



**United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Chairmanship  
Summary Report  
1 January – 30 July 2008**

**1. Meetings at the Principals Level**

UNFPA organized two meetings at the Principals level, which took place on 7 March and 27 June 2008. All agencies were represented at both meetings. The first meeting was attended by seven Principals (IOM, UN/ECA, UN/DESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, and World Bank). The second meeting was attended by six Principals (ILO, IOM, UN/DESA, UNFPA, UNICEF, and World Bank). The minutes of the meetings at Principal level are available on the GMG workspace.

**2. Meetings at the Working Level**

UNFPA organized two meetings at the working level, which were held on 13 March and 6 June 2008. The minutes of the meetings at working level are available on the GMG workspace.

**3. Outputs**

***Consolidated Report on Migration and Human Rights:*** UNFPA proposed and the GMG agreed to prepare a consolidated report addressing the overall theme of migration and human rights. Every member of the GMG contributed to one or more themes as per the agency's expertise. The themes focus on the many links between international migration and human rights such as human rights of migrant workers, female migrants, child migrants, refugees, irregular migrants and victims of trafficking and smuggling.

UNFPA is in the last steps of pulling the different inputs together to produce a coherent and comprehensive document. The report will be a stand-alone document. It is timely for all agencies since the United Nations is commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year with special events planned for December. A timetable for the finalization of the report will be established. UNFPA will prepare and share the first draft of the consolidated report for comments by the second half of September. The report will be published in October in time to present it to the Global Forum organizers and to make it available at the Forum in Manila.

The GMG input will be a practical tool for governments discussing the important and politically sensitive issue of the human rights of migrants. The report will give an 1) overview of the issues concerned within each topic, 2) description of the challenges encountered in the specific area of work, 3) examples of two or three best practices and lessons learned within the scope of the selected theme and 4) key messages and practical recommendations for future action.

**GMG Web Site:** UNFPA proposed the launch of an independent GMG web site. On behalf of the GMG, IOM created the web site describing the group's work in migration issues. IOM will administer and update the web site in the future. The URL for the GMG is [www.globalmigrationgroup.org](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org).

**GMG Brochure:** The GMG brochure was updated by IOM to include the four new members (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNITAR and the Regional Commissions).

**GMG Workspace:** By creating and storing documents relevant to the work of the GMG, UNFPA continued with the coherent work of the GMG workspace.

**Working Method of GMG:** UNFPA introduced several major changes to the structure of the Principals' meetings: 1) reducing the length of the meeting by half, 2) focusing the agenda on substantive issues. These changes were welcome by all. Since the decision-making capacity of the Principals' meeting would be limited if the participants were not empowered to make decisions, the GMG agreed that in cases where there is no high level representation, the participant attending the meeting should do so only as an observer with no speaking or decision-making privileges.

#### **4. Global Forum on Migration and Development**

**GMG's support structure to the Global Forum:** The matter of a support structure for the Global Forum was discussed by the Principals. There had been general agreement on the need for some type of support for the Forum, but there had been no agreement as to the type of support. Member States had made it clear that the Forum was a State-led initiative. The Troika (the Philippines, Belgium and Greece) "recognizes the practicality of a light support structure to ensure institutional memory and smooth transition from one Presidency to another". The areas which would fall within the scope of a "small secretariat" include 1) Update and maintenance of the website, 2) Management of the outcomes of the roundtables, 3) Management of the transition from the Philippines to Greece. Based on the recommendation of the majority of GMG members, UNFPA had sent a letter to Under-Secretary Conejos on 13 June 2008 assuring him of GMG's support and reiterating GMG's offer of assistance to ensure the success of the Global Forum. By the meeting of Principals on 27 June a response to the letter had not yet been received. Therefore, GMG Principals agreed to wait for a response with a clear request for support to the Global Forum before discussing the type of support structure in more detail. In a letter dated 21 July 2008, Under-Secretary Conejos invited the GMG to nominate a suitable member agency that could meet the requirements to host a support structure, i.e.

to provide accommodation, financial, IT, and other management resource back-up. UNFPA forwarded the letter to the new Chair in office, UNCTAD.

***Friends of the Forum:*** The second meeting of the Friends of the Forum under the Chair of the Government of the Philippines took place on 26 May in Geneva, Switzerland. UNFPA prepared and made a statement on behalf of GMG. The statement is available on the GMG workspace.

*UNFPA*  
*15 August 2008*

**NOTE TO FILE**  
**HANOVER MEETING BETWEEN MS. ANN PAWLICZKO, UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AND MS. MINA MASHAYEKHI, UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) ON THE TRANSFER OF THE GLOBAL MIGRATION GROUP (GMG) CHAIR**

*14 August 2008 - 9:15 to 9:50am*

Ms. Pawliczko assured UNCTAD of UNFPA's support. UNCTAD congratulated UNFPA for its capable leadership during the period of chairmanship of the GMG and thanked Ms. Pawliczko for her offer of continued support.

Ms. Ann Pawliczko from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), accompanied by Ms. Sabrina Juran, briefed Ms. Mina Mashayekhi from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), accompanied by Deepali Fernandes, on the two major events regarding international migration in the second half of 2008 that would have implications for the work of the GMG: 1) the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), to be held in Manila, the Philippines, from 29 to 30 October 2008, and 2) the consideration by the Second Committee of the General Assembly of ways to follow-up the High-level Dialogue.

Regarding the Global Forum, Ms. Pawliczko informed that Mr. Esteban Conejos, Under-Secretary for Migrant Worker Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines was in charge of organizing the second meeting of the Forum. Greece would be the host of the third meeting and Argentina would likely host the fourth. Ms. Pawliczko reported that all correspondence to Mr. Conejos goes through his Executive Assistant Ms. Estrella Lajom-Roman. Her e-mail is [starlajom@gmail.com](mailto:starlajom@gmail.com). Ms. Pawliczko proposed that it would be advisable for UNCTAD to make a statement on behalf of the GMG at the Plenary of the Global Forum in October, as other GMG Chairs had done in the past. The draft of the statement should be posted on the GMG workspace for GMG members to comment on it. Ms. Mashayekhi informed that UNCTAD wished to collect core messages the Heads of Agencies would like to deliver to the Global Forum at their first meeting of Principals planned for the first half of September. She informed that UNCTAD would have two delegates at the Global Forum. If his schedule permits, UNCTAD's Secretary-General, Mr. Panitchpakdi would like to attend the Forum himself.

Furthermore, Ms. Pawliczko mentioned that Mr. Peter Sutherland, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development, continues to be the main link between the United Nations and the Global Forum. All correspondence to Mr. Sutherland goes through his Assistant Evelyn Purves. Her e-mail is [evelyn.purves@gs.com](mailto:evelyn.purves@gs.com). Ms. Pawliczko proposed that it would be advisable to continue sending the minutes of the GMG Principal meetings to Mr. Sutherland, for him to be informed of GMG activities.

### **Progress made by GMG during UNFPA's Chairmanship:**

Ms. Pawliczko reported the launch of the new independent GMG web site IOM created on behalf of the GMG, representing the group's work in migration issues. The URL for the GMG is [www.globalmigrationgroup.org](http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org). IOM would administer and update the web site in the future. The web site was now active.

Furthermore it was mentioned that the GMG brochure was updated by IOM to include the four new members (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNITAR and the Regional Commissions).

Regarding the International Partnership on Migration and Development Ms. Pawliczko informed that the Proposal had been presented on various occasions to the organizers of the Global Forum but Member States had deferred its consideration. In his letter of 18 March to the GMG Chair, Under-Secretary Conejos informed that the Proposal was discussed by the Troika but that the Troika believed that the goals of the proposal regarding the "Promotion of policy coherence" and "Capacity building" (Goals Number 2 and 3), as well as the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, were not appropriate. However, Member States had generally expressed support for the Proposal, with an alternative format, delinked from the Global Forum, and other potential sources of funding. Until now no proposal for an alternative format has been made.

Regarding the Consolidated Report on Migration and Human Rights, Ms. Pawliczko informed that every member of the GMG had contributed to the report as per the agency's expertise. She informed that the project was advancing well and that UNFPA was in the last steps of pulling the different inputs together to produce a coherent and comprehensive document. Once the first draft is prepared, UNFPA would share it with members of the GMG for comments. She mentioned that the GMG report would be a stand-alone document. It was timely for all agencies since the United Nations was commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year with special events planned for December. The report should be published in October in time to present it to the Global Forum organizers and to make it available at the Forum in Manila. Ms. Pawliczko explained that the GMG input would be a practical tool for governments discussing the important and politically sensitive issue of the human rights of migrants. The report would give 1) overview of the issues concerned within each topic, 2) description of the challenges encountered in the specific area of work, 3) examples of two or three best practices and lessons learned within the scope of the selected theme and 4) key messages and practical recommendations for future action.

### **Issues that Mr. Panitchpakdi will have to address as Chair of GMG:**

Ms. Pawliczko updated Ms. Mashayekhi on the issue of GMG's support structure for the Global Forum. The GMG agreed on providing support to the Global Forum in form of a light support structure to facilitate the work of the Forum. In a letter dated 21 July, that UNFPA received on 25 July, Under-Secretary Conejos invited the GMG to nominate a suitable member agency by 15 August that could meet the requirements to host a support structure, i.e. to provide accommodation, financial, IT, and other management resource back-up. That same day UNFPA forwarded the letter to UNCTAD.

Ms. Mashayekhi informed that UNCTAD's Secretary-General, Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, had sent a reply to Mr. Conejos on 12 August requesting an extension for submission in order to be able to discuss the issue at the next Principals' meeting of the GMG, in September. Thus, the heads of agencies would discuss the details of the proposal and report back to the Forum organizers with a unified GMG position. She also reported that individual requests for a support structure had been received by IOM, UNITAR and UNDP. Regarding these agencies, Mr. Supachai had sent a letter asking them to put their individual proposals on hold, for the GMG to discuss the issue first. Both agency representatives agreed that the GMG should not just provide secretarial support to the Global Forum but also give technical and substantive support.

***The Principals of the GMG would have to discuss GMG's position on the support structure at their next meeting in September.***

Ms. Pawliczko informed that the third meeting of the Friends of the Forum would be held on Thursday, 4 September 2008 in Geneva. The formal invitation and agenda would be sent out through the diplomatic channels in August. Ms. Pawliczko proposed that it would be advisable for UNCTAD to hold a statement on behalf of the GMG at the meeting. The draft of the statement should be posted on the GMG workspace for GMG members to comment on it.

Furthermore it was mentioned that GMG was having trouble getting members at the Principal level to commit to it. Ms. Pawliczko recommended that letters of invitation to the Meetings of Principals should emphasize the importance of having participation at the highest level. The invitations should also be sent out with advance notice in order for the working level members to brief the Principals in time. The decision-making capacity of the Principals' meeting would be limited if the participants were not empowered to make decisions. Ms. Pawliczko also mentioned that the climate within the GMG was not good for effective cooperation and that it was difficult to get the agencies to do something. Reducing the time of video conferences at the Principal Level from 2 hours to only 1 hour and creating a more substantive agenda proved to be effective.

***The Chair of the GMG would have to emphasize the importance of having participation of the highest level.***

Ms. Pawliczko referred to the importance of the use of the GMG workspace in order to provide good communication and coherence among GMG members. She recommended that all Working Level members from UNCTAD register with the GMG workspace. Invitations had been sent. Once registered with the workspace, UNCTAD would be provided with ownership rights to post, edit etc. all forms of documents on the work space. The manual to the workspace had been sent out yesterday. Ms. Sabrina Juran is willing to provide technical assistance. Her e-mail is [juran@unfpa.org](mailto:juran@unfpa.org). Furthermore the Population Division will continue to host the GMG Workspace since it has the technical person (Maxime Garneau [garneau@un.org](mailto:garneau@un.org)) on site who works on it.

***Remind GMG members of the importance of the GMG work space.***

Ms. Pawliczko informed that the representation of the Regional Commissions had changed from UNECA to UNESCWA on 1 August 2008. The new focal point with UNESCWA would be Ms. Batool Shakoori, Social Affairs Officer: [shakoori@un.org](mailto:shakoori@un.org).

Furthermore, Ms. Pawliczko mentioned that General Assembly Resolution 61/208 of 7 March 2007 called for a report on migration and development in follow-up to the High-Level Dialogue for the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly. UN DESA was drafting the report and would circulate it to the GMG for comments.

Lastly it was mentioned that GMG meetings - via video-conferences included 6 Sites: New York (UN/DESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNITAR, Regional Commissions NY Office) Geneva (IOM, UNHCR, UNOHCHR, ILO, UNCTAD), Vienna (UNODC), Beirut (ESCWA), Paris (UNESCO), Washington (World Bank).

Ms. Pawliczko reassured UNCTAD of UNFPA's support.