

**MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
'ASSESSING THE EVIDENCE, CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE'**

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Distinguished panellists, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me express my gratitude to the organizers of this conference—the International Organization for Migration and the Center for Migration Studies—for inviting me to take part in this important and timely meeting.

The topic of the conference—how to integrate migration into development initiatives—could not be more opportune.

In less than two years, the General Assembly will hold its second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. What we decide in the next couple of months will shape the global migration debate for years to come.

In less than two months, the world will gather for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio for what the Secretary-General has called “our one-in-a-generation chance to advance progress for our planet and its people.” Since 1992, we have seen many examples of environmental and climatic factors destroying people’s livelihoods and contributing to migration and displacement. The Rio+20 outcome document must include the complex linkages between migration, environmental change and climatic events, as they were in “Agenda 21”.

While international migration has been part of the UN development agenda for several decades, they were not captured in the Millennium Development Goals. Not because migration is not important, but because it is not easy to set quantifiable targets. Should we have more or less migration, for instance? With the MDGs expiring in 2015, the United Nations is preparing for the development agenda post-2015. I urge all of you to think creatively about formulating smart indicators to measure progress in migration.

This effort will also be useful in assessing the implementation of goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development which the General Assembly recently extended beyond 2014.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we look towards the 2013 High-level Dialogue, we must identify clear objectives and concrete outcomes. In many respects we are lucky, because we can build on the enhanced dialogue and cooperation since the first High-level Dialogue in 2006.

How should we do that?

First, we should draw on the lessons of the Global Forum. The raison d'être of the Forum was to build confidence, to act as a "nursery" for ideas. After six global forums, what are the practical steps the international community can take to enhance the benefits of migration for development? You can help us identify non-contentious issues where we can make progress, the "low hanging fruits".

Second, the international community has spent about a quarter of billion US dollars on migration and development projects since 2006, not counting bilateral aid. What policies and programmes have been successful in maximizing the development potential of migration and in reducing its negative effects?

Third, 2006 was the starting year of the Global Migration Group. Have we, the 15 UN entities working on migration plus IOM provided a coherent response to the needs of migrants? Are we adequately responding to the demands from Member States? Do we sufficiently support the Global Forum process? Should we, as Mr. Sutherland has suggested, establish a permanent secretariat that could lend technical support to the Global Forum? A few weeks ago, the Global Migration Group agreed to start a review process and to consider these questions in preparing for the High-level Dialogue.

Fourth, the United Nations has put in place a process to ensure that entities that are not part of GMG are also able to contribute to the preparations for the High-level Dialogue. This effort will be lead by UNFPA and IOM. I hope that this will result in a comprehensive report with a concrete set of recommendations, involving stakeholders from both within and outside the UN.

Fifth, in preparing for the High-level Dialogue, interested permanent missions should ensure that Member States are fully briefed and engaged on these matters. DESA stands ready to assist these missions in providing support. In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the next session of the General Assembly which will take up the modalities of the 2013 High-level Dialogue, including possible themes.

In closing, let me paraphrase the Secretary-General remarks on the occasion of International Migrants Day in 2011: Let us take constructive steps to leverage the global phenomenon of international migration into a force for progress.

I hope that my few remarks have provided you with some concrete suggestions on how to achieve this.

Thank you.