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MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY*

I am deeply honoured to write this editorial for the first edition of the bulletin on the migration dialogue in the Western Mediterranean (5+5). This bulletin intends to be a complementary tool in enhancing information exchange among Western Mediterranean countries and relevant stakeholders, a priority identified by the 5+5 countries and stated in the Tunis Declaration. It is in this line that the Kingdom of Morocco, which hosted the Second Ministerial Conference In 2003, requested the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate the concept of this periodical newsletter.

Working on the dynamics of migration in this region is indeed a most exciting task for IOM for several reasons, as well as for a historical reason in view of the original role of migrations in the emergence of flourishing civilisations which imparted lasting common features to this region. Migration issues in the Western Mediterranean, in view of their diversity, constitute a tremendous potential for cooperation and for dialogue between neighbouring countries.

The importance of an informal dialogue on migrations in the Western Mediterranean is due to the fact that this dialogue is still the best guarantee for a global management of joint migration issues. Within that perspective the countries on both sides of this region are called to jointly work towards what I would call a harmonious migration future where migration could be, if well managed, a powerful factor for economic and cultural wealth.

The prime objective of the 5+5 migration dialogue is indeed to promote optimum management of these migration issues for the benefit of the migrants, the governments of the region and civil societies.

The domains of the migration dialogue in the Western Mediterranean are very extensive so that the States in the region have a firm basis to work on extremely important questions such as research on migration, a productive use of transfers, prevention and combating of human trafficking and other forms of irregular migration, the rights of migrants and the social integration in new communities, health and migration and capacity building of those responsible for migration management.

Furthermore, the dynamics and greater consolidation of the migration dialogue (5+5) are also most beneficial for the other migration dialogue processes, which IOM is supporting in other regions of the world.

The political success of the Tunis (2002) and Rabat (2003) ministerial conferences as well as the high level of expertise of the different technical dialogue meetings are clear indications of the ever greater commitment to strengthen the 5+5 migration consultation process.

I am confident that the success of the 2004 Algiers ministerial conference will be a guarantee for the continuation of this tradition.

I can personally assure you of IOM's efforts as a neutral facilitator to ensure that this migration dialogue becomes even more fruitful.

* by BRUNSON MCKINLEY, IOM's DIRECTOR GENERAL



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INTERVIEW WITH MRS CHEKROUNI

Minister Delegated to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,
in charge of the Moroccan Community Living Abroad. MFAC

In October 2003, Morocco hosted the second 5+5 Dialogue Ministers' Conference on Migration in Western Mediterranean. According to you, what are the main achievements of this dialogue and major challenges in this respect?

The major achievement from my point of view is the establishment of this permanent dialogue, even though informal, which will enable us taking up all challenges linked with migration. The second essential achievement is that the conclusions of the Second Ministers' Conference held in Rabat in 2003 constitute, within the scope of the Tunis declaration implementation, a realistic project based on a new and overall approach of migration issues, stresses the political will of the 5 western Northern Mediterranean countries regarding their contribution in finding real and lasting solutions.

Morocco suggested during the Rabat conference that special emphasis be given to three objectives set forth in the Tunis declaration: irregular migration, co-development and migrants' integration. Why do you think these topics are particularly important?

The specific importance of the three areas for action suggested by Morocco lies in the logical result drawn from the intrinsic relationship between the treatment of migratory flows through concerted management of people's movement and human exchange promotion, fight against migrants' trafficking, rights and duties of migrants and integration process, as well as migration and co-development. As for irregular migration, which we can never accept, we believe that medium and long term co-development action only can slow down this worrying phenomenon. However, we have to stress the necessity to promote and encourage regular migration. Migration remains a right underlined by international agreements, and the claim to dignity of migrant citizens serving their host countries remains quite legitimate

Morocco considers that keeping ties with its citizens abroad is high priority. Would you describe for us the instruments designed and set for this purpose by your government?

We opted, from the very beginning, for an approach based on the notion of full citizenship for all Moroccans throughout the world. Outside this approach, we can have no real solutions to migratory issues. Our strategy is based on the reform of religious education and supervision systems aimed at our fellow-countryman and fellow-countrywoman abroad, the guarantee of their political representation at all levels, in addition to the reinforcement of ties linking them closely to their mother-country: Morocco

In which areas and how international organizations, according to you, can make a valuable contribution to the dialogue on migration?

We have to emphasize that the contribution of international organizations, particularly the International Organization for Migration, is very important, especially with regard to attendant measures supporting migrants' situation reform projects, and support to efforts aiming at bringing viewpoints closer within this process.

The word "migration" is often associated to the word "problem", what do you think of this association?

No, migration is from my point of view a natural phenomenon, a vehicle for cultural and human rapprochement, a factor of stability, development and shared economic growth. His Majesty, King Mohamed VI expressed strongly and on several occasions this message. The future of migration depends on our joint will to go beyond prejudices and stereotypes, and on our joint action by which we will contribute in addressing a positive message to the rest of the world, an action that redeems the positive aspects of migration.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AND NORTH AMERICA: *The Puebla Process*

The **Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)** is a multilateral regional forum on international migration in which countries with varying migration perspectives – based on experiences involving situations of origin, transit, and destination – address an issue of common interest.

The **RCM is also referred to informally as the “Puebla Process”** in acknowledgement of the Mexican city where this ample and diverse grouping of countries had their first meeting.

Member countries of the RCM currently consist of **Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States**. The RCM has granted **observer** status to several countries upon considering their request, as in the case of Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica and Peru. Moreover, member countries have benefited from the substantive and logistical support of various regional and international organizations, also participating as observers.

The **fundamental tenets** on which the RCM bases its actions are **the protection and respect for the human rights of migrants**, irrespective of the their migration status; **the promotion of orderly and secure migration**; and the **dialogue and cooperation among countries, with the active participation of civil society**.

Formation of the RCM and the conduct of its activities have allowed, in general terms, for treatment of migration issues in an innovative way – melding effectively the migration concerns shared by countries regarding situations of origin, transit and destination – while seeking dialogue and cooperation with civil society. It also helped consolidation of a mechanism for the exchange of information and coordination of actions, and for the deepening of understanding, from a multilateral perspective, of the dynamics of migration and its links to regional development. Additionally, the RCM improved coordination among agencies responsible for carrying out migration and foreign policies, an indispensable element for addressing migration phenomena in an increasingly globalized world, where migration has become a priority issue in the international agenda and in the conduct of bilateral relations between countries.

In specific terms, from a process development perspective, the RCM: Adopted a **Plan of Action**, agreed to by the member counties, representing consensus guidelines for regional action and a basic framework for guiding and coordinating activities of the governments and international organizations; Served as the **principal migration forum** for confronting the special policy implications for migration in this region ; Completed a number of significant activities as agreed upon in the Plan of Action (which is subject to regular updating and revision).

Activities include **Seminars/Workshops** held on high-interest migration topics; **Diverse studies and papers** covering a wide range of subjects; **Self-sustaining projects** to provide assistance to migrants; **Development of** a Statistical Information System on Migration for Central America and Mexico (SIEMCA/SIEMMES); **Establishment of Liaison Officer Networks** to enhance coordination on consular protection and combating migrant trafficking and smuggling; **Comparative analysis**, updated regularly, **of legislation** in RCM countries against the trafficking and smuggling of migrants; **Joint training and law enforcement exercises** to stem trafficking, smuggling and other.

The International Organization for Migration (**IOM**) has played a significant role since the RCM was established in 1996, as well as in its consolidation process and in the implementation of activities as defined by the governments of member countries.

For more information on the Puebla Process, please visit the Conference's Virtual Secretariat: www.rcmvs.org

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

A regional seminar entitled "Irregular Migration in the Western Mediterranean: Challenges and Responses" was held in Tripoli on 8th and 9th June.

The two-day event, organized under the auspices of CIMO by IOM and the Libyan General People's Committee for Public Security brought together some 40 officials from nine Western Mediterranean countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia) to discuss improved regional cooperation in the fight against irregular migration.

Ambassadors and representatives of international and regional organizations in Tripoli have attended the opening session, chaired by the Deputy Secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Security. Experts on the subject presented an overview of irregular migration in the region and outlined possible policy responses, as curbing irregular migration and promoting orderly and humane migration management have become priorities for policy makers in the Western Mediterranean region.

The Maghreb has become a key transit region for irregular migrants trying to reach Europe. Routes are constantly changing and are only partly known. Undocumented migrants from Africa and Asia heading for Europe transit through different African countries. Crossing the Sahara is turning into a huge and lucrative business. The extreme harshness of the climate and the lack of transport make the crossing extremely difficult and hazardous.

Conclusions pointed out, among others, the need to:

- 1- Implement all the previous recommendations and agreements to ensure the effort to combat irregular migration
- 2- Provide a rapid technical assistance to the member States in order to secure the sea and land borders and to limit the trespassing and irregular migration
- 3- Provide training programmes to all concerned personnel in the member State according to existing plans and to ensure that the training plans should be comprehensive and sustainable
- 4- Enhance exchange of information networks and expertise studies and legislations
- 5- Implement economic development projects in order to help migrants to stay in their home country through efforts of all concerned countries and international and regional organizations counting on the expertise of the IOM in this domain
- 6- Cooperate and coordinate with IOM by inviting this Organisation to work jointly and effectively with the member States to combat irregular migration by using its strategy and policy and expertise in supporting member states
- 7- Evaluate effort made by member states and point out the positive and negative steps to ensure more success to combat irregular migration
- 8- Continue dialogue related to what should be implemented to facilitate and accelerate the regulations of labour migration, taking into consideration vocational training programmes as well as labour market needs of concerned countries and by giving the priorities to member States
- 9- Respect international conventions regarding treatment of regular and irregular migrations to ensure the protection of their right and dignity
- 10- Stress the importance of implementing information and awareness programmes in the context of the region and in migrants origin countries
- 11- Commit member states to implement what has been agreed upon to contain irregular migration and activate coordination and cooperation security processes to eliminate criminal networks organizing irregular migration

This event fell within the "4+5" Forum, an informal grouping of the nine aforementioned countries working at ministerial level on issues of common interest such as organized crime, the fight against irregular migration, capacity building, civil protection, and local government.

The day before the regional seminar, a Training Session for 100 Libyan officials and police representatives has been organized by IOM and the Libyan People's Committee for Public Security in Tripoli.

The group discussed issues such as border migration management and assisted voluntary return for stranded migrants. The training session focussed on the specific Libyan context and evaluated successful experiences carried out in other parts of the world, when faced with similar situations.

IOM provided background information and assisted in identifying relevant responses.

Libya, which has recently become a Member State of IOM, is a country of transit and destination for migrants and is therefore engaged in addressing the phenomenon in a comprehensive manner both bilaterally and multilaterally.

STEPS TOWARDS THE CONSOLIDATION OF A REGIONAL DIALOGUE

The Rabat 5+5 Ministerial meeting

Within the framework of the 5+5 mechanism and to implement the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Western Mediterranean cooperation process held in Lisbon on 25 and 26 January 2001 (See conclusions of the Presidency (Para.4); and of the speech pronounced on the occasion by his excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Malta, Dr Joe Borg) two Ministerial Conferences were organized. The first, organized by Tunisia in cooperation with IOM in October 2002, was devoted to recognizing the importance of regional dialogue on migrations by the ten participating countries. The adoption by consensus of the final declaration ("Tunis Declaration") reflected the increased need expressed by the participating States to achieve a multilateral response to deal efficiently with common questions pertaining to migration. The Second, organized by Morocco in cooperation with IOM in October 2003, gave priority to issues linked to migration in the region and provided specific indications on the actions to be undertaken.

The Rabat Ministerial meeting enabled a few of the priority questions identified in the Tunis Declaration to be addressed (strengthening of regional consultation processes; Exchange of information and analysis of migratory trends; illegal Migrations and trafficking of human beings ; Migration and co-development; Rights and obligations of migrants and integration process; circulation of persons and management of regular migratory flows: Labour migrations and vocational training; Migrations and health; Equality between men and women), i.e. Management of migratory flows through the concerted management of the circulation of persons and promotion of human exchanges, including Combating traffic of migrants ; Rights and obligations of migrants and integration process; Migration and co-development .

A Final report, in the form of an interactive CD Rom, in English, Arabic and French has been produced by IOM. The report includes the final documents (Recommendations and Conclusions of the Presidency), presentations by the representatives of the participating States as well as the international organisations present, the list of participants in the meeting and all other useful information and documents.

The CD Rom is available upon request to the IOM Tunis, iomtunis@iom.int.

3RD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ALGIERS

Algeria will host the Third 5+5 Ministerial Meeting on Migration from the 14th to the 16th September, 2004. The event, which will gather Ministers from the ten involved countries, represents a progress towards a global and balanced approach on migration issues in the Western Mediterranean region. Following the First Ministerial Meeting, hosted by the Tunisian government in 2002, where the Tunis Declaration was adopted, and the Second Ministerial Meeting, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2003, where a Follow-up Plan was agreed upon, the Meeting in Algiers intends to consolidate a regional dialogue on migration, focussing on priority aspects like fight against irregular migration, integration of migrants and co-development.

Participating Ministers will agree upon a political statement and follow-up actions, which would further strengthen cooperation and information exchange among participating countries.

AN ECONOMIC DIMENSION TO MIGRATIONS IN THE 5+5 : REMITTANCES

The economic importance of migration in the Western Mediterranean, both in the host countries and the countries of origin is expressed particularly in terms of the transfer of funds from migrants. The economies of France, Italy and Spain are amongst the first 12 countries in the world with respect to the sending of money to countries of emigration with respectively 3.9; 2.6 and 2.2 billion US\$¹. In the Maghreb, the Moroccan economy occupies the fourth world position with respect to the reception of money transfers from migrants with \$3.3 billion in 2012. The same year, public aid to development for Morocco reached \$517 billion representing \$18 per inhabitant.

On the other hand, Mauritania, the only country of the region placed in the category of the less advanced economies, is the country receiving the fewest money transfers in the whole of the Maghreb. Statistics clearly attest to the fact that the funds sent by Mauritanian migrants are generally modest compared to the development needs of the country.

Globally speaking, the transfer of money represents an important source of cash for the Maghreb countries, more particularly where public aid to development is constantly regressing. National studies on money transfers confirm³ that the decision to emigrate is principally linked to the need to improve the standard of living both for the migrant and his family. However, the economic impact of money transfers goes well beyond the family context to touch different economic sectors of the countries of emigration and immigration. Here, the issue at stake for the Maghreb countries is to insure the productive use of these funds, by creating awareness amongst migrants, as well as through institutional mechanisms.

¹ World Bank (2003) Global Development Finance: analysis and Statistical appendix

² Ibid

³ See the excellent study by the Office des Tunisiens à l'étranger (OTE) (2002). Tunisiens abroad: transfer of funds and investments in Tunisia (elements of comparison)Tunis

ACTIONS FOR CO-DEVELOPMENT: A TOOL FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

PILOT PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUT-MIGRATION AREAS IN TUNISIA ("PROCHE")

This integrated pilot programme is intended to **support local economic development**, through sustainable employment creation, **in an emigration prone area**, as well as to enhance existing local skills and mitigate migration flows from identified unemployment stricken areas in Tunisia. Complementary activities are carried out in Italy and in Tunisia: Tunisian nationals abroad and Italian entrepreneurs are encouraged to invest and **establish micro-enterprises**, revitalizing the potential of the area; unemployed youth and women are attending orientation and **training courses** leading to the creation and management of micro enterprises in the economic fields most promising for the region: tourism, agriculture and handicrafts. In addition, the project includes **labour intensive activities**, such as restoration of historical sites with a two-fold objective: the enhancement of historical sites and employment creation.

Having the First Ministerial Conference (Tunis, October 2002) identified 8 fields of common interest for participating states in Migration management (*Regional Processes for Consultation, Information Exchange, and Analysis of Migration Trends; Irregular Migration and the Trafficking in Human Beings; Migration and Co-Development; The Rights and obligations of Migrants and the Integration Process; The Management of Regular migration Flows and Movement of Persons; Labour Migration and Vocational Training; Migration and Health; Gender Equality*), **co-development is one of the priority issues** that emerged from the Second 5+5 Ministerial Conference on Migration, held in Rabat – Morocco, in October 2003 (together with *Migration flows' treatment through a concerted management of the movement of people and promotion of human exchanges. Fight against migrants trafficking; 2) Migrants' rights and Obligations and integration process*).

Co-development is relevant to Migration in an essential manner: economic reasons are generally behind migration. By **addressing development needs in a coordinated way**, not only do we **enhance socioeconomic conditions** of target areas, but we **foster exchanges and mutual understanding** by creating horizontal partnerships along the region.

PROCHE is a lucid example of co-development approach. The project's main feature is its constant quest for **effective and operational partnership creation** between corresponding institutional and economic entities of Western Mediterranean countries, an approach that characterizes co-development itself.

PROCHE pilot project, initially co-funded by the Italian Cooperation, is a first important step in the direction of an **integrated migration management approach** that includes development tools, and it has already been followed by similar initiatives elsewhere (Tetouan region, Morocco).

A CD Rom describing project activities and results is available upon request at iomtunis@iom.int

INTEGRATED PILOT PROJECT FOR THE LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF A REGION WITH A HIGH MIGRATION POTENTIAL IN MOROCCO

The aim of the project is to support local socio-economic development through capacity building of the operational structures of National Aid (Public establishment with a legal personality and financial autonomy) in order to create jobs and income in a high unemployment region with a strong migratory potential, but also through the promotion of existing local skills.

A social complex will be built in the region of Tetouan, bringing together centres with specific vocations (information, counselling, training, education, vocational counselling, follow-up) addressed to different categories and to all age groups of the disinherited population of the region, with the common objective of working as a tool for sustainable human development, towards social and professional integration.

The project will contribute efficiently to filling the social deficit existing in the field of basic social infrastructures for disinherited populations through the creation of an integrated social information service, so as to combat unemployment and marginalization that affects a large part of the graduates of the Education and Vocational Training Centres of National Aid through the establishment of a gateway between the training phase and employment. It will meet the needs of professionals in the fields of tourism and catering through the creation of a training centre through apprenticeship in domestic sciences, as well as contributing to improved access to basic services for successful socio-professional integration through the creation of a multi-disciplinary reception centre providing individual support for integration and socio-economic promotion.

The initial duration of the project, co-funded by the European Union, will be 18 months. The first implementation phase is in progress. Local consultations have secured land proposed by the Municipality of Tetouan and the plan for the construction of the social complex is in the process of finalisation. The second phase of the project will concern the implementation of the activities themselves. These will be organized around a "nursery" for the training of specialized female workers and young entrepreneurs, training by apprenticeship in domestic science, an individualized structure to receive and counsel street children, a literacy and basic education area, a cell providing follow-up, intermediation and assistance for job searching and setting up of micro-enterprises. A room for exhibitions and commercialisation of goods made by the beneficiaries of the project will also be an integral part the social complex.

BEST PRACTICES IN LABOUR MIGRATION: AN INTERVIEW TO Mr. MAURIZIO SILVERI, DG AT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Q. Italy has been a Country of immigration from the 1970s, though the first law on the topic was issued in 1986 (law no. 943/86). Nevertheless, Italy has created an innovative and advanced system to regulate labour migration flows, namely the quota system. Could you explain what it is exactly, how it works and why it has been adopted?

A. The Single Text no. 286 of 1998 - which regulates every aspect of immigration - has established a system for the regulation of entries, which allows a systematic and rational insertion in the labour market of those aliens who enter Italy for working purposes.

The system is based on two main normative instruments: a three-year programming document which indicates the actions and interventions that the Government intends to take in the field of migration, through the cooperation with other Countries of the European Union, International Organizations and Countries of origin, and the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, the so called "flows decree", which is issued annually. The Decree establishes the maximum ceiling of third-country nationals that can enter Italy to work every year, both as salaried workers (seasonal or non-seasonal) and self-employed workers. The process leading to the establishment of the "quota" begins with a series of consultations between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the representatives of local authorities and organizations, the so-called Labour Provincial Directorates – the Ministry's local offices – and the entrepreneurial associations. The alien quota allowed in the Country is then established on the basis of the information acquired about the Country's labour force requirements. The Decree also provides that the quota must be distributed according to nationality between salaried workers (seasonal and non-seasonal) and self-employed workers, with privileged quota for executives and highly specialised workers and citizens of Countries, which have subscribed cooperation agreements on migration.

Pending the issuance of the ordinary annual programming decree, one or more decrees can be adopted to establish the maximum number of entries within the numerical limits set by the Decree of the previous year.

The quota indicated in the "flows decree" is further distributed between Regions and autonomous Provinces through an administrative act, according to nationalities and typology of job.

Q. Which is the impact of such a system on the labour market, both in quantitative and qualitative terms? Do you think this impact is adequate to the Italian labour market needs? Is it an appropriate answer?

A. Managing migratory flows through the quota system helps to improve the balance between labour offer and demand. The representatives of local authorities and entrepreneurial associations play a fundamental role; they help to determine the labour force needs, responding to the different requirements of the various local contexts. From 1998 to 2004 the number of third-country national workers entering Italy has increased from 58.000 to 79.500. In light of the modifications introduced by law no. 189 of 2002, pending the entering into force of the implementing rules, another "flow decree" can be issued which does not take into account the numerical limits that have characterised the last two years of transitory programming.

Q. Could you tell us which are the strengths and the success factors of this system in its current application?

A. The quota system can guarantee equilibrium between the needs of the labour market and the actual hosting capability of the destination Country. Besides, it represents an effective means to strengthen bilateral agreements with origin Countries, especially through the privileged quota reserved to those Governments, which cooperate in fighting against illegal immigration. An effective policy of integration is based on two key factors: legality and work. The Italian law on migration provides that the entry to Italy for migrant workers is bound to the existence of a work contract. This provision guarantees to migrant workers a full protection on the job and a decorous house, which are fundamental to their full social legitimacy.

Q. Within the quota policy, which is the role and the importance of the training in the origin Countries/right of pre-emption? How does it work?

- Allowing employment in the Italian productive sectors operating within the Italian territory;
- Allowing employment in the Italian productive sectors operating in the origin Countries;
- Developing autonomous production and entrepreneurial activities in the origin Country
-

This represents an important innovation which will allow Italian employers – through their associations - to train and select human resources in the origin Countries on the basis of the qualitative and quantitative internal needs, therefore improving the balance between offer and demand of migrant workforce. Besides, it will facilitate the integration process for foreigners who enter Italy.

While promoting the entry as qualified professionals in the labour market, training activity also guarantees a privileged access to Italy through the assertion of the right of pre-emption.

Italian employers who do not directly know the people they need to hire can consult a list of qualified and selected job seekers who are interested in coming to Italy for working purposes.

Q. Which is the future of the quota system from a national point of view and what would it transmit to the other 9 countries which are part of the Dialogue 5+5 on Migration in the Western Mediterranean in terms of repeatability, lessons learned and best practices from a regional point of view?

A. An orderly management of migratory flows represents an effective means of cooperation between the Countries of the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean. In this perspective, training in the origin Countries will play a fundamental role, helping balancing offer and demand in the labour market and enhancing the development of local human resources. At present, our Government is carrying out some pilot projects in cooperation with local Governments to select and train workers in those Countries which have concluded or intend to subscribe specific cooperation agreements on migration, (i.e. Tunisia, Egypt, Sri Lanka).

INSTUTIONAL LINKS

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MIGRATION MANAGEMENT: A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY*

I am deeply honoured to write this editorial for the first edition of the bulletin on the migration dialogue in the Western Mediterranean (5+5).

This bulletin intends to be a complementary tool in enhancing information exchange among Western Mediterranean countries and relevant stakeholders, a priority identified by the 5+5 countries and stated in the Tunis Declaration. It is in this line that the Kingdom of Morocco, which hosted the Second Ministerial Conference In 2003, requested the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate the concept of this periodical newsletter.

Working on the dynamics of migration in this region is indeed a most exalting task for IOM for several reasons, as well as for a historical reason in view of the original role of migrations in the emergence of flourishing civilisations which imparted lasting common features to this region. Migration issues in the Western Mediterranean, in view of their diversity, constitute a tremendous potential for cooperation and for dialogue between neighbouring countries.

The importance of an informal dialogue on migrations in the Western Mediterranean is due to the fact that this dialogue is still the best guarantee for a global management of joint migration issues. Within that perspective the countries on both sides of this region are called to jointly work towards what I would call a harmonious migration future where migration could be, if well managed, a powerful factor for economic and cultural wealth.

The prime objective of the 5+5 migration dialogue is indeed to promote optimum management of these migration issues for the benefit of the migrants, the governments of the region and civil societies.

The domains of the migration dialogue in the Western Mediterranean are very extensive so that the States in the region have a firm basis to work on extremely important questions such as research on migration, a productive use of transfers, prevention and combating of human trafficking and other forms of irregular migration, the rights of migrants and the social integration in new communities, health and migration and capacity building of those responsible for migration management.

Furthermore, the dynamics and greater consolidation of the migration dialogue (5+5) are also most beneficial for the other migration dialogue processes, which IOM is supporting in other regions of the world.

The political success of the Tunis (2002) and Rabat (2003) ministerial conferences as well as the high level of expertise of the different technical dialogue meetings are clear indications of the ever greater commitment to strengthen the 5+5 migration consultation process.

I am confident that the success of the 2004 Algiers ministerial conference will be a guarantee for the continuation of this tradition.

I can personally assure you of IOM's efforts as a neutral facilitator to ensure that this migration dialogue becomes even more fruitful.

** by BRUNSON McKINLEY, IOM's DIRECTOR GENERAL*

INTERVIEW WITH MRS CHEKROUNI

Minister Delegated to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,
in charge of the Moroccan Community Living Abroad. MFAC

In October 2003, Morocco hosted the second 5+5 Dialogue Ministers' Conference on Migration in Western Mediterranean. According to you, what are the main achievements of this dialogue and major challenges in this respect?

The major achievement from my point of view is the establishment of this permanent dialogue, even though informal, which will enable us taking up all challenges linked with migration. The second essential achievement is that the conclusions of the Second Ministers' Conference held in Rabat in 2003 constitute, within the scope of the Tunis declaration implementation, a realistic project based on a new and overall approach of migration issues, stresses the political will of the 5 western Northern Mediterranean countries regarding their contribution in finding real and lasting solutions.

Morocco suggested during the Rabat conference that special emphasis be given to three objectives set forth in the Tunis declaration: irregular migration, co-development and migrants' integration. Why do you think these topics are particularly important?

The specific importance of the three areas for action suggested by Morocco lies in the logical result drawn from the intrinsic relationship between the treatment of migratory flows through concerted management of people's movement and human exchange promotion, fight against migrants' trafficking, rights and duties of migrants and integration process, as well as migration and co-development. As for irregular migration, which we can never accept, we believe that medium and long term co-development action only can slow down this worrying phenomenon. However, we have to stress the necessity to promote and encourage regular migration. Migration remains a right underlined by international agreements, and the claim to dignity of migrant citizens serving their host countries remains quite legitimate

Morocco considers that keeping ties with its citizens abroad is high priority. Would you describe for us the instruments designed and set for this purpose by your government?

We opted, from the very beginning, for an approach based on the notion of full citizenship for all Moroccans throughout the world. Outside this approach, we can have no real solutions to migratory issues. Our strategy is based on the reform of religious education and supervision systems aimed at our fellow-countryman and fellow-countrywoman abroad, the guarantee of their political representation at all levels, in addition to the reinforcement of ties linking them closely to their mother-country: Morocco

In which areas and how international organizations, according to you, can make a valuable contribution to the dialogue on migration?

We have to emphasize that the contribution of international organizations, particularly the International Organization for Migration, is very important, especially with regard to attendant measures supporting migrants' situation reform projects, and support to efforts aiming at bringing viewpoints closer within this process.

The word "migration" is often associated to the word "problem", what do you think of this association?

No, migration is from my point of view a natural phenomenon, a vehicle for cultural and human rapprochement, a factor of stability, development and shared economic growth. His Majesty, King Mohamed VI expressed strongly and on several occasions this message. The future of migration depends on our joint will to go beyond prejudices and stereotypes, and on our joint action by which we will contribute in addressing a positive message to the rest of the world, an action that redeems the positive aspects of migration.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AND NORTH AMERICA: *The Puebla Process*

The **Regional Conference on Migration (RCM)** is a multilateral regional forum on international migration in which countries with varying migration perspectives – based on experiences involving situations of origin, transit, and destination – address an issue of common interest.

The **RCM is also referred to informally as the “Puebla Process”** in acknowledgement of the Mexican city where this ample and diverse grouping of countries had their first meeting.

Member countries of the RCM currently consist of **Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the United States**. The RCM has granted **observer** status to several countries upon considering their request, as in the case of Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica and Peru. Moreover, member countries have benefited from the substantive and logistical support of various regional and international organizations, also participating as observers.

The **fundamental tenets** on which the RCM bases its actions are **the protection and respect for the human rights of migrants**, irrespective of their migration status; **the promotion of orderly and secure migration**; and the **dialogue and cooperation among countries, with the active participation of civil society**.

Formation of the RCM and the conduct of its activities have allowed, in general terms, for treatment of migration issues in an innovative way – melding effectively the migration concerns shared by countries regarding situations of origin, transit and destination – while seeking dialogue and cooperation with civil society. It also helped consolidation of a mechanism for the exchange of information and coordination of actions, and for the deepening of understanding, from a multilateral perspective, of the dynamics of migration and its links to regional development. Additionally, the RCM improved coordination among agencies responsible for carrying out migration and foreign policies, an indispensable element for addressing migration phenomena in an increasingly globalized world, where migration has become a priority issue in the international agenda and in the conduct of bilateral relations between countries.

In specific terms, from a process development perspective, the RCM: Adopted a **Plan of Action**, agreed to by the member countries, representing consensus guidelines for regional action and a basic framework for guiding and coordinating activities of the governments and international organizations; Served as the **principal migration forum** for confronting the special policy implications for migration in this region; Completed a number of significant activities as agreed upon in the Plan of Action (which is subject to regular updating and revision).

Activities include **Seminars/Workshops** held on high-interest migration topics; **Diverse studies and papers** covering a wide range of subjects; **Self-sustaining projects** to provide assistance to migrants; **Development of** a Statistical Information System on Migration for Central America and Mexico (SIEMCA/SIEMMES); **Establishment of Liaison Officer Networks** to enhance coordination on consular protection and combating migrant trafficking and smuggling; **Comparative analysis**, updated regularly, **of legislation** in RCM countries against the trafficking and smuggling of migrants; **Joint training and law enforcement exercises** to stem trafficking, smuggling and other.

The International Organization for Migration (**IOM**) has played a significant role since the RCM was established in 1996, as well as in its consolidation process and in the implementation of activities as defined by the governments of member countries.

For more information on the Puebla Process, please visit the Conference's Virtual Secretariat: www.rcmvs.org

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

A regional seminar entitled "Irregular Migration in the Western Mediterranean: Challenges and Responses" was held in Tripoli on 8th and 9th June.

The two-day event, organized under the auspices of CIMO by IOM and the Libyan General People's Committee for Public Security brought together some 40 officials from nine Western Mediterranean countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia) to discuss improved regional cooperation in the fight against irregular migration.

Ambassadors and representatives of international and regional organizations in Tripoli have attended the opening session, chaired by the Deputy Secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Security. Experts on the subject presented an overview of irregular migration in the region and outlined possible policy responses, as curbing irregular migration and promoting orderly and humane migration management have become priorities for policy makers in the Western Mediterranean region.

The Maghreb has become a key transit region for irregular migrants trying to reach Europe. Routes are constantly changing and are only partly known. Undocumented migrants from Africa and Asia heading for Europe transit through different African countries. Crossing the Sahara is turning into a huge and lucrative business. The extreme harshness of the climate and the lack of transport make the crossing extremely difficult and hazardous.

Conclusions pointed out, among others, the need to:

- 1- Implement all the previous recommendations and agreements to ensure the effort to combat irregular migration
 - 2- Provide a rapid technical assistance to the member States in order to secure the sea and land borders and to limit the trespassing and irregular migration
 - 3- Provide training programmes to all concerned personnel in the member State according to existing plans and to ensure that the training plans should be comprehensive and sustainable
 - 4- Enhance exchange of information networks and expertise studies and legislations
 - 5- Implement economic development projects in order to help migrants to stay in their home country through efforts of all concerned countries and international and regional organizations counting on the expertise of the IOM in this domain
 - 6- Cooperate and coordinate with IOM by inviting this Organisation to work jointly and effectively with the member States to combat irregular migration by using its strategy and policy and expertise in supporting member states
 - 7- Evaluate effort made by member states and point out the positive and negative steps to ensure more success to combat irregular migration
 - 8- Continue dialogue related to what should be implemented to facilitate and accelerate the regulations of labour migration, taking into consideration vocational training programmes as well as labour market needs of concerned countries and by giving the priorities to member States
 - 9- Respect international conventions regarding treatment of regular and irregular migrations to ensure the protection of their right and dignity
 - 10- Stress the importance of implementing information and awareness programmes in the context of the region and in migrants origin countries
 - 11- Commit member states to implement what has been agreed upon to contain irregular migration and activate coordination and cooperation security processes to eliminate criminal networks organizing irregular migration
-

Regional

This event fell within the "4+5" Forum, an informal grouping of the nine aforementioned countries working at ministerial level on issues of common interest such as organized crime, the fight against irregular migration, capacity building, civil protection, and local government.

The day before the regional seminar, a Training Session for 100 Libyan officials and police representatives has been organized by IOM and the Libyan People's Committee for Public Security in Tripoli.

The group discussed issues such as border migration management and assisted voluntary return for stranded migrants. The training session focussed on the specific Libyan context and evaluated successful experiences carried out in other parts of the world, when faced with similar situations.

IOM provided background information and assisted in identifying relevant responses.

Libya, which has recently become a Member State of IOM, is a country of transit and destination for migrants and is therefore engaged in addressing the phenomenon in a comprehensive manner both bilaterally and multilaterally.

STEPS TOWARDS THE CONSOLIDATION OF A REGIONAL DIALOGUE

The Rabat 5+5 Ministerial meeting

Within the framework of the 5+5 mechanism and to implement the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States participating in the Western Mediterranean cooperation process held in Lisbon on 25 and 26 January 2001 (See conclusions of the Presidency (Para.4); and of the speech pronounced on the occasion by his excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Malta, Dr Joe Borg) two Ministerial Conferences were organized. The first, organized by Tunisia in cooperation with IOM in October 2002, was devoted to recognizing the importance of regional dialogue on migrations by the ten participating countries. The adoption by consensus of the final declaration ("Tunis Declaration") reflected the increased need expressed by the participating States to achieve a multilateral response to deal efficiently with common questions pertaining to migration. The Second, organized by Morocco in cooperation with IOM in October 2003, gave priority to issues linked to migration in the region and provided specific indications on the actions to be undertaken.

The Rabat Ministerial meeting enabled a few of the priority questions identified in the Tunis Declaration to be addressed (strengthening of regional consultation processes; Exchange of information and analysis of migratory trends; illegal Migrations and trafficking of human beings ; Migration and co-development; Rights and obligations of migrants and integration process; circulation of persons and management of regular migratory flows: Labour migrations and vocational training; Migrations and health; Equality between men and women), i.e. Management of migratory flows through the concerted management of the circulation of persons and promotion of human exchanges, including Combating traffic of migrants ; Rights and obligations of migrants and integration process; Migration and co-development .

A Final report, in the form of an interactive CD Rom, in English, Arabic and French has been produced by IOM. The report includes the final documents (Recommendations and Conclusions of the Presidency), presentations by the representatives of the participating States as well as the international organisations present, the list of participants in the meeting and all other useful information and documents.

The CD Rom is available upon request to the IOM Tunis, iomtunis@iom.int.

3RD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ALGIERS

Algeria will host the Third 5+5 Ministerial Meeting on Migration from the 14th to the 16th September, 2004. The event, which will gather Ministers from the ten involved countries, represents a progress towards a global and balanced approach on migration issues in the Western Mediterranean region. Following the First Ministerial Meeting, hosted by the Tunisian government in 2002, where the Tunis Declaration was adopted, and the Second Ministerial Meeting, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2003, where a Follow-up Plan was agreed upon, the Meeting in Algiers intends to consolidate a regional dialogue on migration, focussing on priority aspects like fight against irregular migration, integration of migrants and co-development.

Participating Ministers will agree upon a political statement and follow-up actions, which would further strengthen cooperation and information exchange among participating countries.

AN ECONOMIC DIMENSION TO MIGRATIONS IN THE 5+5 : REMITTANCES

The economic importance of migration in the Western Mediterranean, both in the host countries and the countries of origin is expressed particularly in terms of the transfer of funds from migrants. The economies of France, Italy and Spain are amongst the first 12 countries in the world with respect to the sending of money to countries of emigration with respectively 3.9; 2.6 and 2.2 billion US\$¹. In the Maghreb, the Moroccan economy occupies the fourth world position with respect to the reception of money transfers from migrants with \$3.3 billion in 2012. The same year, public aid to development for Morocco reached \$517 billion representing \$18 per inhabitant.

On the other hand, Mauritania, the only country of the region placed in the category of the less advanced economies, is the country receiving the fewest money transfers in the whole of the Maghreb. Statistics clearly attest to the fact that the funds sent by Mauritanian migrants are generally modest compared to the development needs of the country.

Globally speaking, the transfer of money represents an important source of cash for the Maghreb countries, more particularly where public aid to development is constantly regressing. National studies on money transfers confirm³ that the decision to emigrate is principally linked to the need to improve the standard of living both for the migrant and his family. However, the economic impact of money transfers goes well beyond the family context to touch different economic sectors of the countries of emigration and immigration. Here, the issue at stake for the Maghreb countries is to insure the productive use of these funds, by creating awareness amongst migrants, as well as through institutional mechanisms.

¹ World Bank (2003) Global Development Finance: analysis and Statistical appendix

² Ibid

³ See the excellent study by the Office des Tunisiens à l'étranger (OTE) (2002). Tunisiens abroad: transfer of funds and investments in Tunisia (elements of comparison)Tunis

ACTIONS FOR CO-DEVELOPMENT: A TOOL FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

PILOT PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUT-MIGRATION AREAS IN TUNISIA ("PROCHE")

This integrated pilot programme is intended to **support local economic development**, through sustainable employment creation, **in an emigration prone area**, as well as to enhance existing local skills and mitigate migration flows from identified unemployment stricken areas in Tunisia. Complementary activities are carried out in Italy and in Tunisia: Tunisian nationals abroad and Italian entrepreneurs are encouraged to invest and **establish micro-enterprises**, revitalizing the potential of the area; unemployed youth and women are attending orientation and **training courses** leading to the creation and management of micro enterprises in the economic fields most promising for the region: tourism, agriculture and handicrafts. In addition, the project includes **labour intensive activities**, such as restoration of historical sites with a two-fold objective: the enhancement of historical sites and employment creation.

Having the First Ministerial Conference (Tunis, October 2002) identified 8 fields of common interest for participating states in Migration management (*Regional Processes for Consultation, Information Exchange, and Analysis of Migration Trends; Irregular Migration and the Trafficking in Human Beings; Migration and Co-Development; The Rights and obligations of Migrants and the Integration Process; The Management of Regular migration Flows and Movement of Persons; Labour Migration and Vocational Training; Migration and Health; Gender Equality*), **co-development is one of the priority issues** that emerged from the Second 5+5 Ministerial Conference on Migration, held in Rabat – Morocco, in October 2003 (together with *Migration flows' treatment through a concerted management of the movement of people and promotion of human exchanges. Fight against migrants trafficking; 2) Migrants' rights and Obligations and integration process*).

Co-development is relevant to Migration in an essential manner: economic reasons are generally behind migration. By **addressing development needs in a coordinated way**, not only do we **enhance socioeconomic conditions** of target areas, but we **foster exchanges and mutual understanding** by creating horizontal partnerships along the region.

PROCHE is a lucid example of co-development approach. The project's main feature is its constant quest for **effective and operational partnership creation** between corresponding institutional and economic entities of Western Mediterranean countries, an approach that characterizes co-development itself.

PROCHE pilot project, initially co-funded by the Italian Cooperation, is a first important step in the direction of an **integrated migration management approach** that includes development tools, and it has already been followed by similar initiatives elsewhere (Tetouan region, Morocco).

A CD Rom describing project activities and results is available upon request at iomtunis@iom.int

INTEGRATED PILOT PROJECT FOR THE LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF A REGION WITH A HIGH MIGRATION POTENTIAL IN MOROCCO

The aim of the project is to support local socio-economic development through capacity building of the operational structures of National Aid (Public establishment with a legal personality and financial autonomy) in order to create jobs and income in a high unemployment region with a strong migratory potential, but also through the promotion of existing local skills.

A social complex will be built in the region of Tetouan, bringing together centres with specific vocations (information, counselling, training, education, vocational counselling, follow-up) addressed to different categories and to all age groups of the disinherited population of the region, with the common objective of working as a tool for sustainable human development, towards social and professional integration.

The project will contribute efficiently to filling the social deficit existing in the field of basic social infrastructures for disinherited populations through the creation of an integrated social information service, so as to combat unemployment and marginalization that affects a large part of the graduates of the Education and Vocational Training Centres of National Aid through the establishment of a gateway between the training phase and employment. It will meet the needs of professionals in the fields of tourism and catering through the creation of a training centre through apprenticeship in domestic sciences, as well as contributing to improved access to basic services for successful socio-professional integration through the creation of a multi-disciplinary reception centre providing individual support for integration and socio-economic promotion.

The initial duration of the project, co-funded by the European Union, will be 18 months. The first implementation phase is in progress. Local consultations have secured land proposed by the Municipality of Tetouan and the plan for the construction of the social complex is in the process of finalisation. The second phase of the project will concern the implementation of the activities themselves. These will be organized around a "nursery" for the training of specialized female workers and young entrepreneurs, training by apprenticeship in domestic science, an individualized structure to receive and counsel street children, a literacy and basic education area, a cell providing follow-up, intermediation and assistance for job searching and setting up of micro-enterprises. A room for exhibitions and commercialisation of goods made by the beneficiaries of the project will also be an integral part the social complex.

BEST PRACTICES IN LABOUR MIGRATION: AN INTERVIEW TO Mr. MAURIZIO SILVERI, DG AT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Q. Italy has been a Country of immigration from the 1970s, though the first law on the topic was issued in 1986 (law no. 943/86). Nevertheless, Italy has created an innovative and advanced system to regulate labour migration flows, namely the quota system. Could you explain what it is exactly, how it works and why it has been adopted?

A. The Single Text no. 286 of 1998 - which regulates every aspect of immigration - has established a system for the regulation of entries, which allows a systematic and rational insertion in the labour market of those aliens who enter Italy for working purposes.

The system is based on two main normative instruments: a three-year programming document which indicates the actions and interventions that the Government intends to take in the field of migration, through the cooperation with other Countries of the European Union, International Organizations and Countries of origin, and the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, the so called "flows decree", which is issued annually. The Decree establishes the maximum ceiling of third-country nationals that can enter Italy to work every year, both as salaried workers (seasonal or non-seasonal) and self-employed workers. The process leading to the establishment of the "quota" begins with a series of consultations between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the representatives of local authorities and organizations, the so-called Labour Provincial Directorates – the Ministry's local offices – and the entrepreneurial associations. The alien quota allowed in the Country is then established on the basis of the information acquired about the Country's labour force requirements. The Decree also provides that the quota must be distributed according to nationality between salaried workers (seasonal and non-seasonal) and self-employed workers, with privileged quota for executives and highly specialised workers and citizens of Countries, which have subscribed cooperation agreements on migration.

Pending the issuance of the ordinary annual programming decree, one or more decrees can be adopted to establish the maximum number of entries within the numerical limits set by the Decree of the previous year.

The quota indicated in the "flows decree" is further distributed between Regions and autonomous Provinces through an administrative act, according to nationalities and typology of job.

Q. Which is the impact of such a system on the labour market, both in quantitative and qualitative terms? Do you think this impact is adequate to the Italian labour market needs? Is it an appropriate answer?

A. Managing migratory flows through the quota system helps to improve the balance between labour offer and demand. The representatives of local authorities and entrepreneurial associations play a fundamental role; they help to determine the labour force needs, responding to the different requirements of the various local contexts. From 1998 to 2004 the number of third-country national workers entering Italy has increased from 58.000 to 79.500. In light of the modifications introduced by law no. 189 of 2002, pending the entering into force of the implementing rules, another "flow decree" can be issued which does not take into account the numerical limits that have characterised the last two years of transitory programming.

Q. Could you tell us which are the strengths and the success factors of this system in its current application?

A. The quota system can guarantee equilibrium between the needs of the labour market and the actual hosting capability of the destination Country. Besides, it represents an effective means to strengthen bilateral agreements with origin Countries, especially through the privileged quota reserved to those Governments, which cooperate in fighting against illegal immigration. An effective policy of integration is based on two key factors: legality and work. The Italian law on migration provides that the entry to Italy for migrant workers is bound to the existence of a work contract. This provision guarantees to migrant workers a full protection on the job and a decorous house, which are fundamental to their full social legitimacy.

National

Q. Within the quota policy, which is the role and the importance of the training in the origin Countries/right of pre-emption? How does it work?

- Allowing employment in the Italian productive sectors operating within the Italian territory;
- Allowing employment in the Italian productive sectors operating in the origin Countries;
- Developing autonomous production and entrepreneurial activities in the origin Country
-

This represents an important innovation which will allow Italian employers – through their associations - to train and select human resources in the origin Countries on the basis of the qualitative and quantitative internal needs, therefore improving the balance between offer and demand of migrant workforce. Besides, it will facilitate the integration process for foreigners who enter Italy.

While promoting the entry as qualified professionals in the labour market, training activity also guarantees a privileged access to Italy through the assertion of the right of pre-emption.

Italian employers who do not directly know the people they need to hire can consult a list of qualified and selected job seekers who are interested in coming to Italy for working purposes.

Q. Which is the future of the quota system from a national point of view and what would it transmit to the other 9 countries which are part of the Dialogue 5+5 on Migration in the Western Mediterranean in terms of repeatability, lessons learned and best practices from a regional point of view?

A. An orderly management of migratory flows represents an effective means of cooperation between the Countries of the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean. In this perspective, training in the origin Countries will play a fundamental role, helping balancing offer and demand in the labour market and enhancing the development of local human resources. At present, our Government is carrying out some pilot projects in cooperation with local Governments to select and train workers in those Countries which have concluded or intend to subscribe specific cooperation agreements on migration, (i.e. Tunisia, Egypt, Sri Lanka).



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