

99th Session of the IOM Council
Panel Discussion on the Global Migration Group (GMG)
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Statement by
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Thank you very much, Ambassador Swing. At this rather late point of the session, let me just communicate the message from UNICEF regarding tentative plans for its forthcoming chairmanship of the GMG in the first half of 2011.

UNICEF will be consulting with members of the GMG and other stakeholders regarding priorities and activities during UNICEF's chairmanship. In particular, I want to mention the planned UN General Assembly informal thematic debate on international migration and development which will take place on May 19, 2011. UNICEF will work with the GMG Troika to ensure a common approach in preparation for this informal debate.

UNICEF is also currently exploring the possibility of holding a GMG Practitioners Symposium in preparation for the UN General Assembly informal thematic debate. Further consultations with GMG members are needed before a final decision is made in this regard. We hope that GMG priority activities and products for 2011 will be available in early 2011.

In line with the current efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF will continue to highlight the human rights dimensions of international migration, including key challenges for children, youth and adolescents who are affected by the migration process. UNICEF intends to promote practical approaches to mainstreaming migration in national development planning, focusing on pilot countries with the support of UNDP, IOM and other GMG members. UNICEF also proposes to emphasise capacity development and support to institutions and government stakeholders, as well as the development of practical tools. South-South perspectives should be given due consideration in the context of the LDC Conference to be held in 2011.

UNICEF will discuss with the GMG a potential focus during its chairmanship on adolescents and youth in the context of migration, from a human rights and human development perspective. Within this broad framework, specific attention could be given to key issues including gender, health, education and employment. Consideration may also be given to the contributions of young migrants to development in countries of origin, transit and destination.

During 2010, UNICEF has worked with IOM and UNHCR on the challenges of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of trafficking in the context of the Tripartite Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children. We also worked with the Population Division of UN/DESA to develop global estimates of international migrant children and adolescents. UNICEF looks forward a continued and fruitful collaboration with these and other GMG partners during in 2011.

I thank you again for the opportunity to share UNICEF's tentative plans for its GMG chairmanship.