Annex IV

Proposed recommendations and outcomes for the 2013 General Assembly high-level dialogue on international migration and development

Coordinated by the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, in collaboration with the Global Migration Group, on behalf of the member agencies of the High-level Committee on Programmes

Summary

Migration is a key enabler for equitable, inclusive and sustainable social and economic development to the benefit of countries of origin and destination and the human development of migrants and their families. To fully realize this potential, the human rights of all migrants must be respected, promoted, protected and fulfilled, and human development aspects of migration better reflected in relevant national and global development policies and initiatives.

The 2013 General Assembly high-level dialogue on international migration and development provides an important opportunity to promote the human rights of all migrants, protect the most vulnerable and leverage the human development potential of migration in the preparations for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

By bringing together all States Members of the United Nations, the 2013 high-level dialogue is a unique moment for States to jointly lay the foundation for improved policies and practices at the international, regional and local levels that enhance the outcomes of international migration for migrants and societies.

Elements of such an approach should include:

(a) Facilitating greater mobility, recognizing that migration and mobility are both necessary and inevitable in the twenty-first century;

(b) Aspiring to make migration a genuine choice, not a desperate necessity;

(c) According priority to the protection of migrants and their human rights — including labour rights, access to asylum, health and decent work, considerations of social protection and well-being, and the rights of all children in the context of migration — in rights-based and gender-sensitive policies and practices;

(d) Focusing on the human development potential of migration, including the potential to improve the lives of individuals and families, in addition to the contribution of migration to the economic growth and development of countries;

(e) Harmonizing migration policies and development goals;

(f) Engaging with communities in addressing public perceptions of migrants and migration to counter anti-migrant sentiment, xenophobia and discrimination and to raise awareness of migrants’ overwhelmingly positive contributions to societies of
origin and destination;

(g) Recognizing that forced and voluntary forms of migration are not always easily distinguishable, and ensuring protection and assistance for the most vulnerable;

(h) Making a commitment to cooperation with all partners involved in and affected by migration, while recognizing the sovereign prerogative of States to determine the entry and stay of non-nationals on their territories, within the limits set by States’ international legal obligations;

(i) Finding balanced measures to combat harmful forms and effects of migration, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, while protecting human rights.

The paper proposes recommendations and outcomes on international migration in the five areas set out below.

Advancing the human rights and human development aspects of migration

The high-level dialogue should place the human rights of all migrants high on the agenda of policymakers and reaffirm the relevance of migration to human development in destination and origin countries. The following select actions could be taken:

(a) Promote the ratification of all core international human rights and labour rights instruments and their effective implementation with regard to migrants, taking account of age, gender, family consideration and specific vulnerabilities;

(b) Call for national action plans to promote awareness of migration realities and to combat xenophobia and discrimination against migrants;

(c) Implement existing frameworks to enhance access to social protection and social services by migrants, regardless of their migration status.

Strengthening the knowledge and evidence base

The high-level dialogue should promote evidence-based policymaking on migration and thus greater investment in data, research, needs assessments, evaluations and capacity development with regard to migration and its outcomes for individuals and societies. The following select actions could be taken:

(a) Aim for more systematic and nuanced data collection and analysis on migration;

(b) Conduct more standardized and rigorous assessments and evaluations of the impact of migration and development initiatives;

(c) Promote institutions and initiatives to develop research and capacity in the area of migration, with a focus on South-South migration.

Mainstreaming migration into national development policies and plans and into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda

The high-level dialogue should call upon countries of origin and destination to continue or initiate the mainstreaming of migration into national development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies and plans. As a matter of priority, the high-level dialogue should ensure that migration receives due attention in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The following select actions
could be taken:

(a) Create greater coherence among policies on migration, development, employment, the labour market, social protection, health, gender and education, with a special focus on low-skilled migrant workers and the recognition of qualifications;

(b) Recognize the role of migration in enabling development in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and in sustainable development goals, as a cross-cutting issue and, potentially, in its own right;

(c) Achieve a reduction in the up-front costs of migration and in the transfer costs and transaction times of remittances, and broaden the geographical coverage of reliable financial services, especially to rural areas.

**Improving inter-State and multi-stakeholder engagement and cooperation**

The high-level dialogue should reaffirm commitment to existing cooperation mechanisms, strengthen their impact and strive for greater involvement of stakeholders at all levels, including non-governmental partners. The following select actions could be taken:

(a) Strengthen the Global Migration Group, in particular at the field level, and use its collective expertise in supporting States and other stakeholders in the effective implementation of international legal obligations as they relate to migration, in addition to the recommendations of the Global Forum on Migration and Development;

(b) Support the Global Forum on Migration and Development and regional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation on migration;

(c) Consider establishing a permanent forum on migration and development to bring the perspectives of migrants and civil society at large to national policy processes and global debates on migration.

**Trends to watch**

The high-level dialogue should highlight critical issues, trends and dynamics that, while not necessarily new in and of themselves, will shape migration globally and locally and, in particular, the migration-development nexus. The high-level dialogue should underline the need for data and research, capacity development and proactive policy approaches in these areas. The following select issues could be considered:

(a) Situation of stranded migrants and migrants caught up in crises in their destination or transit countries;

(b) Linkages between migration, environmental degradation and climate change;

(c) Impact of migration on urbanization and the needs and vulnerabilities of urban migrants;

(d) Increasing relevance of regional mobility and South-South migration.

The proposed recommendations and outcomes complement and provide further depth to the key messages adopted by the Policy Committee on 18 December 2012,
pursuant to decision 2012/19 (i) of the Secretary-General.

To bring the proposed recommendations and outcomes to the attention of Member States and the wider United Nations system, the High-level Committee on Programmes may consider:

(a) Recommending to the Secretary-General that the present proposed recommendations and outcomes form an important basis for his 2013 report on international migration and development, together with other input requested by the General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions;

(b) Continuing to facilitate system-wide input, discussions and preparations in the lead-up to the high-level dialogue, with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund to continue to facilitate this system-wide input in collaboration with the Global Migration Group, to take account of, for example, continuing reforms of the Group, the planned report on migration and human rights spearheaded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other anticipated developments before the high-level dialogue.
Proposed recommendations and outcomes for the 2013 General Assembly high-level dialogue on international migration and development

I. Origin and purpose of the paper

1. Pursuant to the decision of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination of April 2012, the present paper proposes recommendations and outcomes on migration in preparation for the second General Assembly high-level dialogue on international migration and development, to be convened on 3 and 4 October 2013. These proposals have been consolidated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the Global Migration Group, for consideration by the High-level Committee on Programmes. The present submission also follows repeated invitations by the Assembly to the United Nations system to remain engaged on migration generally and to participate in and contribute to the high-level dialogue specifically.1 Pursuant to decision 2012/19 (i) of the Secretary-General, the ensuing proposed recommendations and outcomes complement and provide further depth to the key messages adopted by the Policy Committee on 18 December 2012.

2. The present paper has benefited from the rich contributions by participating entities on their migration and development activities since the first high-level dialogue, in 2006; the support provided to the Global Forum on Migration and Development; the good practices, challenges and gaps identified; and the proposed recommendations and outcomes for the 2013 high-level dialogue.2

3. To bring the proposed recommendations and outcomes to the attention of Member States and the wider United Nations system, the High-level Committee on Programmes may consider:

(a) Recommending to the Secretary-General that the present proposed recommendations and outcomes form an important basis for his 2013 report on

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1 See, for example, General Assembly resolutions 65/170 and 67/219 on the modalities of the high-level dialogue, especially operative paragraphs 7 and 15.

international migration and development, together with other input requested by the 
General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant Assembly resolutions;

(b) Continuing to facilitate system-wide input, discussions and preparations 
in the lead-up to the high-level dialogue, with IOM and UNFPA to continue to 
facilitate this system-wide input in collaboration with the Global Migration Group, 
to take account of, for example, continuing reforms of the Group, the planned report 
on migration and human rights spearheaded by the Office of the United Nations 
High Commissioner for Human Rights and other anticipated developments before 
the high-level dialogue.

II. Introduction

4. International migration — the movement of people across international 
borders — has significant implications for growth, development and well-being in 
origin and destination countries. More than 215 million people, half of whom are 
women, live and work outside their countries of birth.3 As much as 90 per cent of 
international migration and much of internal migration are motivated by the search 
for work and livelihoods. The 2009 Human Development Report states that migrants 
who moved from a country with a low human development index to a country with a 
higher index on average experienced a fifteen-fold increase in income, a doubling in 
education enrolment rates and a sixteen-fold reduction in child mortality. 
Remittances sent home by migrants generally lead to poverty reduction; higher 
human capital accumulation; spending on health and education; greater access to 
information and communications technology; improved financial sector access, 
small business investment, job creation and entrepreneurship; and greater household 
resilience in the face of natural disasters or other shocks. Remittances to developing 
countries, which reached an estimated $406 billion in 2012, are three times the size 
of official development assistance, according to the World Bank, and are expected to 
continue growing.4 Beyond their labour, skills and remittances, migrants can also 
stimulate job creation, trade, investment, technology and knowledge transfers, in 
addition to social, cultural and value exchanges between origin and destination 
countries. In the coming decades, demographic forces, globalization and climate 
change will increase migration pressures both within and across borders.

5. In its report entitled “Realizing the future we want for all”, the United Nations 
System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda states 
that “the dynamism of migrants and their economic and other contributions to both 
their countries of origin and host countries need to be more fully harnessed, above 
all by recognizing migrants as positive agents of innovation with human rights”. 
Migration is a key enabler for equitable, inclusive and sustainable social and 
economic development to the benefit of countries of origin and destination, in 
addition to the human development of migrants and their families. The potentially 
positive impact of migration on development, however, hinges upon appropriate 

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3  While the present paper focuses on international migration, the significance of internal 
migration, with more than 700 million persons migrating within their own country, should also 
be noted.

4  According to the World Bank, global remittance flows, including those to high-income 
countries, stood at an estimated $513 billion in 2011. They are forecast to reach $623 billion by 
2014, of which $467 billion will flow to developing countries.
legislation and policies that govern migration in a humane and orderly way, with
due regard for the protection of the human rights of all migrants. Determinations
regarding which non-nationals may enter and remain on a State’s territory are a
sovereign prerogative, subject to the limits set by State obligations under
international law. The traditional focus on sovereign national interest
notwithstanding, States have made significant strides in recognizing the importance
of broad-based cooperation to govern migration effectively, including in reinforcing
the positive links between migration and development. Nevertheless, the human
rights and human development aspects of migration are not yet adequately
integrated into national, regional and international policy and practice, including
national and global development frameworks such as poverty reduction strategy
papers and the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, the 2013 high-level
dialogue offers a significant opportunity to promote the human rights, including
labour rights, of all migrants, protect the most vulnerable and leverage the human
development potential of migration in the preparations for the post-2015 United
Nations development agenda. It is also an opportunity to address continuing public
misperceptions about migrants and migration and the resulting discrimination and
xenophobia. The present paper begins by outlining key gaps and challenges in this
field and follows with a series of recommendations.

III. Key gaps and challenges in leveraging migration
for development

A. Human rights and human development aspects of migration

6. Migrants are a heterogeneous group including men, women and children of all
ages, with differences in the degree and nature of vulnerability depending, in
particular, on the circumstances of their migration and their legal status.\(^5\) Migration
also has a significant impact on families, gender roles and women’s empowerment.
The detailed links should be further explored.\(^6\) Successful policies on migration and
development will consider diversity and differentiated vulnerabilities. In addition,
policies should pay attention to non-migrant groups affected by migration,
especially host societies, children born to migrant parents in countries of destination
and families separated by migration.

7. There is scope for States to enhance their capacity and policies to improve the
human development outcomes of migration and recognize the protection of
migrants’ human, including labour, rights as a condition for realizing the

\(^5\) Migrants can be forced or voluntary, temporary or permanent, in a regular or irregular status and
internal or international. Migrants may leave their homes as a result of economic, political,
educational, employment, family unification, environmental, rights-violations or other
circumstances that either push them to leave or pull them to seek entry to another place. For the
purposes of the present paper, the term “migrant” is understood to refer to international migrants
in any of the referenced circumstances and to acknowledge that any migrant can be at risk of
vulnerability, depending on the circumstances of their migration, legal status, gender, age (in
particular for children, young people and adolescents), class, health, working conditions or skills
levels.

\(^6\) See Global Migration Group, \textit{International Migration and Human Rights: Challenges and
Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human
Rights} (2008).
development potential of migration. International human rights law provides that all persons, without discrimination, must have access to all fundamental human rights provided in the core international human rights instruments and labour standards, with narrow limitations relating to political rights and freedom of movement.\textsuperscript{7} However, many migrants, whether in a regular or an irregular situation, face legal and practical barriers to gaining access to their fundamental human rights, justice, redress mechanisms, social protection and basic services such as health care and education.

8. Efforts to respect, promote, protect and fulfil the human rights of migrants are hindered by gaps in the regulation and facilitation of the migratory process. Few States have the requisite policy and legislative frameworks or trained personnel to facilitate regular migration and to reduce the incidence of irregular migration. Greater efforts are needed to achieve a more rights-based and cooperative response to migrants in an irregular situation.\textsuperscript{8} Where regular entry channels for migration do not correspond to demographic trends and labour market needs in the countries of destination, migrants may turn to smuggling networks to facilitate irregular movement or be at risk of human trafficking. The lack of legal status raises the risk of exploitative and abusive working conditions, of immigration detention, of a lack of access to basic services and of inadequate protection and assistance during natural disasters, armed conflict and distress at sea.\textsuperscript{9}

9. Across the world there is a pressing need to improve public perceptions of migration: it is of significant concern that the era of greatest human mobility has seen a concomitant rise in xenophobia and anti-migrant sentiment. Fuelled partly by the global economic crisis, this has contributed to restrictive migration policies and discrimination and violence against migrants, with serious consequences for social cohesion. There is a need for greater respect for and public awareness of the human rights inherent to all migrants and of the overwhelmingly positive contributions that migrants have historically made and continue to make to their societies of origin and destination, through their labour, skills, knowledge, ideas and values.

10. At the global level, migration does not feature in the Millennium Development Goals. Any future global development agenda would need to rectify this gap, as discussed further below.

\textsuperscript{7} Numerous agencies offer training and capacity development on international legal standards in their respective fields, including with relevance to migration. IOM has helped to pioneer the concept of international migration law, which covers the various branches of law, principles and rules that together regulate the international obligations of States with regard to migrants and migration. IOM conducts regular trainings on international migration law, including an annual training course in New York in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

\textsuperscript{8} See the 2010 statement of the Global Migration Group on the human rights of migrants in an irregular situation.

\textsuperscript{9} Policies that criminalize irregular migration tend to have a disproportionately negative effect on the rights and well-being of migrants and their families, while seldom reaching their objective of deterring irregular migration. For example, see the conclusions of a global round table on the subject organized by OHCHR and UNHCR in May 2011.
B. Knowledge and evidence base

11. Gaps in policymaking are also a function of capacity constraints and shortcomings in data, research and training. Timely and comparable empirical data that are disaggregated by age and sex, including on a country and regional basis, remain inadequate. Effective policymaking would require accurate, timely and detailed data on international migrant stocks, migration flows, legal status, sectoral and occupational distribution, social protection coverage, working conditions and wages, safety and health conditions and level of education. Such data collection should also include attention to exclusion, marginalization and discrimination.10 Particular challenges persist in collecting data on migrants in an irregular situation. Funding for impact assessments and the development of better indicators, tools and data is insufficient.

12. More rigorous assessments are needed, including of labour market needs, social protection schemes, contributions by diaspora communities to development and indicators relating to the situation of vulnerable migrants and their families, as are evaluations of the impact of migration and development initiatives. Without such an evidence base, it remains difficult for policymakers and other migration stakeholders to demonstrate the economic, social and cultural contributions of migration and to make the case for improved governance of migration.

C. Multisectoral mainstreaming of migration

13. Globally, existing measures and objectives of development progress, such as the Millennium Development Goals, do not account for migrants and migration. At the national and local levels, too, efforts to mainstream migration into development planning remain nascent. Gaps are evident in capacity, funding and the systematic application of existing tools to support mainstreaming efforts. Consequently, migration and development initiatives risk remaining scattered, lacking in national ownership and institutional coordination mechanisms and limited in scale and policy impact. There has also been a tendency to overlook the human development aspirations and contributions of some migrant groups, such as migrants employed in care sectors, low-skilled and semi-skilled workers and young people. Similarly, the human capital and human development potential of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, whose treatment is governed by a distinct legal framework, is rarely tapped. The same is true for non-migrant groups affected by migration, especially children and other family members left behind in countries of origin. Furthermore, mainstreaming is too often seen as an exercise exclusively for origin countries: instead, countries of destination could develop more rights-based immigration policies that respond to human development aspirations, while meeting sustainable development goals and reflecting genuine labour market needs at all skill levels. Little progress has been made in integrating migration and development elements into other policy sectors, such as labour and employment, social protection, health, education, family, women, environment, trade and investment.

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10 OHCHR recently launched a publication, Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation, which provides specific, practical tools for enforcing human rights and measuring their implementation.
D. Inter-State and multi-stakeholder engagement and cooperation

14. Over the past decade, migration has become a priority issue for more States than ever before.\textsuperscript{11} This growing interest is reflected in a significant expansion of multilateral, multi-stakeholder and inter-agency collaboration on migration and development.\textsuperscript{12} Notable among these are the establishment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (following the first high-level dialogue, in 2006) and the Global Migration Group.\textsuperscript{13} Some regional consultative processes on migration and regional economic communities could benefit from support in elaborating coherent approaches to region-specific migration issues and, in the case of regional economic communities, in implementing existing mobility schemes. At the national level, the cross-cutting nature of migration and the corresponding imperative for policy coherence notwithstanding, planning in relation to migration and development could see more meaningful participation of a range of ministries and authorities at the subnational level, in particular city councils. At all levels — global, regional, national and local — the participation of non-governmental actors in policy processes remains underdeveloped: the private sector, employers’ and workers’ organizations and civil society, including migrants’, human rights, women’s and youth organizations, need to be given a more active role.

E. Trends to watch

15. Migration interacts with other global changes dynamically, but knowledge, capacity and practical action in response to these challenges remain limited. For example, given the expansion of human mobility, more and more countries host significant migrant populations, including countries prone to political crises or natural disasters. The 2011 crisis in Libya brought to light the plight of migrants stranded in dire humanitarian situations. Too often, this group has been overlooked in humanitarian responses. Migration policies, including temporary labour migration schemes, are unprepared for crisis events affecting migrant workers.

16. Environmental factors have long been known to affect migration (and vice versa), but the realities of climate change give a new edge to this relationship that has not been sufficiently addressed in policies and programmes, especially with a view to the impact on development. For example, migration also needs to be recognized for its potential to support adaptation to climate change.\textsuperscript{14} The interaction between environmental factors, (rural) livelihoods and rural development policies and human mobility patterns also contributes to accelerated urbanization, yet most cities are unprepared to cope with this expansion in a sustainable, migrant-friendly way. Conversely, the relevance of migration for rural populations, agriculture and food security requires greater attention.

\textsuperscript{11} This is best reflected in the membership of IOM, which more than doubled in the past decade.
\textsuperscript{12} For example, the creation of the IOM International Dialogue on Migration in 2001, the Berne Initiative (2001-2005), the Global Commission on International Migration (2003-2005), the ILO Plan of Action for migrant workers (2004) and the subsequent ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration (2006).
\textsuperscript{13} The establishment of the Global Migration Group was endorsed by the Secretary-General in 2006, building on the Geneva Migration Group launched by IOM and UNHCR in 2003. Today, the Group has 16 members.
\textsuperscript{14} See paragraph 14 (f) of the Cancun Agreements, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its sixteenth session, in 2010.
17. Its volume and significance notwithstanding, South-South migration has received less attention than migration from low-income to high-income countries. In addition, developing and least developed countries are often among the least equipped to address migration issues and leverage possible benefits, yet they are often heavily reliant on remittances and diaspora investment.

IV. Proposed recommendations and outputs for the 2013 high-level dialogue

A. Advancing the human rights and human development aspects of migration: the high-level dialogue should place the human rights of all migrants high on the agenda of policymakers and reaffirm the relevance of migration to human development in destination and origin countries

18. The high-level dialogue should call for the protection of the human rights of all migrants, taking account of age, gender, family considerations and specific vulnerabilities. Furthermore, it should reinforce the message that migration best contributes to human development when the human (including labour) rights of all migrants are protected. It should promote the ratification and implementation of all core international human rights and labour rights instruments, in particular those dedicated specifically to protecting migrant workers. Effective implementation of relevant recommendations of all treaty bodies is also critical. The Committee on Migrant Workers is currently elaborating a general comment on the human rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families. Relevant recommendations from the universal periodic review, recommendations relating to cases submitted under optional protocols and the work of the special procedures mandate holders could also be more effectively implemented.

19. States should further be encouraged to strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice responses to xenophobic acts and discrimination against all migrants and to create specialized national bodies to monitor and report on xenophobia and related hate crimes. All migrants should be free from cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and have effective access to justice, complaint mechanisms and remedies.

20. The high-level dialogue could propose a global public information campaign on the human rights of migrants, on practical measures to promote an inclusive rights-based approach to migration and on migrant contributions to home and host

15 Including all nine core human rights instruments, especially the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), as well as the ILO Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949) (Convention No. 97), the ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Convention No. 143) and the ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Convention No. 189).

16 Including general comment No. 1 of the Committee on Migrant Workers; general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; general comment No. 6 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; the report and recommendations of the 2012 day of general discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; general comment No. 20 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and general recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
country development. It could be reinforced through national plans of action on protecting the rights of migrants, including by preventing and opposing xenophobia and ensuring access to their human rights. In this respect, States could usefully collaborate with the private sector, migrants’, employers’ and workers’ organizations, the media and civil society stakeholders in addressing misperceptions of migration, negative public attitudes and behaviour towards migrants and violations of migrants’ human rights.

21. As better informed and prepared migration is more likely to enhance the benefits of migration for individuals and societies, local information campaigns can help to inform (prospective) migrants of their rights, the risks likely to be encountered and consular, health and other services available at all stages of the migratory process. Pre-departure training of migrants and consular services in countries of origin should be strengthened. It is important that these measures reach out to all (potential) migrants, including in rural areas. Measures could also encompass the training of local and national authorities, including border guards, in migrants’ rights and the institutionalization of migrant resource centres to inform (would-be) migrants and returnees of their rights, options and responsibilities.

22. The high-level dialogue may wish to focus attention on migrant groups who face vulnerabilities, discrimination and inequities arising from a combination of factors. Female migrants need to be better protected against all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence at all stages of migration and in the workplace. This is particularly relevant in view of the rising number of women who migrate on their own or as heads of households, rather than as dependants. Greater levels of protection are also needed for older migrants, indigenous peoples, children, adolescents, young people and migrants with disabilities. Furthermore, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development has emphasized the protection and assistance needs of migrants affected by acute humanitarian crises in their transit or destination countries, recognizing that migrant-specific vulnerabilities add to risks stemming from the crisis itself.

23. Children, adolescents and young people participate in migration in different ways — as migrants, remaining behind in countries of origin or born to migrants in countries of destination — and accordingly face specific opportunities and challenges. All children in the context of migration are first and foremost children. The high-level dialogue should urge States to guarantee access by all children under their jurisdiction to all rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, regardless of their or their parents’ legal status and without discrimination, and implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The best interests of the child should take priority in migration policymaking; for example, immigration detention of children constitutes a child rights violation and contravenes this principle.

17 See also the Global Migration Group thematic report on challenges and opportunities in relation to adolescents, young people and migration, to be launched at the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development. The report offers a set of policy recommendations to Member States, including in the context of preparations for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

18 See the report and recommendations of the 2012 day of general discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in addition to the related background paper and UNICEF submissions, for guidance on child-centred, gender-sensitive monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for all children in the context of migration, including through legislative reform and provision of support to national human rights institutions.
24. Social policy urgently needs to address inequities in access to social protection and social services for vulnerable groups affected by migration, including children, adolescents, young people and women, in addition to certain sectors such as migrants employed in agriculture or domestic work. The high-level dialogue should emphasize access by migrants to social protection and social services, such as by urging States to implement the International Labour Organization (ILO) Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), and the operational framework and priority actions that emerged from the 2010 Global Consultation on Migrant Health convened by the World Health Organization, IOM and the Government of Spain. This framework, which is based on World Health Assembly resolution WHA61.17 on the health of migrants, adopted in 2008, calls upon States to work towards equitable access to migrant-sensitive health services, including sexual and reproductive health care for female migrants and financial protection in health, given that migrants who lack health insurance may be unable to afford vital services. By addressing the factors determining migrants’ health, migrants are better able to attain their human development potential; concurrently, the health costs of migration are reduced for both migrants and societies.

25. Another recommended area of focus is the protection of migrant workers, especially women, from abuse and exploitation in the informal and formal labour markets. Additional vital steps include ensuring equal treatment in terms of wages and working conditions, adequately recognizing diplomas and competencies and regulating and monitoring recruitment agencies. The creation of decent jobs for migrant and national workers alike is essential and an objective supported by the ILO Decent Work Agenda. Migrants’ access to portable social security benefits might also be improved, for example through bilateral or multilateral agreements.

26. Furthermore, States need to address the protection challenges inherent to an irregular status, including increased difficulties in gaining access to health care and education, adequate housing and birth registration, among other essential services. Regularization measures can be a practical response to the situation of irregular migrants: in particular, this measure should be considered for migrants who are unable to return to their countries of origin, who are integrated into the labour market or society of destination, or in the interest of family unity when different family members have different legal statuses. The high-level dialogue could also encourage States to avoid and repeal laws and regulations that require public officials (e.g. providers of health care and other social services, labour inspectors or teachers) to report the presence of irregular migrants to migration authorities. Consideration should be given to alternatives to the administrative detention of irregular migrants.19 To encourage States to develop screening mechanisms that more effectively assess whether there are people within irregular migration flows who are in need of refugee protection, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has worked with IOM on a series of regional stakeholder consultations focusing on protection-sensitive laws, policies and systems.20 Lastly, the use of language, such as “alien” and “illegal”, which stigmatizes migrants, should also be avoided in order to help to reduce social tension around (irregular) migration and State responses.21

19 See the 2012 report to the Human Rights Council by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/20/24).
21 See also General Assembly resolution 3449 (XXX), in which the Assembly urges use of the terms “irregular” or “non-documented”.

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27. Opportunities for regular migration should also be broadened, in particular for low-skilled migrant workers and to promote family reunification. In addition, States and other partners could disseminate information on the use of regular migration channels and aim to reduce abuses relating to high costs of travel and recruitment for migrants, e.g. through interest-free pre-departure loans to migrants. Where regular migration channels and facilitated visa procedures are in place in destination countries, issuing secure, machine-readable transport documents and participating in the International Civil Aviation Organization Public Key Directory could further facilitate regular migration.

28. Comprehensive efforts against human trafficking and migrant smuggling should be continued, including in advancing the implementation of existing legal instruments. Policymakers should devote greater attention to combating trafficking and smuggling for labour exploitation. In accordance with the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, States should not penalize smuggled migrants for the fact of being smuggled, while it should also be recognized and addressed that smuggling exposes migrants to significant vulnerabilities. The high-level dialogue may also recommend that programmes to provide direct assistance to trafficked persons be reinforced, while more training and awareness-raising among the general public, authorities and others who come into contact with trafficked persons may be necessary to ensure that their specific protection and assistance needs are adequately met. In implementing international legal obligations and good practices in this area, States may benefit from guidance offered by various agencies and inter-agency and intergovernmental working groups.

29. Lastly, the distinction between voluntary and forced migration is becoming increasingly blurred in today’s complex humanitarian crises. The high-level dialogue may call for closer coordination between migration governance and the search for durable solutions to displacement. Strategies for gaining access to protection and durable solutions for persons forcibly displaced owing to insecurity, conflict and natural disaster should encompass, where appropriate, asylum processes.

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23 See the 2012 ILO global estimate of forced labour, which states that an estimated 9.1 million victims of forced labour (44 per cent of the global total) have moved either internally or internationally.

24 Among other tools, see the International Framework for Action to Implement the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol; the toolkits to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; the Caring for Trafficked Persons handbook; the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (E/2002/68/Add.1); Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Exploitation: Guidelines for Legislation and Law Enforcement; Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labour, Sexual and other Forms of Exploitation: Understanding Child Trafficking; and Combating Forced Labour: A Handbook for Employers and Business. See also work by the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, co-chaired by UNODC and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat; the working groups on trafficking of persons and smuggling of migrants established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.
and protection from refoulement, support for local integration and housing, land and property reparations programmes. UNHCR and ILO have also been exploring whether and how labour mobility and temporary labour migration schemes could increase employment opportunities, self-reliance, (re)integration and freedom of movement of refugees, facilitate durable solutions without undermining refugee protection principles and reduce pressures for secondary displacement.

B. Strengthening the knowledge and evidence base: the high-level dialogue should promote evidence-based policymaking on migration and thus greater investment in data, research, needs assessments, evaluations and capacity development with regard to migration and its outcomes for individuals and societies

30. The high-level dialogue should encourage capacity development to generate and maintain timely and comparable migration data and improved information systems. All such data should be collected in accordance with international standards on privacy and data protection and should be used to inform policymaking and not for immigration control. As a matter of priority, data should be disaggregated by age and sex and aim to provide employment-related information.\(^{25}\)

31. To this end, migration issues should feature in national census analysis, labour force surveys, health surveys and other relevant demographic and development-related household surveys. The data should be made publicly available. Furthermore, existing administrative data should be better exploited. In countries lacking such information, migration household surveys can fill the gap, as has been accomplished, for example, within the framework of national human development reports and the World Bank Africa Migration Project.\(^{26}\) Furthermore, labour needs assessments and labour market analysis should be attuned to demographic and migration factors. The high-level dialogue could propose an assessment of progress since the adoption of the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, which could be carried out by the relevant Global Migration Group working group. Lastly, funding is needed for more standardized and rigorous assessments and evaluations of the impact of migration and development initiatives.

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\(^{25}\) The forthcoming IOM 2013 World Migration Report, on migrants’ well-being and development, is based on empirical data of 25,000 migrants surveyed in 150 countries by Gallup. The report presents an analysis of development in terms of “human well-being” indicators and focuses not only on South-North migration, but also on South-South, North-South and North-North flows. See also Migrants Count: Five Steps toward Better Migration Data (Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C., 2009), produced by the Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research and Policy, convened by the Center for Global Development.

\(^{26}\) See Sonia Plaza, Mario Navarrete and Dilip Ratha, “Migration and remittances household surveys in sub-Saharan Africa: methodological aspects and main findings” (Africa Migration Project, Migration and Remittances Unit, World Bank, 2011).
32. The high-level dialogue should also draw attention to data and research deficits relating to South-South migration. The African, Caribbean and Pacific States Observatory on Migration was created specifically to address this knowledge gap. Much-needed data collection on South-South migration can also be facilitated by the United Nations Global Migration Database (developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, regional commissions and partners) and by the World Bank bilateral migration matrix.

33. Migration profiles, an initiative first proposed by the European Commission and implemented by IOM, among others, can facilitate the cycle of data collection, synthesis and analysis. States should consider making more systematic use of migration profiles, the accompanying common set of core indicators (elaborated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Children’s Fund and endorsed by the Global Migration Group) and the guide entitled “Migration profiles: making the most of the process”.

34. A better understanding of the potential links between migration and human development through training, targeted learning mechanisms, sharing of experience and other activities will enhance the capacity of policymakers to identify opportunities for more robust policies and programmes. The high-level dialogue should consider promoting institutions and initiatives to further research and capacity in the area of migration, in addition to fostering synergies between existing institutions and initiatives. There should be a focus on more coherent and consistent curricula (avoiding duplication among institutions), new technologies and specific outreach to policymakers and practitioners in developing and least developed countries. The high-level dialogue could encourage States to continue to participate actively in regional and global opportunities for capacity development and knowledge-building on migration.

27 The African, Caribbean and Pacific Observatory on Migration is an initiative of the secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States, funded by the European Union, implemented by IOM and with the financial support of IOM and its Development Fund, UNFPA and the Government of Switzerland. It has established a network of research centres and governmental departments working on migration issues in the six African, Caribbean and Pacific regions and produces and collects data on South-South migration in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. It has also carried out regional and national migration impact studies of migration and development initiatives.

28 See also the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development being established by the World Bank to generate policy options on the basis of analytical evidence and quality control through peer review. It is envisaged to be a global public good, a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues.
C. **Mainstreaming migration into national development policies and plans and into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda: the high-level dialogue should call upon countries of origin and destination to continue or initiate the mainstreaming of migration into national development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and sectoral policies and plans, and, as a matter of priority, should ensure that migration receives due attention in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda**

35. While important instruments for national development planning, foremost among them poverty reduction strategy papers and United Nations Development Action Frameworks, already exist, migration remains largely absent therefrom. Both national-level and local-level development planning should consider the role of migration in helping or hindering the achievement of development objectives. The high-level dialogue could promote application of *Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Planning: a Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners* and the expansion of the continuing Global Migration Group pilot initiatives. For more meaningful participation of migrants, civil society, social partners and local authorities in such mainstreaming efforts, the high-level dialogue could further draw attention to the European Commission-United Nations Joint Migration and Development Initiative, in addition to strategies by United Nations country teams. The high-level dialogue might also encourage host States to ensure that their overseas development strategies and immigration policies reinforce the mainstreaming efforts of countries of origin.

36. The high-level dialogue should promote the incorporation of the development potential of migration within the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, both as a cross-cutting issue and, potentially, in its own right. The report of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, entitled “Realizing the future we want for all”, recognizes migration as a key dimension of global population dynamics, an enabler for inclusive economic and social development (if governed fairly) and a possible element of a renewed global partnership for development. Building on the momentum of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the continuing work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, migration should be integrated within the sustainable development goals to converge with the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the high-level dialogue should establish linkages with the UNFPA-led operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which will include a review of migration-related activities.

37. The high-level dialogue should stress the importance of coherent labour migration and employment policies that more efficiently match labour supply and demand, while ensuring adequate protection for migrant workers, both high-skilled and less-skilled persons. This may include broadening opportunities for the temporary or permanent migration of less-skilled workers, in line with labour

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29 Migration might feature, for example, in post-2015 goals relating to inequalities, partnerships, health, education, decent work, social protection, financing for development, trade for sustainable development, disaster prevention and disaster relief management and an enabling international environment.
market demand, including in prospective growth sectors such as care work. A more balanced intake of migrants across the skills spectrum would also mitigate the risk of remittances compounding income inequality in countries of origin. Facilitating circular migration can enhance the development outcomes of migration, but it is important that circular migration opportunities be available at all skill levels, respond to genuinely temporary labour market needs and take place in full respect of the human and labour rights of migrants. Similarly, the development outcomes of temporary or long-term return migration can be boosted through the provision of entrepreneurship training, skills development, adequate social protection and low-interest loans upon return.\textsuperscript{30}

38. States should also work towards greater coherence between migration and education policies. In particular, they should collaborate on student migration and ensure mutual recognition of foreign qualifications based on six United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conventions and associated work. Making available vocational training and education opportunities for unemployed young people, women and other marginalized groups, in particular in least developed countries, can increase their access to remunerative work abroad. Origin and destination countries could create joint education programmes and curricula that reflect domestic and foreign labour market needs and provide information on overseas employment opportunities.

39. The social impact of remittances is generally positive, including greater investment in education and health care, but policymakers should remain sensitive to possible negative effects, including a possible exacerbation of inequalities and negative impacts on children left behind in countries of origin. The different spending patterns of male and female remittance recipients are also relevant here. In leveraging remittances for development, the high-level dialogue should reaffirm that remittance are a private source of funding. The high-level dialogue should support initiatives by the World Bank and others to help achieve what is known as the “5x5 objective”, endorsed by the Group of Eight and the Group of 20, to reduce the average cost of sending remittances globally by five percentage points over five years. Barriers to market entry in this sector, including exclusivity agreements and skewed incentive structures, should continue to be tackled. In addition, a new regulatory framework may be required for cross-border remittances sent using mobile phones. With the support of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and partners, the regulatory framework for financial services could be improved to reduce transfer costs and promote gender-sensitive financial inclusiveness, including in rural areas. Public-private partnerships could enhance the interoperability of remittance transfer services by banks, postal networks, telecommunications operators and microfinance institutions. New financial products, such as microinsurance and support for small and medium-sized enterprises, could be developed to meet the specific needs of migrants. On the demand side, financial education for migrant workers, including women migrant workers, and their families could be made more systematically available. In addition, inclusive rural development agendas might better channel remittances — while respecting their private nature — towards enhanced productivity of the rural farm and non-farm sectors, building on the efforts of the Food and Agriculture

\textsuperscript{30} These and similar issues are the subject of the Labour Migration Academy organized by the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy, in collaboration with partners including Global Migration Group agencies.
Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and partners, including through the Financing Facility for Remittances.\(^{31}\)

40. The high-level dialogue could also encourage greater cooperation between countries of origin and destination in leveraging diaspora contributions, including investment and trade. Greater networking among relevant ministries, embassies, diaspora associations, development non-governmental organizations and private-sector representatives can support diaspora groups in their endeavours.\(^{32}\) The temporary return of qualified nationals, as pioneered by the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals programme launched by IOM and the United Nations Development Programme, could be targeted to support post-crisis reconstruction and peacebuilding.

D. Improving inter-State and multi-stakeholder engagement and cooperation: the high-level dialogue should reaffirm commitment to existing cooperation mechanisms, strengthen their impact and strive for greater involvement of stakeholders at all levels, including non-governmental partners

41. The high-level dialogue might encourage the Global Migration Group to continue supporting States and other stakeholders in the effective implementation of international legal obligations as they relate to migration. The high-level dialogue should further encourage the Group to strengthen its efficacy in fulfilling these objectives, in particular at the field level. The Group is developing a set of strategic objectives in a multi-annual workplan.\(^{33}\) Working groups\(^{34}\) are preparing thematic work streams, enabling the Group to enhance its impact across the board, from data and research to advocacy and monitoring, policy advice and joint and coherent capacity support at the national and regional levels. The high-level dialogue could

\(^{31}\) The Financing Facility for Remittance is a multi-donor facility managed by IFAD that aims at increasing economic opportunities for the rural poor by supporting innovative, cost-effective and easily accessible international and/or domestic remittance services. In this context, see also the Global Forum on Remittances, organized biannually by IFAD and key partners (Inter-American Development Bank in 2007, African Development Bank in 2009 and World Bank in 2013).

\(^{32}\) See Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries (2012) by IOM and the Migration Policy Institute. See also the background paper on supporting migrants and diaspora as agents of socioeconomic change, prepared for session 2 of round table 1 of the 2012 Global Forum on Migration and Development by the World Bank, IOM and IFAD.

\(^{33}\) Proposals relating to the Global Migration Group herein will be updated as the Group review progresses. Group members will hold a working-level retreat early in 2013 to elaborate on recommendations made by the Group principals in November 2012. The outcomes of the retreat will be submitted to the Group principals by 31 March 2013.

\(^{34}\) This would include both those to be established, e.g. on migration, gender and human rights, and on capacity development and delivery, in addition to other possible working groups, and those already in existence, i.e. the working group on data and research, co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM, and the working group on the mainstreaming of migration into development planning, co-chaired by IOM and UNDP.
consider calling for the creation of a funding mechanism to support the joint activities of the Group.\textsuperscript{35}

42. The high-level dialogue could envisage a greater role for the United Nations development system in supporting United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in mainstreaming migration in national development efforts through country-level programming and drawing on the expertise and capacity of Global Migration Group members and the broader United Nations system at the national, regional and global levels.

43. As concerns the relationship between the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group, the Group will continue to engage with the Forum, including, as appropriate, in support of its preparations and in the implementation of its recommendations.

44. The high-level dialogue should underline the crucial role of governmental deliberations at the interregional, regional, bilateral, national and local levels. States should build on the significant achievements of regional consultative processes on migration and interregional forums with a migration focus in creating conditions for multilateral cooperation on migration. Regional economic communities and States cooperating on a bilateral basis may wish to continue developing and implementing framework agreements that protect the human rights of migrants, including access to social security; facilitate the recognition of diplomas and qualifications; and further support labour mobility, and its development impact, at the regional and subregional levels. The high-level dialogue could also promote the incorporation of migration issues into municipal/local development planning and better coherence of sectoral policies. Coherence and coordination among these local, bilateral, regional and interregional processes and with the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group could be enhanced.

45. In global, regional and local planning on migration and development, the high-level dialogue may also wish to promote more effective engagement of civil society and capacity support to social partners, such as non-governmental United Nations constituents, the private sector, the media, national human rights institutions and migrants. The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service could help to facilitate an inclusive dialogue between the United Nations and civil society actors on migration and development. States might also consider a compact with the private sector, social partners and civil society actors around select common goals, such as reducing recruitment costs or addressing the social impacts of migration for vulnerable groups. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development has made galvanizing multi-stakeholder action and cooperation a priority in addressing the situation of migrants affected by crises, where employers, recruiters, countries of origin, host countries and relevant international organizations have a role to play. To guarantee that the voice of all migrants and those affected by migration is brought to bear on major policy decisions, the high-level dialogue could explore avenues for meaningful, inclusive and participatory approaches. One option would be a permanent forum on migration and development, modelled on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Such a

\textsuperscript{35} The Global Migration Group working-level retreat (see above) will develop, among others, the purpose, design and administration of such a funding mechanism.
forum would bring to the table advice and perspectives from leaders within the migrant community and raise public awareness and visibility of the issues.

E. Trends to watch: the high-level dialogue should highlight critical issues, trends and dynamics that — while not necessarily new in and of themselves — will shape migration globally and locally and, in particular, the migration-development nexus, and should underline the need for data and research, capacity development and proactive policy approaches in these areas.

46. As called for by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, the high-level dialogue should foster action on problems facing stranded migrants, especially those caught up in crises in host countries. States and humanitarian actors must ensure protection and assistance in such cases, including, if necessary, protection-sensitive and assisted voluntary evacuation and reintegration. For migrants in distress at sea, improved cooperation agreements, in particular at the regional level, should be put in place with the involvement of the International Maritime Organization, UNHCR and others to secure timely rescue, safe disembarkation and respect for human rights principles, in particular the principles of non-refoulement and the best interests of the child. As proposed in the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework, complex migration patterns before, during and after humanitarian crises also need to be better monitored to enable a more effective response.

47. Given that the impact of climate change and environmental degradation (including slow-onset and rapid-onset events) on migration is becoming more evident, the high-level dialogue could encourage States to factor migration and migrants more systematically into disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies. The United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and other stakeholders support this by enhancing State capacity to have the necessary adaptation options at hand and to use the latest weather, climate and water information technology. Progress in these areas will reduce forced migration, but should also seek ways to use the benefits of migration for development for the purpose of adaptation and building resilience.

48. Urbanization is rapidly transforming the social and physical landscape in most countries. Migration, in particular rural-urban migration, is contributing to this trend and States may wish to elaborate more migrant-inclusive housing, education and urban development policies, with the support of the United Nations Human

36 An institutional strategy to improve IOM response to crises with migration implications, to support States in assisting and protecting crisis-affected populations and to address migration dimensions of crises that have been overlooked in the past. The Framework was adopted by a resolution of States members of IOM in 2012.

37 Note in this context the recent founding of the State-led Nansen Initiative on disaster-induced cross-border displacement, with collaboration from UNHCR and IOM. See also the 2011 Global Migration Group joint statement on the impact of climate change on migration, in addition to research, policy dialogue and projects undertaken by IOM and publications on the subject by UNHCR, UNEP, UNFPA, UNESCO and others.
Settlements Programme and UNESCO, among others. States might also consider further supporting sustainable rural livelihoods to reduce involuntary recourse to migration. In this context, the high-level dialogue could also recommend further research and data collection on the links between internal and international migration and on the impact of migration on rural labour forces, rural development, agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Lastly, the high-level dialogue should highlight the fact that most migration takes place regionally, including among developing countries. There is consequently a need to support the governance of South-South migration, including regional labour mobility agreements in the South, and the South-South engagement of diaspora communities.

V. Concluding considerations

If pursued collectively, the preceding proposals will give renewed direction and focus to the international migration and development agenda. The contributors to the present paper believe that the realization of these proposals is well within reach, provided that all stakeholders continue to work collaboratively, in accordance with their respective mandates and expertise. The rights and well-being of all migrants, and of the people whom they join and leave behind, should be at the centre of deliberations throughout this second, landmark high-level dialogue on international migration and development.

38 See the guide and toolkit entitled “Migrants’ inclusion in cities: innovative urban policies and practices” by UNESCO and UN-Habitat.
39 See, for example, the work of the IOM African Capacity-Building Centre in the United Republic of Tanzania.