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SCALING UP PARLIAMENTARY ACTION ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Review and follow-up session to be held during the 123rd IPU Assembly

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The programme of the forthcoming 123rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, 4 - 6 October 2010) includes a review and follow-up session on action taken by parliaments and the IPU to give effect to the resolution on *Migration and development* adopted by the 113th IPU Assembly. The session is closely linked to preparations for the *Fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development*, to be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in November 2010.

The session will take place on Tuesday, 5 October, from 9 to 11 a.m., in Room 3 at the CICC. A concept note, outlining the session's overall objectives and working modalities, is enclosed.

May I invite your delegation to the 123rd IPU Assembly to designate one or more of its members to attend the review and follow-up session on migration and development and to contribute to its deliberations. We count on your support and on the active participation of your delegation in this important exercise.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General



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(Geneva, 5 October 2010)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Five years ago, the 113th IPU Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution on *Migration and development*. This document became an essential IPU policy statement defining the Organization's overall approach to the multifaceted issue of international migration, which is likely to dominate the global development agenda in the coming years. Directed at both governments and parliaments, the resolution underscored the need to pursue systematic, comprehensive and coordinated migration policies nationally and internationally.

Three years later, the IPU adopted a follow-up resolution placing special emphasis on the situation of migrant workers from a human rights perspective. The resolution recommended inter alia that migration be systematically placed on the agenda for parliamentary dialogue between countries of origin, transit and destination.

The IPU has been holding, at regular intervals, review and follow-up sessions on action taken by parliaments and the Organization to give effect to past IPU resolutions. Such sessions serve not only to hold implementation of resolutions up to close scrutiny but are also used to update policies and coordinate positions in the light of new developments, including discussions taking place at relevant UN forums.

The next IPU Assembly, due to take place from 4 to 6 October 2010 in Geneva, will provide a good opportunity to hold a review and follow-up session focusing on international migration.

The current global economic context is characterized by new challenges that underscore just how interconnected migration and development really are. As suggested by some leading experts on international migration, the issue of global governance of migration will be crucial insofar as nations can no longer be divided into strictly "sending" and "receiving" countries.

This special IPU session on international migration is timely in view of the preparations for the *Fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)*, to be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 11 November 2010. The central theme of the Fourth GFMD Meeting is "Partnerships for Migration and Human Development: Shared Prosperity – Shared Responsibility". The organizers of the GFMD Meeting intend to revive the debate on some previously neglected issues considered too complex for multilateral discussions. These include inter alia the root causes of international migration; discussion of migration from the human development perspective; the concepts of shared prosperity and shared responsibility;

partnerships among countries of origin, transit and destination; and the impact of climate change on migration and development.

The fact that the next IPU Assembly is taking place in Geneva - a global focal point for migration-related expertise with several relevant UN and other agencies (International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) located in its midst – will certainly help enrich the debate, thereby laying the foundations for long-term partnerships.

Objectives

- Assess implementation of IPU resolutions and decisions dealing with the issue of migration and development, including follow-up action on the national level;
- Take stock of relevant events and initiatives carried out by regional and subregional parliamentary assemblies and organizations in cooperation with the IPU;
- Provide an information update on the efforts of various intergovernmental bodies, including the United Nations, to manage migration and development in a comprehensive and balanced way, with a special focus on new issues such as the nexus between climate change and migration;
- Discuss how to enhance migration policy development and governance at the international level;
- Consider ways of associating parliaments and the IPU more closely with the GFMD process, including its fourth meeting, to be held in Mexico in November 2010;
- Launch a new IPU publication tentatively entitled *A Parliamentary Handbook on Migration and Human Rights*;
- Formulate proposals for further parliamentary action on migration and development at the national and international levels.

Format

According to the provisional programme of the 123rd IPU Assembly (<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/123agnd.htm#programme>), the special event on migration and development is scheduled to take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 October. The session is part and parcel of the overall Assembly business, which means that all 155 IPU Member Parliaments are automatically invited to attend. It should be borne in mind, however, that the session is one of many parallel events taking place at the Assembly at that time and that the number of delegates who will actually attend the session might be lower than expected.

Discussion at the session should be informal, interactive and consist of a constructive dialogue. To add political weight to the debate, the session could be chaired by the IPU President. Thematic presentations could include:

- *Overview of reports on follow-up action to the 2005 IPU resolution on migration and development and presentation of the new IPU Handbook on Migration and Human Rights*
Mrs. Rosario Green, Member of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
- *Fostering the debate on partnerships and synergies to address the causes, challenges and effects of migration for development, and of development for migration: Update on preparations for the GFMD Meeting in Puerto Vallarta*

Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, 2010 GFMD Chair-in-Office, Deputy Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

- *Facilitating an international approach and response to migration challenges: How to build global cooperation and collaboration*

Ambassador Sergio Marchi, former Canadian MP and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration; and Commissioner on the UN Global Commission on International Migration

- *Ensuring respect for the fundamental rights of migrant women in Europe. Conclusions of the Regional Conference on Migration and violence against women in Europe, co-organized by the IPU and PACE (Paris, 10-11 December 2009)*

Mr. Paul Wille, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Each presentation will be followed by a brief question-and-answer exchange. Interventions from the floor can include comments and observations not only by parliamentary delegates, but also by representatives of observer organizations (ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNHCHR) who could be specifically requested to be present in the room and ready to contribute to the debate.

Outcome

The review and follow-up session is not a decision-making body and is not intended to adopt formal resolutions. However, a detailed description of its proceedings will be included in the official record of the Assembly.

At the end of the session, the Chair will summarize the debate, paying special attention to those proposals and recommendations that can be translated into public policy. The text of the summary by the Chair, including proposals for further action, will be transmitted to the GFMD as part of the parliamentary contribution to the meeting in Puerto Vallarta.