



**“KEY MIGRATION ISSUES” WORKSHOP SERIES¹:
BRIEFING ON
REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES
20 JUNE 2006**

INFORMATION NOTE

BACKGROUND

The Briefing on *Regional Consultative Processes* is part of the “*UNITAR/UNFPA/IOM Key Migration Issues Workshop Series*” launched in 2005. By providing delegates with greater knowledge on key migration issues, the series is intended to offer a forum for discussion and awareness-raising prior to the General Assembly’s High Level Dialogue, which will focus on International Migration and Development on 14-15 September 2006.

Since the mid-1980’s, there has been an attempt to prioritize policy discussions on migration issues at the regional level. This approach bears a number of advantages: capacity building is more efficiently and consistently developed at the regional level; policy discussions tie in relevant countries which are affected by each other’s national migration policies and also provide a forum for the concerns of civil society stakeholders; shared points of interest and concern in this field can be identified; common approaches can be supported; in certain cases, harmonization of policy or even joint policies can be implemented. Progressively, as the issue of international migration policy becomes one of key importance to the international community, there is increasing attention to the benefits of regional consultative processes (RCPs); particularly how they have strengthened regional cooperation; and whether inter-regional discourse is more appropriate than global approaches at this juncture. In addition, RCPs have led to significant governance-related reflection which applies as much to migration as to many other transnational fields. A key question in this regard is whether regionalization is a building bloc towards a better approach at the global level. This issue is of critical relevance to identifying appropriate coordination mechanisms on how to approach migration policy at the international level and is one of the themes for discussion during the HLD.

OBJECTIVES

- To receive additional information on RCPs and to understand their concrete input in strengthening migration policy and cooperation between states.
- To explore the possibilities of cross-fertilization between RCPs as a means of nurturing the communication processes between RCPs.
- To discuss the relationship between coordination and cooperation at regional and global levels with a view to discussion in the HLD.

¹This Series is financially supported by UNFPA.

ORGANIZATION

In a first session, the briefing will look at the work of RCPs, from an RCP secretariat point of view, in terms of their functioning and their role in stimulating cooperation between states within regions. It will draw from concrete examples, examining how cooperation has evolved over time within regions. A second session will present a government point of view with a critical review of the input of such consultations and how to improve their functioning including a discussion on the possibility of cross-fertilization of RCPs as a means of increasing inter-state consultation and cooperation on migration issues, capacity-building and sharing of best practices. The final session will discuss the interplay between regional dimensions and the global debate on migration. The workshop will explore concrete ways in which to improve coordination on migration based on developments and best practices at the regional level, with a view to discussions in the HLD.

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is designed for members of permanent missions responsible for the functional commissions, 2nd and 3rd Committees, ECOSOC and other venues where migration issues are of relevance. Participants are requested to regard their attendance as a firm commitment.

RESOURCE PERSONS

Coordinators of regional secretariats, IOM, RCP participant governments, international organization officials.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The workshop will be conducted in English.

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday, 20 June 2006, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference room 9.

REGISTRATION

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

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 15 JUNE 2006