

**President of the General Assembly**  
**Panel discussion on international migration and development**  
**New York, 25 June 2013**

*Summary*

In preparation for the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the President of the General Assembly convened a panel discussion on international migration and development in New York on 25 June 2013. The one-day panel discussion focused on the overall theme of the 2013 High-level Dialogue, namely to identify “concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries

transnational communities. Thus, countries could enhance the positive contribution of migration and facilitate the return of migrants by creating conducive environments at home as well as by identifying strategies to better utilize the skills of their transnational communities. Concrete measures, such as granting dual citizenship, voting rights and the portability of social benefits, including pensions, could leverage diaspora contributions and promote circulation and return of migrants.

Panellists concurred that the costs of migration remained high and continued to be disproportionately born by the migrants themselves, especially those with limited skills. It was observed that foreign-born persons were more likely than the native-born population to be unemployed and to be overqualified for the tasks they were performing. One participant called for addressing the mismatch between local labour ma



of migration should be distributed more widely. Greater efforts were also needed to protect the rights of migrants, especially the most vulnerable, recognizing also that migrants themselves were at the core of the debate on migration and development. There was a need to strengthen partnerships and cooperation at all levels, including among Member States, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia. Improving the evidence base on migration and development was also considered a priority. The 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, therefore, was an important opportunity for the international community to make concrete progress in improving the wellbeing of migrants around the world.

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