



**Global Migration Group**  
Acting together in a world on the move



## **Concept Note**

### **Technical Working Level Meeting**

*Realizing post-2015 aspirations for migrants and migration*

**(16-17 October 2014)**

General Assembly Building

16 October, 10:00-13:00: Conference Room 6

16 October, 15:00-18:00: Conference Room E

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### **Background**

The linkages of migrants and migration with the development agenda are real and significant. Despite the increasing evidence that migration can bring tangible benefits—to countries of origin, transit, and destination, and most importantly, to migrants themselves—it has not been systematically integrated into development planning and practice. Most notably, migration was not included in the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Migration is becoming a more critical aspect of policy dialogues around growth and development, especially in the follow-up to the Second High-level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development. Member States' investment in greater international cooperation at the global level has succeeded in setting migration on the agenda of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), which was tasked with identifying a proposed framework of goals and targets for the post-2015 development agenda. As a result, migrants-and migration-related aspects have been explicitly recognized in several of the proposed 17 focus areas of sustainable development goals. The Technical Working Level Meeting will foster dialogue and exchange of good practices around the key migration-related targets, and feed into the Global Migration Group (“GMG”) Data/Indicators retreat being held back-to-back with the Technical Meeting in New York.

The GMG, now bringing together 17 United Nations (UN) agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is supporting the post-2015 efforts by providing technical advice

to Member States and the OWGs Technical Support Team in coordination with the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration and Development and an informal working group of governments, agencies, experts, and civil society representatives convened by the SRSG. The meetings planned in New York will contribute to this process.

Moreover, at the field level, the GMG through its working group on Mainstreaming Migration in National Development Strategies is supporting eight countries (Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Morocco, Serbia and Tunisia) in their efforts to improve the evidence base on migration and development linkages and formulate integrated policies and institutional responses. Much of the GMG's work in this area builds on the methodology of the joint GMG Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, launched in 2010.

The proposed events and workshops will also support the new work being undertaken by the GMG to develop a set of guidance for UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and other national development planning processes, as approved by the Principals of the GMG agencies at their meeting on 8 July 2014. Further to this, opportunities will be created to share the highlights of this meeting with delegates of the UN General Assembly Second Committee with a view also to emphasizing the need for regular high-level dialogues on international migration and development.

## **2. Objectives:**

With the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals fast-approaching, Member States, think tanks and the academic community, and civil society organizations are intensifying their efforts to help define the post-2015 UN development agenda. In that context, the GMG and the office of the SRSG for International Migration and Development are planning a two-day technical working level meeting on 16-17 October 2014 to promote closer collaboration between the actors of the post-2015 debates in New York and migration experts from the field – namely; governments, development aid agencies, international agencies, and civil society organizations, including workers' and employers' organizations, around the following objective. The meeting is an opportunity to: Exchange good practices between field and global level experts and policy-makers in understanding migration as an enabler of development, and in mainstreaming migration into national development strategies with a view to:

1. Developing practical guidance for national level planning and programmes;
2. Giving effect to migration and development targets in the post-2015 UN development agenda; and,
3. Identifying how good practices can be scaled-up and measured to support migration-related targets proposed in the outcome document of the OWG.

The timing and venue of this undertaking are favourable to addressing the concerns (relating to the linkages between migration and development and the post-2015 development agenda) that are likely to be raised by Member States during the upcoming deliberations at the UNGA. The GMG event will also serve to maintain the visibility of migration in the discussions leading to the post-2015 UN development agenda now that the OWG has concluded its work.

This event will be implemented in the context of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) project "Support to Strategic Action-Learning Partnership," funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

## **3. Organization:**

**Day one** of the workshop will bring migration experts from the field to present good practices in the areas of (i) promoting decent work for migrants; (ii) reducing migration costs; and, (iii) reducing inequalities, and promoting inclusive cities and societies. More specifically, discussions in all three panels will be centered around the following key questions:

- a. What are the tangible good practices that we can derive from the interventions made at field level that are presented here?
- b. How can these good practice interventions be replicable or scalable at regional or global levels for higher impact?
- c. How can this impact be measured in a cost effective manner, e.g. is data collection

- c. How can this impact be measured in a cost-effective manner, e.g., is data collection feasible or proxy indicators can be used to measure progress?

This discussion will feed into the discussions of the *GMG retreat on Migration Indicators for the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda* being organized by the GMG Working Group on Data and Research on 17 October at the UN, where GMG agencies will analyze the measurability of the proposed targets and evaluate potential indicators for their monitoring.

The ILO is updating its good practices database and with support of the SDC Learning Partnership grant establishing a community of virtual practice to facilitate good practice exchanges. At the end of day one, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) will facilitate a session during which participants will deliberate on a set of criteria according to which migration policies and programmes can be evaluated with a view to better defining good practice guidance. These criteria will inform the methodology that the ILO is employing to update its good practices database on labour migration policies and programmes.

**Day two** will consider how the lessons shared can best inform development planning at the national level. In his report to the Second High-level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development, the United Nations Secretary-General recommended the inclusion of migration in national and subnational development strategies and plans, such as poverty reduction strategies, national adaptation programmes of action, and relevant sectoral policies and programmes. In July 2014, the Principals of the GMG agreed to develop guidance for including migration into development strategies in individual countries, including in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), with a view to the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) consideration of this guidance for UNDAFs in 2015. This session is jointly organized with the GMG Working Group on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies, co-chaired IOM and UNDP, which is taking the lead in developing this guidance.

The Lunch briefing for delegates at the UN will be an opportunity for sharing findings of the experts meeting with other diplomats and policy-makers interested in the post-2015 agenda debates, including those who may not have been able to join the earlier sessions.

The results of the Working Level Meeting will, as noted, feed into the GMG Data meeting running back-to-back with the Meeting, and will be shared with members of the Second Committee of the UNGA later in the month during a side event. They will also be compiled into a compendium of good practices for wider distribution and knowledge sharing, including through the Virtual Community of Good Practices.

**(Please scroll down for the agenda)**

#### 4. Preliminary Agenda

##### **Day 1**

**8.00-08.45 Registration and coffee**

**08.45-09.00 Welcome**

*Michelle Leighton*, Chief, Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Organization

*Gregory Maniatis*, Advisor to the United Nations Special Representative for Migration and Development (*via VC*)

*Pietro Mona*, Deputy Head, Global Programme on Migration and Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

**9.00-10.30 Promoting decent work for international migrants**

The outcome document of the OWG proposed a set of goals and migration-related targets to serve as the basis for incorporating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda. Proposed SDG Goal 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” includes the following target: “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment” (8.8).

This session will examine various regional and international interventions that have generated good practice in promoting decent work through safe, fair, orderly and regular migration. It will facilitate dialogue among participants on replicability of the good practices and how these relate/support post-2015 targets (8.5; 8.8) and potential indicators for their monitoring.

**Chair:**

*Michelle Leighton*, Chief, Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Speakers:**

*Manuel Imsom*, Coordinator of ILO’s ASEAN TRIANGLE Project [First labour migration statistics database in ASEAN].

*Mthunzi Mdwaba*, Africa Regional Vice President of the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and the B20 representative for Business Unity South Africa (BUSA)/RSA [Social dialogue and regional integration in the South African Development Community (SADC)].

*Joel Odigie*, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Regional Office in Africa [Social dialogue and regional integration].

*Manuel Lapao*, Community of Portuguese Language Countries [extending social protection to migrants from/within the CPLC].

**10.30-10.45 Coffee break**

**10.45-12.15 Reducing migration costs**

Proposed SDG Goal 10 of the OWG’s outcome document refers to “Reduc[ing] inequality within and among countries.” Proposed migration-related targets include reducing the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3% and eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% by 2030 (10.c); facilitating orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (10.7); and empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all (10.2).

This session will examine good practices in reducing the economic and social costs of migration, facilitate dialogue among participants on their potential replicability in other settings, and discuss how these practices can tangibly support post-2015 targets (10.c; 10.7; 10.2) and potential indicators for their monitoring.

**Co-Chairs:**

*Bela Hovy*, Chief, Migration Section, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations

**Speakers:**

*Manuel Orozco*, Senior Associate and Director of Remittances and Development at the Inter-American Dialogue

*Manuel Imson*, ILO's Regional Model Competency Standards (RMCS) pilot project in three technical skill areas (housekeeping, automotive technology and welding)

*Miguel Peromingo*, Advisor for Asia Pacific and the Americas, World Association of Public Employment Services

**12.15-14.00 Lunch**

**14.00-15.30 Reducing inequality and promoting inclusive cities and societies**

Proposed goal 16 of the OWG's outcome document refers to "Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provid[ing] access to justice for all and build[ing] effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Proposed migration-related targets include providing legal identity for all including birth registration (16.9) and ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children (16.2).

This session will examine good practices in promoting the social and economic inclusion of migrants, including through locally implemented urban planning and development programmes, and facilitate dialogue on how these practices can be scaled-up for broader impact, and measured to support post-2015 targets (16.9; 16.2) and potential indicators for their monitoring.

**Chair:**

*Jyoti Sanghera*, Section Chief of Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

**Speakers:**

*William Gois*, Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)

*Lala Arabian*, Executive Director, Insan Association [Insan School Project]

*Colleen Thouez*, Senior Research and Training Advisor, UNITAR [work with municipalities]

*Nisha Agarwal*, Commissioner on Migration Affairs, City of New York [Municipal ID Card]

**15.30-15.45 Coffee break**

**15.45-17.30 Launch of Virtual Community of Practice (on labour migration policies and programmes) and facilitated discussion of good practices criteria, networking, and global engagement of experts and practitioners.**

*UNITAR facilitation*

**Day 2****9.00-9.30 Recap session**

*Michelle Leighton*, Chief, Labour Migration Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO)

**9.30-12.00 Mainstreaming Migration into national development strategies**

Using the good practices presented on day one as case studies, participants will examine the barriers and opportunities for mainstreaming migration into national development strategies. The deliberations of this session will inform GMG's current work to design guidance on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies, and in incorporating migration into UNDAFs.

**Co-Chairs:**

*Jill Helke*, Director, Department for International Cooperation and Partnerships, International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
*Sara Rosengaertner*, Migration and Development Expert, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Speakers:**

*Pietro Mona*, Deputy Head, Global Programme on Migration and Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

*Elisenda Estruch*, Labour Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), [Decent Work Country Programmes and Human Mobility] (*via VC*).

*Ivan Martin*, Part-time Professor at the Migration Policy Center, European University Institute (EUI) [mainstreaming migration data in labour market information systems].

*Easton Williams*, Director, Social Policy, Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute, Jamaica.

**12.00-12.45 Concluding Session: Insights for the post-2015 development agenda**  
TBC

**13.00-14.00 Lunch briefing at the Delegates' Dining Room (1-3 East River View)**  
"Translating findings into the post-2015 development agenda"

