



## SUMMARY NOTE

### Context

In September 2002, the UN Secretary-General presented his report "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387) to the General Assembly, where he identified migration as a priority for the international community.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General established a Migration Working Group consisting of UN officials and academics, chaired by then Assistant Secretary-General Michael W. Doyle. The report was presented to the UN Senior Management Group and the Secretary-General in Spring 2003 and highlighted various migration aspects, such as protection of migrants, asylum, labour migration and its consequences, as well as the state of international co-operation in this area. It finally formulated three recommendations: i) to close the legal and normative gaps in the regimes for migrants; ii) to fill the institutional gaps through enhanced co-ordination; and iii) to create a Global Commission.

In July 2003 the Secretary-General met with representatives of Brazil, Morocco, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland in Geneva to discuss the idea of a states-owned initiative to launch a Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM).

Sweden and Switzerland, in conjunction with Brazil, Morocco and the Philippines, took the initiative to develop a draft mandate for the Commission and invited other governments to participate in the process. An open-ended Core Group<sup>1</sup> was established subsequently which reviewed the draft mandate and lent support to the establishment of the Commission.

### Mandate

The mandate of the Commission is:

- **to place international migration on the global agenda** by promoting a comprehensive debate among governments, international organisations, academia, civil society, private sector, media and other actors on all aspects of migration and issues related to migration
- **to analyze gaps in current approaches to migration and examine inter-linkages with other issue-areas** by examining various approaches and perspectives of stakeholders in different regions, and address migration's relationship with other principal areas that impact on and cause migration
- **to present recommendations to the United Nations Secretary-General and other stakeholders** on how to strengthen national, regional and global governance of international migration

### Commission

The Commission is independent and is comprised of up to 15 internationally renowned members, drawn from all regions and bringing together a wide range of migration perspectives and expertise. It is headed by two Co-chairs, Dr. Mamphele Ramphela from South Africa, and Mr. Jan O. Karlsson from Sweden. The Commission Secretariat is led by Dr. Rolf K. Jenny from Switzerland as Executive Director. The Secretariat is based in Geneva.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to Brazil, Morocco, the Philippines, Sweden and Switzerland, Egypt, India, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. The Core Group is chaired by Switzerland and Sweden. Other governments are expected to join the Group.

## **Activity and Approach**

In promoting a comprehensive debate on international migration, the Commission will seek to develop a broader understanding of international migration by assembling government and other migration expertise, policy approaches and best practices in all regions; by conducting research and exploring migration inter-linkages with such areas as development, trade, human security, international co-operation and partnerships, forced displacement, private sector involvement, migrant remittances, and national and international security; by maintaining an overall focus on strengthened international governance of migration; and by collecting and disseminating migration-related information (via the media, the Commission's web-site, and other informational tools).

The Commission will begin its activities on 1 January 2004. Over an 18-month period, the Commission will organise six Commission meetings including five broad-based regional consultations; four to six meetings with Commission Co-Chairs; in addition to other events. The first Commission meeting is planned to take place in Stockholm in early February 2004. The Commission will hold meetings in all regions to analyse regional and inter-regional migration policy approaches, test its own findings, and identify areas of emerging consensus for consideration by the international community.

Under its outreach approach, the Commission will actively consult with governments, international bodies, academia and other stakeholders, and consider the output of regional consultative migration processes. The open-ended Core Group of governments will act as a reference point for future consultation by the Commission. The Secretary-General's Office, international institutions, including those of the 'Geneva Migration Group', and other concerned bodies will be consulted at regular intervals.

## **Output**

The Commission will produce a Final Report by mid-2005, for the attention of the United Nations Secretary-General and other stakeholders. It will also produce interim reports, undertake and commission specific research activities, publish background studies and other relevant materials, and develop an extensive information sharing activity, including running a web-site.

## **Budget**

Budget estimates amount to USD 4'000'000. Governments and other donors are expected to contribute to this budget.