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Migration and Development in Nigeria



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17 route des Morillons
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel: +41.22.717 91 11
Fax: +41.22.798 61 50
E-mail: hq@iom.int
Internet: <http://www.iom.int>

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Prepared by

Animam Beecroft Osikire



OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations

Foreword

With the financial support from the European Union, the Swiss Federal Office for Migration and the Belgian Development Cooperation, IOM is implementing the “Migration in West and Central Africa: National Profiles for Strategic Policy Planning” Project in several West and Central African countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) to promote a coherent and proactive policy approach to migration in support of strategic policy planning at the national and regional levels.

The National Migration Profile reports are a key result of this research and capacity-building project and will serve as a useful policy tool for monitoring trends and identifying areas in need for further policy development. But being primarily a monitoring tool also means that the National Profiles provide only limited guidance on what type of policies can be developed in a given area (i.e. policy methodologies and approaches).

This Thematic Paper Series shall address this particular issue by helping policy makers and practitioners to define their action priorities and policy options in areas that are of particular relevance to the country’s policy context. Under the guidance of and with input from inter-ministerial Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and thematic Sub-Working Groups (SWGs) that were established in each target countries during the project, three Thematic Papers were drafted by local experts for each target country. The aim of these papers is to enhance the capacity for policy development through identifying good practice and assessing the evidence base for policy development on policy issues of particular concern to the government.

Abye Makonnen
Regional Representative
Mission with Regional Functions
Dakar, Senegal

Frank Laczko
Head of the Research and Publications Division
IOM Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland

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Executive Summary

Migration is a phenomenon of growing concern and interest all over the world. As spatial inequalities in resources and development occur, migration tends to occur, as a mechanism for bridging the profound imbalance. Hence, since the turn of the 20th century, migration has gathered a serious momentum as a factor of socio-economic and cultural transformation in the developing countries.

In recent years, the interrelatedness between migration and development has received increased attention among governments and policy makers. Migration has been recognized to stimulate economic growth, social empowerment, women emancipation and technological development, among others. The current concern with the migration and development nexus is how best the two can be effectively managed to promote socio-economic progress in the sending and receiving countries.

Basically, two types of migration are observable in the Nigerian landscape: international and internal. In this paper, the attention is focused largely on international migration, and particularly the role of the diasporas in national development processes. Actually, there are about 6 million Nigerians in diasporas, spread over the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Spain, France, Germany, and many others. These Nigerians in diasporas make remittances home which have been identified as very significant migration impact, as such remittances have even surpassed Foreign Development Investment (FDI), hence the increasing interest by the government to encourage the diasporas to take greater interest in the national development process. Their remittances and the multiplier effect they create are increasingly becoming critical resources for the sustenance strategies of the receiving household as well as fostering local and national development. Financial and social remittances are used for current consumption, in addition to being utilized for investments in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related areas, such as children's education, healthcare and improvement, food security including agricultural technology. An increasing flow of financial and other remittances have helped to spur socio-economic dynamism at local, regional and national level. At the household level, remittances can reduce the level, depth and severity of poverty. Feminized migration, which is increasingly gaining momentum internally and internationally, has helped to reduce gender inequality, poverty, and enhanced women's economic security and empowerment.

Although the phenomenon of brain drain has been associated with negative effects, there are the compensating effects of brain gain¹ as new research frontiers have documented their mutual benefits to both the source and destination. The concept of brain circulation is emerging very strongly as a phenomenon in describing the on-going mobility of individuals with skills in demand. It connotes shared benefits between the migrants' source and destination areas, and counteracts the negative effects associated with the concept of brain drain and brain gain. Many policy makers are increasing supporting circular migration because of its tremendous three-way benefits: to the migrant, destination, and source areas. In addition, they also believe the ability of the existing technical know-how such as e-borders, Advance Passenger Information Systems, etc to ward off illegal migration.

The paper foresees increase in circular migration with more sophistication in telecommunication and faster transportation, as migrants establish good social networks between their places of origin and places abroad. It is expected that these social networks could be forged with home governments in

¹ Brain drain is the movement of skilled personnel out of the country, the remittances and other benefits arising from those drained out of the country is called brain gain.

such a manner that the diasporas would assist meaningfully in the nation's development process. A clear understanding of these mechanisms of migration would enable population planners, policy makers, and the governments at all levels to plan accordingly to manage migration to enhance quality of life and socio-economic development. Governments of migration, origin, and destination can dialogue on how to curtail illegal migration and how best to promote beneficial circular migration

The paper is divided into five main sections. The section 1 examines the concepts of migration and development. It discussed the various types of migration and the motivating factors. The relevance of the various migration patterns was analysed in view of modern challenges facing the source and destination courses. The circular pattern of migration was identified as being of tremendous benefit to both the source and destination countries.

Section 2 identified areas of developmental impact arising from the sustained mutual relationship between migration and development. It examines some vital areas where the developmental impact of remittances and social capital transfer can be utilized.

Section 4 provided policy option and institutional framework to actualise the beneficial relationship between migration and development. The 21st century, and how it can be pursued to enhance quality of life in both the source and destination of migrants.

Section 5 suggests ways on how to enhance the emerging mutual relationship between migration and development. It provided the areas for further investigation and incorporation into the development agenda of Nigeria.

I. Introduction

This paper addresses the relationship between migration and development in Nigeria- the most populous country in Africa (estimated at 150m in 2009), with diverse ethnic characterization and a political structure of 36 states and the federal capital territory, Abuja.

I.1 The Concepts of Migration and Development

Migration is a phenomenon of growing concern and interest all over the world. It is currently receiving attention from governments, non-governmental organizations and the civil society.

In recent years, the interrelatedness between migration and development has received increased attention in the policy arena. It has been recognized that development-oriented activities could help alleviate stressors that may force migration, be it internal or international, migration can contribute positively and meaningfully to national development efforts. Migration, for example, can stimulate economic growth, social empowerment, women emancipation and technological development.

The current concern with the migration and development nexus is how the two can most effectively be managed to promote socio-economic progress in the sending and receiving regions. Hence, according to the World Bank (2006^a), “such phenomenon as brain drain, being experienced by a number of developing countries in key development sectors, calls for more cohesive and sustainable policies.” Achieving this objective requires greater partnership and better understanding between countries of origin, transit and destination. In addition, the integration of the migratory dimension and processes in development policies and dialogue are all relevant in enhancing the development potential of migration.

In the realization of the dynamism generated by migration and development relationships, the United Nations committed a General Assembly Plenary Session to migration issues in the form of a High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (UNHLD). This epoch breaking event gave unique impetus and opportunity to sincerely address the issue of migration and development holistically.

Since the pioneering Global Forum on Migration and Development (2007) in Brussels, the opportunity has been opened for government and civil societies to start a new global process aimed at enhancing the positive impact of migration on development (and vice versa) “by adopting a more consistent policy approach, identifying new instruments and best practices, exchanging know-how and experience about innovative tactics and methods, and finally, establishing cooperative links between various actors involved” (Global Forum on Migration and Development, 2007).

Currently, many countries address the developmental impact of migration in three ways: as sources of revenue, of technical expertise, and of cash flows within the country (Jobbins, 2008).

As indicated earlier, remittances especially from the diasporas serve as a vital source of revenue as they form an important component of economic projections for macroeconomic stability and household poverty reduction (Jobbins, 2008). As a strategy for development, these remittances can be harnessed at the household level into a platform for broader-based investment and development, and incorporated into the National Development Plan. For example, about 20% of Haiti’s economy is derived from diasporas remittances and these are committed to catalyzing investments in targeted home areas.

Another area needing effective policy is diasporas skill management. It entails the utilization of skills acquired by those in diasporas in the capacity expansion and development of their home communities or country. This approach has a compensating effect as it strengthens growth and development of skills at home.

The major constraint of the paper is the lack of relevant data to support the relationship between migration and development in Nigeria. It is indeed a new area of research endeavour that is currently attracting attention. Consequently, there is the need to give a serious consideration to data gathering as a means to better planning and policy formulation.

1.2 Types of Migration in Nigeria

Migration has been defined simply as “a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a state which results in a temporary or (semi) permanent change of residence” (UNESCO, 2008). The important identifying factor of migration is spatial distance, and length and purpose of stay. The spatial distance may be a serious consideration in the determination of the length and purpose of stay. The length of stay is sometimes conditioned by the realities at home that motivated the migration. Where tools to execute one’s profession are unavailable at home, such migration trends tend to be medium or long term. In other words, migrants plying their skills abroad stay longer and are more likely to attract people of like professions to their new destinations. This factor also determines the volume of migrants moving into a particular area, and their sustenance.

The variation and types of migration include internal migration, international migration, and transnational. The internal migration has been adequately documented in migration studies, as far as Nigeria is concerned, but information on international and transnational migration has been seriously constrained by lack of data or an inadequacy of them.

International migration involves the movement of persons from their country of origin, or country of habitual residence, to establish them either permanently or temporarily in another country. International migration may be short-term or long-term. With the short term international migration, a person moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least three months but less than a year (except in cases where the movement is for purposes of recreation, holiday, visit to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimages) (FHP Foundation/UNESCO, 2008; IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2004). In the case of the long term international migration, a person moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year, and that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her usual residence. Other definitions restrict international migration to persons who remain non-national or non-citizens of the host country.

Transnational migration connotes a higher level of commitment by the migrants. This pattern of international migration entails the individual establishing ties in more than one country, and engages economically, socially, politically and/or culturally in both his/her country of origin or residence. It promotes the exchange of remittances and other social benefits between the two areas: country of residence and origin.

In the past two decades, policy makers have started to recognize the ways that transnational ties determine migration processes. There is the increasing sudden realization that the transnational flows of money by migrants abroad have become a major global economic resource. The United Nations (2006) puts the annual figure of official global remittances at about \$232 billion with the

amount of unofficial flows estimated to be much higher. These striking figures have stimulated the current interest in migration and development.

There is increasingly, widespread interest in the role bi-or multi-national and international policies can play in fostering and managing various dimensions of migrant transnationalism. Policies are being drafted, some are at various stages of formulation by several international agencies, inter-governmental forums and government departments supporting the relationship between migration and development. The interests are centered on the migrants' transfer and use of remittances, the activities of migrant home town associations with regard to support for specific development projects, and ways to attract diasporas attention for philanthropy, entrepreneurship or political lobbying. In addition, policy makers have attempted to create policies to reverse the impact of brain drain by facilitating brain circulation of professionals through temporary return visits or through 'virtual return' over telecommunication systems (Vertovec, 2007: 3).

Following several years of extensive consultations on the scope and purpose of international migration, the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) noted as part of its comprehensive review, that the old paradigm of permanent migration settlement is progressively giving way to temporary and circular migration. To ensure the full utilization of the developmental opportunities that this important shift in migration patterns provides for countries of origin, the GLIM recommended that countries of destination can promote circular migration by providing mechanisms and channels that would enable migrants to move relatively easily between their country of origin and destination.

Circular migration represents an old age pattern of movement. It could be rural-urban, cross-border, urban-rural, etc. Researchers have referred to this pattern of migration as repeat, rotating, multiple, seasonal, cyclical, shuttling or circuit-based modes. It is an emerging area of stimulating interest amongst international policy makers and governments. In fact, policy makers in migration are advocating measures to facilitate the movement of migrants' to-and-fro between their homelands and foreign places of work. The understanding is that circular migration could be managed in ways that bring proverbial 'win-win-win' results for the receiving and sending countries. The benefits for the receiving countries include meeting labour market shortages, for sending countries through guaranteeing remittances, for development, and for the migrants themselves through offering employment and control over the use of their wages (Vertovec, 2007:2).

The role of social networks has been recognized in the literature on migration. Recent studies understand migration largely through the paradigm that stresses the importance of border-crossing networks. It has been asserted that through the course of their movements, migrants establish good social networks between their places of origin and places abroad. These social networks assist the migrants learn and inform each other about where to go, how to get jobs, and find places to live, among other forms of assistance. In addition, through such transnational ties they maintain families, economic activities, political interests and other socio-cultural practices (Vertovec, 2007).

These social contacts have been facilitated through modern technological advances and easy transportation and communication system. The established networks ensure the constant flow of economic and social remittances, such as ideas, practices, and identities between the migrants and their home communities, to the extent that individuals in the home communities begin to adopt some of the imported values and beliefs. Besides the impact of globalization, the institutionalization of diversity visa lottery schemes in the United States and Canada, among others, have widened the available options and drive to emigrate in the country.

Migration spans several disciplines: demography, social anthropology, social statistics, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, political science, etc, each of which views migration from slightly different perspectives. For example, the economists deal with migration as an exploration of the process of human capital formation, its effectiveness in labour allocation, the costs and benefit of areas of origin and destination and the implication for economic growth at both the macro and micro levels, while sociologists may be more interested in examining the underlying social structures and how the value systems shape people's mobility intentions, the life cycle and occupational career map which inhibit or promote movement under various influences, and the adaptation processes of migration to the urban social milieu (Morrison, 1972 in Adepoju, UAPS, 1990). In light of the findings from the varying discipline approaches, policy makers should take a collective approach in examining the relationship between migration and development.

A starting point in this discourse of migration and development nexus is to initiate an understanding of why people move, and the overriding reasons for migration there are to be explored in the following sections.

1.3 Causes of Migration in Nigeria

Migration is motivated by numerous factors, hence the phenomenon can be perceived from different perspectives. It is, however, not the intention of this paper to examine the various perspectives as the causes of migration have been widely documented in the literature (Sada, 1984; Adepoju, 1990). Nevertheless, attempts have been made to highlight the main causes of international migration in Nigeria. These causes and the factors responsible for them have been conceptualised into push and pull factors. The push factors are the negative conditions at home that impel the decision to migrate. These conditions which vary in magnitude from one place to another include, unemployment, loss of jobs, famine, pestilence, lack of professional opportunities to prevalent high mortality levels. The pull factors are the strong positive attributes perceived to be existing at their destinations. They include availability of jobs, professional opportunities, comparatively better socio-economic environment, and access to medical facilities. These movements have been facilitated by good telecommunication and transportation systems which have made communication possible between those in diaspora and their home countries. The ease of transportation and communication has also encouraged migrants to endure long distances in search of better socio-economic prospects.

Hence, having a large flourishing and skilled diaspora is becoming an asset for any country. In addition, circular migrations whereby migrants visit home periodically with investments, venture capital and technology transfers have potentially helped to stimulate local and international development efforts in their home communities.

From numerous studies on migration, between 40-60 per cent of the migrants to the major cities and abroad indicated "the search for employment" (Sada, 1984; Adepoju, 1990, 1984). Next to it is lack of basic social services and the unreliability where they happen to be present. Such facilities include water supply, electricity, good roads, hospital and dispensaries, etc. This accounts for about 20-30 per cent of the moves. The third categorization of out-migration includes agricultural failure, environmental deterioration and communal clashes, among others. This category accounts for about 10-15 per cent of the migration. Table 1 gives a vivid picture of the motivating factors instigating migration in Ikaland, Nigeria, and confirms the preceding assertions about the motivations for out-migration. Analysis reveals that 35.4% migrated to seek better opportunities in life, with 30.3% for economic/business considerations, and 19.2% in search of educational improvement. This pattern is replicated in many parts of the country.

2. Implications of Migration on Development

The development implications of migration have gained considerable interest in recent years. Key observations have been made about the impact of remittances on development processes at the local, community, national and international levels.

At the local level, remittances have now become an important part of household livelihood strategies. They have helped to raise household incomes, and services hitherto out of reach. At the community level, remittances have generated multiplier effects on the local economy through the creation of jobs and the building of new rural infrastructure and services badly needed by the people. At the national level, remittances provide valuable foreign currency, and contribute significantly in improving the country gross domestic product (GDP). In addition, investments by foreign migrants such as agriculture and solid minerals, among others can generate revenue and jobs in the country. At the international level, the measured growth in the volume of remittances has been identified as one of the important features of contemporary (international) migration. The development impact has received so much growing interest and attention that available data suggest they are now surpassing the volume of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and potentially Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (The Hague, 2008). Remittances can assist in the redistribution of resources from the developed and rich countries to the comparatively poorer, developing countries. Equally, these remittances and money transfers play a significant function in reducing inter-country inequality and poverty (Chimbowu, 2003).

The aggregate impact of migration in form of remittances, goods and services rendered are quite tremendous and impact greatly on both sending and the receiving countries, regions, states, local government areas, and localities. Unfortunately, few appropriated these benefits for the overall development of their societies.

The literature on migrants' remittances has clearly documented the viable development impact of such remittances on the Nigerian economy. With high skill emigration by doctors, engineers, nurses, academicians, businessmen, etc. in profitable occupations and ventures overseas, remittances tend to be substantial and aimed toward the achievement of certain goals and objectives. Such former migrants, and their children, from overseas have been identified as being the Diaspora. According to the International Organization for Migration, diasporas "refers to any people or ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, being dispersed throughout other parts of the world" (Glossary on Migration, 2004).

Migrants of all categories maintain strong links with their home communities in both economic and non-economic terms. In the course of their migration career, they may visit home periodically, send cash and consumer items to family members and friends, and even arrange and provide support for others willing to migrate. (Adepoju, 1990; Bilsborrow, 1986; Gugler and Flanagan, 1978; Imoagene, 1968). According to Makinwa-Adebusoye (1981) and Adepoju (1984) remittances are firmly institutionalized in Nigeria. Migrants who fail to make substantial remittances or non at all are regarded as failures. Sada (1984), Adepoju (1984) and Makinwa-Adebusoye (1981) indicate that most migrants remit substantial proportions of their earnings home finance a number of activities in order to maintain and enhance standard of living of household members. They include paying children's school fees and labourers on the family farm, building costs, setting up a trade or business and the movement of other potential migrants. An examination of financial remittances made by the diasporas in Ikland of Delta State shows that of the 64.1% who did so, about 21% remitted over

\$US10,000 (N500,000). The remittances were utilized as follows: 75.8% for family projects, 15.2% for community projects, many others (see Tables 2 and 3).

A major setback, in the country however, is the inability to channel such remittances in an organized manner for the sole object of forging lasting policies, by documenting the pattern, frequency and the likely volume. For instance, the World Bank (2005) estimates that remittances to Africa amounted to \$14 billion, with Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria being the largest recipients, and confirmed that such proceeds are used primarily for current consumption.

The volume of such remittances is greatly determined by a number of factors, namely, the size of the migrants, the proportion of their income remitted, their length of stay, and the institutional framework for making remittances. If the number of migrants is sizeable, individuals can unite into an organization or union, and constitute a formidable force that can be utilized for development in their home country.

2.1 Economic Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation

Migration has been established as motivated primarily by the need for gainful employment and improvement in living standards. At the micro level, remittances serve to improve the quality of life of migrants' families and households (Adepoju, 1990). Studies have shown that such remittances are used to purchase food items, and to meet pressing needs as purchasing bicycles, motorcycles, television sets, radio sets, start businesses, trade, build a house, among others. Through these remittances, the depth and severity of poverty and need are reduced in destinations of origin. According to Adams (2006), such remittances sustain livelihoods, through increased purchasing power for food, education, health consumer goods, durables, housing and other essential services.

Empirical data from 74 low and middle-income developing countries conform that international migration has a strong impact in reducing poverty. Based on that data, Adams and Page (2003) contend that on the average, a 10% increase in the share of international migrants in a country's population would lead to a 1.9% decline in the share of people living in poverty (for details, see Adams and Page, 2003). Other empirical studies in other African countries have shown that in rural Egypt, the number of poor households declined by 9.8% when household income included international remittances (Adams, 1991). Related studies in Kenya and Burkina Faso have shown that families receiving remittances had more productive capital than the non-remittances receiving families (ECA, 2006; Collier and Lal, 1984; 1986). At the macro level, remittances are used for investment, for example, commercial farming, and for use in trading which has long-term effects on poverty alleviation.

2.2 Agricultural Development

Migrant remittances make a notable impact on the agricultural sector. With over 70 per cent of the people working in the sector, any financial input committed to it produces a multiplier effect. At the micro level, the remittances received by farmers are used for buying farming implements, acquiring more lands, fertilizers and for hiring labour. While some studies show that remittances might induce receiving households to invest in environmentally destructive activities (de Sherbinin, 2006), it is also arguable that higher living standards may enable remittance receivers to be more environmentally conscious. In this respect, the transfer of remittances can indirectly contribute to ameliorating the negative links between poverty and natural resource exploitation.

At the micro level, effects are also both potentially positive and negative. On one hand, in land deficit areas, migration has been identified as a means of reducing stress of overpopulation. Return

migrants can introduce innovative ways of crop and animal production through modernized commercial agriculture. Furthermore, agricultural expansion or acquisition of agricultural land has been identified as one of the vital areas most attractive to migrants with regard to investment of their remittances (Adepoju, 1990). However, in areas with available land, migration may result in shortage of labour.

2.3 Educational System

The use of remittances for educational development is applicable in both the rural and urban areas, and has relevance for the family, household and community. Attaining the MDGs requires rapid progress in this sector, hence remittances channelled towards this need are essential. Given varying literacy levels in the country, any remittances to promote the education of children at the primary and secondary levels have strong propensities to enhance educational development and progress. Evidence from Zimbabwe, South Africa and elsewhere indicate that remittances tend to increase the ability of households to pay for schooling, thereby increasing school attendance and completion rates in home communities. In addition, it has been asserted that communities with higher migration experiences tend to have higher literacy level (McKenzie, 2006; Cox Edwards and Ureta, 2003; Cordoba, 2004; Yang, 2004). Actually, migration becomes higher with higher literacy levels where there exists rampant unemployment as in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, some of the remittances are invested for the school fees of migrants' children and other relations at home who could have been deprived of such opportunities without migration. Empirical evidence in Latin America and Asia has confirmed that remittances from diaspora populations tend to increase the ability of households to pay for schooling, and thereby improving literacy levels in home communities (ECA, 2006).

The fears expressed are that where remittances "are used for the education of children and relatives at home, such children are, by action of rural education structure, inadvertently prepared for urban jobs and invariably may move to the cities instead of remaining in the rural areas in an attempt to further enhance remittances" (Adepoju, 1990). However, this can be addressed with job creation in the rural areas through entrepreneurial self-employment schemes.

At the macro level, the donation of books, laboratory equipment, and the construction of classroom blocks have featured prominently among the projects usually executed by most migrants, but especially by those in the diasporas for their communities.

Another area that migrants' remittances can prove useful is in the educational sector, if well incorporated in the country's development plan. The educational sector remains one of the veritable agents of change and development in any society. With the exodus of skilled personnel in this sector of the economy, particularly in the education sector, the standard of education is bound to fall while the attainment of the MDGs would remain unattainable.

With comparatively high levels of illiteracy in some states, the need to support the construction of primary and secondary schools can be realized if adequate educational financing can be provided in this regard. The provision of classroom blocks matched with a policy of free primary education and highly subsidized secondary education by government can accelerate the pace of educational progress and development. Citing schools were they had not existed can positively improve school attendance in any community and help equip the society with essential literacy and numerical skills.

2.4 Health Sector

The relationship between migration and health has started to emerge in current literature. The health status of migrants before and after migration has been at the focus of attention. It has been asserted that migration affects the age and sex structure of the population, sexual activity, fertility and mortality, and thus alter or distort both the numerator and denominator of vital statistics. In the first place, it involves mostly the age groups of 15-40 years. Secondly, in most developing societies males tend to be more migratory than females because of cultural restrictions. Youthful migrants leaving a place can distort its sex balance. The aged population is usually left in places where youthful migration is rampant.

On the positive side, remittances by migrants have been put to very productive use by those left at home. Remittances have been used to improve child and maternal health by allowing the purchase of additional nutritional and medical inputs. On the macro scale, Nigerian communities that are linked to hometown and other associations in the diasporas have significantly gained from investments in clinics, and hospitals. In addition, health professionals have often provided free medical services to their home areas in a desperate attempt to ameliorate the menace of lack of access to medical facilities with rampant poverty (ECA, 2006). These developmental impacts on health have helped the government in the pursuance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the achievement of the national health policy. Equally on a positive note, studies in Mexico have found a strong effect of migration to the United States on maternal health among families left behind. According to McKenzie (2006), such immigrants are more likely to pass health knowledge gained in the United States to household members back in Mexico.

On the negative side, places of migrants' origin have been noted to be short of such health professionals who could have provided the much-needed health services. While these observations are true, the inability of these professionals to have access to basic tools and social services necessary to achieve their professional endeavours are responsible for the exodus. Exodus of such magnitude puts a severe strain in the ability of Nigeria to deliver quality and comprehensive health services. For example, reversal on gains in mortality, particularly infant mortality in some parts of Nigeria are partly traceable to the loss of the much needed health personnel (ECA, 2006). Tables 4 and 5 show the number of Nigeria doctors and nurses working in OECD countries whose brain drain has been compensated adequately by brain gain.

In addition, migrants have been recognized to play a negative role in the transmission of diseases from their places of origin to their destination locations. Such a negative effect of migration on health is associated with the spread of HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and lassa fever. Studies in Nigeria support higher HIV infection rates for migrants, especially those involved in circular labour migration, particularly within the ECOWAS region. The case of truck drivers and professional sex workers are all very obvious in many parts of the country (ECA, 2006).

2.5 Women's Status and Empowerment

Female migration has been perceived in several ways. Women accompanying their husbands to their destination places; women usually single who voluntarily migrate after the acquisition of some skills, and women who migrate without some identifiable skill. Until quite recently, female migration was not very popular in Nigeria because of the socio-cultural taboos and beliefs associated with the practice. Since the 1980s the migration of single women has been associated largely with economic motives, while their personal desires to explore the marriage market forms part of their social motives (Watts, 1984; Lacey, 1981; Adepaju, 1990:22).

With the current improvement in the data situation regarding female migration, studies have shown that autonomous female migration is directed towards attaining economic independence through self employment or wage income, and two major variables are accountable for this trend: education and autonomous migration. Education facilitates the entry of women into the organized labour market, while autonomous migration gives women greater control over their productive resources outside the home.

As feminized migration attracts more attention in Nigeria, an increasing number of women are joining migration streams previously dominated by men particularly to such areas as the Gulf states, Europe and North America. While a large percentage of them end up in low-skill and low-wage occupation (health care, household and commercial service sectors), a small but growing number of them who are skilled and professionals are gainfully employed in business, education, health and other sectors. It is estimated that about 33.7% of sub-Saharan African physicians currently practicing in the United States are women (ECA, 2006).

The increasing feminization of migration has been identified as a key pathway to reducing gender inequality, poverty and promoting women's economic power and security. By exposing them to more open societies, migration has produced positive and empowering experiences for women. In addition, to promoting gender roles, the traditional power structures that impact negatively on the status of women have been weakened among diaspora population given the modern legal frameworks and exposure to different cultural practices in destination places. The consequence of these changes is that the spouses of female migrants tend to opt to do household chores that are traditionally done by women in their traditional societies. This mutual understanding has made women equally more submissive to their husbands. It is expected that the transmission of these modern values in the home communities of women in diaspora will go a long way into modifying as well as strengthening traditional beliefs and practices. For example, Levitt (2004) has observed that "migration has completely transformed life in the Dominican village of Miraflores as young women no longer want to marry men who have never migrated because they want husbands who will share in the housework and take care of the children the way men who have been to the United States do".

3. Implications of Migration for Sectoral and Development Planning in Nigeria

From the foregoing, it is becoming obvious that migration has far reaching implications for our sectoral and national development plans. In reality, the tasks currently are to identify areas of productive application of these remittances from the diasporas. One way forward is to identify areas of synchronization between migration and development nexus and the sectoral and national development plan captured in the seven-point agenda of the current administration (2007-2011). President Yar'Adua has proposed a seven-point agenda as the thrust of its development strategies. These include: energy, wealth creation (agriculture and solid minerals), education, land reform, mass transit (transportation), and the Niger Delta. So far the response of the Nigerian government, be it at the federal, state, or local government levels, has been very limited and disjointed or fragmentary. Migration issues, particularly international migration is hardly articulated and integrated in the sectoral and national development plans. Very recently, there has been some awakening in government circles of the relevance of international migration in the socio-economic and cultural development of any country. In Nigeria, the realization of the seven-point agenda is beginning to be articulated remotely in such development frameworks as New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP).

At the continental level, the African Union (AU) recently advanced a policy framework to stem the brain drain through the creation of job opportunities and to mobilize the African diasporas for the development of their countries (ECA, 2006). This approach appears a welcome development, but the main issue is implementation, particularly the modus operandi for achieving success. In Nigeria, the situation is somewhat chaotic as every administration fashions an agenda for itself to the effect that there is no continuity and aggregation of the people's collective interest. While the governments' approach to fighting poverty may be good, the implementation has been poorly executed. For instance, the pre-structural adjustment period to fighting poverty involved the provision of basic amenities, such as social and economic programmes to generate employment, enhance income earnings, an increase in productivity, increase production, and supply of food. The programme ended abruptly because of its ineffective impact and was succeeded by the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which stressed greater realization of policies and programmes to alleviate poverty and provide safety nets for the poor. The government categorized the programme into nine (9) groups: agriculture sector programme, health sector programme, nutrition-related programme, education sector programme, transport sector programme, housing sector programme, financial sector programme, manufacturing sector programme, and cross-cutting programme.

The programme contained all that was needed for it to succeed but was not people friendly in its implementation, and laid no emphasis on human development. Consequently, the programme failed woefully, and generated socio-economic problems of income inequality, unequal access to food, shelter, education, health and other necessities of life. Indeed, it created a dichotomy between the rich and the poor in the society.

Since the inception of the present civilian administration (1999 to date), a number of programmes and policies directed at reducing poverty have been initiated. The first programme was the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP). The programme was targeted at addressing the inadequacies of the previous poverty alleviation programmes. The overall objective was to provide jobs for 200,000 unemployed persons and consequently stimulate production within a period of one year. The

Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) was later changed to Poverty Eradication Programme (PEP) with about four (4) core programmes: social welfare services scheme; rural infrastructure development scheme, and national resource development, and conservation scheme. The two programmes were later substituted by the World Bank's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP). In fact, the World Bank assisted Nigeria in formulating poverty strategy programmes and policies aimed at poverty reduction.

With questionable gains obtained from the programme, the government of President Olusegun Obasanjo came up with a comprehensive home-grown poverty reduction strategy known as the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) in 2004. Conceptualised as a medium term strategy and to build on the success of the interim PRSP, NEEDS objectives included poverty reduction, wealth creation, employment generation and value re-orientation. It was a nationally coordinated framework of action in close collaboration with the state (State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy SEEDS), the local governments (Local Government Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy LEEDS), and other stakeholders. The conceived main strategies of NEEDS are anchored as a tripod: empowering people (Social Charter or Human Development Agenda); promoting private enterprise and changing the way the Government does its work (Reform Government and Institutions). To date, the programme has had very minimal impact on the lives of the people as poverty and inequality have increased widely in the society. It has also heightened the tempo of out migration in search of better economic opportunities abroad.

This brief review is aimed at highlighting lack of continuity of government's programmes and policies, and the poor feedback mechanism operated through the channels of implementation. Since migrant remittances are substantial in promoting development in their country, their integration into the development plans is desirable in strengthening the existing framework. To address the issue of sectoral and development plans to align with migration would require a more comprehensive approach involving the stakeholders (those being planned for), the actors (migrants) the governments (federal, state and local government) and the civil society. The era of watching the government do it alone has failed the society, and rendered ineffective programmes and policies. It is in this regard, that this paper posits the integration of migration in sectoral and development planning in phases or periods, with attention directed at about two to three items of development for that period. It will elicit more interest and participation by the diasporas. It also portrays the government as focussed and determined to succeed in that endeavour. For instance, for the period, 2009-2011, such pressing areas of developmental concern as health, education, power supply and agriculture should be vigorously addressed, while for the period 2011-2013, other items as housing, water supply and transportation, etc, could be considered in line with the seven-point agenda of the present administration.

In the earlier part of this paper the relevance of migrant's remittances was discussed. If these remittances are properly harnessed in their respective destinations through the agencies of the foreign missions and channelled through constituted bodies in the country for coordination and implementation, then migration remittances can be usefully co-opted in the sectoral and national development plans of the country, and utilized for the following development initiatives.

3.1 Development of Agricultural Technology

Since the bulk of the country's population (about 70%) is engaged in agriculture, one of the ways to fast-track agricultural development is to direct the expertise and knowledge of those in diasporas towards revitalizing the sector, and through the exportation of the relevant machinery and equipment to promote agriculture but particularly in the rural areas. In the area of retraining

farmers, especially the traditional, subsistence farmers, the impact of those in diasporas can be tremendous because they have been proved successful in their different endeavours.

3.2 Partnership with Health Professionals

To accelerate meeting the MDGs, the health professionals in diasporas can assist in varying degrees in improving the current health care delivery system in the sector. The occasional visits by various health professionals in general medicine, eye surgery, O&G, etc can be coordinated with the health related Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and other civil societies to attend to patients in their communities to enhance healthcare delivery in the country. The equipment and other related tools used for such services, if not available in the country, can be evaluated or assessed financially and incorporated in the federal and state budgets, for possible procurement or purchase. Re-training of health professionals can also be executed through workshops and seminars organized by such highly skilled personnel among the diasporas.

3.3 Diaspora's Viewpoints

Other areas where the diasporas professional expertise would be needed include: climate change, and environmental sustainability. These can be done by partnering with the various tiers of government. For example, the Chairman of a diaspora group known as Industry Growth, Investment and Competitiveness in Africa (IGICA), Prof. C. Nwagbaso confirmed this drive as “creating networking environment for Africa’s knowledge transfer partnership and commercialization of innovation for industrial growth and investment in Africa”. Among their other objectives were to promote partnership between the public and the private sector (public private partnership) that is underpinned by appropriate science, technology and innovation policy. (The Guardian, Monday, February 16, 2009. p.4,)

In the same vein, the Association of Nigerian Professionals in Ireland and Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO) recently held talks with The House of Representatives Committee on Diaspora Affairs, on “how to rejuvenate the country’s economy and rake in investments”. The organization requested for a strong policy and pieces of legislation on Diaspora, as a step towards connecting with successful Nigerians abroad and attributed the inability of Nigerian experts in various fields to contribute to the development of the country to lack of genuine interest by the Federal Government. They urged the Federal Government to take a meticulous census of Nigerians living abroad as one of the ways of formulating realistic policies that is comprehensive.

Some other groups have advocated amending some relevant sections of the constitution to enable them vote and be more involved in the political development of the country. (The Vanguard, April 18, 2009. p.7)

4. Policy Options and Institutional Framework

The integration of migration with sectoral and national development plans appears promising if the gains are well articulated and incorporated in development programmes. Since migration, be it internal and international, is motivated largely by economic considerations, the benefit accruing from such migrations can be profitably invested in community development efforts, such as local job creation and poverty reduction.

The call for migration policy is not new in Nigeria. In every phase of the nation's development and administrative transformation, new migration policies have been proposed. Interestingly, Nigeria is at the verge of articulating a National Migration Policy. It is anticipated the much-awaited result of the 2006 Population Census, based on the migration data, would expedite the eventual formulation. In different development and planning fora, there have been calls for a regional development policy (Sada, 1984), focused on two developmental targets: rural development, and tertiary urbanization. With rural development, the emphasis was on the provision of basic amenities: health, education, roads, communication, electricity, and water supply, and the need for government to partner with the rural communities in the execution of these projects. The tertiary urbanization involves the identification a tiered hierarchy of dynamic urban centres and allocation to the small towns within the tiered hierarchy development investments, such as wholesale distribution, warehousing, agro-industries, repair services and traditional manufacturing industries such as pottery, bakeries, etc.

The migration policy in its conception was intended to improve the quality of life of the citizenry particularly those in the rural areas but the implementation made very minimal impact on the people as migration flows continued to the urban areas of the country and beyond.

Based on a critical analysis of migration and development processes in Nigeria, it is evident from the literature that policies have not been forged holistically to make implementation realizable. In other words, there is the need for policy and institutional coherence and understanding among migrants, government, and the diverse groups and associations involved in the migration process. In this regard, migration and development nexus should aim primarily at poverty reduction, and policies should be formulated to address the benefits and problems at both the source and destination regions of migrants. These policies may be short, medium and long-term, but they should be sustainable and human-friendly to meet with the set objectives.

The role of migration and development in poverty reduction in the developing countries, particularly in Nigeria, has been gaining momentum since 2007, with the inauguration of a new administration, and has remained a challenge for serious consideration. While the poverty reduction strategy appears a viable option for policy, the problem of reliable data coupled with poor migration monitoring and information systems has made the adoption in development planning difficult.

5. Conclusions

Addressing the issue of poverty reduction would require recognizing the importance of migration and diasporas as an integral part of development planning, addressing the causes of migration that are rooted in poverty and addressing migrants remittances and their developmental impact on the country.

To accomplish this, a five-point initiative has been suggested:

- (i) Promulgation of specific policies regarding the nexus between migration and development;
- (ii) Support for policies, projects and programmes that enable migrants to be a more effective resource for development
- (iii) Support for projects and programme that aim to reduce the negative impacts of migration;
- (iv) Capacity building to more effectively manage migration and
- (v) Support for research and data collection on migration and development (Martin, 2008).

5.1 Setting up Migration Data Collection Body

To achieve these initiatives, would need the setting up of a coordinating agency to harmonize data on migration from the various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). This agency should be vested with the responsibility of collecting data on migrants (both locally and internationally) through the help of the foreign missions. The agency should have representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Productivity, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Planning Commission, Central Bank of Nigeria, National Population Commission, National Bureau of Statistics, National Volunteer Service, and other bodies relevant to achieving effective data collection on migration. The agency could receive financial support from the government or other international agencies to enable it carry out a comprehensive migration survey and data collection process.

It will be the responsibility of this agency to equally coordinate the activities of diasporas groups through formal registration. It is estimated that the population of Nigerians in diasporas range from 3 to 6 million, and their choice destinations are the United States and Europe. If the data are properly classified on the basis of age, sex, education and occupation, they can be utilized in the planning process. Hence, when diaspora groups are registered, incorporating their activities into development plans is facilitated. For example, Mexico through its institute for Mexicans Abroad (established in 2003) discusses in addition, to identifying and analysing their problems, how to provide development in Mexico.

5.2 Policy Harmonization between the Government and Diaspora

A second strategy is to harmonize in a coherent manner all policies relating to migration in the country. Policy harmonization implies a partnership between diasporas and government in implementing policies and programmes that are adjudged as being mutually beneficial to the communities. Policy harmonization would aid the identification of problems that would require similar approach in resolving, while the difficult issues are given further consideration. For example, the rural integration policy can accommodate policies of rural employment, social service provision,

agricultural development, etc. while in the urban areas, population policies and urban policies can be forged with an integrated urban policy as it affects migration and development. In the developed world, agencies that have been instituted to successfully forge this partnership include: the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development; The United Kingdom's Development for International Development; The US State Department and US Agency for International Development; among others.

5.3 Accelerating the Process of Financial Transfers

A third strategy has to do with the coordination of remittances by migrants. A fund to be called Nigerian Diaspora Development Fund (NPDF) can be established with the purpose of managing finances for development. Nigeria has a number of banks and microfinance institutions which have monetary transactions with the outside world and have facilitated remittances in the past. Remittances targeted to assist government projects can be directed to the Diaspora Development Fund, and coordinated in such a manner that the purpose for which it is intended is implemented. For example, the Zimbabwe Forum for Economic Recovery is developing a similar fund, to help schools, hospitals, and small businesses (www.zimcouncil.org).

5.4 The Need for Transparency and Integrity

A fourth strategy is an assurance by Nigerians in diaspora for a firm commitment that remittances/fund sent for development purposes will not be mismanaged. As a result of the rampant cases of corruption and embezzlement, there is the fear of likely mismanagement. Hence any mismanagement or misappropriation of such funds would have a damaging effect in this emerging partnership, consequently, a high level of transparency should be exhibited and statements of account submitted for examination periodically.

5.5 Establishment of Charitable Organizations

Another strategy besides remittances channelled through government for developmental purposes, is the diaspora who are experts in such fields as sports, and entertainment to establish trust and charitable organizations, that can help address one problem or the other in the country. For example, the Kanu Heart Foundation established by a popular Nigerian footballer in the United Kingdom has helped in raising the awareness of heart diseases, and has initiated the treatment of children with related heart diseases at home and abroad.

5.6 Curtailing Migration

Curtailing migration, mainly from the rural to the urban centres and abroad, will definitely be a difficult task until the enabling socio-economic environment for remaining in the rural areas have been provided. A step forward is the utilization of much of the labour available in the rural areas for development. This can be achieved by increasing rural incomes, or by providing special allowances for those who decide to live in the rural areas.

In addition to providing a congenial and conducive environment for rural occupation, through employment creation, the provision of social services should be a great incentive to staying in the rural areas. The Tanzanian example has become a model for planning rural integration and development. Intensive anti-urban movement campaigns should be encouraged by the Ministry of Information and Orientation, in collaboration with that of Labour and Productivity. The information should include the problems of city life, and travelling abroad without following the legal means or

procedure. Also, the establishment of a monthly migration newsletter would be a commendable effort to educate the intending migrant to have a re-think.

Since rural-urban migration cannot be completely checked in any society, the establishment of labour exchange offices in all the local government headquarters of the country should be recommended. These labour exchange offices will help interview and hire employees from the local settings instead of allowing migrants move into the urban centres in search of jobs.

6. Recommendations

Attention has been drawn to the important roles that migrants' remittances have played in the nation's developmental process without being consciously incorporated in the development plan. For instance, the inflow of remittances into Nigeria prior to 2003 was under US \$2 billion. This amount grew rapidly from US \$2.3 billion in 2004 to US \$17.95 billion in 2007 (CBN, 2007). With this increasing awareness and likely integration into the country's development process, the pace of development and progress would be accelerated. The planned involvement of Diaspora in achieving the MDGs in key areas as health, education and poverty reduction would no doubt improve the overall quality of life.

The paper has consciously overlooked some aspects of the migration and development such as the role played by the diasporas in their different fields of specialization in their various destinations appears to be fairly well documented, and therefore not addressed in the paper.

6.1 Areas for Further Research

Nigeria is still in its infancy in the study of migration and development nexus. What is expected is to provide the needed reliable data and an enduring, supportive administration to forge lasting policies to sustain the relationship.

In addition, at the current time, the institutional framework for partnering with the migrants (especially in the Diaspora) is still very weak and ineffective. The first step toward this aspect of migration management is to get them formally registered for purposes of dialogue, and partnership in the development process. When implemented the inclusion of the diasporas in governments planning process will be facilitated for input and advice. For instance, the partnership between the government and her diasporas is estimated to create and mobilise about 0.5 million skilled ICT professionals by 2020 for the establishment of specialized ICT universities, software engineering and development institutes and ICT research centres: the process of actualising this objective is still far-fetched. Other areas where diasporas attention is urgently needed include the transfer of space technology, nuclear power technology, and affordable housing systems.

6.2 Women's Status, Migration and Development

The contributions of feminized migration have introduced an innovative approach to initiating development in the Nigerian landscape. Women are currently making modest contributions in the socio-economic development of their home areas, that of their spouses, and Nigeria at large. The trend should be promoted, and more women, especially in the diasporas should be involved in the new development frontier.

6.3 Brain Gain, Brain Drain and Brain Circulation

The concepts of "brain gain" and "brain drain" have opened new vistas for further research and investigation. The drain and the gain have been beneficial to both destinations: source and destination, and there is the need for global partnership to identify areas for more cooperation and assistance in both areas. In this regard, the concept of brain circulation is emerging very strongly as a phenomenon in describing the on-going mobility of individuals with skills in demand. It connotes a shared benefit between the migrants' source and destination areas, and counteracts the negative effects associated with the concepts of brain drain and brain gain. This increasing trend should be

encouraged between the developed and developing world, and Nigeria is encouraged to take the initiative.

In addition, the IOM has recently advocated more circular migration based on the benefits accruing to it. It is suggested that migrant receiving countries should open up more avenues for regular, repeat temporary labour migration and give incentives to migrants by offering future return to the same job. It also recommended the issuance of dual-citizenship to certain migrants and establishing more flexible visa regimes to act as encouragements to meaningful and productive free exchanges between countries (IOM, 2005). In the same vein, the GCIM has suggested that countries of destination should promote circular migration by providing mechanisms and channels to ease the movement of migrants between their country of origin and destination (GCIM, 2005). Indeed, many policy-makers believe they now have the technical know-how (such as e-borders, Advance Passenger Information Systems, and large shared databases that can assist in keeping track of numerous eligible migrants between their homelands and abroad and foreign places of work (Vertovec, 2007).

Based on a similar development the World Bank's study on International Labour Migration in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union has suggested that "managed circular migration might increase broad opportunities for trade and investment linkages, reduce brain-drain, as well as social and familial consequences associated with illegal migration" (World Bank, 2006^b).

6.4 Assisted Voluntary Return

The Assisted Voluntary Return Programme coordinated by the IOM Nigeria in collaborated with other missions in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Italy should be vigorously pursued. The programme encourages irregular migrants in the participating countries to return home with some financial assistance to accelerate their re-integration. It will also send a message to intending irregular migrants to have a re-think.

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Appendix

Table 1: Reasons for Travelling (Diaspora)

Motives	Respondents	%
Educational	38	19.2
Better opportunities in life	70	35.4
Economic/Business	60	30.3
Sports	20	10.1
Tourism	4	2.0
Not indicated	6	3.0
Total	198	100.0

Source: Nmorsi, 2006

Table 2: Total Value of Money and Goods Sent in Naira (N)

Value of money and goods sent in naira	Respondents	%
Less than N20,000	45	22.1
20,001 – 50,000	16	8.1
50,001 – 100,000	11	5.6
100,001 – 500,000	14	7.1
500,001 & above	41	20.7
Not indicated	71	35.9
Total	198	100.0

Source: Nmorsi, 2006

Table 3: Types of Projects and Development Executed At Home

Types of project	Respondents	%
Family project	150	75.8
Community project	30	15.2
Scholarship & charity	10	5.1
Not indicated	8	4.0
Total	198	100.0

Source: Nmorsi, 2006

Table 4: Number of Doctors Trained in Sub-Saharan African Working in OECD Countries and Selected Health Indications for Nigeria.

Population (Thousands)	117,608
Total Number of Doctors in home country	34,923
Number of Doctors working in 8 OECD recipient countries	4,216
Percentage of home country workforce	12
Under five mortality rate	200
Life expectancy at birth	43.3
Adult HIV prevalence (Percentage of adults 15 – 49)	5.4

Source: United Nations (2005); WHO (2006)

Table 5: Number of Nurses and Midwives trained in Sub-Saharan Africa Working in OECD Countries and Selected Health Indicators - Nigeria.

Population (Thousands)	117,608
Total Number of Nurses and Midwives in home country	210,306
Number of Nurses and Midwives working in 7 OECD recipient countries	5,375
Percentage of home country workforce	3
Maternal mortality rate in home country (deaths per 100,000 births)	800

Source: United Nations (2005); WHO (2006); United Nations (2006)

Table 6: Migrants Destination

Countries	Respondents	%
United States (USA)	65	32.8
Canada	16	8.1
Saudi Arabia/Africa	9	4.6
Britain	40	20.2
Italy	20	10.1
Germany	14	7.1
Sweden	6	3.0
Belgium/Holland	28	14.1
Total	198	100.0

Source: Nmorsi, 2006



IOM International Organization for Migration

17 route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 717 9111 • Fax: +41 22 798 6150

E-mail: hq@iom.int • Internet: <http://www.iom.int>