



## THE MANDATE

Migration has become a key issue for countries all over the world. An estimated 175 million persons are international migrants. A combination of contemporary forces including conflict and instability, global demographic and economic trends, facilitated travel and communication, all create powerful incentives for people to move. The scope and nature of migration is such that all countries are affected whether they are countries of origin, transit or destination, or a combination thereof. While national policies on migration are primarily formulated on the basis of national interest, their impact has broader repercussions on states and regions beyond the countries directly concerned. As a result, during the last few years, states have increasingly sought to strengthen inter-state co-operation in order to address migration flows through a coordinated and effective approach. Intergovernmental consultation processes and international initiatives are contributing to this objective.

In his report on the “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change” (A/57/387), the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, identified migration as a priority issue for the international community.

Wishing to provide the framework for the formulation of a coherent, comprehensive and global response to migration issues, and acting on the encouragement of the UN Secretary-General, Sweden and Switzerland, together with the governments of Brazil, Morocco, and the Philippines, decided to establish a Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM). Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Netherlands, Egypt, India, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, the Holy See and the EC subsequently joined the effort and an open-ended Core Group of Governments, co-chaired by Sweden and Switzerland, established itself to support the establishment and follow the work of the Commission.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission was launched by the Secretary-General and a number of governments on 9 December 2003 in Geneva. It commenced its work in January 2004 and will make available its final report to the UN Secretary General and other stakeholders in the summer of 2005. The report will also be discussed in the Core Group of Governments.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Core Group currently comprises: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Holy See and the EC/EU. The Core Group is chaired by Switzerland and Sweden. The Group is open-ended. Other governments have expressed interest in joining the Group which also acts as a reference point for consultations by the Commission.

The mandate of the Commission is threefold:

**1. Placing International Migration on the Global Agenda**

The significance and complexity of the issue of international migration requires a comprehensive debate at the global level among all stakeholders – governments, international organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the media, the corporate sector, migrant associations and individuals. Stakeholders require transparent and relevant information on the causes and consequences of international migration in order to allow them to maximize the benefits of migration and to reduce its potential negative effects. The Commission will gather and disseminate such information and thus contribute to the promotion of public understanding of all issues relevant to migration.

**2. Analyzing Gaps in Current Approaches to Migration and Examining Inter-linkages with Other Issue-Areas**

The Commission will analyze the various approaches adopted by stakeholders when dealing with international migration, in particular governments. In doing so, it will also consider different regional migration perspectives. It will furthermore address the relationship between international migration and such areas as economic development, labor supply and demand, demography, remittances, trade, poverty alleviation, integration and citizenship, social support systems, gender, human rights, public health, transnational organized crime, and overall human, national and international security.

**3. Presenting Recommendations to the UN Secretary-General and other Stakeholders**

The Commission will make recommendations on how to strengthen national, regional and global governance of international migration. These recommendations will include, *inter alia*, proposals to all stakeholders on ways to enhance the positive potential of migration, limit its negative effects and improve the conditions of the individual migrant.

The Commission will consult closely with the heads of all concerned international organizations, government officials, academia and expert groups, civil society and migrant associations. It will take into due consideration the work performed by relevant regional migration processes, such as Puebla (Regional Conference on Migration), MIDSA (Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa), IGC (Inter-governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia), the Budapest Process for the wider European region, and other regional processes and initiatives, as well as, at the global level, the Berne Initiative. Where appropriate, the Commission will make recommendations to relevant bodies on institutional arrangements aimed at enhancing international cooperation.

## **THE COMMISSION**

The Commission is constituted as an independent body, comprised of not more than 15 individuals, serving in their personal capacity. It is headed by two Co-Chairs, Dr. Mamphela Ramphele (South Africa) and Mr. Jan O. Karlsson (Sweden). In order to ensure that the Commission's findings command broad support, its members will be eminent and well-

respected personalities of international renown. The membership will be balanced in terms of region, gender and professional background.

After its constituting session in February 2004, the Commission will meet at least five times, in different regions of the world and upon invitation by governments and interested organizations. Such regional meetings will also involve governments and other concerned actors to assess specific regional migration perspectives and analyze national, regional and inter-regional approaches to migration. The working language of the Commission is English.

## **THE SECRETARIAT**

The Commission's Secretariat is independent and based in Geneva. The Executive Director is Dr. Rolf K. Jenny (Switzerland). The Executive Director and Secretariat staff will provide on-going support to the Commission in collecting, analyzing and producing information for the substantive development of the Commission's work and the Final Report. The Secretariat will assume all research, drafting, liaison, publication, information-sharing and other activities required for the discharge by the Commission of its mandate, and operate a web site dedicated to the Commission's activities, publication of interim reports and related information on migration issues. It will provide the necessary administrative and logistical support for Commission sessions in different regions of the world. The Secretariat will be responsible for the Commission work-plan, and financial management in accordance with the budget; it will also engage in fund raising. Positions in the Secretariat are filled through direct recruitment. Governments and institutions may second staff to the Secretariat.

## **THE BUDGET (in USD - estimated for 18 to 24 months)**

<b>Operational Costs:</b>		<b>2'400'000</b>
Secretariat :	1'700'000	
Research/Publications:	400'000	
Media and other Events/Web-site:	300'000	
<b>Commission:</b>		<b>1'300'000</b>
(6 Commission meetings, including 5 broad-based regional consultations; 4-6 Co-chairs meetings; other events)		
<b>Reserve</b> (for second half of 2005 as applicable, etc.)		<b>300'000</b>
<b><u>Total:</u></b>		<b><u>4'000'000</u></b>

A detailed budget is available at the Commission Secretariat, for presentation to donors.

**Funding:** The funds required for the functioning of the Commission will be solicited by the Commission and the Secretariat from governmental and non-governmental sources, bearing in mind the need to maintain the independent nature of the Commission's work.

## **Annex to the Mandate**

Specifications concerning the Secretariat: The Secretariat will support the work of the Commission. Its level of activity will depend on funding and resources. The Executive Director is required to have substantial expertise in international migration issues as well as managerial experience to ensure the smooth functioning of the Secretariat and the efficient performance of the Commission's activities. The Secretariat will comprise 3 units, i.e. Policy Development and Research, External Relations, and Administration and Logistics. The Secretariat will be responsible for providing information and analysis to support the Commission's fact-finding, and the development of its recommendations. It will collect, analyze and produce information obtained from all relevant sources, coordinate research activities necessary to achieve the goals of the Commission, undertake focused research on specific issues, commission such research to outside entities as required, on behalf of the Commission draft and edit interim reports and the final report, publish specific research documents and studies to enhance public discourse, prepare briefing papers for the Commission, and undertake any other substance-related work requested by the Commission. It will assume all liaison, research, information-sharing, logistical and substantive preparatory work related to meetings of the Commission, including organizing such meetings in different regions in collaboration with governments and other regional stakeholders. The Secretariat will manage all administrative aspects of the Commission, including resource mobilization, budget planning and expenditure control, travel arrangements, etc.

Considering the Commission's independence and the need to complete its final report within 18 months, all Secretariat staff must be highly qualified and able to assume their tasks as of early January 2004. Staff positions can be filled through direct recruitment, and through secondments from governments and international institutions.

Analysis and Research: The Secretariat will prepare briefing papers summarizing the best research available on topics to be considered by the Commission. The Secretariat may enlist the assistance of academics and other scholars in preparing the papers. In addition, the Commission may ask experts to prepare more in-depth analysis of key issues. These papers will be useful for the Commission itself and will be distributed widely to enhance public discourse on international migration by providing well-researched and well-analyzed perspectives on what are often controversial issues.

Consultations: The Commission will consult with experts and representatives of governments, including the open-ended government Core Group, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and migration experts and bodies. The Commission will determine the frequency and the form and content of such consultations.

Regional Meetings: The meetings of the Commission will be held in different regions in order to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of all regions are taken into consideration. Depending on the availability of resources, the Commission will organize or sponsor parallel activities, such as seminars, public hearings, etc.

Information Sharing: The Secretariat will maintain on-going contact with the media, and collect and disseminate migration-related information via the media, in particular through the Commission's Website, [www.gcim.org](http://www.gcim.org). Through this activity, the Commission will contribute to promoting public understanding of migration-related issues.

Additional Products: In addition to the final report, some of the other Commission papers will be published in established journals and periodicals, including background papers, reports on regional and other consultations as appropriate, etc. Additional resources can be used to publish important research documents and studies.