



Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Department of Economic
and Social Affairs (DESA)

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDD/2006/WG.1/Agenda
16 May 2006
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development
in the Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities
Beirut, 15-17 May 2006

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

MONDAY, 15 MAY 2006

Morning session

09.00 – 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 10.30 Opening of the meeting

Opening statement (H.E. Ambassador Reda A. Shehata, Foreign Policy Advisor, Bahrain)

Opening statement (Chief of Migration Section, Population Division, UN/DESA)

Opening statement (Deputy Executive Secretary, UN/ESCWA)

10.30 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 13.00 I. International migration trends and policies in the Arab region

a. International migration in the Arab region (United Nations Population Division)

b. International migration in the Arab region: Trends and policies (Philippe Fargues, Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration)

Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

Afternoon session

14.00 – 15.30 II. International migration and socio-economic development

a. Demographic transition, employment and labour migration in the Mashreq countries (Heba Nassar, American University, Cairo)

b. The impact of international migration on the economic development of countries in the Mediterranean basin (Andrea Gallina, Roskilde University)

Discussion

15.30 – 16.00 Break

16.00 – 17.30 III. Temporary labour migration in the Arab region

- a. Migration policies and their effectiveness in GCC countries (Nasra Shah, Kuwait University)*
 - b. Governing labour migration in GCC countries (Mohamed Dito, Economic Development Board, Bahrain)*
 - c. Labour policies in GCC countries: Lessons for the future (Maitha Al Shaimsi UAE University)*
- Discussion

TUESDAY, 16 MAY 2006

Morning session

09.30 - 11.00 IV. Highly-skilled migration: Challenges and opportunities

- a. Education levels and skills of Arab emigrants in OECD countries (Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD)*
 - b. Brain drain in the Arab countries (Caglar Ozden, World Bank)*
- Discussion

11.00 – 11.30 Break

11.30 – 13.00 V. Transnational communities and return migration

- a. The role of transnational communities in fostering development in countries of origin: The case of Lebanon (Boutros Labaki, Institute for Economic and Social Development)*
- Discussion

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

Afternoon session

14.00 – 15.30 VI. Remittances: development impact and policy responses

- a. Migration, remittances and development in the Arab region (Richard Adams, World Bank)*
- b. The macro-economic impact of remittances in Egypt, Jordan and Syria (Mahmed Lamine Fares, ESCWA)*
- c. Remittances and socio-economic development: The Maghreb experience (Mohamed Khachani, Faculty of Law, Mohammed V University)*

15.30 – 16.00 Break

16.00 – 17.00 VI. Remittances: development impact and policy responses (continued)

Discussion

WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2006

Morning session

09.30 – 10.30 VII. International migration in the Arab region: prospects for governance and management

a. Presentation by His Excellency Ambassador Reda Ahmed Shehata, former Commissioner of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)

b. Migration in the Arab region: A policy perspective (Issam Al Zaim, Centre for Arab Studies)

Discussion

10.30 – 11.00 Break

11.00 – 12.00 VIII. International migration in the Arab region: the role of international organizations

a. The role of the International Labour Office (Ibrahim Awad, ILO)

b. The role of the International Organization for Migration (Luigi Carta, IOM)

c. The role of the League of Arab States (Khaled Louhichi, LAS)

d. The Mediterranean Transit Migration Informal Dialogue (Abdel Mawla El Solh, ICMPD)

Discussion

12.00 – 13.00 Closing of the meeting

Summary and conclusions (UN/ESCWA)

Closing remarks (Population Division, UN/DESA and UN/ESCWA)