increase by up to 60 million workers compared to 2007 pre-crisis levels, from 180 million to nearly 240 million by 2009. In July 2009, unemployment rate already reached 9.4 percent in the United States and 9.5 percent in the Euro area Firms face tighter credit conditions and weaker demand, so they are slow to create new jobs and unemployment is rising.

The crisis has adversely affected migration as sectors employing a large number of migrant workers have been particularly severely hit, such as financial, distribution, construction and tourism services, as well as in manufacturing, although several sectors (e.g. healthcare, domestic service and education) have witnessed a growing labour demand. The sectoral impact of the crisis varies across countries. For instance, in the United States the construction sector has been impacted while in East Asia, it is the manufacturing sector which is most adversely affected. The Philippines has seen a fall in demand of merchant marine fleet workers, as the crisis has disproportionately affected trade and transport. Male migrant workers bear the burnt of the crisis, as the impact of the crisis fell disproportionately upon those sectors employing mainly male migrants.

There has indeed been **deceleration in the growth of the number of migrants**. UN DESA estimates indicate that average annual growth rate of global non-refugee migrant stock is expected to be lower during 2005-2010 than during 2000-2005. Such deceleration of migrant stock is largely attributable to expected effects of economic downturn, and developed countries, where migrants concentrate and which accounted for a large proportion of increase, are expected to see a faster decline in their migrant stocks. The crisis is also expected to change migrants' behavior in respect of the length of stay, i.e., short or long term, as well as whether migrant movement is regulator or irregular. For instance, there could be a rise in irregular migrant workers as many migrant workers may be unwilling to incur the cost of return in better times.

Remittances flows are projected to significantly decrease in 2010 due to the crisis. The World Bank estimates total remittance flows to developing countries to fall by 7.3 percent in 2009 from 328 billion estimated in 2008, adversely affecting remittance-dependent developing countries. Remittance inflows to Mexico from the United States, for instance, decreased by 3.6 percent in 2008 to $25 billion. It is notable that other private capital flows fell even more dramatically, such as private debt, portfolio equity and FDI. Preliminary UNCTAD estimates indicate global FDI inflows plunged by 54 percent in the first quarter of 2009, and FDI inflows to developing countries, after reaching $549 billion in 2008, are expected to fall by 25 percent in 2009, thereby leaving remittances as a relatively resilient source of private finance and an important “crisis smoother”.

Even after economic recovery, which is expected late 2009 or 2010, some developing countries will continue to suffer from reduced remittance inflows since employment recovery is projected to lag economic recovery. Certain low-income countries face particularly high risks because of their high dependence on remittances. Poverty may be aggravated particularly in those low-income countries that export only a few commodities, have high poverty incidence, weak macro-economic policies and fragile institutions since opportunities for employment in developed countries will slow or even reverse.

The crisis could also adversely affect international migration flows, as well as migrant workers' welfare and conditions, through indirect channels. Worsening economic conditions risk causing **discrimination and xenophobia towards migrant workers.** Risk also arises from **policies of origin and destination countries,** including rising financial and trade protectionism and economic nationalism in the form of local preference policies with regard to employment. Several countries have reacted to the crisis by taking measures to manage or restrict migration inflows. Some countries have introduced financial incentives to encourage migrant workers to return home while in others, the employment of migrant workers has become more restrictive for firms receiving crisis-related support. In yet others, restrictions on entries of new foreign workers have been put in place.

The crisis requires a **global response.** The G20 London Summit in April 2009 was an attempt to coordinate crisis response measures internationally. Improving the multilateral response requires fulfilling pledges for development assistance and maintaining aid flows, supporting social safety nets, labor–intensive infrastructure, SMEs and Aid for Trade. Financing gaps for developing countries may be between $200-700 billion in 2010 when fiscal pressures in rich countries become more acute. Resisting pressures for trade protection will require vigilance and determination, including through multilateral monitoring and by renewing a commitment to the Doha Round. In this regard, greater monitoring and transparency of measures affecting migration flows, which is not covered in the WTO's monitoring exercise on trade-related development of the crisis, could prove to be particularly useful. Reforming national and international regulation of financial markets will be an essential component of global response.

Sustaining flows of international migration and labour mobility can provide a viable avenue to mitigate the adverse effects of the crisis and support global recvery. As stated by the UN Secretary-General at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila in October 2008, migration can, and should, be **a tool to help lift economies out of the crisis**, as human mobility makes economies more efficient including in times of economic crisis by ensuring that the right skills can reach the right places at the right time.

Daunting challenges remain for policymakers in providing **support to workers** and the poor while widening fiscal deficits will put pressures on social safety nets. Poor households now suffer declines in remittance inflows and continued higher food and fuel prices. Also at risk of collapse are social security nets that face increasing strains as migrant remittances decline. The case of bankruptcy of migrants also has important implications for local economies in home countries. For example, housing loans are often issued to migrants, so that if migrants lose their jobs and subsequently become unable to repay their loans, local businesses and banks will be adversely affected.

Asymmetric effects of the crisis across sectors and countries call for **differentiated sectoral policy responses**. For instance, for some sectors, policies may be needed to address reduced numbers of workers while in others, policies may be needed rather to address the conditions of their employment. In respect of migrants, some countries have formulated return migration policies while their full impact on migrants who have already integrated into destination countries needs to be taken into account.

Policies to strengthen the contribution of migrants to development

While experience shows that faster development lead to increased migration in the long run, there is no automatic link between migration and development. Furthermore, access of migrants to world labour markets remains restricted and migrant workers' rights are not always fully protected. Governments can thus play an important role in facilitating migration flows. Maximizing the benefits and minimizing the costs associated with migration are central national and international policy challenges, and this is particularly the case at the time of crisis. Progress is needed at the national and international levels – bilateral, regional and multilateral – including between sending, transit and receiving countries, in promoting greater labour mobility that better manage migration flows and promote circular migration to help prevent brain drain and maximize the benefits of temporary migration.

As regards promoting temporary movements, **recruitment, remittances and return (“3 R's”)** constitute essential stages of temporary migration. Addressing policy and regulatory bottlenecks in the 3 R’s of temporary migration can help generate win-win outcomes. The 3 R's are determinants of the patterns of migration in respect of which classes of migrants are moving to the higher-income countries (e.g., the unemployed or those with critically needed skills in their home countries); how remittances can be made to better contribute to job-creating investment in home countries; avoiding the problem of remittances causing inflation in smaller economies; and, which group of migrants are returning to their home countries (e.g., older retiring migrant workers or younger entrepreneurs seeking to invest and establish businesses). **Diaspora communities** can play key role in these regards though policies and cooperative mechanism can be framed to increase their contribution to promote developmental benefits of migration.

Conditions of migrants' **recruitment** affect those who leave origin countries for higher-income countries. High costs of fees required by employment agencies, as well as possible malpractices, have limited the access of the poor to the employment opportunities abroad and threatened their well-being when they migrate. Policies and mechanisms are thus needed to reduce recruitment transaction costs. Ethical temporary recruitment practices could be promoted to ensure that developing countries maintain sufficient numbers of healthcare workers and workers with other critical skills.

As regards **remittances,** challenges arise as to how to mobilize remittances to promote development and how best to channel a larger share of remittances from consumption to productive sectors. **Financial sector development** is central to facilitating remittance transfers and its use as source of productive investment. This requires expanding the number of users of banking services and introducing innovative funding schemes. Problems that remain are the lack of transparency on transfer charges, inadequate information regarding available transfer mechanisms and associated costs, inadequate payment systems and the limited use of bank accounts. These imperfections result in high transaction costs. These costs matter because they result in migrants sending less remittances home. A basic general policy response would be to avoid discriminatory and protectionist measures. Remittance transaction procedures need to be simplified and costs for remittance transactions reduced to increase their contribution to home country development, including through formalizing and reducing costs with education, competition, technology and the use of innovative financing. International financial institutions facilitate the sending of remittances to developing countries by contributing to lower transaction costs, through increased market competition, promoting financial innovation in remittances markets and promoting the use of remittances as a lever for economic development.

Financial sector development is particularly important in many parts of Africa where the sector is still underdeveloped. The large amount of savings and remittances by the African diaspora communities remain to be effectively captured by the banking system and to be channeled into investment in productive sector.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has developed consortiums with financial institutions from countries in the Northern and Southern Mediterranean region, aiming to develop financial services and products designed to address the needs of migrants**.** This has been exemplified, for instance, by the technical assistance provided to Tunisian banks aimed at exploring new products to support remittance transfer of Tunisian immigrants in France in a faster and safer environment. The securitization of remittances has started to be used in some countries. It has been found important to identify local institutions that can be supported through credit lines or technical assistance so as to reduce remittance costs and to build financial sectors. The EIB seeks to replicate similar support in sub-Saharan Africa. The issue of sustainability has been also found important. Micro-finance helps to contribute to financial sector development as in some rural areas, where traditional banks are largely absent, and micro-finance and micro-insurance thus constitute an important tool to be used. EIB finances a number of micro-finance projects, seeing it as a tool for building the financial sector.

Return and re-integration constitute other important questions. A growing number of bilateral agreements are establishing temporary and circular migration programmes. Research and dialogue on temporary migration can help policymakers identify which temporary migration policies and measures work well and which do not. Although the literature in this area is substantial, much of it remains inaccessible to policymakers, and so targeted efforts are needed to communicate national experiences comprehensively and concisely to them. Specifically, evidence-based research needs to be made more accessible to policymakers so that they can develop effective evidence-based policies. A **comprehensive approach** in managing temporary migration for development is practiced in the Philippines as noted below.

Policies supporting temporary migration should also take into account multi-dimensional nature of migration, especially protecting migrant workers' **human rights,** including by considering issues of family reunification, as well as their labour rights and conditions such as in respect of their entitlement to healthcare and unemployment benefits.

National experiences and lessons learnt

Various national, regional and international policies and initiatives could provide useful insights and lessons in designing policies and initiatives to promote contribution of migrants to development, including by addressing the 3 R's and by enhancing the contribution of diaspora communities .

The "3x1 program" "Tres por Uno programme" for migrants of Mexico is a prominent example of home countries' efforts to promote diaspora community contributions to national development through hometown associations that invest in their hometowns by providing matching fund. Initially, state and local governments matched migrants' homeward investments (2x1), and since 1998 the federal Government has also provided matching funds (3x1). From 1992 to 2001, the programme carried out 400 projects, in which migrants invested $5 million (out of total investment of $15 million). The programme was initiated in 2002 in response to migrant demands for support to improve their hometowns through the development community projects. The progrmame builds on popular efforts of several state governments to provide migrants hometowns with infrastructure and services. The programme aims to channel collective-remittances into social development-community projects so as to benefit particularly migrant communities with high levels of poverty; to promote the formation and growth of Mexican hometown associations (HTA); to strengthen public-private partnerships, and; to reinforce the ties of Mexican communities abroad with their hometowns.

In 2009, the 3x1 programme has a budget of $42 million with expected contributions from the other 3 partners of 97 million dollars. The number of projects financed has increased from 942 in 2002 to 57 in 2008, and the number of participant migrants group from 20 to 957. The programme financed projects that responded to HTAs initiatives shared between Federal governments (25%), migrants (25%) and State-level governments (50%). Project proposals for basic social infrastructure, community services or income generation projects, such as water & sanitation projects, electricity projects, road construction and maintenance, health and educational infrastructure, streets and sidewalk construction and repairment. 957 HTA from 574 municipalities in 27 states participated in the programme. The progarmme also operates the "Migrant Business Fund" targeted at individual or family small business enterprises, technical & administrative training and support, by providing up to $22,000, to be repayed in 3 years with no interest.

India has a huge diaspora population of an estimated 4.5 million Indians which extends all over the world, placing the country among the largest remittance receiving countries. Many have prospered as migrants as a result of hard work and through their maintenance of cultural and spiritual ties to their country of origin. Globalization has opened new doors for enterprises and diaspora including to tap into markets in India. A new development has also been Indian students pursuing education opportunities abroad, giving rise to "brain trust" rather than "brain drain". With the growing Indian diaspora communities, outbound investment from India also increased.

In 2002, the Government established a high-level committee to study the Indian diaspora and this led to holding annually a meeting for non-resident Indians and diaspora entitled "Pravasi Bharitiya Divas", co-sponsored by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. The government has entered into bilateral arrangements with other governments such as the UAE for the protection of Indian workers. Another initiative has been the setting up of Global Inc. a strategic virtual think-tank and programs for higher education of children of diaspora as well as the "Know India" program. The Indian experience points to the need for a comprehensive policy on diaspora institutionalizing linkages both in the home country and country of origin; recognizing contributions of diaspora by the home and country of origin; strengthening ties of diaspora with the home society; enhancing legal frameworks on migration, including built-up of the financial sector for tapping benefits from remittances and investments with transparency and predictability. India uses policies and incentive to enhance the gains form migration. India applied a bond regime with high interest rate and other attractive characteristics for non-resident Indians. Schemes to attract the investments of Indian overseas were also promoted institutionally.

Overseas Filipino workers can be found in about 190 countries and 50,000 ocean going vessels. About 2,800 workers on the average are deployed overseas daily. Of the 1,327,000 Filipino workers deployed in 2008, 75 percent worked in land-based jobs and 25 percent as seafarers. Of the total 8.7 million Filipino migrant workers in 2007, 90 percent were regular migrants, and of these 47 percent were permanent migrants and 53 percent, temporary migrants. 3.7 million reside in the Americas, 2.2 million in the Middle East, 1.22 million in Asia, 954,000 in Europe, 90,000 in Africa and 267,000 are seafarers. Together, these migrant workers sent over $16 billion to the Philippines in remittances in 2008.

Through its temporary migration programme, the Philippines has one of the most developed overseas employment programmes in the world. The programme is based on three R's - recruitment, remittances and return. The programme is strengthened by built-in protective mechanisms in all phases of the migration cycle: before, during, and after employment until migrant workers' reintegration in the Philippines economy. It provides for application of minimum labour standards for employment of Filipino workers. The programme is stakeholder-driven with the formulation of policies and implementation of programs through inter-government consultation and partnership with the private sector and stakeholders.

There are several outstanding challenges encountered by the Philippines. These include: collection of excessive placement fees and the misinterpretation and premature collection of fees; employment contract violations by employers and maltreatment; skills-job mismatch and a brain drain of highly qualified workers; high transaction costs of remittances and difficulty in transforming remittances into productive investment. The Philippines policy framework for migration addresses these problems through measures to improve efficiency and reduce costs of recruitment through a licensing system that ensures orderly and systematic recruitment, employment standards, accreditation of foreign employers, government-government arrangements to address recruitment malpractices, strict regulation on recruitment violations, and on-site assistance available to Filipino migrant workers in foreign countries. Assistance is also formally provided by the Philippines to assist migrant workers integrate into host countries and reintegrate into the Philippines economy upon their return. As forging bilateral labour agreements, though important, has been sometimes difficult, informal government-to-government arrangements play a key role in facilitating efficient and fair temporary migration activities.

Assistance for a Voluntary Return and Reintegration of African Migrants (AVRRAM) - a Geneva-based non-governmental organization - facilitates the contributions of African migrant workers to development in their home countries including through providing information to migrant workers on investment possibilities in their home countries; coordinating such investment by serving as a conduit for information exchange between migrants and their home country governments; assisting migrant workers with their reintegration into the home countries as investors and entrepreneurs, including by providing up-to-date information supportive new rules, laws and incentives available to facilitate repatriation. AVRRAM maintains constant dialogue with African governments to raise awareness of difficulties and risks associated with investment of migrants in their home countries. AVRRAM also works with governments to develop initiatives that support the return of skilled migrants, including to attract medical doctors to return home such as in Ethiopia and Togo.

The UN system and international agencies operate programmes to support various bottlenecks associated with temporary migration**.** EC-UN Joint Migration &

Development Initiative (JMDI) responds to growing interest in the strong links between migration and development and was formulated following the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006. The programme, which is implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the EC, involves four agencies - UNHCR, UNFPA, ILO and IOM. The overall objective of JMDI is to support civil society organizations and local authorities seeking to contribute to linking migration and development. JMDI also aims to 1) set up and reinforce networks of actors working on migration and development and 2) identify good practice in this field and share information on what actually works at the local and international level among those who are active in this field with a view to 3) feeding into policy-making on migration and development.

International policy framework and cooperative mechanism on migration

Since structural fundamentals affecting international migration, including world economic and demographic trends, are likely to change only slowly, there is need for international cooperation to facilitate and better manage the movement of migrant workers while reducing associated economic and social costs such as risk of xenophobia. Increased awareness regarding the win-win benefits of international migration needs to be promoted. The challenge remains to create comprehensive policies, cooperative frameworks, and predictable legal and other instruments to increase developmental potential of migrants.

The growing significance of international migration, and its multidimensionality, has made international cooperation and global dialogue on migration an urgent task for policymakers. Established in 2006, the **Global Migration Group** is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies, chaired on a rotating basis by a participating agency, currently UNITAR. The Group seeks to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. A number of activities have been undertaken by the participating agencies.

The complex and sensitive character of migration issues, and difficulties in establishing a multilateral inter-governmental regulatory framework on migration and labour issues, has led governments to set up a **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).** As an informal, voluntary, open, state-led initiative, the **GFMD** provides a critical vehicle for international dialogue on migration issues. It held its first meeting in Brussels in July 2007, its second meeting in Manila in October 2008, and will hold its third meeting in Athens in November 2009. Both formal and informal international framework for policy coordination and dialogue is essential in effectively harnessing developmental benefits of international migration. Along with individual contributions of member agencies, the GMG as a group also contributes to the deliberations and research of the GFMD.

Aspects of temporary labour movement can be supported by multilateral and regional trade agreements, as well as associated labour cooperation arrangements. **WTO's GATS and ongoing multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round** with regard to trade in services can be instrumental for facilitating temporary movement of national persons providing services in Mode 4. Delivering on development provisions and objectives of GATS, and development dimension of services negotiations as they relate to Mode 4, is thus important. More work can usefully be undertaken to improve understanding with regard to mode 4 such as the definition of temporariness under GATS, market access barriers, including domestic regulation such as visa regimes, ways and means to support supply capacities, technology transfer and FDI through fuller implementation of GATS development provisions under Article IV and XIX, domestic regulation and right to regulate, LDC preferential market access, and mutual recognition of qualifications. International organizations can usefully assist countries in developing model agreements/covenants to promote labour mobility in mode 4.

An increasing number of **regional trade agreements** also address trade in services and temporary movement of natural persons under Mode 4. RTAs promote deeper market opening and also facilitate greater labour movement through labour cooperation arrangements. Experiences of increased migration following the formation of RTAs point to the need for RTA partners to institute some cooperative mechanism to effectively manage initial increases in migration when new trade agreements are introduced. For instance, the IOM has actively promoted informal regional initiatives for dialogue and capacity building on migration issues through its 14 Regional consultative processes (RCPs).

Conclusion

The following conclusions and recommendations emerged from the Meeting deliberations:

- **Contributions of migrants to development** are manifold. They provides benefits for all sending, transit and receiving countries. However, the development benefits of migration are not automatic. Furthermore, the access of migrants to world labour market also remains restricted. National policies and international cooperation, as well as private initiatives, thus play key role in increasing the benefits of migration.

- **The global financial and economic crisis** will impact the flow of migrants and remittances. Multilateral approaches are important in effectively mitigating the adverse impacts of the crisis on migrants while taking into account different sectoral impacts across countries.

- **Policy interventions - through national policies and international cooperative mechanisms – addressing the "3 R's"** of migration cycles are critical in increasing beneficial effects of temporary migration. A comprehensive approach addressing all 3 R's have been successfully implemented in several countries. Lessons could be learned from existing national policies and international cooperative mechanisms.

- There is need to regulate **high recruitment fees** that migrant workers pay to employment agencies in order to increase the access for the poor to foreign employment opportunities, and increase the level of financial resources available to migrants and migrant families, at home and abroad.

- Ways and means can be identified to increase the contribution of **remittances** to development. These include: greater transparency to increase competition in the remittance transfer market, including through innovative financing mechanisms;

incentives and improved policies in home countries to attract remittances; awareness raising among migrant workers of investment opportunities. It needs to be borne in mind that migration and remittance do not replace development aid and the creation of jobs at home.

- Encouraging **the return of migrants** is important. Circular migration helps host countries meet temporary labour requirements while providing home countries with essential transfer of experience, skills and technology. Circular migration can also mitigate the risk of brain drain by facilitating the continuing return of migrant workers to their home countries. Incentive-based, rather than sanctions-based, national policies and bilateral cooperation mechanisms have proven to be more effective in promoting circular migration.

- **Diaspora networks** increase opportunities for trade, investment and development links between countries of origin of migrants and their communities abroad. National policies have an important role to play in nurturing and institutionalizing diaspora networks. The experiences of India, Mexico and the Philippines, for instance, demonstrate that diaspora contributions to the national economy benefit considerably from comprehensive national diaspora policies, programmes and dedicated institutions.

- The importance of **interactive, positive and constructive dialogue** between sending, transiting and receiving countries is of key importance.

- Given the lack of multilateral instruments on migration issues, less formal, **international policy dialogue and cooperative mechanisms** plays an important role in facilitating exchange of experiences and best practices, as well as enhancing cooperation among international institutions. Such cooperation pursued under the auspices of the GMG and the GFMD is important.

- **Multilateral and regional trade agreements** are relevant to temporary labour movement as trade in services involves temporary movement of natural persons supplying services. Improved market access in Mode 4 and facilitative labour cooperation arrangement can promote such temporary labour movement.

- **International organizations, including UNCTAD**, could play an important role, including in the following areas: conducting research and analysis on trade, investment and development linkage of migration, including remittances and recruitment fees, and making their findings accessible to policy makers; monitoring policy developments taken under the current crisis affecting migrants access to labour markets; supporting financial services and sector development and regulatory framework in developing countries to better direct remittances to productive sectors; develop model agreements for bilateral and international labour cooperation schemes; assisting countries in addressing labour mobility in multilateral and regional trade negotiations.

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Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the Contribution of Migrants to Development: Trade, Investment and Developmental Links
Geneva, 29 July 2009

List of participants

Note: The format and data of the entries in this list are as provided to the secretariat.

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Mr. Marwan **Al-Shami**, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Ms. Anny **Rojas**, Permanent Mission, Geneva

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Mr. Christopher Meebelo **Sitwala**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Zimbabwe
Mr. Garikai **Kashitiku**, First Secretary, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Intergovernmental organizations

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Mr. William **Lacy Swing**, Director General, Geneva
Ms. Michele **Klein Solomon**, Director, Migration Policy and Research Department

Organisation internationale de la francophonie
Mme. Cecile **Leque**, Conseiller, Mission permanente, Genève

South Centre
Mr. Martin **Khor**, Executive Director, Geneva

United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Mr. **Sha** Zhukang, Under-Secretary General, New York

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Ms. Luisa **Bernal**, Trade Policy Specialist, Geneva

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Ms. Jane **Rasmussen**, Senior Legal Officer, Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section of the Department of International Protection Services, Geneva

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Ms. Marielza **Oliveira**, Associate Director, Governance Unit, Geneva

Specialized agencies or related organizations

International Labour Office (ILO)
Mr. Ibrahim **Awad**, Chief, International Migration Branch, Geneva

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Mr. Raju **Singh**, Senior Economist

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Mr. Ulrik Halsteen, Migration Adviser, Geneva

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. Luis **Tiburcio**, Director, Liaison Office, Geneva

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Mr. Jean-Marc **Deroy**, Representative, Geneva
Mr. Bernardo **Calzadilla-Sarmiento**, Deputy Representative, Geneva
Ms. Marie Madeleine **Nzambi**, Intern, Geneva

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Mr. Victor **Owade**, Geneva

World Bank
Mr. Richard **Newfarmer**, Special Representative, Geneva

Non-governmental organizations

CUTS
Mr. Atul **Kaushik**, Director, Geneva Resource Centre, Geneva
Mr. Rashid Siddique **Kaukab**, Deputy Director, Geneva

Public Services International (PSI)
Ms. Geneviève **Gencianos**, Programme Coordinator, Geneva

Associations and organizations invited to the meeting as observers

African Diaspora Policy Centre
Mr. Awil A **Mohamoud**, Executive Director, Amsterdam

Assistance for a Voluntary Return and Reintegration of African Migrants (AVRRAM)
Ms. Dawit **Asgedom**, President

European Investment Bank
Mr. Pedro **de Lima**, Deputy Economic Adviser, Luxembourg

Federation of Kenya Employers
Ms. Jackline **Mugo**

Global Commission on International Migration
Mr. Rolf K. **Jenny**, Executive Director, Geneva

International Catholic Migration Commission
John **Bingham**

LLOYDS TSB
Mr. Mark **Surgenor,** Venture manager, Community Financial Services, Strategic Ventures

Migrant Forum in Asia
Mr. William **Gois**

SOS Migrants
Mr. Ndudi Ali **Guisse**, President and Coordinator of the Benelux Afro Centre, Co-President SOS Migrants, Brussels

Academies

Harvard University
Mr. Lant **Pritchett**, Professor, Cambridge, MA

Institute for the Study of International Migration
Ms. B. Lindsay **Lowell**, Director of Policy Studies, Washington, DC

Panellists

(in chronological order)

Mr. **Sha** Zhukang, Under-Secretary General, UN/DESA, New York
Mr. William **Swing**, Director-General, IOM
Ms. Marielza **Oliveira**, Associate Director, Governance Unit, UNITAR
Mr. Richard **Newfarmer**, Special Representative of the World Bank, Geneva
Mr. Ibrahim **Awad**, Director, International Migration Program, ILO
Mr. German **Palafox**, Chief of Unit for Micro-regions, Ministry of Social Development, Mexico
Mr. Ravi **Bangar**, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the WTO, Geneva
Mr. Raju **Singh**, Senior Economist, IMF
Mr. Pedro **de Lima**, Deputy Economic Adviser, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
Mr. Phil **Martin**, Chair, Comparative Immigration and Integration Program, University of California
Mr. Seydou **Keita**, Technical Counsellor, Ministry of the Malians Abroad, Mali
Mr. Rolph **Jenny**, Executive Director, Global Commission on International Migration, and Special Adviser to the Chair-in-Office, Global Forum on Migration and Development
Mr. Manuel **Imson**, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Philippines to the United Nations, Geneva
Mr. Dawit **Asgedom**, President, Assistance for a Voluntary Return and. Reintegration of African Migrants, Geneva

CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR
LE COMMERCE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

AD-HOC EXPERT MEETING ON CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS TO DEVELOPMENT: TRADE, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT LINKAGES

Palais des Nations, Geneva
Room XII, 29th July 2009

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 29th July	
10:00-10:45	**Opening Session** Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary General, UNCTAD Sha Zhukang, Under-Secretary General, UN/DESA William Swing, Director-General, IOM Marielza Oliveira, Associate Director, Governance Unit, UNITAR,
10:45-11.30	**Session 1: Migration Trends and the Impact of the Economic Crisis** Movement of persons for economic betterment has taken place historically for a range of reasons and is a continuously evolving landscape. This session will consider the main migration trends in terms of skill levels, gender, duration of stay and main countries of origin, transit and destination. Specific attention will be placed on assessing the impact of financial crisis on migration. *Panelists:* *Richard Newfarmer, Special Representative of the World Bank, Geneva* *Ibrahim Awad, Director, International Migration Program, ILO* *German Palafox, Chief of Unit for Micro-regions , Ministry of Social Development , Government of Mexico* **Issues for discussion:** • What are the push and pull factors and long term prospects for labour mobility? • What are the main characteristics of migration flows, South-South and North-South? • Based on previous recessions, how is the current global economic crisis likely to alter present and future migration trends including growth and development prospects in both countries of origin and destination? **Interactive debate**

11:30-13:00	**Session 2: Trade, Investment and Development linkages** Globalization and growing trade and investment interlinkages between countries have resulted in increased migration flows. This session will consider the development potential of migration and the importance of global supply chains, diasporas and remittances. *Panelists:* *Ravi Bangar, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the WTO, Geneva* *Raju Singh, Senior Economist, IMF* *Pedro de Lima, Deputy Economic Adviser, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg* *Phil Martin, Chair, Comparative Immigration and Integration Program, University of California* <u>Issues for discussion</u>: • How have deepening trade, investment and development linkages among countries contributed to greater migration flows to what extent have trade and investment policies and agreements contributed to this process? • What role can established migrant associations and communities play in facilitating remittances, capital investment, bilateral relationships, building trade, business and social networks and skills and knowledge transfers to both countries of origin and destination? How are migrant's remittance-sending behaviors impacted by the financial crisis? • What are the development impacts of remittances and their contribution to productive sectors? • How can the financial and other sectors such as telecommunications as well as related policies, contribute to improving the condition of migrants including through access to financial services, job security reduction in the transaction costs of remittances: transparency in fees, exchange rates? • Provide an understanding of trade in products and services for diaspora communities? **Interactive debate**
13:00-15:00	**Break for Lunch**
15:00-17:30	**Session 3: Policy frameworks to enhance migrant's contributions to development** Government policies and the contribution of diaspora communities can support and encourage beneficial migrant contributions to countries of origin and destination. This session will consider how policy frameworks have developed in response to migrant movement and practical issues and outcomes which will strengthen the development content of migration. Two areas of specific focus will include: (i) incentives and measures for enhancing the contribution of migration and development.

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(ii) the role of temporary and circular migration and good practices from trade, investment and labour co-operation agreements and policies.

Panelists:
Seydou Keita, Technical Counselor, Ministry of the Malians Abroad, Mali
Rolph Jenny, Executive Director, Global Commission on International Migration, and Special Adviser to the Chair-in-Office (Greece), Global Forum on Migration and Development
Manuel Imson, Attache (ILO), Permanent Mission of Philippines to the United Nations, Geneva
Dawit Asgedom, President, Assistance for a Voluntary Return and. Reintegration of African Migrants, Geneva

Issues for discussion:

- What are specific initiatives at the national level to enhance contribution of migration to development?
- What kind of incentives and measures are being utilized i.e Dual citizenship, Transferability of pensions, sharing of tax revenue, use of technology and mutually beneficial transfer of knowledge.
- How can migrant awareness, sustained interest and credibility in measures introduced be generated and sustained? In the context of the current financial crisis, how can governments and migrant communities' best react to reduce the impact of the crisis?
- How can data and research tools relating to migration and development be strengthened and utilized to build greater awareness of migrant's contribution?
- How can temporary/circular labour migration provide a mutually acceptable solution? What could be the successful elements of temporary and circular migration? How do/can trade agreements fit into this process in particular in the Mode 3 and Mode 4 context?
- How can policies of trade, investment labour, development and other social policies impacting the movement of persons at the bilateral, regional and global level be reconciled?

Interactive debate

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<tr><td>17:30-18:00</td><td>Concluding Session: Looking forward</td></tr>
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