

# **International Migration and the United Nations**



**UNITED NATIONS**

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**DESA**

# Genesis of the HLD

- 1994: International Conference on Population and Development: A bitter debate on family reunification => Call for International Conference on Migration and Development
- 1995: First report on views of Governments regarding Conference

# Resolution 58/208 of 2003

- General Assembly decided to hold a “High-level Dialogue” in 2006
- Decided that the outcome document of the HLD would be a “Chairman’s Summary”
- Requested a report that would review the literature

# Other events in 2003

- Responding to a “request” of the SG, Sweden and Switzerland set up the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)
- 19 Commissioners serving in their personal capacity
- 30 countries supported the effort

# GCIM Report

- GCIM worked from January 2004 to end of 2005
- GCIM released its report “Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action” in October 2005
- Six principles
- 33 Recommendations – one to SG

# Follow-up to Recommendation 33

- Secretary-General met with Executive Heads of UN entities working on migration and IOM (end October 2005)
- Decided to expand Geneva Migration Group
- In April 2006 the SG established the Global Migration Group which includes nine UN entities and IOM

# Resolution 60/227 of 2005

- Set date for the HLD: 14-15 September 2006
- Decided that the HLD would have four round tables:
  1. Migration and development
  2. Human rights, trafficking
  3. Multidimensional aspects, including remittances
  4. Partnerships and capacity building

# SG's Report for the HLD

- The Secretary-General's report recommended the establishment of a consultative Forum on international migration as follow-up to the HLD
- Forum: State owned, open to all Member States, voluntary, non-decision-making, consultative

**HLD took place on 14-15  
September**

**127 Member States made statements  
plus about 10 Observers**

**About 90 Member States were  
represented at the Vice-Ministerial  
level or above**

**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION  
IS A POSITIVE FORCE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT WHEN  
SUPPORTED BY  
APPROPRIATE POLICIES**

**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION  
IS A GROWING PHENOMENON  
AND A COMPONENT OF  
DEVELOPMENT**

**IT IS POSSIBLE AND ADVISABLE  
TO STRENGTHEN  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

**RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS  
NECESSARY TO REAP THE  
BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRATION**

## **VIEWS ON FORUM:**

**127 Member States participated  
80 expressed support**

**Three expressed reservations:  
Australia, Bulgaria, USA  
(preferred regional approach)**

# Aftermath of the Dialogue: 2006

**The Government of Belgium  
volunteered to organize and host the  
first meeting of a Global Forum on  
International Migration and  
Development in Brussels  
( 10-11 July 2007)**

**Resolution 61/208: GA decided to  
consider follow-up to HLD in 2008**

# First GFMD: Brussels, 10-11 July 2007

- Human capital development and labour mobility: maximizing opportunities and minimizing risks
- Remittances and other diaspora resources: Increasing their net volume and development impact
- Enhancing policy and institutional coherence and promoting partnerships

*Second GFMD: Manila, 29-30 October 2008*  
**PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING MIGRANTS FOR  
DEVELOPMENT**

- Migration, development and human rights
- Secure, legal migration can achieve stronger development impacts
- Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships

# Third GFMD: Athens, 4-5 November 2009

Overall theme:

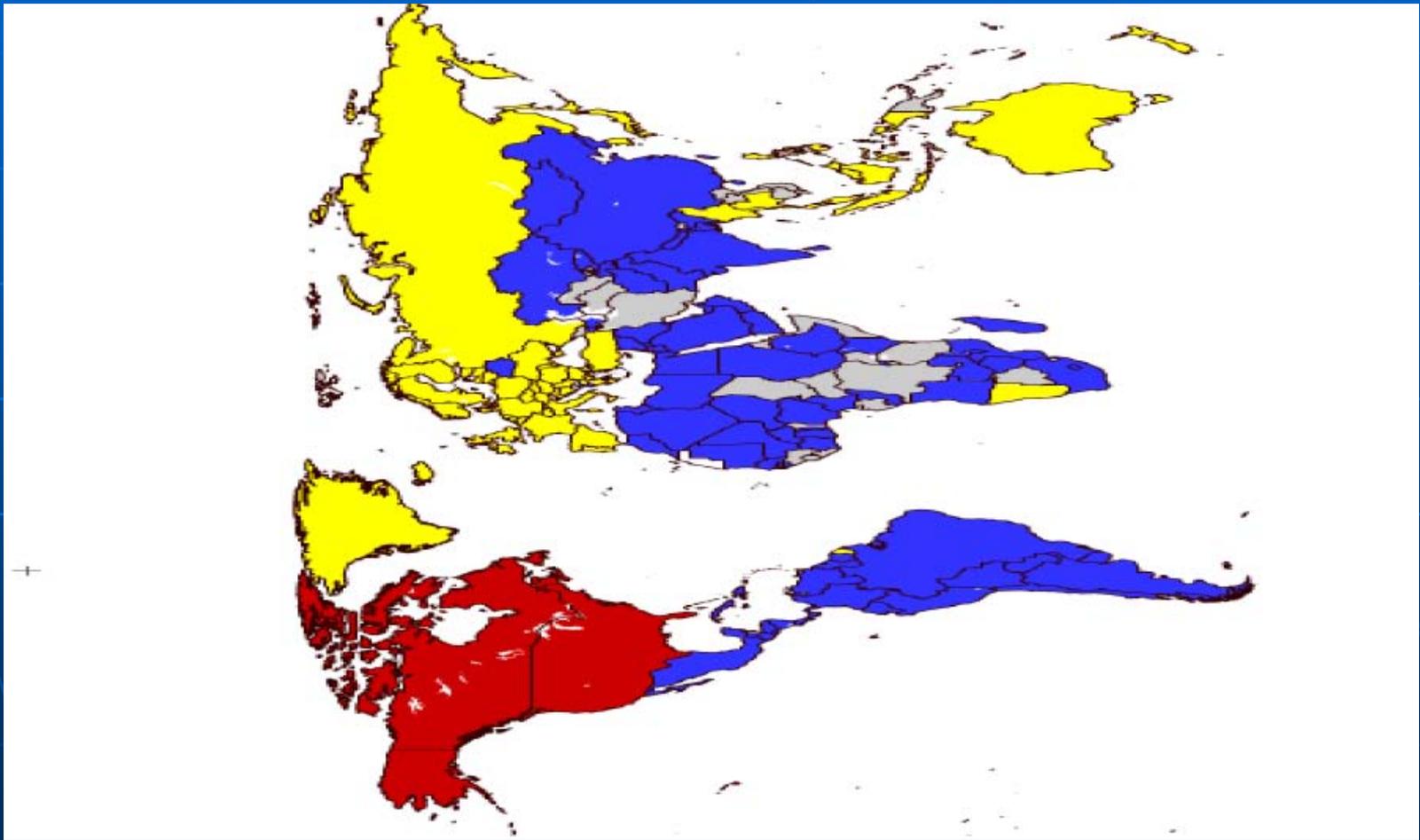
**Integrating migration policies in  
development strategies for the benefit of  
all and especially countries of origin**

## 2007: Mexican Resolution on GFMD

In December 2007 Mexico introduced a resolution entitled “Global Forum on Migration and Development” to try to establish a formal link between GFMD and the United Nations

The resolution was negotiated over a period of six months and was adopted after a divisive vote.

# Votes on the GFMD resolution



# Follow-up to the HLD: 2008

Governments were consulted on how to follow-up the 2006 HLD. There were two views:

- GFMD was sufficient follow-up
- Wished to convene HLDs periodically to review in the United Nations advances made by GMFD

# The 2008 Resolution

- Calls for a second HLD in 2013
- Calls for a one-day informal thematic debate in 2011

# EU's explanation of position

- Considers GFMD as the appropriate intergovernmental body to discuss international migration
- The Forum will be hosted in 2010 by Argentina, 2011 by Spain and 2012 by Morocco, so 2013 is free
- An HLD in 2013 could be a preparation for discussion of migration at the next International Conference on Population (2014)

To be continued.....

(but I retire in 2012)