



SUMMARY NOTE

Context

In his report to the 2002 General Assembly "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change"(A/57/387), the United Nations Secretary-General identified migration as a priority for the international community.

The Secretary-General subsequently established an internal Migration Working Group which presented a confidential report to him and the UN Senior Management Group in Spring 2003. The report highlighted various migration aspects, such as the human security of migrants, labour migration and its consequences, migration and development, asylum, migrant integration, the state of international co-operation, *et alia*, and formulated three specific recommendations: i) to close the normative and policy gaps in the regimes for migrants; ii) to fill the institutional gaps in the international system; and iii) **to create a Global Commission on International Migration.**

In July 2003 the Secretary-General met with representatives of Brazil, Morocco, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland in Geneva to discuss the establishment of the Commission. Switzerland and Sweden, in conjunction with Brazil, Morocco and the Philippines, developed the Commission's draft mandate and invited other governments to participate in the process. An open-ended Core Group of States¹ reviewed the mandate and lent support to the establishment of the Commission. The **Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)**, the first-ever global panel addressing international migration, was then officially launched by the Secretary-General and concerned governments on 9 December 2003 in Geneva.

Purpose and Mandate

THE OVERALL AIM OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE FORMULATION OF A COHERENT, COMPREHENSIVE AND GLOBAL RESPONSE TO MIGRATION ISSUES.

The Commission's mandate is:

- **to place international migration on the global agenda** by promoting a comprehensive debate among governments, international organisations, academia, civil society, private sector, media and other actors on all aspects of migration and issues related to migration;
- **to analyze gaps in current policy approaches to migration and examine inter-linkages with other issue-areas** by focusing on various approaches and perspectives of stakeholders in different regions, and by addressing the relationship of migration with other global issues that impact on and cause migration; and
- **to present recommendations to the United Nations Secretary-General and other stakeholders** on how to strengthen national, regional and global governance of international migration.

The Commission

The Commission is independent and is comprised of 18 internationally renowned members, drawn from all regions and bringing together a wide range of migration perspectives and expertise (see list attached). It is co-chaired by **Dr. Mamphela Ramphele** from South Africa, and **Mr. Jan O. Karlsson** from Sweden. The Commission Secretariat is led by Dr. Rolf K. Jenny from Switzerland as Executive Director. The Secretariat is based in Geneva.

¹ 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.

Activity and Approach

In promoting a comprehensive debate on international migration, the Commission seeks to develop a broader understanding of international migration by 1) reviewing government and other migration expertise, policy approaches and best practices in all regions; 2) conducting research and exploring migration inter-linkages with such areas as development, trade, human security, demography, forced displacement, migrant remittances, international co-operation, private sector involvement, role of the media, and national and international security; 3) collecting and disseminating migration-related information (via the media, the Commission's web-site, and other informational tools); and 4) by maintaining an overall focus on how to strengthen international governance of migration.

Under its work-intensive agenda and outreach approach, the Commission actively consults with governments, international bodies, academia and other stakeholders. The open-ended Core Group of States acts as a reference point for on-going consultation, and the Secretary-General and his office as well as other concerned international institutions (including those of the so-called 'Geneva Migration Group') are also being consulted at regular intervals.

The Commission and the Secretariat began their activities on 1 January 2004. To test its own findings and identify areas of emerging consensus for consideration by the international community, the Commission will over a 14-month period organise **five broad-based regional consultations** with governments, NGO's, regional organisations and experts, media, corporate sector, trade unions and other stakeholders. Thematic seminars will also be held with non-governmental organisations, migrant associations, the private sector, trade unions, the media and other stakeholders. In its first meeting in Stockholm in February 2004 the Commission decided on its work programme and its priority areas. The first regional consultations for the **Asia and Pacific** region took place with some 160 participants in May 2004 in Manila. Further regional meetings are planned for the **Mediterranean and Middle East, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas**. The Commission will meet eight times between January 2004 and mid-summer 2005.

Output

The Commission will produce its Final Report by mid-2005, for the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General and other stakeholders. The report is likely to put forward a series of strategic options together with a set of 'actionable steps' for consideration by the Secretary-General and other stakeholders. The Commission will also produce interim reports, undertake and commission specific research activities, publish background studies and other relevant materials, and develop an extensive information sharing activity, including running a web-site.

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