



INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION (IDM) 2014

Intersessional Workshop, 7-8 October 2014

MIGRATION AND FAMILIES

Annotated Final Agenda

7 October - DAY I	
09:00 – 10:00	<i>Registration</i>
10:00 – 12:30	OPENING SESSION
	<p>WELCOME REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Lacy Swing, Director General, IOM <p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana María Baiardi Quesnel, Minister of Woman, Paraguay
	Session I: Understanding the reality of the migration of families in an era of the greatest human mobility
	<p>More than 232 million people live today outside their countries of origin. Of these, 105 million men and women are economically active, contributing significantly to development, economic progress and social welfare in origin and destination countries alike. Children and young people are increasingly affected by family migration, either by being separated from their parents and remaining behind, by migrating with their families or by migrating alone. Migration represents the means for an improved standard of living for many of these families. However, the reality of migration today poses also serious challenges to families with potential negative impact on their wellbeing. This workshop aims to give visibility to the migrant family and understand the reality surrounding this phenomenon. It will thus discuss differential and complex effects of migration on families, on their rights - both in the countries of destination and origin - and cast light on vulnerabilities and protection challenges as well as promote policy responses. The workshop will also discuss youth migration and the challenges and opportunities faced by this category of migrants and exchange development-oriented policy perspectives and responses. The policy dialogue on the dynamics of family migration aims therefore to contribute to the debate on migration and development.</p> <p>Moderator: William Lacy Swing, Director General, IOM</p>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bience Gawanas, Former AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, Advisor to the Government of Namibia • Johan Ketelers, Secretary General, International Catholic Migration Commission, Geneva • Marco de Giorgi, Director General, National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy • Gabriela Alexandrescu, Executive President, Save the Children Romania • Eleonore Kofman, Professor of Gender, Migration and Citizenship, Middlesex University, UK • Jane Connors, Director, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva • Francois Crépeau, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants (video message) <p>General Discussion</p> <p>The questions below are among those proposed to guide the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current reality of the migration of families? • To what extent does migration occur globally through family migration channels and what are the main push-forces? • Is the contribution of family migration to development correctly assessed? And how well are the costs of migration for families understood? • How can protection challenges of migrant families be better addressed?
12:30 – 13:00	<i>Country Without Parents - Presentation of book and discussion</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Diefenbach, internationally awarded photographer, Germany
13:00-15:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:00 – 15:00	SIDE EVENT: Strengthening international cooperation for the protection of children on the move
15:00 – 16:30	Session II: Conditions, challenges and rights-based responses to support families and children in the context of migration
	<p>Challenges attached to migration of families and of children are increasing and are being exacerbated by a growing worldwide context of labour mobility and restrictive migration policies. In some cases, both parents go abroad to work, while their children are left in the care of the extended family, including older siblings, or even neighbours and friends. Families migrating together are also faced with challenges, ranging from the economic to the social, such as integration in a different cultural and social context. Other circumstances increase the risks of abuse, abandonment and exposure to exploitation, especially for migrants in an irregular situation with no access to support and protection services. The category of children migrating alone (unaccompanied minors) is particularly vulnerable to these kinds of abuse. Current international migration policy discussions increasingly focus on the impact of migration on the rights of children and families. However, international comparative review of experience and research in the field remains limited and the rights-based responses to supporting children and family in the context of migration needs further attention. The session will discuss issues relating</p>

to the migration of families and international law; migration regimes and their impact on families and children; child labour and exploitation; child migrants in countries in crisis, and will present comprehensive policy approaches to address vulnerabilities and protection challenges.

Moderator: Eleonore Kofman, Professor of Gender, Migration and Citizenship, Middlesex University, United Kingdom

Speakers:

- **Ruth Farrugia**, Advocate and Senior Lecturer Coordinator: Human Rights Programme Faculty of Laws University of Malta, Director General, The President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, Malta
- **Kathya Rodriguez**, Director General of Migration, Costa Rica
- **Patricia Mendoza**, Director, Service for the protection of Mexicans in the United States of America, General Department for Protection of Mexicans abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- **Ignacio Packer**, Secretary General, Terre des Hommes International Federation, Geneva
- **Andres Franco**, Deputy Director, United Nations Children’s Fund , Geneva
- **Azfar Khan**, Head, Policy Research and Knowledge Building, International Labour Organization, Geneva

General Discussion

The following questions are among those proposed to guide the discussion:

- What are the vulnerabilities specific to the migration of children?
- How is gender mainstreamed into migration policies and debates?
- What impact do various migration regimes and policies have on children and families?
- What comprehensive policy approaches exist to address migration challenges affecting families at home and abroad?

16:30 – 18:00	Session III: The role of family reunification in facilitating integration
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It has generally been acknowledged that while some States perceive family reunification as playing a critical role in the promotion of integration, others prefer to be more restrictive, believing that protecting national interests is reason enough for limiting family reunification. Family reunification accounts for a large share of legal migration; in some States, it accounts for over 50% of legal immigration. While many family reunification policies have changed over the past ten years, it appears that the majority remain restrictive. A significant drop in the number of applications and permits granted for family reunification has been noted, in part due to the introduction of more restrictive measures over the past decade. This session will provide a forum to discuss and debate the issues, and bring to the fore some of the challenges of the costly consequences of long-term family separation and harsh, restrictive policies. Studies have shown that while it is difficult to measure if family reunification has promoted or hindered the integration of families, it is clear that successful integration is determined by a number of factors including the economic situation in the host country, discrimination, and the attitudes of immigration authorities, etc. Delays also lead to fragmentation with much effort being put by families into the actual reunification process rather than on their contribution to the host society. Children ultimately lose out, being denied the presence of one parent and a chance to live in a stable, inclusive environment.

	<p>Moderator: William Lacy Swing, Director General, IOM</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Wiesner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United States of America • Richard Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Visa Framework and Family Policy Branch, Migration and Citizenship Policy Division, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Australia • Lieven Brouwers, Policy Officer, Immigration and Integration Unit, DG Home Affairs, European Commission • Maurice Wren, Chief Executive, Refugee Council, United Kingdom <p>General Discussion</p> <p>The following questions are among those proposed to guide the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do family reunification policies hinder or promote integration? • Are the requirements for family reunification more of a barrier than a facilitator for social inclusion? What are some of the positive policy approaches and best practices relating to family reunification? Challenges? • Are there implications and costs relating to family reunification both for sending and receiving countries? • What studies have been carried out to measure such implications and costs?
	<p><i>End of Day 1</i></p>

8 October – DAY II	
<p>10:00 – 12:00</p>	<p>Session IV: The effects of migration on family members remaining at home, particularly the children and the elderly</p>
	<p>Migration can bring a lot of positive benefits to migrants and their families, but the realities of contemporary migration often significantly impact not only on the health and welfare of migrants but also on their families who remain behind in the countries of origin. Children are particularly vulnerable in situations of separation from their parents. Long-term separation from their parents can have negative developmental, emotional and health effects on children, with many of them growing up without one or both parents and being raised by their grandparents or extended families. The elderly are another group particularly affected by the migration of family members, with their children or grandchildren very often their only means of support. But beyond the negative social impact, such separation may ultimately set back development of families and communities at home. This session aims to increase understanding of this common migration trend and of the ensuing protection challenges faced by the members of the families affected. It will discuss and exchange perspectives on the reality of transnational and split families and the possible impacts on the physical and mental health and well-being of those staying behind. It will also offer the opportunity to assess policies, programmes and practices that address the protection of migrants’ families who remain behind and promote successful examples of such responses.</p> <p>Moderator: Ambassador Marta Maurás Pérez, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and other international organizations and to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva</p>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corneliu Tarus, Deputy Head, Family and Child Rights Protection Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Moldova • Llang Maama-Maime, Dr., Manager, National Tuberculosis Programme, Ministry of Health, Lesotho • Fred Machulu Onduri, Director Social Protection, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda • Manuel Sierra, Physician and public health specialist, Honduras • Aileen Peñas, Deputy Executive Director, ATIKHA Foundation, the Philippines <p>General Discussion</p> <p>The following topics are proposed for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the social costs of migration? What are some of the impacts on gender relations within families? What are some of the social, economic and health impacts of split families especially on children and the elderly, including psycho-social consequences? • What are some of the key protection challenges faced by families resulting from the migration of the main breadwinners, be it one or both parents? • Are contemporary policies and social services geared towards the new realities of split families and non-traditional families, where one or both parents are not present to play a daily role in the upbringing of their children? What are some examples of policies, programmes and practices addressing the main protection challenges of migrant families?
12:00 – 13:00	Migrant’s Voice Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumaiya Islam, Director, Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association (BOMSA), Bangladesh • Elvis Christian Kenmoe Sieyapdjie, Biomedical Engineer, Cameroon
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
15:00 – 17 :30	Session V: The multiple role of youth in family migration
	<p>About half of the world population is under the age of 24 and about 12 percent of the total number of international migrants comprises this age group. Migration represents an important step towards achieving a sustainable life for young family members. This cohort is thus becoming a powerful agent of change and development essentially through its potential to tap the developmental gaps and complement aging societies in countries of origin and destination alike. They also act as key drivers of diaspora engagement in origin and destination countries in bridging different cultures and societies. In the context of migration of families, the younger generation often represents the only source of revenue for families remaining behind. For this category, migration, coupled with poverty and unemployment, can also pose risks and lead to unacceptable situations, discrimination and exploitation. Unaddressed, these challenges may have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of young migrants, as individuals and as communities, and on the economic development of countries of destination and origin alike. By bringing to the same table representatives of global youth migration and key governmental and non-governmental policy stakeholders, this session will address trends and drivers of youth migration and will examine the impact of migration on the human development of young people while looking at specific social protection rights and needs. It will also consider the role of youth migrants in achieving development goals and thus provide a platform for exchange of best practices for harnessing opportunities and addressing the challenges created by youth migration.</p>

Moderator: Natalia Popova, Senior Labour Economist, Labour Migration Branch (MIGRANT), International Labour Organization

Speakers:

- **Cha Yong-Ho**, Director of Immigrant Integration Division, Korea Immigration Service, Ministry of Justice, South Korea
- **Jason Gagnon**, Economist, Migration and Skills Unit, OECD Development Centre
- **François Beya Kasonga**, Director General of the General Directorate for Migration, Ministry of Interior and Security, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **André Belzile**, First Secretary Humanitarian Affairs, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- **Miguel Polo**, Head of the Area of Evaluation and Technical Assistance in the Spanish Directorate General for Migrations, Spain

General Discussion

The following topics are among those proposed to guide discussions:

- What are the current dynamics of youth migration? What drives young people to migrate?
- What is the impact on young people of the migration of their parents? And how is the family impacted by youth migration?
- How is youth, as migrant or by remaining behind, incorporated in national social security frameworks?
- Are contemporary policy strategies appropriately addressing the new realities and complexities of youth migration? And what is the role for youth-led organizations to respond to such complexities?
- What are the good practices on policies and programmes that promote employment and safe migration among young people?
- How is youth migration mainstreamed into national development strategies?
- How can youth be better engaged in key policy debates?

17:30 – 18:00

CLOSING SESSION

Wrap-up and closing remarks