



# unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

*I would like to record the*

**Statement of Dr. Carlos Lopes  
Assistant Secretary-General, UNITAR  
IOM Governing Council, 99<sup>th</sup> Session, 29 November – 2 December 2010**

*who unfortunately was not able to be with you today to guests raised previously*

*This statement borrows pieces of answers*

Director General William Lacey Swing, Deputy Director General Laura Thompson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

*On behalf of Dr. Lopes*

It is ~~my~~ pleasure to address you at the occasion of the annual Governing Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's (UNITAR) intention to broaden its capacity development work in the field of international migration, and in this connection, the expanding areas of collaboration ~~between IOM and UNITAR.~~

*with other IOM members*

Last year, UNITAR and IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining the areas of cooperation ranging from relief provision to the displaced (through UNITAR's UNOSAT Programme of rapid satellite imagery analysis and referral); to fostering strengthened governance through the well-established platform of migration and policy debate at United Nations Headquarters, which continues to educate thousands of decision makers since its inception in 2007, following the first General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

As a notable trend worth highlighting to IOM Member States on this occasion, UNITAR- ~~the principal training arm of the UN system~~ - has begun to formalize its partnerships with UN agencies and other principal actors in order to develop and deliver cutting edge executive style capacity development courses, "knowledge tools", interactive learning platforms and the like, for government officials and other stakeholders globally. This is true in the field of climate change, where UNITAR hosts UN CC:Learn ([www.uncclearn.org](http://www.uncclearn.org)), the integrated UN platform for training services by 22 agencies to support country driven climate change projects. It is also true for peacekeeping training, where UNITAR along with the UN Staff College will deliver for the UN Department of Peacekeeping, major capacity development support to peacekeepers and students of peacekeeping around the world.

*its experience*

Building on ~~45 years of capacity development, and 10 years in the field of global human mobility,~~ UNITAR will propose, through the work of the Global Migration Group (GMG) and through its partnerships with organizations in particular, the IOM, to foster **a more comprehensive and coherent array of capacity development services** for Member States. As such, the Institute will respond to what the IOM flagship publication (2010) identifies as the need for a more comprehensive and systematic approach to meeting the training needs of migration stakeholders; what the Global Commission on International Migration (2005) concluded as an urgent need to develop "coherence, capacities and cooperation" to govern migration effectively; and what the Doyle Report (2002) outlined as means to strengthen the UN's governing role in this field.

*(2010)*

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Let me outline four strands on which UNITAR intends to pursue its capacity development support to Member States in the coming year:

First, UNITAR will provide timely and targeted knowledge tools to support migration processes and dialogues such as the President of the UN General Assembly thematic debate (Spring 2011) and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Fall 2011), capturing on current challenges requiring concise and targeted training.

Through UNITAR's extensive experience in developing executive-style training, the Institute will offer **migration-related "knowledge tools"** defined as concise, interactive, timely and accessible instruments which serve to inform and educate relevant stakeholders on specific aspects of migration. As for all such UNITAR tools, their contents will be vetted by an advisory board of acclaimed migration experts, and their knowledge impacts assessed through UNITAR's standardized assessment and monitoring requirements. Examples of themes being discussed are: a debrief on *migration processes and outcomes*; a *toolkit on implementing the UN Handbook on mainstreaming migration into development planning*; a *similar tool for preparing a Migration Profile*; a *knowledge piece on current obstacles to ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention*; a *strategy brief on best practices in engaging local authorities*.

Second, the Institute will expand its capacity development projects through its existing network of nine affiliated training centres (CIFAL Network) in a priority area which is currently under-served, namely that of **migration training for local actors** ([www.unitar.org/ldp](http://www.unitar.org/ldp)). UNITAR's CIFAL Network delivers capacity development to municipal and regional authorities on all aspects of "access to basic services" and global challenges met through local governance solutions. Through this network, UNITAR is developing a strategy to equip local actors with the skills to better address matters of social cohesion in destination points; urban service delivery in the context of transit and arrivals; and the impacts on local development post migrant outflows. Statements by senior representatives of the European Union and the United States at the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Puerto Vallarta Mexico, emphasized that solutions to many migration challenges, including those relating to public perception and social cohesion must be tackled at the local level. Furthermore, it was stated that governments and other stakeholders must rise to the call in assisting local authorities in meeting their shared responsibilities in this field.

Third, UNITAR will continue to **foster dialogue and policy debates on migration and development**. The *Migration and Development Series at UN Headquarters* provides an established arena through which government and civil society representatives, UN staff and other migration stakeholders heighten their awareness and understanding of international migration from legal, political and institutional perspectives. In tune with research and policy trends, and bridging migration with other key UN priorities, the *Migration and Development Series* enables its beneficiaries to prepare for discussions and negotiations on migration within and outside the UN system. UNITAR and its partners (IOM, the MacArthur Foundation and UNFPA) have fostered a platform for face2face dialogue which has doubled its beneficiary base since its inception<sup>i</sup>; ensured a voice to underrepresented stakeholders<sup>ii</sup>; and consistently generated positive feedback from beneficiaries<sup>iii</sup>. In 2008, the *Migration and Development Series* was formally recognized as the central meeting place at the UN, for migration stakeholders<sup>iv</sup>.

Once again, the Series demonstrates UNITAR's singular ability to generate positive results in the context of multi-stakeholder collaboration, in particular within the UN



and GMG contexts. (Past successes include the International Migration Policy Programme (IMP) (1998-2004) and more recently, the chairmanship of the GMG (July-Dec. 2009)). The *Migration and Development Series* nourishes support for a stronger UN approach to research, policy knowledge and information sharing in this field. In addition to providing a growing body of evidence-based knowledge for UNITAR's training activities, it is also a testing ground for training methodologies; a venue for feedback and engagement on current training needs; and an opportunity to actively engage in multi-stakeholder partnerships with the UN and others.

Finally, fourth, UNITAR will establish as it has in other fields, a two-way interactive platform for all GMG partners to meet training requests and to offer training services. The **migration capacity development portal** will work to satisfy broader trends within the international community to deliver "as one" on knowledge tools and training. It will also cap on the global trend to "share the world's knowledge" through open source educational outlets<sup>v</sup>. With a record of achievement in facilitating activities in the field of migration (as in other fields), UNITAR proposes to work within the framework of the GMG to coordinate, develop, update and deliver in the context of the migration capacity development portal.

The portal would offer coherent and comprehensive online courses and knowledge tools (based on existing and to be developed materials). It will also work with the existing GFMD "Platform for partnerships" (PfP) initiative ([www.gfmd.org/pfp](http://www.gfmd.org/pfp)) which serves to link partners in pursuit of responding to GFMD recommendations. The migration capacity development portal will seek to disseminate and build on planned projects within the PfP (including those relating to diaspora contributions, protecting unaccompanied minors, and actualizing migration profiles).

Ladies and gentlemen, I conclude by referring to the forthcoming publication entitled "Global Migration Governance" (Oxford U.P., 2011). The publication points to the need to establish "**knowledge capacity**"—resources to engage analytically with developments in migration (in terms of both the issue and its wider political and institutional contexts). The same publication indicates that: "*none of the major institutions working on migration have significant capacity in this area.*"

In fulfilling the functions I have outlined, UNITAR- with key partners beginning with the IOM-- expects to lead through **knowledge multiplication**: performing its role as convener, facilitator and trainer, and delivering for Member States in the field of migration capacity development.

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<sup>i</sup> An indication of the Series' attraction and perceived value, its following increased by over 50% in 2009-2010 as compared to its first years of existence (2007-2008 ).

<sup>ii</sup> 22% of experts are representatives from developing countries; and 29% members of civil society (2010 statistics). (This is thanks to the contributions of the MacArthur Foundation and the UN Population Fund, in addition to IOM).

<sup>iii</sup> In evaluation questionnaires, beneficiaries have responded overwhelmingly (over 80%) to the utility of the Series (the extent to which seminars meet stated learning objectives), its applicability to their work, and whether they would recommend to their colleagues.

<sup>iv</sup> At the time of the UNDESA Coordination meeting, November 2008

<sup>v</sup> "Education: for wide exposure, universities put courses on the Web", International Herald Tribune, 1 November 2010