



Topic:	3rd International Conference for Financing & Development
Session:	Plenary Session (5 mins. max.)
Venue:	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
IOM Participants:	William Lacy Swing, Director General Jill Helke, Director, ICP Christopher Richter, Associate Migration Officer – SLO NY Josiah Ogina, Chief of Mission – Addis Ababa
Prepared by:	ICP, L. Lonnback, SLO NY, IOM Addis Ababa
IOM Focal point	J. Helke

I. Talking Points: (5 mins. max.)

- Since the elaboration of the MDG in 2000:
 - The number of international migrants have increased by 32% reaching almost 250 million
 - The number of migrant workers have more than tripled
 - The number of forcibly displaced have reached close to 60 million, the highest since WWII
 - Relevant to this conference; the recorded remittances to developing countries have increased exponentially soon reaching USD 440bn per year

- We know migrants are agents of development:
 - Evidence from the United States’ has shown that an increase in foreign students boosts the number of patents
 - In 2006, after working for more than 20 years in France, A Moroccan scholar mobilized professors and researchers from the academic and scientific Moroccan Diaspora to create the International University of Rabat (UIR)



Background Notes and Talking Points for the Director General

- Afghan diaspora were the first to invest in Afghanistan's telecommunications industry, establishing what is now a multimillion dollar industry
- On the other hand, IOM research has gathered around 40,000 migrant deaths in transit since the elaboration of the MDGs, seeking a better future for them and their children. More than 9 million migrants around the world are victims of forced labour or human trafficking. And not a single week goes by without hateful crimes towards migrants being reported on the news.
- Thankfully, the Sustainable Development Goals being negotiated recognize migration as an enabler for sustainable development. We have seen similar policy developments at the Sendai conference, and the Climate Conference in Paris could do the same.
- Therefore, my message today is that investing in migration policy and not leaving migrants behind is one of the most powerful policy innovations for Sustainable Development.
- We know that investing in migration policy pays off, here are some examples:
 - IOM is working with governments to support less expensive remittance channels and increase financial literacy of remittance receivers. Our programming experience puts a price tag of around 1 million dollars per year for a small country. Implementing a broader program to reach the SDG target would save migrants and their families billions every year.
 - By implementing programs such as IOM's International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) migrants and their families stand to save much



Background Notes and Talking Points for the Director General

of the USD 2.5 to 5bn that they pay to migration intermediaries, including many unscrupulous recruiters.

- Studies show that migrants can make significant contributions to reconstruction efforts when their country of origin is struck by natural disasters. Often times, migrants' remittances are more predictable and resilient than other forms of financial assistance in times of crisis. Such contributions raised approximately USD 360M to rebuild Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.
- But more importantly, investing in migration is investing in human dignity, and migrants' lives are priceless.
- IOM will work with governments and stakeholders to support broad-based migration policies on issues such as orderly migration, migrant socio-economic inclusion, including the human rights of migrants and humanitarian aspects of mobility. IOM has taken the initiative to launch an International Migration Policy Index to follow-up and review progress made in this regard.
- In conclusion, IOM strongly supports the language of the draft outcome document regarding commitments to lowering remittance cost, increasing financial literacy of migrants as well as enabling, engaging and empowering diaspora in trade and home community development. However, we should note the role of women migrants, their financial inclusion and the need for gender-sensitive programming in this regard, for instance in paragraph 40 or 41 the draft outcome document.