



# Migration and Development Series Seminar on Building Partnerships

## Draft Information Note

New York, 7 March 2007

### BACKGROUND

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Discussions pertaining to the interlinkages between migration and development are not new. They date back to the 1970s and continue to produce mixed evidence: Migration is often said to result from global inequalities and relative under-development in some world regions, but is also shown to increase as countries develop. Migrant remittances do alleviate poverty at the household level, but may also create circles of dependency. Emigration of highly skilled professionals is detrimental for developing countries, but returning migrants and so called “Diaspora Knowledge Networks” also contribute to capacity-building, innovation and investment in their countries of origin.

In an effort to go beyond these widely recognized precepts, the General Assembly’s High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), held in September 2006, stressed the importance of undertaking internationally coordinated efforts to make migration beneficial for development. In follow-up to the HLD, the first Global Forum on International Migration and Development to be held in Belgium in July 2007 is likely to focus on concrete ways of addressing this challenge.

Catering to this ongoing policy dialogue, this seminar on Building Partnerships will bring together development and migration experts to share their views and discuss the migration-development nexus in the context of their respective mandates and policy agendas. A look at the historical evolution of this nexus will lead to a discussion on more recent developments. The Seminar will present evidence and experiences regarding the building and functioning of partnerships that bring together the development and migration ‘communities’, including local actors, the private sector, as well as migrants and diaspora organizations.

### OBJECTIVES

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This seminar is intended to:

- increase mutual understanding between migration and development communities;
- look at how migration is taken into account in development cooperation;
- identify good practices in increasing the development impact of migration and, in this context, models of successful partnership between different stakeholders;
- discuss the way forward for enhanced international cooperation in this field;
- brief delegates on the state of preparations for the first Global Forum on International Migration and Development to be held in July in Belgium, and on the work of the Global Migration Group (GMG).

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***The Migration and Development Series is financially supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and UNFPA***



## ORGANIZATION

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A first session will focus on the different approaches that development and migration actors take to the so called 'migration-development nexus', examining commonalities and potential synergies. It will contextualize the current discussions on the various interlinkages between both fields by looking at the evolution of policies and debates on migration and development, especially in the framework of the UN.

A second session will present innovative policies, projects and existing good practices aiming at enhancing the development impact of migration through various measures, including the facilitation of remittances, return and circular migration. In this framework, the role of partnerships between different stakeholders in the design and implementation of policies and projects will be discussed.

A third session will discuss ongoing initiatives at the regional and international levels to advance policy thinking and making, and increase inter-governmental, as well as inter-agency coordination. Participants will be briefed on the state of preparations for the first Global Forum on International Migration and Development to be held in July in Belgium, and on the work of the Global Migration Group (GMG).

**The workshop will be conducted in English. French interpretation will be available.**

## PARTICIPANTS

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The Seminar is designed for members of Permanent Missions responsible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Committees and other matters where migration issues are of relevance. The registered participants are requested to regard their participation as a firm commitment.

## DATE AND VENUE

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The seminar will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 March 2007, from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 9.

## REGISTRATION

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Members of the Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations in New York who wish to participate in this Seminar are requested to complete the attached nomination form and return it to the following address:

UNITAR c/o Ms. Sarah Rosengärtner  
1 United Nations Plaza, Suite DC1-603  
New York, NY 10017-3515  
Phone: (212) 963-3021 or 9196  
Fax: (212) 963-9686 or 0995

**Registration deadline: 2 March 2007**