



JOINT STATEMENT
Global Migration Group

Delivered on behalf of the GMG by

Mr. Richard Morgan, Director, Policy and Practice, UNICEF

*International Workshop on Migration Profiles:
Developing Evidence-based Migration and Development policies*

held by the Swiss Chair-in-Office,
Global Forum on Migration and Development¹

New York, 30 June 2011

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Global Migration Group (GMG) was established by the Secretary-General in early 2006 in response to a recommendation of the Global Commission on International Migration. At present, the Group comprises 16 members, including 14 entities of the United Nations system, the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration. Our task is to promote the wider application of relevant international instruments and norms relating to international migration and to encourage the adoption of a more coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach to international migration. We must strengthen cooperation and coordination, both nationally and internationally. Above all, a comprehensive approach requires policy and institutional coherence.

At the request of Member States, the GMG continues to lend its expertise to the Global Forum process, both as individual entities and collectively. We have prepared papers, seconded staff, contributed to the debate, organized side events, participated in working groups, and supported civil society. We have prepared joint GMG reports and fact sheets and organized technical symposia on issues of concern to the Global Forum. As documented in the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the 65th session of the General Assembly, GMG engagement in implementing Global Forum outcomes has increased over time.

Improving the evidence on international migration and development, including remittances, has been a constant on the agenda of both the Global Forum and the GMG. That is why we play an active role in the GFMD *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research. That is also why UNICEF, as GMG Chair-in-Office, created a working group on data and research, led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM, which liaises with the GFMD *Ad Hoc* Working Group.

¹ With support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the MacArthur Foundation.

One of the five recommendations of the *Migrants Counts* report focuses on the 2010 round of population censuses. As of 1 June 2011, 153 countries, covering more than 80 per cent of the global population, had conducted a census as part of the current census round. This opportunity to derive timely migration information should not be lost. It is critical for you, Member States, and for us, international organizations, that the migration data from those censuses are disseminated as speedily as possible according to internationally agreed standards. UNFPA and the World Bank support the processing, dissemination and analysis of census data.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Improving migration data and research is not only relevant for Migration Profiles. During the informal thematic debate on international migration that the General Assembly held on 19 May 2011, many Member States referred to the policies and programmes that they have developed to enhance the development benefits of international migration. Since 2006, almost a quarter of a billion US dollars has been invested in multilateral activities on international migration and development. We need reliable data and research to evaluate those policies and programmes. The evidence on how to maximize the benefits of international migration for development and on how to address its challenges, including irregular migration, must be strengthened.

In 2013, the General Assembly will conduct the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which will take stock of advances made since 2006. By working together as GMG and with Member States, we can leverage the migration information we produce. We hope that our initiative, which complements the support that IOM and other agencies are already providing to Governments producing Migration Profiles, will be welcomed.

Thank you.