

**CHALLENGES OF INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

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migration, but all of which have major implications for the propensity of youth to migrate. By and large, success or failure in achieving the goals in the 15 priority areas determines whether youth migrate or not in search of better opportunities.

Youth are more likely to migrate than others. The World Bank estimates, for example, that the proportion of youth from developing countries who cross borders is about a third of the overall migration flow and about a quarter of the total number of immigrants worldwide (World Bank, 2007). Many move without adequate papers and they may pay smugglers to reach their destination. The journey is sometimes difficult and risky especially crossing oceans and seas. Youth migration is often voluntary, but can be forced. Youth, especially females, are frequently trafficked and exploited. In their new destinations, youth may have little knowledge of how to obtain legal and social protection. While on the move, young migrants become vulnerable to different types of abuses including sexual abuse, slavery, and forced recruitment to become child soldiers.

With regard to youth, it is clear that there is no blanket, age-blind solution to the challenges that migration presents. An effective global response to the challenges of migration requires that the dominance of this age group in migration streams is acknowledged and addressed.

NOTES

¹ Priority areas are: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, youth participation in decision-making, globalization, information and communication technology, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict, and intergenerational relations.

² See A/RES/62/126, February 5, 2008.

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