



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES

Migration Profiles as a Tool for Informed Policy Making, Integration and Reintegration and Emergency Response *GFMD Meeting in Manila, 20-21 October 2011*

Statement by

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Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, a pleasant good morning to all.

It is an honor to address this important gathering and IOM is fortunate to have been requested by the host government, the Philippines, and the Chair of the GFMD, the Swiss government, to provide technical and expert support to this event.

We, in IOM, recognize the importance of the *Global Forum on Migration and Development* and recall the successful global meeting of this process held in Manila in 2008. It is heartening to see that GFMD is once again meeting in Manila, which shows the importance of the Migration and Development framework to the Philippine government, who is an important partner of IOM in many areas in this country and beyond.

Let me at the outset highlight, as many of you know, that IOM's work in migration management cuts across many aspects of the migration spectrum. Given the nature of the beneficiaries and the government priorities we serve, it is no surprise that development is high on the agenda of IOM, as it is for many of you gathered here today.

Turning to the focus of this particular GFMD event - **Migration Profiles as a Tool for Informed Policy Making, Integration and Reintegration and Emergency Response** - for the next two days, this gathering will take stock of migration data. In doing so, we will learn about the tools which may be useful in managing the growing complexity of migration-related information, and share insights on how to respond to an equally expanding need for such data, its utilization and accessibility as well as on how to validate and optimize the use of such data towards an informed policy-making as well as for integration, reintegration and emergency responses.

The importance of data in the context of increasing global movement of people needs no further emphasis. There are many stakeholders, just as there are many different patterns of motivations and forces influencing migratory flows. As such, there are multiple development opportunities, and needs, that can benefit migrants, their families and others that are concerned with and often emerge out of migration processes. There are many issues and challenges which cannot be ignored but require a comprehensive response involving a multi-stakeholder involvement ranging from immediate responses to others that need longer-term and sustainable solutions.

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In order to address migration management in a holistic manner, there is much wisdom in addressing the issue of how to capture, use and manage migration data, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The thematic nexus of migration with development in general, and specifically with health, climate change, security, youth, urbanization, and many others, has expanded the demand for timely and up-to-date information. Migration statistics is needed beyond just counting warm bodies. More horizontal and vertical integration and analysis of data must be addressed. Quantitative and qualitative data increasingly needs to be correlated through advanced data capturing and analytical techniques.

The growth of information technology offers various forms in which data can be captured, processed and accessed across boundaries. As a result, there cannot be any excuse for inefficiencies in migration data management. Bilateral and multilateral dialogues become more productive when a system of data harmony, comparability and free exchange is in place.

So today and tomorrow, this forum is presented with a unique opportunity to reflect on these demands, opportunities and challenges that I attempted to highlight. I sincerely hope that we will learn from each other through an interactive and constructive dialogue with the help of the experts who will help us in planning together to prepare for the advancement of an organized migration information system.

In closing, on behalf of IOM, I express my deep gratitude to the governments of Switzerland and the Philippines for enabling IOM Philippines to be of service in this important seminar. We look forward to a very fruitful activity, and hope that the action plan you will conclude will be a useful reference for all of us here and beyond, and that it will serve as a durable, meaningful and relevant migration information system that will lead to measurable results in the area of Migration and Development.

Thank you very much and I wish you all the very best.

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