



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Economic and Environmental Forum**

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SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM: PART II

**MIGRATION MANAGEMENT AND ITS LINKAGES WITH ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES TO THE BENEFIT OF STABILITY AND SECURITY IN
THE OSCE REGION**

Athens, 18 - 20 May 2009

CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY

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723rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 723, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 857
REGARDING THE TIME, VENUE, THEME, AGENDA AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR THE SEVENTEENTH
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

19 and 20 January 2009 and 18 to 20 May 2009

The Permanent Council,

Pursuant to paragraphs 21 to 32 of Chapter VII of the Helsinki Document 1992, paragraph 20 of Chapter IX of the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension of 2 December 2003, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04 of 7 December 2004, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration of 6 December 2005, the Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/06 of 26 July 2006, the Permanent Council Decision No. 743 of 19 October 2006 and the Ministerial Statement on Migration (MC.DOC/6/06) of 5 December 2006,

Taking into account the closing statement by the Chairperson of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Forum,

Decides that:

1. The theme of the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”;
2. The Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum will be held over a period of five days, broken down as follows, and without setting a precedent for future Economic and Environmental Forums:
 - 2.1 On 19 and 20 January 2009 in Vienna;
 - 2.2 From 18 to 20 May 2009 in Athens;
3. The agendas of the two segments of the Forum would focus on the following topics: legal and illegal migration; the linkages and interaction between economic, social and environmental policies and migration; partnerships and inter-State co-operation in the area of migration management, while overall paying due attention to the cross-dimensional aspects of migration;

4. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will review the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The review, to be integrated in the second segment of the Economic and Environmental Forum, will address OSCE commitments related to migration and other relevant OSCE commitments referred to in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/05 on Migration of 6 December 2005;

5. Discussions of the Forum should benefit from input provided by other OSCE bodies and relevant meetings, including two preparatory conferences outside of Vienna, organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities under the guidance of the 2009 OSCE Chairmanship, and deliberations in various international organizations;

6. Moreover, taking into account its tasks, the Economic and Environmental Forum will discuss ongoing and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementing the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension;

7. The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials responsible for shaping international economic and environmental policy in the OSCE area. Participation of representatives from the business and scientific communities as well as other relevant actors of civil society in their delegations would be welcome;

8. As in previous years, the format of the Economic and Environmental Forum should provide for the active involvement of relevant international organizations and encourage open discussions;

9. The following international organizations, international organs, regional groupings and conferences of States are invited to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum: Adriatic and Ionic Initiative; Asian Development Bank; Black Sea Economic Co-operation; Central European Initiative; Collective Security Treaty Organization; Commonwealth of Independent States; Council of Europe; Economic Co-operation Organization; Eurasian Economic Community; European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Environment Agency; European Investment Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Centre for Migration Policy Development; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Labour Organization; International Fund for Agricultural Development; International Monetary Fund; International Organization for Migration; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM; Organization of the Islamic Conference; Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Shanghai Co-operation Organization; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Development Fund for Women; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Human Settlement Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia; World Bank Group; World Customs Organization and other relevant organizations;

10. The Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum;

11. Upon request by a delegation of an OSCE participating State, regional groupings or expert academics and business representatives may also be invited, as appropriate, to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum;

12. Subject to the provisions contained in Chapter IV, paragraphs 15 and 16, of the Helsinki Document 1992, the representatives of non-governmental organizations with relevant experience in the area under discussion are also invited to participate in the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum;

13. In line with the practices established over the past years with regard to meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum and their preparatory process, the Chairperson of both segments of the Seventeenth Economic and Environmental Forum will present summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions. The Economic and Environmental Committee will further include the conclusions of the Chairperson and the reports of the rapporteurs in its discussions so that the Permanent Council can take the decisions required for appropriate policy translation and follow-up activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region” was selected as the theme for the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) through the PC.DEC/857 of 24 July 2008.

The second and concluding part of the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process was organized in Athens on 18-20 May 2009. The meeting was opened by **H.E. Dora Bakoyannis**, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece. Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Goran Svilanovic, as well as Mr. Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also addressed the opening session.

The meeting gathered more than 300 participants, official representatives from OSCE participating States and OSCE Partners for Co-operation, international and non-governmental organizations, the business community and the academic community, as well as OSCE Institutions and Field Offices.

A Special Event dedicated to the *“Impact of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis”* was organized on 18 May, on the margins of the Forum. It featured an Introductory Speech by H.E. George Provopoulos, Governor of the Central Bank of Greece.

From the discussions of the second part of the Forum in Athens on 18-20 May as well as the previous events, the first part of the Forum (Vienna, 19-20 January 2009) and the two preparatory Conferences (Prague, 16-17 October 2008 and Tirana, 16-17 March 2009), the following **key conclusions** and follow-up actions can be drawn.

First and foremost, the Forum emphasized the need to strengthen co-operation among all participating States in order to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to migration management. Fostering of partnerships as well as co-operation between destination, transit and origin countries, with the involvement of all stakeholders including the private sector and civil society organizations, were considered prerequisites for efficient migration management. Such co-operation can help enhance the benefits of legal migration while tackling illegal migration including criminal activities such as smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings. The Forum contributed to this multi-stakeholder dialogue, and it was stressed repeatedly that more remains to be done in this area. It was recommended that **the OSCE could provide a regional platform for dialogue, where all OSCE participating States and other key stakeholders could discuss migration and security issues** and where information, experience, effective practices and know how could be shared. Furthermore, participants concluded that **the OSCE should promote the advancement of stronger partnership with international bodies that specialise in migration** in order to address OSCE concerns such as illegal migration and associated criminal activities, scarcity of social and economic opportunities, possible inter-dependencies between migration and environmental factors as well as racism and intolerance.

The *Report on the Review of the Implementation of OSCE Commitments related to migration* prepared by the International Labour Organization (ILO) was circulated under reference number EEF.IO/5/09 and was discussed at the Athens Forum. It provided a comprehensive background on recent migration dynamics in the OSCE area as well as a solid analysis of the OSCE commitments in the area of migration. It acknowledged that significant progress has been made in relation to migrant workers and other migrant protection issues but stated that work still needed to be done in moving forward the topic of effective migration management. It encouraged the participating States to ratify and implement migration related legal instruments and agreements on the international, regional and bilateral level. **The OSCE could provide information and technical support to interested participating States in the areas of improvement of legislation through incorporation of international standards.** The OSCE could also facilitate, as far as possible, the mobilization of the necessary support to governments to elaborate and implement effective national policy frameworks, and institutional mechanisms.

In order to ensure evidence-based decision and policy making as well as the development of common standards for labour assessment studies, the collection of high-quality data and statistics on migration should be improved and harmonized. Potential discrepancies between labour market requirements and migration admission policies can be better addressed by also including the private sector in the design of labour market policies. Therefore, **the OSCE should encourage and support the expansion of data collection, research and policy review capacities at both national and regional level.**

The '*Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies*', launched at the Athens Forum, as well as the session dedicated to this issue, emphasized that efforts need to be stepped up to incorporate gender aspects in migration policy. Therefore, actions are needed to **raise awareness among senior policy makers from OSCE countries and other relevant institutions on the importance of the inclusion of gender-sensitive measures into labour migration policies as well as to improve the institutional capacity of countries of origin, transit and destination to meet female labour migration challenges** for the mutual benefit of the countries and societies concerned and of the migrant workers themselves.

The Forum also discussed how to enhance the development impacts on migration including the importance of raising awareness of the positive socio-economic contributions migrants make to both destination and origin country economies. These issues were even more important given the current global financial and economic crisis. In this connection it was stressed that in the common efforts of finding more effective and sustainable policy solutions, the main root causes of migration also needed to be addressed jointly such as economic growth, good governance, employment creation and eradication of poverty. The Forum also acknowledged the positive effects of remittances on the economy of origin countries and stressed the importance of creating better conditions and services to facilitate the flow of remittances. This includes strengthening financial literacy among remittance holders and recipients to ensure safe transfer and best possible utilization of remittances, thereby maximising their positive impact on development. Moreover, participating States were encouraged to embark on regulatory reforms aimed at encouraging remittance holders and recipients to invest in new businesses including self-employment opportunities. **On the issue of migrant savings abroad and diaspora investment, the OSCE could, together with partner organizations and involving governments and the financial sector, facilitate information sharing and an exchange of ideas on how to encourage diasporas to invest their savings in their home country.**

Over the course of the Forum process, discussion also focused on the social aspects of migration, respect for human rights, especially of the most vulnerable such as children and undocumented migrants. It was stressed that migrants should also have access to decent working and social conditions which would require countries to enforce national standards and labour inspections to minimize exploitation and abuse of migrant workers. On the national level, the enhancement of intergovernmental and inter-agency co-operation was considered to be of major significance. It was noted that during economic downturns the migrants are the first to experience discrimination and intolerance which can become a security threat through social unrest. Therefore, **the OSCE should address any rise in xenophobic hostility and intolerance towards migrants and other foreigners through encouraging positive and factual political discourse and media portrayals as well as continued cooperation between destination and origin countries to find mutually acceptable solutions.** Attention should be paid to the issue of integration, reintegration as well as social security of migrants.

The Forum acknowledged the value of adequate and accessible information to migrants in both origin and destination countries for legal, orderly and safe migration. The establishment of *'Migrant Information Centres'* was taken as one good example of a helpful support service in reducing irregular migration. To prevent malpractices of some recruitment agencies such as misinformation about the nature and conditions of employment, charging of high placement fees or facilitation of illegal migration, it was stressed that governments needed to develop and implement regulations of recruitment agencies.

The Forum process was also instrumental in stimulating discussion on the inter-dependencies between environmental factors and migration and their potential impacts on security and stability in the OSCE area. It was found that there was still research, policy and operational gaps to be filled before such inter-dependencies could be established and addressed. It was also pointed out that there is no existing forum on migration that entirely incorporates emerging concerns around environmental change, migration and security/stability implications. **The OSCE could facilitate further research on the subject and provide a platform for awareness raising and exchange of information as part of early warning and better preparedness in this area.**

Finally the Forum strongly emphasised that **the OSCE should facilitate capacity building on migration related issues as it was seen as an essential tool for effective policy implementation in both countries of origin and of destination.** This capacity building should strive to strengthen institutions and legal frameworks, improve national inter-agency co-ordination and regional co-operation. The OSCE, together with relevant partner organizations should, on request, provide such assistance to its participating States.

Documents - including a concept note on conclusions and the way forward (EEF.GAL/6/09) and summaries of proposed joint IOM/ OSCE follow-up activities (EEF.GAL/7/09/Rev.1) - and presentations circulated in connection to the Athens Forum can be found on the OSCE Website: http://www.osce.org/conferences/eef_2009_athens.html .

The OCEEA, in close coordination with the Greek Chairmanship and in co-operation with partner organizations, is working on further elaborating and refining follow-up activities.

ANNOTATED AGENDA

MONDAY, 18 MAY 2009

10:00 – 11:00 **Opening Session**

Moderator: **Ambassador Mara Marinaki**, Chairperson of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE, OSCE Chairmanship

Opening Address:

- **H.E. Dora Bakoyannis**, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece

Introductory Remarks:

- **Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**, OSCE Secretary General
- **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Keynote speeches:

- **Mr. Ján Kubiš**, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- **Ambassador William Lacy Swing**, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee / Tea Break**

11:30 – 13:00 **Session I: Managing migration in a changing global environment**

Moderator: **Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon**, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communication, IOM, Geneva

Rapporteur: **Ms. Sinéad Harvey**, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Key issues:

- Alleviating the negative effects of the global financial/economic crisis on international migration and development
- Developing a comprehensive and co-operative approach enhancing economic development and stability
- Developing policy models incorporating migration management, developmental aspects and human rights aspects
- Upholding migrants' rights, dignity and equality of treatment, combating discrimination and xenophobia as serious challenges to security and stability in OSCE area

Presentations followed by discussion:

- **Ambassador Janez Lenarcic**, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)
- **Ambassador Andrej Benedejčič**, Director General, Directorate for Policy Planning and Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia
- **Ms. Irina Ivakhnyuk**, Ph.D., Senior Researcher and Deputy Director of the Department of Population, Faculty of Economics, Lomonosov Moscow State

University, Russian Federation

- **Ms. María Ochoa-Llidó**, Head, Migration and Roma Department, Council of Europe

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch – Restaurant Aphrodite (main building)

Special Event: Lunch for Heads of Delegations – Restaurant Captain’s House
Introductory Speech on the “Impact of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis”
by H.E. Mr. George Provopoulos, Governor of the Central Bank of Greece

15:00 – 16:30 Session II: Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension focusing on migration

Moderator: **Mr. José Antonio Miguel Polo**, Co-ordinator for International Relations, Directorate General for Immigration, Spain

Rapporteur: **Ms. Caroline Milow**, Senior Project Officer/Economic and Environmental Dimension, Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Presentation of the Review Report (EEF.IO/5/09:)

- **Mr. Ibrahim Awad**, Director, Migration Department, International Labour Office (ILO)

Commentators:

- **Ms. Tamara Duisenova**, Secretary General, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Melih Ulueren**, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey
- **Mr. Don Flynn**, Director, Migrants Rights Network, United Kingdom

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee / Tea Break

17:00 – 18:30 Session III: Gender and labour migration policies

Moderator: **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Ms. Kimberley Bulkley**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Key issues:

- Gender mainstreaming in permanent and temporary labour admission policies – main challenges, mainstreaming methods and tools
- Exchange of experience on measures being taken to provide legal migration channels for foreign domestic and care service workers to avoid irregular employment and improve labour protection to all economic sectors
- Improving migration policies and support services to attract more female migrant workers into high-skilled sectors
- Developing gender sensitive support services in countries of destination and origin to aid integration and re-integration upon return as well as limit the social costs of migration on the ‘left-behind’

Introductory remarks:

- **Ms. Evgenia Tsoumani**, Secretary General for Gender Equality, Greece

Presentation of the OSCE Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies:

- **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities,
- **Ms. Eva Biaudet**, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Commentators:

- **Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringéus**, Head of the Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE
- **Ms. Nargis Azizova**, Gender and Governance Adviser, Office in Tajikistan, United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- **Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra**, Senior Gender Advisor, IOM, Geneva

Discussion

**20:00 Reception hosted by the Greek OSCE Chairmanship
(Zappeion Hall, Athens)**

TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2009

09:30 – 11:00 Session IV: Enhancing the development impact of migration

Moderator: **Mr. Kęstutis Bučinskas**, Director of Migration Policy Department, Ministry of the Interior, Lithuania

Rapporteur: **Mr. Andrei Muntean**, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Tajikistan

Key issues:

- Enhancing the positive contributions to economic and social development made by migrants by promoting policy coherence between migration policy and economic development policy
- Responding to increasing unemployment among national and migrant populations, return migration and to decreasing remittance inflows and reduced opportunities for seasonal migration by supporting employment creating initiatives such as improved conditions for investment, SME development and self-employment
- Promoting shared responsibilities and co-operation between origin and destination countries through co-development, more effective use of remittances, migrants' investment and development potential

Presentations followed by discussion:

- **Mr. Andrew Dabalen**, Senior Economist, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Europe and Central Asia, the World Bank
- **Ms. Shujoat Khasanova**, Vice Speaker of the Parliament, Tajikistan
- **Mr. Pedro De Vasconcelos**, Programme Co-ordinator, Financing Facility for Remittances, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:30 – 13:00 Session V: Addressing the environmental factors of migration

Moderator: **Ambassador Fredericka Gregory**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Mr. Alexander Savelyev**, Project Officer/Environmental Affairs, Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Key issues:

- Discussing scenarios and raising awareness concerning the future impact of climate change on migration
- Enhancing early warning, preparedness and informed policy responses through research and scientific data gathering
- Addressing common environmental issues having a possible impact on migration in the context of regional security

Presentations followed by discussion:

- **Mr. Stavros Dimas**, EU Commissioner for Environment
- **Mr. Philippe Boncour**, Head of the International Dialogue on Migration Division, Migration Policy, Research and Communication Department, IOM, Geneva
- **Mr. Chad Briggs**, Senior Fellow, Institute for Environmental Security, Brussels
- **Professor Michelle Leighton**, Director of the Human Rights Programme, Centre for Law and Global Justice, University of San Francisco, USA, Munich Re Foundation Endowed Chair on Social Vulnerability, United Nations University, Bonn

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch - Restaurant Aphrodite (main building)

15:00 – 16:30 Session VI: Strengthening regional and inter-state co-operation in the area of migration management for the benefit of stability and security

Moderator: **Ambassador Cornel Feruță**, Permanent Representative of Romania to the OSCE, Chairman of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee

Rapporteur: **Ms. Ioana Mureșan**, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

Key issues (discussed in regional context - EU, CIS, Central Asia, Mediterranean, Black Sea regions and others):

- Cooperation for standardised and harmonised migration databases for evidence-based policy-making
- Building effective migration management institutions and structures involving all relevant stakeholders and supporting regional cooperation and economic development
- Promoting mutual action which foster labour rights, social welfare and social integration to avoid exploitation and abuse of migrant workers in the workplace and society in general
- Promoting legal channels based on labour market assessments and closer cooperation between employment agencies in countries of destination and origin
- Cooperation between countries to combat illegal migration and related criminal activities as well as strengthen border management

Presentations followed by discussion:

- **Ms. Aigul Ryskulova**, Chairperson, State Committee on Migration and Employment, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Mr. José Matres Manso**, Senior Advisor to the Secretary General on Consular Affairs and Migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Spain
- **Mr. Patick A. Taran**, Senior Migration Specialist, International Migration Program, ILO

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee / Tea Break

17:00 – 18:30 **Session VI: Strengthening regional and inter-state co-operation in the area of migration management for the benefit of stability and security (continued)**

Moderator: **Mr. Vasyl Husechko**, Deputy Head, Department of Employment Policy and Labour Migration, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ukraine

Rapporteur: **Ms. Alma Mirvic**, National Reporting Officer, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Presentations followed by discussions:

- **Ms. Eva Biaudet**, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- **Ms. Ann-Charlotte Nygard**, Senior Programme Manager, Department for Capacity Building and Operations, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- **Mr. Ralph Markert**, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL

20:00 **Cultural Event (Athens Concert Hall)**

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2009

09:30 – 12:00 **The OSCE contribution and follow-up ideas**

Moderator: **Ambassador Nikolaos Kalantzianos**, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece

Rapporteur: **Mr. Ryan Maccan**, Migration Project Assistant, OCEEA/OSCE

Presentation of follow-up proposals:

- **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Commentators:

- **Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon**, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communication, IOM, Geneva
- **Mr. Ibrahim Awad**, Director, Migration Department, ILO
- **Mr. Anthonius W. De Vries**, UNECE & OSCE/EED Co-ordinator, DG RELEX, European Commission
- **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Institute of European Studies, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

Discussion

Concluding Remarks:

- **Ambassador Nikolaos Kalantzianos**, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece

The 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Part 2 / Athens, 18-20 May 2009

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”

**Welcoming Remarks by
H.E. Dora Bakoyannis, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece**

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the OSCE Chairmanship, I am happy to welcome you all to Athens for this important meeting - the second and concluding part of the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum on “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”.

The primary goal of the Greek Chairmanship throughout 2009 is to best use the OSCE and its mechanisms in order to address the most important challenges of its participating States. Above all we aim to do so in a way that promotes dialogue and co-operation in the OSCE region.

This is exactly what we are working towards with respect to the Second Dimension. Placed between the other two pillars of the OSCE, we believe that the Economic and Environmental Dimension is a key factor of balance. Its clear mandate, to monitor the economic and environmental developments and address related challenges which could potentially jeopardise stability and security in the OSCE region, is of primary importance.

With this in mind, we deemed it necessary to address migration and to provide the participating States with the possibility to express their views and proposals on issues of common interest through the political platform of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. Here, I would like to thank the participating States for their support and contribution to the Forum process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is not a coincidence that this thematic area is at the forefront of our political agenda. We have all witnessed the increasing trends of migration as an effect of globalization. Climate change also has a great impact on migration flows. As a matter of fact the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that some 150 million people will have migrated by 2050, due to climate change. Furthermore, the global economic crisis tends to aggravate the problem. Its multifaceted character calls for a more focused and coordinated response from the international community. Today, migration issues are being discussed at the national, regional, and international levels. As all actors eventually face common challenges, we ought to examine together the possibilities for policy responses.

Even though Greece has a special interest in migration, let me also point out that Greece has a relatively long tradition of migratory flows due to its geographical location. As a result we have been actively involved in the ongoing dialogue, in the context of various partnerships and initiatives undertaken under the auspices of the EU as well as in the international field.

This is why we have also brought up the theme in this context. We aspire to contribute to the multilateral efforts and to develop a more comprehensive approach by exploring ways of engaging all relevant stakeholders in a substantial dialogue.

The preparatory process to the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum has been a long and demanding one. We consulted widely when selecting the theme, encompassing all concerns of the participating States in order to reach consensus - consensus on the subject as such, as well as on how to best develop the discussions and identify the implications at every level of governance.

Believing in the principle of continuity and keeping in mind the political sensitivities linked to the various aspects of the theme, our intention is to encourage a closer examination of the new trends and developments in the area of migration since 2005, while remaining focused on its security aspect.

When migration was last discussed under the Slovenian Chairmanship, the objectives were, among others, to promote improved migration management and to examine links with other policy areas, such as development, economic, social and environmental policies. At the same time, the aim was to define the roles of different stakeholders as well as to explore the various aspects of its cross dimensional character.

Talking about cross dimensionality, it is nothing new to say that migration, when treated properly, can contribute to the growth and development of the countries of origin, transit and destination. However, we have to keep in mind that migrants are human beings and societies have the moral responsibility to develop the necessary safety nets in order to protect and safeguard their human rights and dignity.

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The preparatory process to the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum was also rewarding as it generated many useful ideas. Let me point out the key issues identified throughout the process so far that are of particular relevance for the OSCE in the migration field :

- The need to further increase co-operation on migration issues, to develop efficient partnerships between destination, transit and origin countries, both bilaterally as well as at the regional and international levels.
- The need to put in place comprehensive, effective and coherent policy frameworks, as well as the importance of strengthening migration policy implementation and of enhancing capacity-building efforts in this regard.
- The usefulness of adopting a balanced approach by promoting legal migration channels, while at the same time increasing efforts to reduce illegal migration and other criminal activities.
- The fundamental issue of the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and their integration into host societies.

- The importance for all the countries concerned, including countries of origin, transit and destination, of strengthening the positive contributions of migration to the socio-economic development.
- The need to further tackle the complex inter-dependencies between migration and environmental factors.

To conclude, I would like to express my satisfaction at the outcome of the discussions generated so far, during the two preparatory Conferences as well as the 1st part of the Forum in Vienna. We have all witnessed a substantial and thorough exchange of views, which is in itself a positive outcome.

Judging from the positive feedback so far, I am convinced that this last part of the Forum will serve its purpose. That is, to agree to a set of concrete recommendations which will enable us to pave the way to further strengthening the dialogue and follow up initiatives in the area of migration.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate that as we are going through an unprecedented economic crisis, it is of the utmost importance, especially as far as the more advanced countries are concerned, not to lose sight – because of the dire economic situation – of the need to go on with their medium- or long-term policies facing problems on a global scale. Instead of adapting an introspective and fearful reaction, it is all the more necessary to persevere with those policies intended to deal with the ever growing problems, such as those related to the environment or to migration.

I wish you all a very constructive continuation of the meeting.

Thank you.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Part 2 / Athens, 18-20 May 2009

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”

Welcoming Remarks by

Secretary General

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the second part of the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

I have no doubt that this splendid setting will inspire us to have an open exchange of views on how to draw fully on the economic and social contribution that migration makes to both countries of origin and destination.

The current global economic and financial context makes this all the more important. In troubled times, it is vital that we communicate clearly on the positive contribution that migrants make to our societies and also that we counter firmly any rise of xenophobia or scapegoating of migrant worker. Violations of human rights and threats to social cohesion cannot be accepted or ignored. These are our starting points.

The question of effective migration management matters also because the scope and complexity of international migration has increased in the last years across the OSCE area.

States hold primary responsibility for effectively addressing the opportunities and challenges of migration. However, inter-State co-operation is a key part of elaborating and implementing sustainable policy solutions. In this context, developing dialogue and stronger co-operation between governments at the bilateral, regional and international levels is vital.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE role starts here.

The first CSCE commitments on migration were elaborated in the Helsinki Final Act. Since 1975, participating States have developed their commitments further – to

include commitments related to regulating migration, optimising the benefits of migration, ensuring migrants' working and living conditions, preventing discrimination and xenophobia, and facilitating return and reintegration.

Throughout this process, the OSCE has come to offer an important regional platform for both political *consultation* and *action* on migration and security related issues. Upon their request, the OSCE indeed works to assist individual participating States in developing and enhancing migration management policies.

The decision of participating States last July, selecting “migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region” as the theme for the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, builds on these foundations.

Since July, discussions in the OSCE have been rich. The participating States have explored options for strengthening internal and external co-operation. They have discussed how to improve the legal channels for migration and the protection of migrants and also how to reduce irregular migration and to combat corruption and organized criminal activities. Throughout all of these discussions, the participating States have agreed on the importance of greater coherence between migration policies and economic, social and environmental policies.

In the course of the Economic and Environmental Forum process, the participating States and OSCE partner organizations have identified a number of priority issues and potential areas of activity for the Organization. These recommendations have been reflected in the Summary documents prepared.

These recommendations underline the idea that the OSCE can provide a wide platform for dialogue and co-operation on migration and security issues, incorporating all OSCE participating States – countries of origin, transit and destination – as well as the Partners for Co-operation, and other partner organizations. In particular, the OSCE can facilitate the sharing of experience on measures that have proven successful in fostering legal labour migration and reducing irregular migration. The OSCE can help also to promote a better understanding of the links between migration and security. The OSCE contribution can also be in helping to address threats to social cohesion arising from xenophobic hostility and violence expressed against migrants. Finally, the Organization may play an important role in an early warning capacity -- in order to ensure better preparedness to respond to the impact of environmental factors on migration.

We have a full agenda ahead of us in the next three days. How can we better manage migration in a changing global context? What is the state of play regarding OSCE commitments in the area of migration and their implementation? How to strengthen gender mainstreaming in labour migration policies? How can we strengthen inter-State and regional co-operation? These are some of the questions that we will address.

The International Labour Office has performed a great service to the OSCE and the participating States, for which I am grateful. The *Review of the Implementation of OSCE Commitments related to migration*, to be discussed later today, is important, because it confirms the role the OSCE can play in the area of comprehensive migration management. The Review is helpful also because it reminds all of the

participating States of where they stand with regard to implementing migration related commitments and where improvements may be made. The Review will help to bolster the work of the OSCE and provide new directions for future work.

I wish also to draw your attention to the *Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies* that will be officially launched this afternoon. This Guide reflects the comprehensive approach the OSCE takes to migration management. Drawing across all three Dimensions, the Guide is the result of co-operation between the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Secretariat Gender Section. I look forward to active discussion on the Guide.

Excellencies,
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I wish, first, to extend my personal gratitude to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Throughout the Forum process, the IOM has provided generous support and professional expertise to the organization of meetings and to developing concrete follow-up activities. The OSCE is grateful for the excellent co-operation and strong engagement received from both the ILO and the IOM.

A number of concrete follow-up projects, jointly developed by the OSCE and the IOM, have been submitted for the consideration of participating States. The focus of these proposed projects falls on issues such as migration data collection and harmonization, facilitating migrant savings and investment, gender and labour migration, as well as environmental issues and migration. I urge your thoughtful consideration to these ideas.

I wish also to thank the Greek Chairmanship. As captain of the OSCE ship, the Chairwoman-in-Office has stewarded excellently this important and sensitive topic through the Forum process.

On behalf of the OSCE Secretariat, my thanks finally go to all representatives from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, and to experts from international organizations, NGOs and the business and academic community.

I am pleased to welcome Mr. Ján Kubiš, well-known to OSCE circles and now Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration. I look forward to your keynote addresses.

With this, I pass on the floor to Mr. Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of our Economic and Environmental Activities, whose Office, with the Greek Chairmanship, has prepared this event.

I look forward to our discussions. Thank you.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Part 2 / Athens, 18-20 May 2009

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”

**Welcoming Remarks by
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
Goran Svilanovic**

Madam Minister,
Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

I am pleased to join the previous speakers in welcoming you to the second part of the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum here at beautiful Lagonissi Resort.

Allow me also to join in cordially thanking the Greek Chairmanship for the guidance they have provided during the last months; and to thank our international partners and experts for helping us elaborate possible policies and activities to improve migration management within the OSCE area. I would also like to pay my compliments to all of you who are so actively involved in ensuring the success of this Forum.

In the course of the preceding preparatory Conferences in Prague and Tirana, and the Vienna Forum, we discussed not only possible policies to improve efficiency in migration management but also means to enhance the positive contribution of migration to economic development, as well as social and environmental aspects of migration.

Let me recall you the results of several studies that illustrate the high correlation of migration with economic growth. As evidenced, migratory flows do have significant positive effects on national economies. Some of the wealthiest countries in the world have the highest proportion of immigrant workers, who, in fact do not substitute national workforce, but complement it. On the other hand, origin countries can benefit from remittances and acquired skills and knowledge of their returning migrants. According to the International Labour Office, regional migrant remittances in the OSCE area amounted to a total of around US \$ 50 billion in 2007. They have therefore become a significant income source for millions of family members staying at home, helping to reduce poverty levels. We should also within the OSCE framework discuss how we can facilitate governments, financial intermediaries and others to provide a more supportive environment that maximizes the benefits of remittances in particular to the senders and the recipients.

Let us also not forget about the vulnerability of labour migrants. In particular in the current financial and economic situation, it is important to stress that migration is a positive force which can help governments to overcome economic downturns. Therefore, we should carefully examine different options to deal with migration and migrant labour as tightening regulatory regimes and cutting immigration may not be the most beneficial for long-term socio-economic development in many of our countries. Reduced channels for regular migration may even lead to a worse situation in terms of increased irregular migration, exploitation of migrant workers and trafficking in human beings. In times of crisis, I would like to call upon all state authorities to fully respect the human rights of migrants and their families.

Therefore, I would like to call for reinforced international co-operation among OSCE participating States and international organisations in order to effectively address this important topic. I do believe that the OSCE, together with its partners, can play an important role in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the upcoming Sessions, we will, based on our consolidated recommendations and ideas, conclude the Forum process by once again highlighting different aspects that need to be considered in the elaboration of effective policies related to migration management. Among the different subjects for discussion, we will examine the influence of the global financial and economic crisis on migration, review the development impacts, address gender aspects in labour migration policies and analyse environmental factors as well as discuss ways to strengthen regional and interstate co-operation.

The Forum's programme is structured in such a way that thematic presentations will lead and serve as a foundation for interactive discussions.

The first session will focus on managing migration in a changing global environment. Given the current global financial and economic crisis, it is even more important to develop a comprehensive and co-operative approach for enhancing economic development and stability, while incorporating migration policies in national and international policy responses. Session I will also discuss the need for upholding migrants' rights, dignity and equality of treatment as well as the combating of discrimination and xenophobia.

Session II, as already mentioned, is dedicated to the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension focusing on migration. I am looking forward to the presentation by Mr. Ibrahim Awad, Director of the ILO Migration Department of the review report.

In **Session III** the new *Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies* produced by the OSCE as a cross-dimensional activity will be presented. The presentation will be followed by a discussion on gender aspects related to labour migration policies and an exchange of information on new initiatives and policies developed in the OSCE area that take gender into consideration.

On Tuesday we will start with **Session IV** on enhancing the development impact of migration, whereby we will engage in exchange of ideas on how to respond to increased unemployment among national and migrant population, return migration and the issue of remittances. The overall aim of this session is to further strengthen the positive contributions

to economic and social development made by migrants and to promote policy coherence between national economic development policies.

Session V will include a discussion of scenarios and awareness raising concerning the future impact of climate change on migration and the interrelation between environmental change and migratory flows. Together, we will work on ways to enhance early warning and preparedness policy responses in order to address possible impacts on migration in the context of regional security.

The second day will conclude with **Session VI** on strengthening regional and inter-state co-operation. Key issues will be discussed in a regional context. In the course of this part, we will look into co-operation for standardised and harmonised migration databases, the need for migration management institutions and structures and, last but not least, the promotion of legal channels in order to combat irregular migration and related criminal activities.

Then, on Wednesday, the last day of the Forum, we will discuss possible OSCE contributions and follow-up ideas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I look forward to the active participation from participating States, Partners for Co-operation, experts from international organizations, and representatives of NGOs and the business and academic community. I am also very much looking forward to the contributions by our Economic and Environmental Officers from the OSCE field presences.

Your contributions here will lay the foundations to our continued work in this area.

Thank you.



**Statement by Mr. Ján Kubiš
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to address you at the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The topic of today – “Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region” - combines many challenging economic, environmental and security issues. At this point, I would like to thank the government of Greece not only for their warm hospitality, but also for its choice of the 2009 OSCE Economic Dimension theme.

The importance of this topic – migration - for the OSCE as well the UN ECE Member states is amply manifested by the fact, that the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension already discussed the subjects of demography and migration during Slovenia’s Chairmanship-in-Office in 2005. OSCE as a key regional politico-security organisation is indeed well-placed to deal with this subject.

Four years ago, at the opening of the OSCE Economic Forum, the then UNECE Executive Secretary said: *“Europe is in the midst of a situation without parallel in demographic history. Fertility is well below replacement level, populations are rapidly ageing, and most countries face imminent or anticipated population decrease. If we add the intensifying and diversifying migration flows, it becomes clear that population trends could pose serious challenges to the security and economic stability in the UNECE region.”*

On one side, one could say that fundamentally and structurally, not much has changed since 2005. Unfavourable long-term demographic trends have continued to run their course. In the UNECE region, many nations are ageing. Long-term population projections consistently forecast some European countries to experience substantial decreases in working age populations notably in some professions and qualifications. In economic terms, fewer workers imply a lower aggregate output. This, in turn, points to reduced standards of living in Europe. At the same time, a higher number of retirees drawing old age benefits and pensions is expected to exert additional pressures on the currently tight fiscal frameworks. Regulated economic migration is called upon to be a part of solutions to at least some of these challenges, is a positive factor of economic and social stability and growth. All that has a direct bearing on migration policies of UNECE states.

On the other hand, there are factors and developments that strongly influence migration policies and patterns. Some of them do it rather temporarily although with lasting consequences, like the current global economic crisis. Others have a profound systemic effect and complex implications (including security ones), like climate change. Unfortunately, still there is not sufficient attention to these factors with regard to migration policies as of yet.

Migration appears to have grown and become more diverse, but – at the same time - it is today perceived as a more pressing policy issue. Migration has been firmly placed, partly due to Greece’s Chairmanship-in-Office, to the forefront of national and international agendas, and I hope, the current financial crisis will not affect that – migration should also here be a part of the solution.

The United Nations has played a constructive role addressing various dimensions of international migration. The UN has focused on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning the levels, trends and national policies.

Despite the considerable effort, accurate and up-to-date information on international migration is still lacking: long-term consistent and reliable time series of stock and flow data of migrants across countries are not available; neither are the statistics on irregular migration and on the situation of undocumented migrants. More effort should be made to improve international migration statistics. I am pleased to note that the OSCE and the International Migration Organization will propose tomorrow a number of projects to begin to rectify this unfavourable situation.

From among key features of effective migration policy I would like to mention but two. The first is a requirement to consider the impacts of migration on the economic and social development of all the countries involved. In other words, an effective migration policy will pay equal attention to both the receiving and sending countries. Even more controversial is the topic of unregulated, illicit migration with an underlying mixture of humanitarian, human rights, political, economic and social issues. Many UNECE countries like Greece can tell stories about the challenges of this increasing problem. Therefore, migration and migration policies explicitly recognize the need for an internationally co-ordinated approach. The second feature is to assign more weight to the design of sustainable, long-term solutions, taking into account also regional and global dimensions of the problem and its linkages to e.g. global warming. I am glad to notice, that some countries, but also their groupings, like EU, already work in this direction and show leadership.

In this context, an ideal, inter-temporal migration policy should balance human rights, human capital requirements and integration concerns. It should ensure future migration to be beneficial for individual migrants, their children as well as the receiving, transit (notably first contact/destination) and sending countries. It should be firmly based on basic human rights and freedoms, humanitarian values and norms, principles and commitments. This is indeed a challenge, notably in the times of the crisis, when a good number of countries is closing the doors to migrants, adopting restrictive, even draconian laws often coupled with increasing manifestations of xenophobia, racism and anti-immigration sentiments. In the OSCE area this is valid both for developed countries as well as for countries of the CIS region.

In the receiving countries, immigration policies have to be linked to integration policies. However, as you all know, finding the right balance between plurality of culture, respect for the rule of law and human rights considerations poses a tremendous challenge.

In the countries of origin, the composition of migrant flows also affect change: emigration exacerbates the process of ageing as those who leave are young; emigrants are also taxpayers and contributors to the social security system – their departures accentuate the fiscal difficulties in the countries of origin; and in the modern knowledge-based economy those who leave cause a "brain drain" by depleting the domestic human capital base.

Migrants also send their earnings back home. These remittances are an increasingly important source of income in many economies. For some UNECE countries, remittances are the largest type of international financial inflow. The migrant labour and their ability to transfer funds safely and efficiently home raise a number of policy issues. The most basic – which is yet to be achieved by statistical agencies - is to ensure the accuracy of official estimates for flows.

This Forum, in some sense, represents a closure of the successful Chairmanship by the government of Greece in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. Looking forward, notably from the perspective of future UNECE - OSCE co-operation, I would like to welcome the first OSCE Chairmanship by a Central Asian country: Kazakhstan.

A significant part of UNECE's technical co-operation activities is focused on Central Asia - a region of great strategic importance. This year, the UN Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia will be strengthened by the opening of a Regional Office located in Central Asia and managed jointly by the UNECE and UNESCAP. The countries of Central Asia face serious challenges such as landlocked geographical location and economic and environmental effects of sharing water resources. The in-depth knowledge and understanding of these challenges will allow the government of Kazakhstan to identify those areas, where the combination of international legal instruments and in-house expertise of the UNECE with the strong OSCE focus on the security aspects of economic and environmental problems are most needed and promise the greatest value added.

I am very pleased that the government of Kazakhstan is considering “promoting good governance in border management and facilitation of international transport” as the key elements of the OSCE Economic Dimension theme for 2010. I believe that “border management and international transport” would be an excellent choice as it could naturally build upon a recent transport theme of the Belgian chairmanship. In 2006, the UNECE extensively contributed and it would be ready to do so in 2010.

Kazakhstan is - and will become even more so in the future - a key transit country in Central Asia linking Europe and Asia. Transport and transit at the UNECE are considered to be priority areas. The UNECE administers 57 international legal instruments in the area of transport. They provide the foundation for transport infrastructure development, transit and border crossing facilitation in the road, rail and inland water sectors.

International transport facilitates regional and economic integration. It also frequently necessitates the use of modern technologies. The UNECE has been a key promoter of regional co-operation and integration as well as innovation in the CIS region through its Divisions of Transport and of Economic Co-operation and Integration.

Kazakhstan is an important member of UN Economic Commission for Europe. The UNECE, in turn, has extensive experience in the area of developing Euro-Asian Transport Links and has been actively promoting the Euro-Asian harmonization of transport investments. The recent meeting of Transport Ministers hosted by the UNECE in Geneva re-affirmed the importance of building Euro-Asian inland transport bridges.

Kazakhstan is also a landlocked country, located in the landlocked region of Central Asia. The UNECE has been actively engaged in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of

Action – a UN program to assist landlocked countries in overcoming their geographic challenges. The United Nations has been particularly concerned with lack of adequate transport infrastructure and cumbersome customs procedures. To this end, the United Nations' Almaty Programme of Action - a global partnership, which includes the OSCE - recommends simplification, harmonization and standardization of rules and processes.

In this context, the UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods offers a solid framework to reduce the duration and number of border controls. As you may know, the OSCE together with the UNECE has organized a number of successful border crossing facilitation events. In this spirit, the UNECE looks forward to continuing this productive co-operation and to finalizing a joint "Handbook of Best Practices at Borders".

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the OSCE on establishing a Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe which is expected to provide training programs to high level officials from customs, border and transport administrations in the OSCE region. Training sessions and capacity-building will include a variety of trade and transport aspects of border management. The UNECE is keenly interested in contributing as an affiliate.

In addition to co-operation in the economic dimension, the UNECE has solid links with the OSCE in the area of the environment.

As you may know, the UNECE manages five environmental conventions. Four of the five focus on regional or transboundary co-operation. Based on these conventions, many UNECE-OSCE projects have been developed to assist member countries in enhancing their transboundary relations and management of shared natural resources.

Presently, the joint work is proceeding in the regions such as South Caucasus to develop co-operation on the Kura river; in Eastern Europe, on the Dniester river, including the involvement of the Transdniester region; and, in Central Asia, to extend water co-operation, building on the Kazakh-Kyrgyz co-operation model of the Chu and Talas rivers.

The OSCE is also very actively supporting the implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention through the establishment of so-called Aarhus Centres. There are currently nine countries engaged – or due to become engaged – in running Aarhus Centres (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan). These Centres play an important role in promoting environmental awareness and in supporting greater public involvement in environmental decision-making. When functioning effectively, they can serve as a valuable interface not only between ministries of environment and civil society but also between the international processes under the Convention and the people on the ground whose rights it seeks to protect.

In closing, UNECE member States welcome co-operation with the OSCE and indeed with other partners, like EU, CIS, IOM or regional development banks. UNECE-OSCE cooperation is an excellent example of a complementary partnership - a partnership that exemplifies the link between security and economic/environmental dimensions. As UNECE Executive Secretary I will do all that I can to continue to strengthen this co-operation which, in the end, benefits all UNECE and OSCE member and participating States.

Statement by**WILLIAM LACY SWING****Director General, International Organization for Migration*****THE MIGRATION-SECURITY NEXUS IN THE OSCE REGION*****The 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Part 2****“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”****Athens, Greece, 18 - 20 May 2009**

Your Excellency, Ms. Dora Bakayannis,
Minister of Foreign Affairs;
Your Excellency, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary-General;
Your Excellency, Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities;
Your Excellency, Mr. Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;
Friends and Colleagues,

Introduction:

It is an honor to participate in the 17th Economic and Environmental Forum of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

It is also a distinct privilege to be here in Athens, Greece — a country that throughout human history has been a cross roads for migration. It is no surprise then that Greece in 1951, was among the founding members of the International Organization for Migration, or that Greece has hosted an IOM office since then. I would therefore like to thank the Greek Chairmanship for Greece’s unfailing support of IOM over the years, and for this splendid opportunity afforded me of being here today.

In deciding to make the theme of these three days — "migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies" — the Greek Chairmanship made a courageous choice. I say this because there are few contemporary issues that stimulate as much passionate debate, nationally and internationally, as migration.

In recent years, the International Community has come to acknowledge that migration is a potentially beneficial feature of our modern world. Migration, when responsibly managed, can be an important element, even catalyst, in economic and social development.

Home to more than 90 million migrants — almost half of the total number of migrants world-wide — the OSCE region — from Vladivostok, Russia to Vancouver, Canada — is an origin, transit, and destination place for migrants. This in my view is the OSCE region's strength in addressing migration management in a comprehensive manner.

Far too little attention has been paid to migrants' contribution to economic development. It is, therefore, timely and laudable that the Greek Chair of this year's Economic and Environmental Forum has chosen to highlight the link between migration and security. Madame Minister, the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development, which your Government will proudly host in November, will be a further occasion to pursue and promote this new, broader outlook.

With this introduction, I would like to address three key points today:

I. Migration: from Threat to Opportunity

First, migration in the OSCE region and beyond is an inevitable element in the life of Nation States and how we manage migration and migrants will determine whether the impact will be beneficial or not. As such, migration should be viewed as an opportunity and not simply a challenge or threat.

While the communications revolution may have launched today's movement of people, it is current demographic and economic trends that will insure a continuing flow of people across borders in an ever more complex migration picture:

- Demographically, most industrialized nations are characterized by aging populations and dramatically declining birthrates, amounting to longer-term negative population growth.
- Combine this with the persistent North-South economic divide —which the global financial crisis will only make worse — and the result is a North increasingly in need of labour — and a South with more and more excess labour — most of which South-South migration will not be able to absorb (even though South-South migration is almost as large as South-North migration.)

Migration is thus a major reality in our lives. The basic factors driving migration — demographics and economics — can be expected to grow in their complexity and are unlikely to ebb.

The migration challenge therefore demands responsible policy decisions, on the part of us all —namely — how can we, working closely together, as partners, manage migration in a manner that best serves the national interests of host and home country and the migrants themselves?

I am convinced that our deliberations at this Conference will help provide some of the answers we urgently need — answers for a world in which migration is overwhelmingly about labor mobility in response to the growing demands of ageing, more affluent societies.

According to IOM's 2008 World Migration Report, nearly all migration today is related, in some manner, or another, to labor. That migrants filled nearly two-thirds of all new jobs in European OECD countries in the period 1995-2003 underscores this point.

A greater focus on migrants' social and economic contribution to host countries — at the same time one stems the flow of irregular migrants — is therefore a key element in the management of migration.

Irregular migration in its most corrosive forms — human smuggling and trafficking — is intrinsically linked to transnational organized crime. Moreover, irregular migration fuels informal economies and human rights abuses, undermines social cohesion, and too often leads to discrimination and xenophobia against migrants.

The OSCE has already accumulated much experience promoting tolerance and addressing discrimination. The continued challenge will be to reduce irregular migration without stifling legitimate and needed movements, and without imposing serious constraints on personal rights and liberties of migrants. Our challenge is to strike a balance between facilitating legal migration, on the one hand, while stemming irregular migration, on the other hand — all the while ensuring protection of the human rights of both, irrespective of their status.

For its part, IOM stands ready to assist the OSCE and its Member States – many of whom we count among IOM members – to develop migration profiles to generate an accurate account of migration.

One such example of our work is the development of profiles in the context of the Black Sea Consultative Process on Migration Management. These migration profiles are helping to promote better understanding of migration dynamics at the regional level.

II: The Global Economic Crisis and Migration

My second point is that times of crisis demand greater solidarity between source and destination countries. Migrants are part of the solution, not the problem, in overcoming the current global recession.

Many of the high-income countries in the OSCE region have been affected seriously by the economic and financial crisis. Labour markets have been hard hit, with mass layoffs in construction and textile industries – traditional employers of migrants.

Migration corridors are also affected. We are seeing substantial declines in remittances — forecast by the World Bank to fall as much as nine percent in 2009 — a prediction that does not bode well for developing countries in the OSCE region where remittances constitute a substantial share of GDP.

To put it in perspective, globally, migrants' annual remittances of some \$300 billion are twice as large as Official Development Aid (ODA) and nearly two-thirds that of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in developing countries.

It is for this reason that World Bank President, Robert B. Zoellick has called on developed countries to dedicate 0.7% of their economic stimulus packages to a “Vulnerability Fund” for those developing countries hardest hit by the global economic recession.

The global economic and financial crisis is already leading some Governments to think about migration in counter-cyclical terms. That is to say, the tendency is to harden attitudes towards migrants and send them home whereas legal migrants will be needed if our economies are to recover.

Structural fundamentals, including demographic and economic disparities, remain unchanged. What is needed is greater solidarity between countries of origin and countries of destination.

We must all work together to maintain and strengthen the consensus achieved in harnessing the benefits of migration. This is one of the lessons-learnt from the 1997 Asian financial crisis: the importance of keeping markets open to migrants at all skill levels in order to stimulate economic recovery.

III. Climate Change Impacts on Human Mobility

The financial crisis is, however, not the only global challenge that we face.

A World Bank official¹ has reminded us that the combination of the recession and climate change could produce an unprecedented decline in food production and, in turn, significant pressures on migration.

In this regard, it was observed, for example, that African agricultural production could be reduced as much as 30 percent as droughts and floods become more common.

In Bangladesh, for example, food harvests would suffer a 25 percent loss as only a 1.5 meter sea level rise inundates 15 percent of total land surface.

Finally, melting glaciers in the Himalayas and Andes could seriously affect availability and reliability of water needed to grow food for increasing populations.

This brings me to my third point, namely, that climate change poses a serious challenge to population movements. If well-managed, however, migration is likely to form part a of comprehensive adaptation strategy.

We do not yet have reliable data on the numbers of persons displaced by climate change, but we do have migration management tools that can be configured to benefit countries of origin and destination and migrants themselves. For example, one immediate, short-term measure could be a circular labour migration scheme to assist populations vulnerable to environmental degradation. A longer-term approach may require integration models such as we are seeing in Japan and other Asian countries.

Clearly, more research is needed to examine the links between environmental, social and political crises in order to be prepared in the future. This is the thinking that went into the OSCE, IOM and United Nations University (UNU) contribution to the EU sponsored two-year research programme on Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR).

Conclusion: IOM – OSCE Cooperation

In closing, I would like to conclude my remarks by emphasizing the value that IOM attaches to cooperation and partnership.

¹ Richard Newfarmer, currently the Special Representative of the World Bank to the WTO and UN in Geneva.

I am delighted that OSCE and IOM have a Memorandum of Understanding signed 8 years ago in 2001 by my predecessor, Mr. Brunson McKinley, and with Mr. Ján Kubiš, former OSCE Secretary-General.

Our two organizations have established [and I quote from our MoU] a "practical, pragmatic and result-oriented close cooperation"² [end of quote], based on a shared belief that managing the mobility of people in the region in a humane and orderly way is an essential component of the integration, stability, security and development of the OSCE region.

Genuine partnership is what is needed if we are to succeed in our goal of developing comprehensive, fair, flexible and effective migration management systems — systems that contribute to the well-being and prosperity of people and societies.

Partnerships are the basis for reaping the benefits of migration and for mitigating the impact of the current financial crisis and of global climate change.

Our goal at IOM is to help governments to develop such systems. You have my commitment that IOM will continue to work closely with the OSCE and its Member States. Together we can manage the migration process to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region.

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² Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation between the OSCE Secretariat and the IOM, 30 August 2001.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The Seventeenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

Part 2 / Athens, 18 - 20 May 2008

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”

Statement in the Concluding Debate

by Goran Svilanovic

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have now reached the concluding session of this second part of the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

I would like to thank all participants for their active involvement in the deliberations. I would especially like to thank the speakers for their high-quality presentations and the moderators for steering and stimulating the discussion so professionally. In addition, I am grateful to the rapporteurs for their valuable contribution, which will enable us to prepare a comprehensive written report of the discussions.

I will try to sum up the most important messages that stemmed from our discussion. I will also briefly refer to the possible follow-up to the Forum, based on the analysis and conclusions of the Review Report and the ideas presented to you in the “Concept Note on Conclusions and the Way Forward” and the “Joint IOM-OSCE note on follow-up activities”.

Firstly, and this is something that more or less radiated throughout the entire Forum process, the development of effective migration policies requires enhanced partnerships and cooperation between destination, transit and origin countries. Migration issues can be most effectively addressed at regional level and sharing of experiences and lessons learned among countries and regions should also be promoted. The interest by countries for the OSCE to continue to provide a platform for discussions on migration management and security issues was reconfirmed. It was also stressed that the OSCE could help strengthening regional consultation mechanisms on these topics.

Secondly, it was frequently emphasized that the OSCE could facilitate governments, upon request, to develop and implement effective national policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms. The development of such frameworks and policies should be based on a number of elements including: high quality, comparable and harmonized migration data; coordination between various departments and agencies at local, national and regional level; coordination between different policy areas and including of migration issues into various policy areas; mainstreaming gender into policies; a pro-active dialogue with the private sector and the civil society.

Another conclusion that I believe we all share is that migration, if well managed, is a long term, structural factor of development in countries of origin and destination. The flow of remittances should be facilitated and remittance holders and recipients should be encouraged to invest in new businesses. Diaspora communities could be encouraged to invest their savings back home which would give a positive boost to national economies, provided appropriate national legislation is in place.

An important topic that we approached relates to the correlation between the environment and migration. More awareness is needed on the phenomenon of environmentally induced migration and potential impacts on the security and stability in the OSCE area and in-depth research should be encouraged.

And last but not at least I would like to emphasize the need to work more effectively on social aspects of migration. It is of utmost importance to combat xenophobia, to pay due attention to the human rights of migrants, to make sure they get equal treatment and working conditions. Particular attention should also be given to the most vulnerable, women and undocumented migrants and to the issue of integration and reintegration throughout the entire migration process.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to provide you with a brief overview of what I believe the OSCE can do or should continue to do to assist its participating States to respond to these needs and challenges.

One element is offering training and capacity-building to officials and government institutions as well as to social partners and other relevant practitioners in our participating States. In this regard the OSCE-IOM-ILO 'Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination' is a solid base for our work. Currently, my Office together with the IOM, with support of the ILO, the Council of Europe and the European Commission, is working on a project entitled 'Development of Practical Training Materials on Labour Migration Management'. The project aims at supporting the development and implementation of labour migration policies that ensure safer, more humane and orderly labour movements as well as decent work conditions for migrant workers. Eleven training modules will be developed, covering issues such as international legal frameworks for the protection of migrant workers; migration and development; foreign employment; admission policies; social cohesion; gender aspects; return and reintegration; irregular labour migration; and international cooperation.

My Office, in co-operation with partners, also intends to continue fostering the implementation of OSCE commitments related to migration based on our discussions here and on the Review Report prepared by the ILO.

I trust you have all received the revised note on Joint OSCE/IOM proposals for follow-up activities (*EEF.GAL/7/09 REV 1*). During this year's Forum process our relationship with the IOM has been strengthened significantly and we would like to make use of this excellent co-operation to present a number of specific project proposals.

A first proposal - the development of a regional data collection system as a sound basis for policy-making in Eastern Europe & Central Asia – aims at building the capacity in establishing a harmonized data collection process through the development of common statistical indicators on migration. This would allow for the comparing of migration data in the regional context and could eventually lead to possible regional forecasts. The project would be implemented in close cooperation with regional organizations such as EurAsEC, EUROSTAT and the CIS Statistical Committee.

A second proposal focuses on the links between migrant savings, investment and development in the OSCE region. It would consist in a Regional Conference on Diaspora and Development. Its main objective would be to contribute to networking and exchanging information and best practices, leading finally to the development of possible projects on topics such as researching migrant savings and remittances, raising awareness of the banking sector on the nature and volume of migrant savings, and facilitating investments of migrant savings and remittances etc.

A third project proposal would pay particular attention to the needs and challenges faced by female labour migrants in the OSCE region. It would build on the newly produced Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies. The main objectives would be further awareness raising on the importance of the inclusion of gender-sensitive measures into labour migration policies, and capacity building through organization of two sub-regional training workshops in countries of origin. It would end with a final workshop in a major destination country.

Other proposed activities would assess the links between migration and environment. Through a combination of research and consultative meetings, projects would assess the potential influence of environmental degradation and climate-related natural disasters on future migration trends in mountain areas of Central Asia and the South Caucasus countries.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The successful implementation of these follow-up activities will require political support as well as voluntary financial and in-kind contributions from *you*, our participating States. I hope that our discussions over the past few days have convinced you of the useful role our Organization can play in the migration field and will enable you to provide us with the support we need. Let me now turn to the commentators for their views on the outcome of the Forum process and possible follow-up.

**The 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
Part 2 / Athens, 18-20 May 2009**

ENGLISH only

“Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region”

**Concluding Statement by Ambassador Nikolaos KALANTZIANOS
Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force**

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This session marks an important moment within this Forum cycle and I am pleased and honoured to present, on behalf of the Greek Chairmanship, the summary conclusions and policy recommendations drawn from the discussions.

I would like to recall the intense preparatory process for the Athens Forum, the two preparatory Conferences in Prague (October 2008) and Tirana (March 2009) and the first part of the Forum in Vienna (January 2009). These meetings, and the wealth of ideas and suggestions they generated, were indeed extremely useful.

I would like to express my warmest thanks to all those who contributed in this process – the participating States, our Partners for Cooperation, our partner International Organizations, other stakeholders representing the civil society, the business and the academic community, the OSCE Secretariat and in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the OSCE Field Presences and the OSCE Institutions.

During these days in Athens we focussed again on various issues related to migration management. We have been inspired by speakers’ presentations and we had an active, forward looking and action oriented debate.

The Chairmanship’s perception is that the preparatory work as well as this Forum meeting has been solid and fruitful. Many follow-up recommendations enjoy a high level of support. There is a lot of potential for concrete action as well as for political agreement on a number of issues. Of course, this will require our continued and reinforced collective efforts. The Greek Chairmanship stands ready to facilitate this.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to say a few words on the main conclusions of the Forum and on the way ahead.

We started our discussions with a review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of migration. We heart that significant progress has been made by OSCE participating States in the area of developing effective national and international legal frameworks as well as optimising the benefit of migration, but that further work is still needed, for example, in strengthening and implementing national migration policy frameworks and strengthening regional dialogues. I would like to thank the International Labour Office for preparing this high quality report and say that we are considering to publish it after the Forum.

First and foremost, the Forum emphasized the need to strengthen co-operation among the participating States – countries of origin, transit and destination – in order to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to migration management in this region. Similarly, the beneficial co-operation between Governments and International Organizations has been underlined, as well as the importance of involving all stakeholders including the private sector and civil society organizations. Such co-operation should address various issues, from making enhancing the benefits of legal migration to tackling the smuggling of migrants by criminal networks. The Forum contributed to this multi-stakeholder dialogue but more remains to be done. It is importance to continue and intensify our co-operation and exchange information, lessons learned, effective practices and know-how. I think that an initial conclusion that we can draw at the end of this Forum is that the OSCE has an important role and can enhance its function as a platform for dialogue among the participating States and other key players in the area of migration. The OSCE can and should help to create and maintain a political momentum.

Secondly, discussions during the Forum repetitively touched upon the close link between economic development and migration. It should not be forgotten that the migration phenomenon in general is an engine of global growth and economic and social well-being both for countries of origin and destination as well as for migrants themselves. We should spare no effort to stimulate this positive relationship, in particular in the context of the current economic downturn. More should be done, and better coordination is needed to improve and facilitate the transfer of remittances as well as the effective investments by migrants. I would encourage the OSCE, together with partner organizations, and involving the Governments as well as the private sector, to continue to work in this regard. On the other hand, the root causes of migration need to be tackled jointly by origin and destination countries, among others, through the promotion of economic growth and good governance, employment creation, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights. Improved socio-economic conditions and opportunities in countries of origin encourage voluntary return and make reintegration support programmes easier to implement with success. This is yet another area where the OSCE should strengthen its role.

Thirdly, the rights of migrants and their protection, including the gender aspects, were other important elements touched upon during our deliberations. The protection of the human rights of migrants, especially for the most vulnerable groups such as children, women and undocumented migrants, should be prioritized in the overall migration management process. This implies responsibilities particularly for the countries of destination but also for transit and origin countries. Required amendments based on the provisions of international instruments should be increasingly introduced into national legislations.

Another important and topical issues discussed during the Forum relates to the interdependencies between migration and environmental factors. It was stressed that there are still research, policy and operational gaps concerning the links between environmental degradation and migration. Mapping out the links between climate change and migration is yet another area which remains insufficiently explored. The existing gaps must be bridged by taking a comprehensive, proactive, and co-operative approach and the OSCE is well placed to stimulate this. In this regard we very much welcome the co-operation between the OSCE, IOM and the UN University.

At last but not at least I would like to stress the importance of providing capacity building on migration related issues as an essential tool for effective policy implementation. Whether we talk about improving national inter-agency co-ordination or strengthening regional co-operation, about pre-departure orientation and training or reintegration assistance, about

policy formulation or institution building, etc., it is evident that strengthening capacities is needed in many countries, both of origin and of destination. Providing capacity-building is an area in which the OSCE, particularly in its economic and environmental dimension, has accumulated over the years lots of relevant experience. The OSCE, together with relevant partner organizations, should continue to provide assistance to its participating States who wish to develop and implement more effective migration policies. A good example in this regard is the new IOM-OSCE project on the Development of Practical Training Material on Labour Migration Management, also supported by the ILO and the Council of Europe, which builds upon the OSCE-IOM-ILO Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies, a publication which since its launch in 2006 has proven to be a very useful tool.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process. Many useful recommendations for the OSCE were put forward and I have tried to briefly refer to some.

In order to keep the momentum, adequate follow-up activities shall follow the discussions, findings and recommendations of the Forum. The Chairmanship would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Office of the Co-ordinator and the field missions to continue their valuable work and continue to develop implement follow-up activities. In order to provide for an effective implementation and practical results the OSCE's capacity and institutional expertise should be effectively linked with other key international players in these fields. There are already a number of positive developments and a number of proposals have been formulated. We are on the right track.

Many of the Forum's recommendations deserve further attention from the participating States and they can serve as a starting point for a political decision. We are confident that discussions on the OSCE role regarding migration management will continue in Vienna, in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee, of the Permanent Council as well, and hope that migration will also be high on the agenda of the Ministerial Council at the end of the year.

Now that the 17th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum is drawing to a close, I should like to mention that preparatory steps by the incoming Kazakh Chairmanship are already well under way. The Greek Chairmanship has followed closely the consultations conducted by Kazakhstan on the theme proposed for the 18th Meeting of the Forum, which is expected to address issues related to promoting good governance at border crossings, improving security of land transportation and facilitation of international transport by road and railways. This continuity in the discussions, building further on previous Forums, will contribute to focusing the work of the OSCE in the economic and environmental dimension and increasing its effectiveness. We hope for a prompt decision on the theme, dates and organizational modalities for the 18th Meeting of the Forum, which will allow it to be well prepared. I wish our Kazakh friends every success in the noble task awaiting them.

I would like to thank all the participants in the Meeting for their contributions to its success. I thank the keynote speakers, moderators, commentators and rapporteurs, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his Office, the OSCE Conference Services and the interpreters.

I hereby declare the 17th Meeting of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum closed.

Thank you for your participation.

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEURS

Plenary session I - Managing migration in a changing global environment

Moderator: **Ms. M. Klein-Solomon**, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communication, ION, Geneva

Rapporteur: **Ms. Sinéad Harvey**, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

In this session, speakers concentrated on the current economic crisis and its adverse and often disproportionate effects on migrant workers. Recommendations were made as to how the OSCE can ensure that “migration-integration” remains high on the agenda of participating States.

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), introduced the approach of ODIHR to migration management. He said that mobility of workers has increased enormously across the globe and developed economies, fuelled by the free movement of goods, services and investments, increasingly rely on mobile migrant workers. However, the economic crisis has resulted in migrants, especially low-skilled migrants, suffering disproportionately in terms of wages, working conditions, employment status and through overt discrimination and expressions of xenophobia.

Ambassador Lenarčič called on participating States to institute migration management policies, with human rights at the centre. This is as foreseen by a number of OSCE documents and in particular the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. Migrants must be protected by the equal application of national labour laws and supported by effective legislative.

Ambassador Lenarčič concluded his remarks with concrete recommendations:

- Participating States can improve implementation of existing commitments, including a review of legislation.
- Politicians must be encouraged to speak out against discrimination and xenophobia, making it difficult for populist and demagogic mistruths to be spread.
- There should be a fresh review of OSCE commitments in this area and a possible investigation into developing new commitments.

Ambassador Andrej Benedejčič, Director General, Directorate for Policy Planning and Multilateral relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia, concentrated on the approach of the Council of Europe towards managing migration. He introduced the main “push” and “pull” factors of the current crisis, namely the concentration of migrants in those economic sectors most affected, the reduction in remittances resulting in lowering of living standards in countries of origin and the increased stigmatisation of migrants in transit and destination countries.

Ambassador Benedejčič went on to highlight the work of the CoE European Committee on Migration (CDMG) as a unique structure which allows policy development to take account of distinct national migration experiences and the diverse branches of government. As a classic comprehensive security issue, migration has clear links to border security and management, sustainable development and tolerance and non-discrimination. Therefore, a

cross-dimensional approach is required and Slovenia encourages synergies between the OSCE and the CoE, especially within the 2+2 format.

Ms. Irina Ivakhnyuk, Deputy Director of the Department of Population, Faculty of Economics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, spoke on the effects of the crisis on the CIS area where it has been particularly severe. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, the CIS area includes many source countries where remittances have become an essential economic support. Secondly, the economic recession in Russia was followed by a reduction of investment in construction. Furthermore, CIS countries are closely linked historically, economically, politically and culturally and any disturbance of social stability in one country will surely impact on the general stability of the region. Finally, the CIS area was already characterised by widespread irregular migration and the current reduction in formal employment will increase the number of workers deliberately waiving their social and labour rights. This can result in a reversal of legalisation of irregular migration and the numbers of socially vulnerable migrants can rise.

The threat to stability in the region from the crisis could put the countries on the verge of humane disaster. In this regard, Ms. Ivakhnyuk made some recommendations:

- It is essential to monitor and analyse the changing economic and migration situation and conduct studies in order to facilitate inter-state dialogue. International Organisations are vital in this sphere.
- There must be priority for the long-term outlook in migration policy. Cooperation between countries participating in international migration flows should be based on this premise. The CIS and EurAsEC have adopted this approach.
- Open intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation in the field of migration management, rather than protectionism, is the most reasonable way to alleviate the migration-related negative effects of the crisis.

Ms. María Ochoa-Llidó, Head of the Migration and Roma Department, Council of Europe, concentrated on the work of the CoE European Committee on Migration and its relevance for the problems of the global economic downturn. She said it was essential to have measures in place to facilitate dialogue with respect for the dignity of all migrants at the core. This is the basis for the integrated approach of the CoE. The Final Declaration of the 8th CoE ministerial conference in 2008 enumerated a series of principles and specific measures in accordance with which member states should work together in the management of economic migration. Her concrete proposal was for this strategy to be implemented at national level.

In the discussion, Ambassador Marc Thill, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, noted that migrants account for more than 40% of the resident population and more than 50% of the working population in Luxembourg. Migration in Luxembourg presents important aspects of their foreign policy and so they have created a joint Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Migration. Furthermore, Luxembourg has been very active on the legislative level and has adopted and modernised national legislation on asylum, the free movement of persons and immigration and adopted a new law introducing dual citizenship for migrants.

Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian, Director International Organizations Department, Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that it was essential that more analysis and surveys be carried out upon which migration policies can be based. The UNDP survey on the impact of the financial crisis is an example of such analysis. Furthermore, in regard to remittances, it is

essential that financial institutions cut the transaction costs and provide an easier method for transfers.

Mr. José Antonio Miguel Polo, Coordinator for International Relations, General Directorate of Immigration, Ministry of Labour and Immigration, Spain, intervened to say that it was the responsibility of host countries to make greater efforts to reverse the negative impact of the economic crisis on migrants. Countries still depend on migration flows for strengthening their labour market and must assist origin countries in developing a competitive labour force.

Plenary session II: Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension focusing on migration

Moderator: **Mr. José Antonio Miguel Polo**, Co-ordinator for International Relations, Directorate general for Immigration, Spain

Rapporteur: **Ms. Caroline Milow**, Senior Project Officer, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Session II was opened by a short overview on the review report by **Mr. Ibrahim Awad**, Director, Migration Department, International Labour Office (ILO), who pointed out that currently the situation in the sphere of migration is a very diverse one and that it is quite challenging to arrive at an ideal situation. A joint effort would need to be made by the OSCE participating States (pS), which comprise destination, origin and transit countries or a mixture of these categories.

The main OSCE commitments on migration are strongly interrelated and can be grouped in three areas. First, to **protecting migrant workers** the main commitments are to protect and promote their fundamental human rights, to condemn discrimination and prevent intolerance and xenophobia and to ensure equality of rights of legally residing migrant workers with the nationals of the host countries. Second, of **maximising benefits** and mitigating adverse effects of migration the commitments are to comply with the international agreements to which OSCE pS are parties and to consider adhering to relevant multilateral instruments. The third area of commitments belongs to the field of **international co-operation** by urging pS to ensure orderly movements of workers thorough collaborations between host and origin countries, to deal jointly with problems arising from migration and to co-operate to further improve the general situation of migrant workers and their families.

Certain commitments urge pS to comply with international agreements to which they are parties and to consider adhering to relevant multilateral instruments. These multilateral instruments were elaborated by international organizations, such as the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe, which also came up with regional instruments, such as the European Convention of Human Rights and a number of directives related to migration. Active on the issue are also groups of independent States, like for example in the North American region. Through these efforts a legal infrastructure was created to protect migrant workers by defending their human rights, ensuring their equality to resident workers and by enacting laws on the issue of migration. However, the system of protecting migrant workers is not yet perfect. Therefore the way forward should be that international agencies, upon request of the respective state, render support to ratify instruments of international law, to transfer international law provisions into domestic law and to realize elements of commitments already made.

More emphasis should be put on optimizing the benefits of migration. This could be achieved by increasing the co-operation between origin and destination countries, but also by the migrants themselves. In most countries, many institutions are dealing with the topic of migration – such as the Ministries of Interior, Labour, Justice, etc. – thus showing a scattered picture when it comes to co-ordination. However, it also must be mentioned that some dispositions are clearer in certain countries than in others. A major point is the reinsertion of returning labour migrants with all their acquired skills into the domestic labour market. All in all, improvements also have to be made in this field, such as strengthening the system of social security for migrant workers. Some pS have a lot of experience through hundreds of different treaties on the issues and should assist those countries that are seeking for their advice.

In the sphere of international co-operation it should be pointed out that it could be either bilateral or multilateral. The main point, however, is to deal jointly with the issue of migration. There are a number of bilateral agreements, which can be either between pS or between pS and third countries, i.e. non-OSCE pS. Additionally there exists the Global Commission on International Migration, which provides a platform for co-operation, such as for example the Euro-African Forum for Migration.

Special attention should also be paid to civil society organizations, which increasingly contribute to solving issues concerning migration. They can play a significant role in implementing bilateral labour and social agreements.

Mr. Awad finished his presentation by stressing the readiness of the ILO to support the efforts of the OSCE pS concerning the supervision of their commitments on migration by giving policy advice and by generating statistics to help build up improved systems and instruments to tackle efficiently the issue of migration.

The first Commentator, Ms. Tamara Duisenova, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Kazakhstan, started her speech by thanking the organizers of the 17th EEf and in particular the Greek Chairperson-in-Office for the good organization and the splendid set-up. Migration is a complex issue and Kazakhstan took this opportunity to study and make practical use of international experience in migration management to protect the rights of migrants, promote economic growth and ensure sustainable development of the country and its security. These issues are of particular importance in view of the fact that the Republic of Kazakhstan was selected to chair the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2010.

Ms. Duisenova pointed out that the ILO review report was considered exhaustive and informative and mentioned the significant contribution made by the OSCE to the development of dialogue and co-operation among the pS and the assistance provided to them in devising migration policies.

She put particular emphasis on the following points: implementation of relevant international standards in national legislation; countering xenophobia and discrimination against migrants; increasing mobility of the labour force; and expanding social security coverage for migrant workers.

In a short outline of the migration situation in Kazakhstan, Ms. Duisenova explained that the country remained a focal point for migration flows owing to its internal stability and fairly stable economic situation even in the current financial crisis. Kazakhstan strives to combine liberalization of the migration regime with the protection of the interests of Kazakh citizens

and the rights of migrants. Migration flows are increasing, and over the last few years the number of migrants has remained high. Additionally, 737,000 ethnic Kazakhs have returned to their homeland since the country gained its independence. Kazakhstan has acceded to the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, and is meeting its international commitments with respect to refugees. Measures were taken to prevent and suppress illegal migration, violence against migrants, and trafficking in human beings. Despite the positive development, there are some serious issues of concern for the country: migration losses; relatively low success rate in attracting and utilizing foreign labour; issues concerning the integration of migrants; persistence of illegal migration, threatening social stability; need for further improvement of the institutional migration management mechanism. These and other problems are becoming particularly serious for Kazakhstan in the current financial and economic crisis.

With the active support and technical assistance of the OSCE and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), work is concluding on a new law on migration, which pays particular attention to the balance of interest between migrants and the host society. In achieving the national priorities in terms of migration policy, Kazakhstan is interested in further developing international co-operation within the OSCE. Ms. Duisenova mentioned in particular technical assistance, conducting of surveys and research and the harmonization of national laws of OSCE participating States.

The second Commentator, Mr. Melih Ulueren, Deputy Director General for Migration, Asylum and Visa Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, began his remarks by thanking the Greek Chairmanship for organizing the EEF and continued by explaining that migration is a global phenomenon that has different impact on countries and regions; mainly it is beneficial to countries of origin. For Turkey, the most important is to address the root causes of migration, such as poor governance, unemployment, poverty, etc. Since the topic evolved in 1975 the OSCE contributed to the way forward by creating synergies and by avoiding duplication and overlapping of activities. The sharing of best practices contributed to achieve tangible results.

Mr. Ulueren particularly pointed out the new phenomenon of migration related to environment, which is currently temporary and mainly internal, but nevertheless needs to be harmonized more.

He finished his presentation by urging the OSCE to contribute to a study on environmental migration, which should look into both, the needs of the people and environmental protection.

The final Commentator, Mr. Don Flynn, Director of the Migrants Rights Network, United Kingdom, thanked the Greek Chairmanship, the OSCE and ILO for their efforts in the field of migration and introduced himself as a representative of an UK civil society organization that also works internationally on migration. He made a strong point by emphasising the importance of civil society involvement in migration and that it does not constitute a luxury; to the contrary, it represents a valuable resource for any government. Civil society is closer to the basis and realities and can respond much quicker and more spontaneously to manage migration, also in the future. Mr. Flynn also emphasized that migration experiences need to be seen in a positive way and that governments should identify employment possibilities and design niches in economy for migrant workers. The issue of employment and migration go hand in hand and it is mainly the complicated application and lengthy visa procedures that have a negative impact and create substantial costs in the migration sector. The result of this is the rise in illegal migration. Recent

research has found out that civil society operates far more sensitive towards the needs of migrants and less costly. The sanction of deportation has proven to be counterproductive and not good for the economic development. Mr. Flynn advocated for a deliberate and consciously designed governmental-civil society co-operation. By doing so, governments will find a willing partner in civil society to bring policies progressively forward.

During the discussion, the representative of the Belarusian Delegation thanked the OSCE for organizing the EEF and stated that his country is implementing its OSCE commitments in foreign labour migration policies. Belarus strives to satisfy the demands of both migrant workers and Belarusian citizens and noted an increase of migration, both to and out of the country. Currently there are 3000 asylum seekers from 45 different countries living in Belarus. In 2001 Belarus adopted the conventions on the status of refugees of 1951 and 1967. The country also implemented a national programme for demographic security and an effective mechanism for substituting for the occurred loss of population. Belarus has several agreements with CIS and EU countries and joined multilateral agreements within the framework of the UN and IOM. Belarus is content that strategic management issues were tackled and is satisfied with the role the country plays as migration filter for the EU region. The national legislation improved significantly and a state programme to combat trafficking in human beings and illegal migration (2008-2010) was implemented, including raising of public awareness. Belarus is among the leading countries within the UN in combating trafficking, supports the initiative of the co-ordination strategy on migration flows and does statistical monitoring. The country is recommending to follow-up the issue with joint projects between OSCE, IOM and other organizations, but emphasises the need for further financial resources.

The ODIHR representative, Ms. Marta Kindler, observed the absence of comments on female migrants in the ILO review. She mentioned also the necessity to develop mechanisms of collecting reliable data on migration and suggested a single data collection point within the OSCE pS. Ms. Kindler also asked to consider further the question of visa facilitation and mentioned the European neighbourhood policy as positive example. She furthermore advocated for a greater participation of migrant workers in public life by promoting civic citizenship, their membership in civil society organizations and by the participation of migrant workers in local level political life. As the last point the ODIHR delegate proposed to change the terminology from ‘illegal migrant’ to ‘irregular migrant’ so as to avoid criminalisation.

The US delegate thanked ILO for its report and outlined that usually the national legislation on migration is stronger than its implementation. He also pointed out that all pS have adopted international legal instruments. The OSCE field presences and the OCEEA should engage in supporting national administrations of pS and render technical assistance. However, he made clear that the OSCE should not get involved in visa regimes and that the US cannot support the ODIHR proposal of renaming from ‘illegal’ to ‘irregular’ migrants. For particular reasons the US have not supported the Global Forum on Migration and Development in the last year, but might participate at a later stage in time.

The delegate of the European Commission mentioned that the OSCE commitments are not legally binding and that they mainly deal with labour migration. One can rightfully find a lot of respect for human rights in them. It needs, however, to be stressed that migration and the freedom of movement should not be mixed. In this point the European Commission aligns itself with the statement of the US Delegation. Tourist visa are too often the start of illegal migration. To sum up, the delegate mentioned that further efforts should be put into a further

review of OSCE commitments by the OSCE, ILO and others. He also added the question why the international instruments are not ratified by so many countries?

The Irish delegate pointed out the necessity to develop different strategies for different kinds of migration, since still many people think that most migrant workers are indeed asylum seekers. As a general remark he said that the OSCE should not get engaged in areas where the resources are missing, since costs quickly mushroom.

Mr. Goran Svilanovic, CoEEA, thanked Mr. Awad and the ILO and all panel speakers for their contributions and pledged that the OSCE will not confuse visa and migration issues. He urged the pS to give suggestions for interventions, which will be followed by his office.

Mr. Awad concluded by taking note of the comments to the review and by explaining that the ILO sensitizes its member states to the contents of the international conventions on migration.

Plenary session III: Gender and Labour Migration Policies

Moderator: **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Ms. Kimberley Bulkley**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Ms. Evgenia Tsoumani, Secretary General for Gender Equality, Greece, gave the opening remarks. She said that half of migrants are women and that female migration is directly related to female empowerment and independence. However, female migrants are more susceptible to exploitation. The guide on gender sensitive labour migration policies encourages a review of current legislation as well as adoption of more gender sensitive measures by governments. The guide recognizes that female migration makes a significant contribution to national government economies. The guide focuses on current labour migration policies and outlines national and multinational policies. Gender specific disadvantages exist and government policies should address these issues. Climate change and poverty will affect the most vulnerable groups and those most affected by discrimination.

Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, presented the OSCE Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies. The OSCE embarked on this initiative in order to address the experience of 115 million migrants, which over half are women. Women are becoming significant contributors to home economies and working mainly in sectors that provide services such as: healthcare, education, domestic services and agricultural and manufacturing work.

The speakers stressed that gender-sensitive labour migration policy is the policy that recognizes that women migrate in order to find better employment opportunities and often face discrimination that their male counterparts would not.

Therefore the main objectives of the Guide were:

1. Raise awareness of the most pressing issues facing female labour migrants
2. Introduce gender-sensitivity in contemporary labour migration policies

3. Provide policy makers with a concrete, practical tool to consult when developing and implementing policies and programmes, while identifying gaps, possible solutions, examples of good practices and innovative models.

The Guide targets policymakers, parliamentarians and multilateral organizations and partners for cooperation. But the Guide could also be used by NGOs, international organizations, and trade unions. The Guide was financed by the Governments of Greece, Finland, and Slovenia.

In order to better develop gender-sensitive labour migration policy countries must develop enabling policy and legislative environments that provide equality of employment opportunity and access to benefits to migrant men and women; encompass general provisions for migrant protection and specific provisions for female migrant workers to empower them to exercise choices; and introduce temporary special measures to compensate past discrimination that adversely affect women's current situations.

Policy makers can know they are on the right track when they can answer a number of questions, such as:

- What mechanisms are in place to help female migration workers make informed decisions about migrating (working conditions, remuneration, etc)?
- What types of regulations are in place to oversee the operations of recruitment agencies and their representatives?
- What programmes are there for economic reintegration for female migrant workers?
- How are potential employers assessed?
- How does the regulation of access to trades and professions work (recognition of diplomas, etc.)?

It is important to make use of indicators and criteria in order to adjust policies that may not be properly addressing these issues.

Finally, the two presenters referred to the envisaged next steps for using the Guide:

- Wide dissemination and promotion of the Guide in the OSCE region;
- Translation into Russian;
- Contribution to the meeting in Astana, 25-26 June on Regulating Migration Process;
- Presentation of the Guide at high level meetings such as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- Provide inputs to the 2009 Global Forum on Migration and Development;
- Implement follow-up initiatives, through regional meetings and training workshops.

The first Commentator, Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringéus, Head of the Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE, welcomed the cross-dimensional approach of the Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies. She noted that the Guide was a valuable tool for governments and NGOs to address the specific challenges and problems faced by female labour migrants. Ambassador Veronika Bard-Bringéus highlighted that Sweden's newly adopted legislation on labour immigration clearly takes gender into account and that it was referred to as a positive example in the Guide. Furthermore, the new labour immigration system was entirely demand driven, offering equal opportunities and a strong family perspective. In fact, the new legislation opens rather than restricts the labour market, allows for family reunification, engenders immigration law, allows for access to equal rights as well as facilitates integration.

Concluding, the Ambassador asked a number of thought provoking questions in order to simulate debate. Such questions were:

- how to best use the Guide within the OSCE institutions and field missions;
- how to promote the Guide in countries of origins; and
- how can the Guide be used in public-private partnerships focusing on Gender issues?

Ms. Nargis Azizova, Gender and Governance Adviser, Office in Tajikistan, United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), commented that in her view the Guide could be used by Donor Organizations and those donors involved in the Joint Country Support Strategy as well as by Ombudsman Offices. She also suggested incorporating this Guide and its principles into the general human rights education in University courses. Finally, she recommended that the Guide should be translated into other languages besides Russian.

Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, Senior Gender Advisor of IOM, stressed that most women migrants are working in domestic work and this work is often excluded from labour statistics. According to the European Trade Confederation domestic work is the fastest growing sector. Domestic workers constitute an important niche in OSCE countries because of ageing populations and lack of healthcare and child care providers. Nevertheless, the needs for domestic work are often underestimated due to the fact that this work is often associated with unpaid work of housewives, etc. In this context, the speaker emphasized that more legal channels for domestic workers are needed. She called for action in this regard, as regulating this migration would reduce social costs. As well, the remittances sent back by women migrants improve the lives of their families.

Further on, Ms. Lopez-Ekra referred to some good and bad practices in this area. She said it is important to document the experience of domestic workers who are often exploited and are vulnerable to abuse. Canada is a good practice to follow they allow flexible contracts that allow workers to change employers. Full protection for workers should be achieved. Migrant should not be attached to a single employer or be housed in the same household as this leads to exploitation or abuse. Restrictions on changing employment categories prevent women from finding more suitable employment opportunities.

Finally, she said the Guide could be used by IOM to develop training models in order to be a tool for workshops.

Plenary session IV: Enhancing the development impact of migration

Moderator: **Mr. Kęstutis Bučinskas**, Director of Migration Policy Department, Ministry of the Interior, Lithuania

Rapporteur: **Mr. Andrei Muntean**, Senior Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Tajikistan

This session addressed the following key issues:

- How to increase remittances
- How to enhance seasonal migration
- How to improve conditions for investments

Mr. Andrew Dabalen, Senior Economist, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Europe and Central Asia, the World Bank, first outlined various strategies for migration to enhance the economic development in both home and host countries. He continued by noting that international migration is a very rare phenomenon and that only 3% of the world population lives outside of their countries of birth. Highlighting that the US has approximately 13% of population are migrants while in Europe, approximately 8% of the population are migrants with the definition of a migrant is a person born outside of the country of their residence. Although the current number of the total of global migration is low, the World Bank is anticipating that the number of migrants will grow. This growth could be contributed to climate shock, income differences as well as other factors.

Turning to the topic of benefits of migrants in host countries, Mr. Dabalen stated that migration increases the tax supplies and enhances the economic indicators of the host country as well as increasing the stock of the working age populations in developed countries that are declining. As for the impact of migration on home countries, it reduces poverty and enhances economic stability factors there. As for the impact of the current financial crisis, it can be seen in the decline of remittances and other positive indicators of the migration as well as the decline in the number of manufacturing and construction workers worldwide. As for remittances, they are expected to decline by 8% in the globally in 2009. However, it is not like that remittance will completely disappear, unlike foreign direct investment, as migrants will continue to provide them as long as they are employed. In areas where the OSCE could assist in are: coordination action, protect vulnerable population and prevent migrant-specific discrimination in host countries. Also, encouraging the development of long-term policies that are not based on the short-term crisis but remembering that migration will remain. We should focus the role of the sending country as an exporter of labour force or improving the image of the sending country as an attractive place to live and work for its citizens.

Ms. Shujoat Khasanova, Vice Speaker of the Parliament, Tajikistan, was the next speaker. She thanked the OSCE and Greece for the topic and hospitality and she stressed the good and fruitful cooperation between the OSCE and the Government of Tajikistan in the issue of labour migration. Currently, the Office of OSCE supports 4 labour migration centers in Tajikistan. In fact, in 2008, more than 1 million people left the countries for labour migration purposes. Continuing, she highlighted the strong political conditions in Tajikistan, Russia and Kazakhstan that ease the migration conditions and allow for easy arrival of migrants and for their employment. Tajikistan is moving forward and worked out the plan to boost and diversify the employment in the country, especially in small and medium size businesses. An important component of this plan provides assistance to the returning migrants, including voluntarily relocation of the labour migrants within the country. However, improvement is needed, especially in the area of data collection and information assistance to labour migrants. Furthermore, Tajikistan requested the assistance of the OSCE in providing legislative support for employment and migration as well as in other areas that need international consulting experience. Tajikistan called for tangible strategies to be developed by the Forum participants in the discussed areas of labour migration.

The floor passed to **Mr. Pedro de Vasconcelos, Programme Co-ordinator, Financing Facility for Remittances, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).** He started by giving a definition of remittances and noted that remittances affect 1 out of 10 people in the world. In many developing countries, up to 70% are sent to the rural areas. Competition, transparency and information help reduce the cost of remittances supply and it should be remembered that remittances are private funds and should not be confused with the development efforts or aid. IFAD supports the leverage of remittances to increase local

economic activities and it calls for the ‘financial democracy.’ Specifically, it calls for the use of remittances in the rural areas for insurance, agricultural loans, housing expenses, savings and education purposes. He continued by giving the example of Latin America and Africa countries that use technologies to coordinate remittance receiving and delivery procedures. IFAD improves access to low cost remittances transmission, links remittances to additional rural financial services and products and develops innovative and productive rural investment channels for migrants and migrant-based organizations.

The floor was open for **interventions**.

Armenia considers the labour migration challenges as an important state issue with over 1 million emigrated from Armenia since 1990 and the country receives remittances worth 2 billion per year or 20% of the GDP. They are reducing but still coming in and approximately 80-85% of remittances are spent on household needs. Also, banks are to develop additional instruments to use the remaining (20%) of remittances in different economic products. Continuing, Armenia proposes that efforts could be focus on the social appreciation environment to appreciate the remittances and legal labour migration, stimulate the diaspora development focused on the origin country, specialists from diaspora to support the origin country. Finally, Armenia created the electronic system that allows a returning labour migrant or an immigrant to directly connect with the appropriate governmental agency.

Spain took the floor and noted that it believes that it is a job of the state and not of the diaspora to decide the destiny of the leftovers of the remittances and that remittances help the economic development of the country but it does not mean that the labour migrants do indeed help their countries to support their home economies or societies. Stating that there is no clear data on remittances since not all funds are sent via banking or other official channels the country was working on building the channels of official banking money wiring processes.

Italy noted that in the time of crisis, migrants return to their home countries with new skills and funds. Credits, mortgages and other financial instruments and their current state of crisis have an impact on returning and existing labour migrants. Therefore, International microcredit should assist labour migrants with their financial needs.

Switzerland noted that the Partnership for Migration is an important and needed document to enhance the legality, transparency and economically needed elements of labour migration. Also, all existing international labour migration organizations are very important and needed to work in partnership to strategize additional steps on labour migration. The role of the OSCE is very important as well.

Germany stressed that it supports the labour migration enhancement and the German government is working with diaspora and interacting with migrants to improve circular migration. Currently, Germany is running a pilot project with the support of European Commission and the Republic of Moldova to allow migrants from Moldova to stay in Germany for up to 24 months.

IMO stressed that savings of migrants could be much higher than remittances as some studies show and national and commercial banks need to develop and propose the cross-dimensional banking products for the labour migrants.

Moldova noted that in the first quarter of 2009 saw a reduction of 29% in remittances from the migrants from Moldova. However, Moldovan labour migrants have not returning in

massive quantities. The country is carrying out joint projects for voluntarily departure and reintegration with Germany and Austria. Furthermore, six programmes to assist all citizens and labour migrants to start and run their own business are being carried out. Finally, the representative stated that Moldova would like to continue to work with the OSCE on numerous current projects.

Netherlands stressed that remittances cannot trigger development and governments should play a facilitating role while private financial institutions should be involved in practical assistance roles to migrants and remittances challenges in the following areas:

- Enhance formal channels for remittances;
- Improve financial circumstances in host countries;
- Make people more financially literate;
- Link remittances with small financial services;
- Exploit the advantages of the technology.

Poland called for the improvement of the regulations concerning migrants and labour migration employment, the de-bureaucratization of the foreign labour employees as well as fines for entrepreneurs that hire illegal workers.

The last intervention from the United Kingdom supported call to promote remittances as a tool of economic development and believed that access to new technologies is important in facilitating the sending of remittances and the participating States should provide assistance in other aspects of remittances.

Plenary session V: Addressing the Environmental Factors of Migration

Moderator: **Ambassador Fredericka Gregory**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Mr. Alexander Savelyev**, Project Officer/Environmental Affairs, Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Considering the OSCE's comprehensive security mandate and its very important role in conflict prevention and in early warning, this Session opened a rather new dimension to the OSCE debate on migration. The OSCE has addressed environmental factors, including climate change with respect to migration challenges that are felt in the region and that will be remaining for the years ahead. Environmentally induced migration whether caused by natural disasters, environmental degradation, environmental accidents and even climate change is part of the international security equation with potential instability and conflicts if not addressed early enough and properly. The respective security policy makers in capitals are increasingly aware of this trend, of this interrelationship, and are seized with this topic and future challenge for the OSCE's security agenda. The Session panelists discussed what role and value the OSCE can bring to this important issue and challenge for the OSCE region.

Mr. Stavros Dimas, EU Commissioner for Environment, presented the EU's vision on climate policy and looked at some more specific migration aspects that the EU might expect to have to face.

It was reminded why the fight against the climate change should remain an urgent priority even during the economic crisis. All the projections in the latest assessment by intergovernmental panel of climate change (IPCC) showed that the later century global warming will exceed the danger level of 2 degree C above the preindustrial temperature unless worldwide emissions or greenhouse gasses are cut deeply. According to the IPCC's worst case scenario, without firm action climate change may reach the danger levels as soon as in 2050. The EC is actively integrating climate change considerations into the external policies. The European economic recovery plan and similar initiatives taking place in such countries like U.S., China, South Korea, have been designed to boost the economy through investment in the energy efficient technologies and renewable energy that will create lower carbon growth and green jobs.

The speaker drew attention to the most specific challenges to be expected in relation to climate change. The known challenges include: rising sea levels due to melting of north polar ice, increased water scarcity, drought, flooding and desertification. Reportedly, the exceptional summer heat wave we experienced in Europe in 2003 will be a common place by 2070

The speaker noted that it is not easy to establish a link between climate change and migration or conflict. Individual decisions to migrate are the result of complex considerations: personal, social, economic and also environmental factors that cannot typically be transformed into one single relation or causality.

In his summary the speaker stressed three areas in which the EU takes action on migration.

1. First of all, the EU is striving to increase its knowledge making informed policy decisions on the related issues, that is, migration will require substantial knowledge gaps to be filled. That is why it is funding an ongoing 2-year research project on environmental change and forced migration scenarios. This focuses on trends and multiple environmental problems and associated socio-political and demographical aspects in a large number of regions and countries including those of northern Africa and the Middle East.
2. Secondly, the EU should be a part of the international effort. More advanced multilateral thinking is needed on conceptual questions like the definition of the environmental migrants and the development of the more inclusive international rights protection regimes. The EC is following closely this international work to ensure that any future EU policy response designed to address the nexus of climate change and migration can take full account of these developments.
3. Finally, the EU is working to ensure that climate change remains high in international security agenda. The United Nations Security Council has already held a special debate on the issue in April 2007 at the initiative of the UK. The EC continues to discuss this issue in the context of consultations with agencies and bodies dealing with security and crisis response on different levels.

The speaker concluded by reiterating his conviction that the challenge of climate change is a challenge for everyone. It requires to think and act across boundaries of nations, sector policy domains, language and culture and to do so with speed and implacable determination. At the same time it provides unprecedented opportunities for human ingenuity and cooperation in developing new and sustainable industries and lifestyles.

Mr. Philippe Boncour, Head of the International Dialogue on Migration Division, Migration Policy, Research and Communication Department, IOM, Geneva, mentioned that it is not new that the climate change affects the lives of people and resulted in movements of populations. However, if we consider climate change and environmental change we also consider people affected by the economic change. It would be a mistake to stop the population that is moving. How many environmental migrants are there and how many will there be? We don't really have very reliable data on this because the frontiers are not water tight, there are internal budget difficulties and there are no new means available to invest in order to get further research and get reliable data. Scientific research data shows that a great number of people will have to move by the year 2050. Perhaps it would be logical to ask, are these people migrating far or settling close. As it appears, migration is not always open to poor people and they don't move easily because they don't have means to do so. Those people will remain in their counties and tend to move towards towns and cities or they will go to the poorer areas - villages.

Is migration a constant or temporary process? There are three principal scenarios:

1. If there's an extreme climate change, people are compelled to leave for a long time almost on a permanent basis.
2. There's also voluntary migration not only forced migration. And difference between those two is a very thin line that divides them.
3. Politically speaking all these migrations are important. When we talk about forced migration, of course you need to respond urgently and it costs a lot, and there's other global approach to migration.

The speaker emphasized what the OSCE can do to contribute:

- Develop a more global and interdisciplinary approach to the research. Because it is important to think more about the interrelation about climate change and environmental problems and migration and consequences to the sustainable development. It is necessary to understand different forms of migration in order to take more focused political measures. It is necessary to provide for understanding the dynamic of the migration flows and their impact on the national and international economy.
- Promote partnership building. Enhancing the capacity to jointly deal with the threats and challenges related to the climate change. This is the core element of the OSCE projects.
- Make sure that the human rights are observed – especially regarding the most vulnerable groups. Government and other stakeholders jointly and severely take measures that would allow protecting human rights in conditions of the negative change of environment, climate change and political processes.
- Facilitate development of national approaches, including all respective authorities that could allow developing an agreed reaction to these processes.
- Assist in development of national strategies of response to the natural resources degradation. For example, national plans of actions – within Convention on fighting against desertification and national strategies of adaptation.
- Facilitate creation of the systems that would stimulate the financial and non-financial migrant's resources for to increase the productivity of the local communities and prevent the environmental degradation due to human activities.

Mr. Chad Briggs, Senior Fellow, Institute for Environmental Security, Brussels, stated that assessment regarding climate change and security don not provide good news to us. It is understood now that many of the changes indicate that the changes that will be experienced

will happen very soon and they will happen quickly. This has direct impacts for migration; the more quickly the environmental change occurs, the less time people have to adapt.

We usually think of things such as climate changes as sea level rise, heat effects, possible potential cooling, flooding, these are changes which industrial countries are also going to be susceptible to. If we focus on the environment only in terms of ecosystem underlying issue, leading to agricultural or food production, we tend to ignore the fact that the environmental issues directly impact infrastructure as well. Infrastructure which can be and often be located near coastal regions and infrastructure which relates both to provision energy transport and trade routes can have severe economic and migratory effects within these countries. In fact the early assessments indicate that much pre-displacement effect for migration will be felt not only in developing regions but internal migration in northern and industrialized countries.

Energy must be integrated with the environmental assessments. Too often when we look at the role that environment plays in migration or larger security issues, we take in energy issues separately. This is both misleading and it also restricts our ability to understand many of the issues that are involved.

Furthermore, the issue of fresh water and availability of fresh water in all these systems needs to be emphasized. The ability to provide alternative energy with exception of solar wind is going to be restricted by the availability of fresh water. These are not choices to make and unless decisions are made early to cooperate with other countries to provide adequate fresh water resources, when the scarcities occur, it's going to be very difficult for countries to adapt and to make these difficult political and economic decisions.

Mr. Briggs made the following recommendations:

- We have to focus on adaptation policies and financing. The ability of people to adapt to climate change is going to occur in the future.
- A very important issue that remains is financing. Financing not simply from mitigation but adaptation policies as well, and unless we address this ahead of time, either in terms of technology transfers, availability of issuance for climate change in developing regions or other areas in which people don't simply have available resources then the Copenhagen agreements may not be as complete as they need to be to address these issues in the near future.
- We need to provide more strategic warning. It's not enough for us to wait for large scale changes in migration patterns to occur. If they occur that tends to be indicated that the underlying systems that supported people have already started to fail. If we are going to be addressing migration we can't simply wait for migration to occur or possibly even make contingency for when this migration occurs. This may be entirely necessary. Rather we need to address what is it about these countries, these communities that is going to be a necessary for them to provide for their societies. So they don't have to migrate.
- This also provides responsibility of the member states of the OSCE to make available environmental data in unclassified fashion. And experts in small organizations simply don't have the expertise to address these very complex and global issues.
- We need to communicate the risks and we need to have a strategy for communicating these risks and in the first turn to policy makers. We need to make clear that the risks of climate change, migration or for larger security impacts are very real. And that they need to be addressed. But more than this we need to address the general public. And

this is very difficult because the policy makers are afraid of the panic and other consequences thereof.

The speaker concluded by stressing the OSCE is a multilateral security organization and does have a unique possibility to address these issues not as simply national security issues, but as international and collective security issues.

Ms. Michelle Leighton, Director of the Human Rights Programme, Centre for Law and Global Justice, University of San Francisco, USA, Munich Re Foundation Endowed Chair on Social Vulnerability, United Nations University, Bonn, started by singling out an important driver of migration, and that is the decline of the agricultural production that we are likely to see if predictions of climate change materialize. Most of the predictions are by 2050 a number of countries that are going to lose agricultural production and these are going to be in tropical and subtropical areas closer to the equator. And that is happening in some countries right now. And for this reasons the countries have begun to include the migration as an adaptation strategy in their climate change national adaptation planning processes.

She asked the question - what is the state of our knowledge at this point? There are a number of studies that have been conducted on natural disasters, floods, droughts which yield important data. Most recently the UN university in collaboration with the EU project, the environmental change and enforced migration scenarios developed looked at 22 countries but could only really identify a preliminary sense, the key impacts. Some of these scenarios were looked at in Russia, Spain, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, as well as two SOCE partners for cooperation Egypt and Morocco. The findings are available, but as it was indicated there are serious gaps in all of the case studies that have been documented to date.

Gaps exist in a number of areas.:

- in a content of why and when environmental changes become a primary driver of migration and which communities are most vulnerable.
- in a scale of these studies and methodologies, a breadth of studies and interdisciplinary analysis brought to bear.
- in the frameworks for appropriate migration management strategies to address these problem. As a relatively a new topic among social scientists there really has been a little research capital invested in looking at large scale climate migration studies. Those that are available to us generally are very localized in context, that means the behaviors that are documented really cannot be well scaled up to national level strategies or to be used for early warning systems. And this lack of data is really a deficit for what we are going to try to build resilience and adaptation of vulnerable communities.
- in quantification of data. We don't know how many people do or will move in the future because of the environmental factors. And there's also an issue in trying to disaggregating the environmental factors from other motivating factors such as community and social networks in the destination area.

How are we going to close these gaps? Do we have the tools already to do so? As an answer to these questions the speaker stated that if we want to get serious about doing this, we are going to do several things and do them in the near future:

1. We need to improve our research and identification and tipping points how and when biophysical variables such as droughts, desertification, floods, storms are really the primary drivers of migration and the impacts of that migration on sending and receiving the communities, because there will be impacts to receiving communities from large displacement of people.
2. How and why families engage in migration is often a complex set of variables. They include viability of farm employment, environmental stresses, economic policies, family and community networks and availability of financial resources because often the poorest who are affected are not the ones who can migrate but those who have access to resources.
3. We also need to broaden the scale and methods for evaluating these studies. There is a need to expand the JIS mapping tools that are available but the problem is right now that cannot be used in a predictive capacity, so none is useful to policy makers, and we are figuring out how to address the problem.
4. And the final area to be mentioned is the analysis of policy options. We need really to look at what kinds of policy frameworks would be the most important. For government seeking to grapple with this problem in both sending and receiving countries”.

The speaker concluded by saying that given the gravity of the climate change problem in motivating migration and what can be seen in the future would be more cross border migration, it really would be critical for countries to engage additional research on the environmental factors causing migration and then also what appropriate responses will be.

During the discussion, the representative of Turkey expressed some concerns about terminology related to climate change and environmental migration. He said that granting a status of the environmental migrant could promote in fact illegal migration.

A representative of France stressed that the OSCE has a role in preventive security. He also emphasized the need to understand the links between environment degradation and migration. The OSCE is in good position to act on this issue, mainly due to its field missions. He recalled the past debates in the OSCE context on climate change and also referred to the work in other organizations, including a proposed UN General Assembly resolution and the debate in the EU context.

The representative of Belarus said the OSCE appears the most appropriate to discuss these issues, especially early warning, hot spots, etc. He referred to the ENVSEC Initiative which aims at identifying the potential conflict spots and helping decrease possibilities of such conflicts on the basis of solving the environmental issues. He also mentioned the Chernobyl catastrophe, when more than 130 thousand people had been evacuated, and could not get back. Sometimes such cases happen without prediction.

The representative of Austria pointed out this was a vast field of work. There is a lack of data, but we have to use the data that is available. She called for enhanced cooperation in this area and expressed interest in sharing experiences on methods of research. Finally, she stressed that the issue of environmental security is becoming a major concern.

Plenary session VI: Strengthening regional and inter-state co-operation in the area of migration management for the benefit of stability and security

Moderator: **Ambassador Cornel Feruță**, Permanent Representative of Romania to the OSCE, Chairman of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee

Rapporteur: **Ms. Ioana Mureșan**, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

Ms. Aigul Ryskulova, Chairperson, State Committee on Migration and Employment, Kyrgyzstan, pointed out some important issues for Kyrgyzstan, such as: protection of the rights of migrant workers; social security, insurance and health care for migrant workers; establishment of acceptable working conditions for migrants abroad and assistance for the families of migrants left behind at home; creation of conditions for the investment of funds transferred by migrant workers; reintegration of migrant workers. She underlined that migration management is a priority policy for the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic because migration processes impact on the stability and security in the country and the region. At the domestic level, the following measures have been implemented: national laws on migration were harmonized, an institutional migration management mechanism was established and improved. In terms of bilateral co-operation, Kyrgyzstan has developed, especially with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, a system of access to the labour markets, strengthened border control and particular attention paid to protecting the rights and freedoms of Kyrgyz citizens working abroad and also to increasing potential migrants' awareness of the relevant laws and improving their vocational training.

Ms. Ryskulova also highlighted Kyrgyzstan's involvement in efforts related to migration problems in: the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC); the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). She mentioned the signing in 2008 in the CIS framework of the Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the efforts to combat and prevent illegal migration and trafficking in human beings within the CSTO to form a collective system for countering illegal migration from third countries.

The speaker concluded that migration has become an integral part of human development and that it has an impact on the socio-economic and sometimes also on the political situation and on stability and security, which makes international cooperation all the more important.

Mr. Patrick Taran, Senior Migration Specialist, International Labour Organization, said international cooperation is required, and stressed the importance of a framework and a common understanding of real conditions and issues.

He pointed out that migration today revolves around meeting economic development and labour market needs. Migration generally has positive effects on economic growth and employment. 95-100 million out of 200 million people living outside their countries of birth or citizenship, i.e. most working-age adults are economically active. Generally, the foreign born proportion of the work force is greater than the foreign born proportion of the population.

International cooperation is needed due to the fact that migration is an issue of human security, economic and social stability that are core issues for the security of stability of countries concerned. The issues international cooperation needs to be concerned with are: knowledge sharing, institution building, actions on rights, welfare and integration, providing for legal channels, development, environment, gender, reversing illegalities.

Mr. Taran emphasized the need for a global policy framework that should include international standards, labour migration channels, consultative mechanisms, labour market regulations, integration aspects, protection of migrants. On protection of migrants, there are 3 core elements in international law: equality of treatment between regular migrant workers and nationals, respect for human rights of migrants, equal application of international labour standards providing for protection in treatment and conditions at work. ILO itself elaborated a comprehensive Multi-lateral policy Framework for Labour Migration from a rights' based approach that takes into account labour market concerns and sovereignty of states.

Further on, Mr. Taran highlighted 8 main elements of the migration policy that should ensure benefits for both host and home country: standards-based foundation for comprehensive national migration policies and practices; informed and transparent migration policy and administration; institutional mechanisms for dialogue, consultation and cooperation; enforcement of minimum national employment conditions in all sectors of activity; gender-sensitive migration measures; action plan against racism and xenophobia; linking migration and development in policy and practice; address causes and consequences of environmental degradation, climate change and resource depletion on migration.

Finally, the ILO representative stated that formalized mechanisms of dialogue exist, but there is a need for coherence and coordination among them. The two major spaces and regimes of expanding legal and operational regimes for freer circulation of labour/persons in regional economic integration are the EU and the CIS. There is also an increasing number of sub-regional policy and cooperation mechanisms in the Black Sea, Baltic Sea, EURASEC, ICMPD. Further consultation, sharing information, facilitating division and coordination of tasks are needed.

Mr. José Matres Manso, Senior Advisor to the Secretary General on Consular Affairs and Migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Spain, pointed out that efficient management of migration flows relies on a strategic cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination. He mentioned the Global Approach on Migration as a global European migration policy that is part of the external EU policy. He also highlighted the Rabat Process as an example of how the principle of cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries, being the cooperation between the EU and the African countries along the Western African migration route. Among the principles of the Rabat Process can be mentioned: joint responsibility of origin, transit and destination countries in addressing the issues related to migration; ownership of the migration policy by the countries involved; global approach of the migratory flows that triggers the need for tackling its various elements – management of legal migration, fight against illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, complementarity between migration and development.

The speaker pointed out that Spain's inter-governmental cooperation in terms of fighting illegal migration is also based on the principle of strategic cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries. The framework for inter-governmental cooperation is the Framework Agreements on Cooperation in Migration, also called new generation agreements as opposed to the traditional readmission agreements. These agreements contain provisions related to: reaffirmation of principles and obligations of the Cotonou agreement between the EU and Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries; interdiction of all acts that imply exclusion, restriction or discrimination against a national of another country based on race, colour, religion, etc.; admission of workers decided on the basis of the labour market needs in Spain; voluntary return; integration of residents; migration and development; fight against trafficking in human beings and illegal migration; readmission.

During the discussion, a number of interventions from the floor emphasized the following issues:

- Need to have a global approach on migration through cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries (Belarus, Kazakhstan);
- Illegal migration is linked to other phenomena, constitutes a threat to international stability and, therefore, should be tackled at domestic, bilateral and regional level (Belarus);
- Emphasis on the necessity to ensure human rights of migrants and proper work conditions (Tajikistan, Republic of Moldova);
- Sea borders pose additional problems to the management of migration which triggers the need to have a wide regional approach and involve countries further South for efficient management in the Mediterranean (Malta);
- Need to look into legal channels for migration and to raise awareness with regard to this issue (Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan);
- Importance of accurate data collection (Kazakhstan).

Session's summary and main conclusions:

International cooperation is essential for efficient management of migration. Inter-state and regional cooperation are needed as migration is an issue relevant for human security, economic and social stability. Cooperation, both at regional and at bilateral levels needs to be based on a partnership between the countries of origin, transit and destination countries. Among the principles of such cooperation need to be: joint responsibility in addressing migration issues; ownership of the migration policy by the countries involved; global approach of the migratory flows that triggers the need for tackling its various elements – management of legal migration, fight against illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, complementarily between migration and development, reintegration of migrant workers, investment of remittances, assistance for families left at home. Special emphasis should be placed on protection of the human rights of migrants and ensuring adequate work conditions for migrant workers. Examples of regional cooperation initiatives and frameworks that testify to these principles were: Rabat Process, EU's Global Approach on Migration, EU's Mobility Partnership with the Republic of Moldova, CIS, CSTO, EURASEC. The ILO representative put forward 8 principles for migration policy frameworks for an efficient management of migration and also recalled the recommendations for the OSCE role from the Report on the Review of the implementation of OSCE commitments related to migration by the OSCE Participating States.

Plenary session VI (continued): Strengthening regional and inter-state co-operation in the area of migration management for the benefit of stability and security (continued)

Moderator: **Mr. Vasyl Huseschko**, Deputy Head, Department of Employment Policy and Labour Migration, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ukraine

Rapporteur: **Ms. Alma Mirvic**, National Reporting Officer, Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Moderator, **Mr. Vasyl Husechko**, summarized a number of issues discussed during the first part of Session VII, and introduced the speakers of the second part of the session.

Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, noted that trafficking in human beings increases if proper management of migration is not in place. She observed that trafficking in human beings (THB) is still considered as an obscure phenomenon, which is difficult to quantify, understand and address. Although there are many counter-activities in different countries, data on THB from participating States (pS) is still missing, which affects responses and effective allocation of human and financial resources. She noted that oftentimes people confuse three distinct terms: smuggling in human beings, trafficking in human beings and illegal migration. She called on the participating States to put into place systematic monitoring and reporting schemes and increase regional and inter-state cooperation. Underlining the fact that agriculture is a key economic sector (1 billion people employed globally), she observed that agricultural workers are especially vulnerable to abuse and trafficking. In April, her Office hosted a technical seminar on trafficking in the agricultural sector to help policy makers and practitioners in pS develop more effective interventions and comply with OSCE commitments. She noted how increased mobility makes seasonal migrant workers very susceptible and her advocacy towards de-linking work permits from specific employers. She also noted that women are particularly vulnerable in the agricultural sector as employers favour male migrant workers and make the contribution of female workers less visible. This makes the work of social workers, trade unions, government authorities, that could help in prevention of abuse or identify potential victims, difficult as they cannot reach these women. She repeated the importance of establishing systematic reporting mechanisms and making data available to decision makers, which would improve our actions against trafficking in human beings.

Ms. Ann-Charlotte Niggard, Senior Programme Manager, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), discussed the work ICMPD in the field of migration and migration policies. She noted the ICMPD's involvement in helping countries tackle migration management through capacity building, training, strategic policy development. ICMPD has achieved sound results in using their "state to state knowledge transfer" methodology, where countries are provided opportunities to share expertise on specific related issues (applied already in Moldova, Ukraine, and Western Balkans). This has set the foundation for invaluable cooperation contacts between professionals in these countries. She also noted the important aspect of intra-departmental cooperation within a given country, as policy coherence can only be achieved if there is a good cooperation structure. The European Union, equally, places a strong emphasis on migration in its relationship with third countries. There exist "migration partnerships" between the EU and other countries. There exist regional initiatives in the CIS area. The global economic and financial crisis poses a particular challenge for us all as long-term objectives give way to short-term ones. Countries now receiving many returning migrants should take advantage of this brain gain. She noted that ICMPD plans to extend its i-Map project to CIS countries and the impact already achieved through past implementation. She reiterated ICMPD's readiness to working with the OSCE on these issues in the future.

Mr. Ralph Markert, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL, presented INTERPOL's work and findings in the field of migration management, focusing in particular on the work of border police officers. He noted the estimates of INTERPOL and the UN that more than 50% of illegal immigrants are assisted by people smugglers, who according to estimates also earn 10 billion USD annually from such activities. He illustrated this point by showing a map of people smuggling routes worldwide, noting that countries change from transit countries to countries of destination in a short period of time. INTERPOL works on identifying organized crime groups involved in people smuggling through stolen or lost travel documents, of which INTERPOL has a database. Working with second and third

world countries, INTERPOL provides a given country access to the database (which contains information on stolen cars, fingerprints and stolen travel documents), as well as provides analytical and operational training to border guards. Countries with access to the database can also exchange data. He noted that countries face many challenges in addressing this problem; they include different competencies and jurisdictions between law enforcement agencies within one country, no resources to tackle this problem, and training is needed on treatment of migrants and related standards.

In the discussion time one delegation noted the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) and Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI) as examples of good practice in Southeast Europe, underlining the value OSCE could add by promoting such initiatives and enabling exchange of practices and experiences within the OSCE region. Another delegation highlighted the need to consider *vulnerable* areas, such as the Black Sea region. To that end, the European Council is developing projects with Black Sea region countries to tackle illegal migration, improve cooperation between states create synergies in the best possible way between migration and development. One delegation highlighted the use of quotas and bilateral agreements in managing migration flows, noting the lack of control a receiving country has over pre-selection, training and information provided to workers in countries of origin. Another delegation commented how it believes the percentage of migrants involved with criminal groups is higher than the one (50%) estimated by INTERPOL. One delegation reaffirmed the challenge of intra-departmental cooperation within one country and noted the existence of single database on all categories of labour migrants which is useful to all agencies involved. Another delegation stressed the importance of greater cooperation between countries as migration routes are abused by organized crime groups. The speaker noted that more public information campaign on legal migration channels and migration policies in destination countries are necessary to reduce risk of irregular migration within one's own country. One delegation observed that it requires specialized training on THB for involved officials and professionals and that it has approached OSCE for support.

The moderator concluded the session by thanking all presenters and comments from the delegations who shared experiences and practices from their own countries. He highlighted the good work done by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, ICMPD and INTERPOL in assisting countries tackle the problem of trafficking and organized crime groups through expertise, strategic policy development and capacity building, among others.

Closing Session – The OSCE Contribution and Follow-up Ideas

Presenter of follow-up Proposals: **Mr. Goran Svilanovic**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Mr. Ryan Maccan**, Migration Project Assistant, OSCE/OCEEA

Commentators: **Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon**, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communication, IOM Geneva; **Mr. Ibrahim Award**, Director, Migration Department, ILO; **Mr. Anthonis W de Vries**, INECE & OSCE/EED Co-ordinator, DG RELEX, European Commission; **Mr. Bernard Snoy**, Institute of European Studies, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

Concluding Remarks: **Ambassador Nikolaos Kalantzianos**, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece.

Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, highlighted the different conclusions that can be drawn from the forum. Stated that migration positively affects the socio-economic development for both countries of origin and destination but to benefit from migration it requires effective management and regional cooperation, both areas the OSCE make a positive contribution. Furthermore, effective management should be supported with sound statistical data, be based on a pro-active dialogue between all stakeholders and aim to strengthened common policies and inter-state cooperation. Additionally, participating states could also improve the regulation of recruitment agencies and embark on public information campaigns that talk about employment opportunities, legal channels of migration, migrant rights and better financial education to facilitate the better use of remittances, such as investment in new businesses. The role of diaspora communities is also important and efforts should be step-up to encourage diaspora to invest in their countries of origin. This would give a positive boost to national economies and, to facilitate this investment, legislative frameworks should be adapted. Another set of conclusions that could be drawn emphasized the need to address the social aspects of migration through the enhancement of intergovernmental and inter-agency cooperation, particularly the many governmental agencies involved, such as labour, employment, education, social welfare and financial. Also, there is a need to pay attention to the human rights of migrants to ensure they get an equal treatment and working conditions as well as a need to give attention to returning migrates and programmes should be developed for there reintegration. Migration Information Centers that provide reliable and accessible information to migrants, both origin and destination countries, should be promoted as an excellent example that could address some of these issues. Turning to the issue of the environment and migration, the phenomenon of environmentally induced migration and its potential impacts on the security and stability should be further explored. Research in this area needs to be more in-depth so participating States should be made more aware of the problem. Mr. Svilanovic then highlighted the areas he believed the OSCE could do or continue to do. These included the continuation of providing training and capacity building to officials and government institutions at the request of the participating States. The speaker then discussed the five (5) joint OSCE/IOM project proposals that could be considered at follow-up activities. The first proposal would develop regional data collection systems to aid in better policy making decisions. The second, holding a Regional Conference on diaspora and Development would pay attention to the importance of migrant savings, investment and development in the OSCE area. The third would pay particular attention to the needs and challenges faced by female labour migrants in the OSCE region. Both the fourth and fifth projects would examine migration form a environmental perspective and combine in-depth research and consultative meeting the would map-out the potential influence of intensified environmental degradation and climate-related natural disasters on future migration trends in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. A policy level regional workshop will be organized to disseminate the main finding. He closed his remarks with a call of both political as well as voluntary financial and in-kind contributions from the participating States on these project proposals.

The floor pasted to **Ms. Michele Klein-Solomon, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communication, IOM Geneva**. She began by stressing that the OSCE's second dimension is important and brings real add-value to the area of migration. This is because of its regional political dialogue format of the Organization. In fact, IOM does not see the OSCE's work on migration as a hindrance but bring added benefit that could help at promoting regional level dialogue. Also, at the political level, the OSCE could contribute with concrete steps that produce practical results and case studies. A good example of past cooperation was the OSCE-IOM-ILO Handbook on Migration that was a direct follow-up of

the 2005 Forum. The five project proposals presented during the 17th Forum are in the same vein as the Handbook. Stressing that the proposals were drafts and would benefit from inputs from participating States, they were nevertheless concrete and positive outcomes and step forwards that have practical results for both the OSCE and IOM.

The commentary then passed to **Mr. Ibrahim Awad, Director, Migration Department, ILO**. Stating ILO was very pleased to carry out the review of OSCE commitments, he noted a number of participating States have made strides to implement the commitments there still need work done to improve labour migration policies across the OSCE area. In fact, participating States should be encouraged to develop migration policies that are cross-cutting and recognize the social security links between migration and development and the importance of equality and integration. This requires various governmental structures cooperating. The OSCE could serve as a coordination mechanism to encourage more harmonization at both a national and regional level. Mr. Awad continued by stating that capacity building and training were also key elements in promoting more effective migration management. In this regard, Mr. Awad pointed to the IOM-OSCE training materials that were currently being developed with the assistance of the ILO and the Council of Europe. He also stressed the need for participating States to ensure that social security systems for migrants are in place encourages the movement of migrants. In closing, Mr. Awad stated the ILO stands ready to help participating States to ratify the ILO treaties and is working closely with the Council of Europe to contribute to better labour migration.

Mr. Anthonius de Vries, UNECE & OSCE/EED Co-ordinator, DG RELEX, European Commission was the next to take the floor. He stated that the Forum has been a rich and multi-faceted experience and it demonstrated that we all were committed to improving migration management. He noted that the EU has a long experience in encouraging the free movement of people but this took time to implement. And the EU was still dealing with the issue of the free movement of people such as the security issues that surround migration. However, this time and is a long and difficult process that involves many different actors. Mr. de Vries then turned to discussing the role of the OSCE. Stressing the OSCE should help in the proper functioning of the labour market which helps security and stability in the OSCE area. Moreover, since many international organizations deal with migration, the OSCE should find where it can add real value. This, in his opinion, was the security link between migration and the combating of xenophobia. The rise of xenophobia against migrating can turn into a real security issue. However, he rhetorically asked if we can deal with integration problems. He concluded that if the OCEEA proposed migration projects that were security related, the EC may consider funding them in the future.

Mr. Bernard Snoy, Institute of European Studies, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, stressed that all those involved have benefited from the dialogue that took place during the Forum and that the OSCE is a unique organization with a valuable network of field operations that promotes political dialogue among its members. He continued by stating that migration, if not handled correctly, could become a threat to security and stability and the OSCE's broad approach to security places it in a position to deal with the issue. Mr. Snoy turned to the five project proposals that were outlined by Mr. Svilanovic. Stating they were concrete and a good course for follow-up to the discussion that took place during the Forum process as well as they complement the political discourse of the Organization on migration issues. Moreover, the five projects were in the spirit of the very successful follow-up activity of the Handbook on Labour Migration Policies. Mr. Snoy was very pleased to see that a Guide on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policies was also published. Continuing, Mr. Snoy stressed that training and capacity building were useful activities that resulted in concrete work and the OSCE should continue with these efforts. In regards of environment

induced migration, Mr. Snoy urged participating States to take special note of the presentation of Mr. Chad Briggs, Senior Fellow, Institute for Environmental Security, Brussels and its three recommendations. In closing, Mr. Snoy stressed the important of the dignity of migrants and their families and we should work to protect their human rights.

The floor was opened to interventions.

During the general discussion one delegation noted the OSCE should concentrate efforts on those aspects of migration where it bring added value in comparison with other international organizations. The security implication of migration should be one of the core themes of the second dimension in the years to come and the OSCE examine the links between security and stability and migration as well as the links between environmental and climate change and migration. This was supported by a number of delegations. Also, the OSCE should take an integrated and comprehensive approach to the subject.

Another delegation noted that the Forum gave real added value to the migration dialogue but stress the OSCE should focus its efforts on the more vulnerable migrants and not so much on labour migration because this takes always from other aspects of migration such as integration. The delegation highlighted the valuable work of ODIHR in this area. Furthermore, the field missions play an important role and they could focus on irregular migration and promoting financial literacy of migrant. This would help to improve remittances. Capacity building and border control are other useful areas the OSCE can contribute. As for the five project proposals, the delegation believed they were good but too expensive. On the topic of migration and environment, the delegation thought it was interesting but the Organization had other pressing issues to deal with. A number of delegations question the link between migration and environment. One delegation questioned the project proposal on environment and migration in particularly its focus on the South Caucuses. For the delegation, environment was not a pressing issue in the region regarding migration issues. In fact, was more important was the gender aspect of migration and the impact on development and those left behind. The delegation called for work to be done in the area of gender and migration.

A group of delegation stated that the improvement of data collection would lead to a better understanding of the labour markets, help to strengthen regional migration mechanisms, improve national labour migration legislation all which supports better migration management. Finally, some delegations stressed to importance of giving attention to the reintegration of migrants and the importance of upholding the human rights and dignity of the migrants and their families.

The concluding Statement was made by **Ambassador Nikolaos Kalantzianos**, Head of the Greek OSCE Chairmanship Task Force Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece. In his statement, he noted that the final session gave an excellent opportunity to streamline the debate on the role of the OSCE in the area of migration. He continued by noting that the Forum emphasized the need to strengthen co-operation among the participating States in order to ensure coherency and an integrated approach to migration management. Furthermore, the important role that co-operation between governments and International Organizations was underlined as well as the involvement of all stakeholders including the private sector and civil society organizations. Such co-operation should benefit legal migration while tackling the smuggling of migrants by criminal networks. Ambassador Kalantzianos stressed that the OSCE has an important role as a platform for dialogue among the participating States and other key players in the area of migration.

He then turned to discussing the close links between economic development and migration and he called for better coordination to improve and facilitate the transfer of remittances as well as the effective investments by migrants. In fact, participating States and social partners should work together to promote of economic growth and good governance, employment creation, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights while keeping in mind the gender aspects of migration. This should improve socio-economic conditions and opportunities in countries of origin and encourage voluntary return and make reintegration support programmes easier to implement with more success.

As for the links between migration and environmental factors, he stated that there are still needs to be research between the links between environmental degradation and migration and the comprehensive, proactive, and co-operative approach of the OSCE and working in partnership with IOM and the UN University was very much welcomed.

In closing, Ambassador Kalantzianos stress the importance of providing capacity building on migration related issues was essential for effective policy implementation. The Forum highlighted that strengthening capacities was needed in many countries, both of origin and of destination and the Second dimension was in the position to provide this capacity-building because of it has accumulated over the years a wealth of relevant experience. Some key suggestions for possible OSCE action were:

- Continue on the Promotion of the work of migration and gender;
- Capacity building and training of policy makers;
- Development of regional mechanism to exchange information and best practices;
- Support regional dialogue on the issue of migration.