Irregular migration: some reflections on data collection

- Whether irregular migrants are included in the data depends on the source (census, visa, regularisation, surveys, enforcement, etc.)

- A combination of sources may be required to identify irregular migrants

- US: robust estimates; EU: starting (Clandestino); non-OECD: ad hoc, but generally underreported
Irregular migration: evidence from Spain and the USA

- "Inflows of unauthorized immigrants into the US averaged 800,000 a year from 2000 to 2004, but fell to 500,000 a year from 2005 to 2008 with a decreasing year-to-year trend" (Source: Pew Hispanic Center).
Most international migrants are residing in more developed regions.

More developed regions:
- % of population: 11.0% in 2010

Less developed regions:
- % of population: 2.2% in 1990, decreasing to 1.0% in 2010
Most migrants are in the North (130 mln) but from the South (139 mln) (2010 est.)
Migrant growth rate is falling in the North, but rising in the South; refugees are not the main driver of these changes.
Most developing countries host a high proportion of international migrant children.
The impact of international migration on working age population varies regionally

Change in projected working-age population, 2010-2050: Medium (M) and Zero-migration variant (Z) compared

LDCs (M) LDCs (Z) Less developed, excl. LDCs (M) Less developed, excl. LDCs (Z) More developed (M) More developed (Z)
120% 124% 19% 22% -13% -25%
Ratification of international instruments uneven between regions

Percentage of Member States that are parties to international instruments, mid-2009

- More developed
- Less developed

International Migration and Development at the United Nations – Milestones

- International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994

- High-level Dialogue, 2006
  - Global Forum on Migration and Development
  - Special Representative of the Secretary-General
  - Global Migration Group

- One-day informal thematic debate, 2011

- High-Level Dialogue, 2013
Action plan for closing the evidence gap before the 2013 High-Level Dialogue

1. Leveraging the 2010 round of population censuses

2. Implementing the five steps of the *Migrants Count* report

3. Building capacity

4. Ensuring policy and institutional coherence by engaging with NSOs nationally and globally