



## Understanding/Context

More than 400 million people worldwide are considered migrants. US President Barak Obama's announcement that in his second term he would seek immigration reform revived debate on managing migration flows in the Americas. In Europe, prolonged recession and stagnant employment growth have led to anti-immigrant sentiment and to proposed legislation to restrict the rights of migrants in countries such as Switzerland and the United Kingdom. To advance the rights agenda on migration and to enhance its role in development, the United Nations has begun preparatory discussions for the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at its General Assembly in October 2013.

## Shaping the Agenda

The Global Agenda Council on Migration agreed to address the growing negative sentiment on migration as well as weaknesses in policy-making on migration, namely the absence of private sector and economic perspectives. It focused its efforts on "new thinking" for the High-level Dialogue, developing arguments based on the contributions migration makes to the economy and society, and making the case for including the private sector as an equal player in migration policy-making. The Council submitted a white paper, *The Business Case for Migration*, to the President of the United Nations General Assembly in May 2013, telling the positive story of migration and emphasizing the important role business already plays in the process. The Council also completed a series of eight case studies on business and migration, which will be published in time for the High-level Dialogue.

On another area of interest, the Council joined forces with Members of the Councils on Organized Crime, on Illicit Trade and on Advanced Manufacturing to launch a Global Agenda Council task force on human trafficking. The objective is to better understand the interconnections between human trafficking and other global issues, sectors and regions, and to provide a vehicle for dialogue and support for businesses wishing to cooperate further against human trafficking.

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In the second year of the term, the Council is carrying forward its recommendations on the business case for migration by supporting the Global Forum on Migration and Development Business Roundtables in Sweden and India to raise awareness and broaden consultations on international migration and development.

## Contact Information

**Council Manager:** Mehran Gul, Senior Knowledge Manager, Global Agenda Councils, [mehran.gul@weforum.org](mailto:mehran.gul@weforum.org)

**Forum Lead:** Martina Gmür, Senior Director, Head of Global Agenda Councils, [martina.gmur@weforum.org](mailto:martina.gmur@weforum.org)