



**Economic and Social Commission for  
Asia and the Pacific's (ESCAP) Chairmanship  
Summary Report  
1 January – 30 June 2013**

*Presented at the GMG principals meeting on 3 July 2013, by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, USG and Executive Secretary of ESCAP and Chair of the GMG.*

ESCAP, on behalf of the UN Regional Commissions, assumed the chairmanship of the Global Migration Group on 1 January 2013 for a period of six months. ESCAP acknowledged the contribution of UNODC, under the leadership of Executive Director, Mr. Yuri Fedotov, for laying a strong foundation for ESCAP's work.

During its chairmanship, ESCAP focused on the following key outcomes: (i) Strengthening the GMG to improve its substantive coordination and collaboration function as well as improving the visibility of the GMG through outreach towards Member States and other stakeholders; (ii) Implementing the ongoing internal review process of the GMG in follow up to the GMG Principals meeting in November 2012; and (iii) Coordinating preparations for the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held on 3-4 October 2013.

The GMG Working Level Retreat was held on 18 and 19 February 2013 at United Nations Headquarters, New York, and organized by ESCAP, in its capacity as Chair on behalf of the regional commissions. The objective of the Retreat was to review the means for the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Principals, and to discuss GMG contributions to the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development to be held in October 2013.

The Retreat was successful in addressing a number of long standing issues related to the institutional strengthening and coherence within the GMG. These included the following: (i) More stable and predictable chairing arrangements; (ii) Establishment of an administrative unit to support the Chair and providing secretariat functions; (iii) Setting up of working groups and task forces (with clear terms of reference) to ensure greater depth in treatment of substantive

issues and coherence and coordination in key thematic areas; and (iv) Formulation of a multi-annual work plan as part of efforts to move towards a results-based approach.

The outcome of the Retreat was circulated to all Principals on 29 March 2013 for your consideration and anticipated endorsement at GMG Principals meeting on 3 July 2013.

In preparation for the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in October 2013, the following key actions were undertaken:

- There was regular sharing of information through teleconferences;
- The GMG provided inputs for the draft outline of the Secretary-General's report for the HLD;
- GMG also provided inputs for the intervention made on behalf of the GMG Chair by the representative of the Regional Commissions at the preparatory panel for the HLD held on 25 June 2013.
- Regional Preparatory Meetings in preparation for the High-level Dialogue are being held in all regions. The meetings have been already been held in three regions (Asia-Pacific, West Asia and Europe), and two more are scheduled to be held. Information about the Meetings has been shared with all GMG members.
- The Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the High-level Dialogue was held from 29 to 31 May 2013. It was organized by ESCAP in collaboration with other UN system entities and IOM under the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. The Meeting adopted, by consensus, the Asia-Pacific Input for the HLD, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit it for the consideration of the HLD through the President of the General Assembly.

The GMG further advanced work on the following joint analytical products:

- A UNICEF-led GMG Thematic Report on Adolescents, Youth and Migration;
- A UNODC-led GMG Thematic Report on Exploitation and Abuse of International Migrants, particularly those in an Irregular Situation: A Human Rights Approach; and
- An IOM and UNFPA-led initiative for a book highlighting the contribution of all GMG members on migration and development, which draws from submissions made by the GMG members for HLCP paper considered by the CEB at its last meeting.

ESCAP noted that substantial work was achieved during the period January to June 2013 by the GMG, and expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support extended by all GMG members during ESCAP's tenure as Chair. As part of the Troika, ESCAP extended its full support to the current Chair during this extremely important period in the lead-up to the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development.

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