

“Migrants are human beings with dignity, talent, families and contributions to make — not just economic entities or units of labour.”

ICMC at the UN General Assembly
High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development,
September 2006

Mission Statement

The mission of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is to serve and protect uprooted people, regardless of creed, race, nationality or ethnic origin. ICMC works with refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants and gives priority to the most vulnerable and marginalised among these groups. The work of ICMC is inspired and guided by the gospel imperative to “welcome the stranger” (Mathew 25).

With staff and operations in 40 countries, ICMC works directly and through a worldwide network of 172 member organisations to respond to immediate needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants and to implement rights-based and durable solutions. This is done in nine areas of core programming:

- Return and reintegration in home countries, including reunification of families;
- Local integration in places to which uprooted people have fled;
- Refugee resettlement in a third country, including pre-departure cultural orientation and rapid deployment of skilled staff;
- Services to extremely vulnerable individuals;
- Counter trafficking;
- Training and capacity building;
- Technical cooperation with governments to strengthen institutional responses to refugees, IDPs and migrants;
- Emergency response and community building;
- Policy building and advocacy.

ICMC saves lives, protects uprooted people, empowers and builds communities and provides hope and support.

ICMC Governing Committee

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Prof. Stefano Zamagni (Italy)

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Mr. John M. Klink (USA)

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Sr. Cornelia Bührle (Germany)
Sr. Maryanne Loughry (Australia)

Our Donors and Partners

In 2006, ICMC closely collaborated with Church and faith-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, and research and academic institutions:

- The Catholic Bishops Conferences worldwide
- American Center for International Labor Solidarity *
- Amnesty International
- Anti-Slavery International
- Asian Migrant Centre
- Asociación Comisión Católica Española de Migraciones
- Belgian Catholic Bishops Conference *
- Caritas Internationalis and its members *
- Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe
- Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado
- Commission of the Bishops Conferences of the European Community
- Consiglio Italiano per i Refugiati
- Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae
- Consortium of Refugee Assisting Organizations
- Cordaid *
- December 18
- European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
- Fédération Internationale des Liges des Droits de l'Homme
- Finnish Red Cross
- Franciscans International
- Geneva International Catholic Centre
- Human Rights Watch
- InterAction
- International NGO Platform on the Migrant Workers Convention
- International Trade Union Confederation
- Italian Catholic Bishops Conference *
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- McMaster University, Faculty of Humanities, Canada
- Migrants Rights International
- Organisation mondiale contre la torture
- Philippine Migrants Rights Watch
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People
- Public Service International
- Quaker United Nations Office
- Refugee Council USA
- Sieben Foundation
- Spanish Catholic Bishops Conference *
- Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the International Convention on Migrant Workers
- The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
- Trocaire *
- United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, Migration and Refugee Services *
- University of Kent at Brussels, Migration Studies Department
- VluchtelingenWerk Nederland
- World Emergency Relief *

ICMC also constructively interacted with governmental and inter-governmental organisations and bodies:

- Australian Agency for International Development *
- Canadian International Development Agency *
- Council of Europe, European Committee on Migration
- Department of Immigration, Multi-Cultural and Indigenous Affairs, Australia *
- Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), Government of Pakistan
- Embassy of the Netherlands in Albania *
- Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Turkey *
- European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) *
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs *
- Government Missions to the UN in Geneva
- Governments of Pakistan, Azad Jamun and Kashmir
- Inter-Governmental Organisations Contact Group on Human Trafficking and Smuggling
- International Labour Organisation
- International Organization for Migration *
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees *
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation *
- UN Development Programme *
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs *
- UN Volunteers *
- UNESCO
- UNICEF *
- United States Agency for International Development *
- United States Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Refugee Resettlement *
- United States Department of State, Bureaus of Population, Refugees and Migration, and Global Affairs *
- United States Institute for Peace

* financial support

ICMC is made up of 172 members and affiliate members.



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International Catholic Migration Commission

Annual Report 2006

Refugee resettlement
Migration and development
Services to extremely vulnerable individuals
Policy building
Raising the voice of people in need
Counter-trafficking
Training and capacity building
Return and reintegration
Monitoring migration issues

Message from the President and Secretary General

As demographic imbalances, mechanisms of political power, violence and socio-economic inequities continue to motivate people to move worldwide, two major and contradictory response attitudes seem to prevail: understanding that a coherent and holistic approach of migration offers a potential for economic growth on the one hand, and the self-defensive attitude to protect existing structures, identities and cultures on the other. This dynamic is as old as humanity and throughout history has fuelled many tensions between those protecting what they have and are and those searching to improve their lives. Both attitudes follow their own logics, and history teaches us that they are only to be joined through dialogue and compromise, through the understanding and full respect of the other.

Today there is growing consensus on the concept of the link between migration and development and of better collaboration between States with the objective of ensuring a win-win situation for all: for the migrants, for the countries of origin, and for the countries of arrival. It is also becoming increasingly obvious that global migration is not just to be explained on the basis of a push-pull analysis. It also needs to be understood in the economic framework of supply and demand terms; in the sociological framework of low birth rates and aging societies; in the light of the threatening background of growing numbers of displaced for environmental reasons; along the difficult lines of the intercultural exchanges and tensions; in short, within the context of the globalising world. In this process, the unalienable human dignity needs not only to be preserved but given full focus.

The reading of these signs of the times was the core theme of the 2006 General Assembly. A strategic plan was voted unanimously to serve a four-year purpose. This plan highlights the need for a rights-based approach which has since been discussed and challenged because of the large panorama of national mechanisms dealing with migration and of the economic dimension most actors intend to emphasise. We firmly believe migrants should not only be looked upon as human capital serving economic needs and that responses to this international challenge cannot be developed solely at a national level.

Both development and migration have to be solidly anchored in what the UN Task Force on the Right to Development called “economic policies that foster growth with social justice” (Working Group 2005, 6th session par. 42). Better access to education and medical treatment, the creation of new economic opportunities and a more equitable participation in the common good have traditionally been some of the major indicators of progress within the field of development. The same indicators should be applied to migration: integration can only be successful when the fundamental rights of migrants are respected, in particular the human right to health care, access to the labour market and education opportunities for their children.

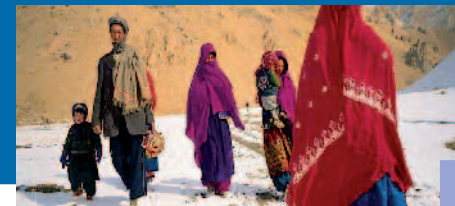
Seven priority areas have been identified within the migration and development debate:

- Migration, human well-being, economic growth and the labour market are interconnected realities. **The approach therefore needs to be holistic.** It should consider the various aspects related to political thinking, social organisation, human rights, economic realities and development.
- The defense of human rights and the further development of an appropriate **international legal system** protecting migrants that is **accepted, ratified and implemented** by all nations is key. As a necessary corollary, migrant obligations — and the reasonable expectations that countries of arrival are justified in having with respect to migrant obligations — need to be fair and clearly elaborated.
- There is a manifest need for a transparent set of rules to organise **the orderly movement of migrant workers.** These rules and related procedures should be sufficiently practical, future-oriented and demonstrate more than short-term vision. Concepts might well include temporary work, the institution of quotas and procedures of integration, *provided* that there is genuine transparency in all procedures, equity in selection and respect of human rights.
- All actors of civil society — including migrants and their organisations — need to participate** to bring about the societal solutions that migration is inviting us to make. The bringing together of the various actors will largely contribute to the integration process and to the fundamental change in mentality towards the migrant and his/her family.
- Families are a highly stabilising factor in this process and the **protection of family life** is once again of major importance. In his Migration Day message the Holy Father further underlines “the commitment of the Church not only in favour of the individual migrant, but also of his family, which is a place and resource of the culture of life and a factor for the integration of values”.
- The active deployment of **measures against human trafficking** needs to be of continuous concern and included in any procedure and legal mechanism as to guarantee the defense and the integrity of every person.
- Special protection of the most vulnerable in migration**, especially refugees, elderly persons, women and non-accompanied minors.

These priorities invite all of us, civil society and political leaders, to re-examine the present attitudes, legal procedures and frameworks and to aim at a transparent system that is marked by greater equity, generosity and efficiency.

Prof. Stefano Zamagni
President

Johan Ketelers
Secretary General



Highlights in 2006

In 2006, ICMC provided individual services to uprooted people, refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, providing special care to extremely vulnerable people through staff and operations in 40 countries.

□ Iraqi Refugees: ICMC responds to the humanitarian crisis

As the international organisation serving in 2006 the largest number of Iraqis displaced across their borders, ICMC provided humanitarian, medical and educational assistance to some 20,000 of the most vulnerable people displaced by the conflict — sick, disabled and traumatised people, children and fragilised families — working with Caritas partners in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and also Terre des Hommes in Syria.

□ Migration and Development: At the top of the international agenda

In 2006 the world's leading organisations and States formally recognised the value and power of the links between migration and development. Acting forcefully on its strategic commitment to the migration and development debate, ICMC testified twice to the UN General Assembly in 2006, including at the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development held in September, emphasising that migrants are human beings with dignity, talent, families and contributions to make—not just economic entities or units of labour.

□ Setting up a “European Resettlement Network”: Building capacity to expand resettlement in Europe

With a long-sought breakthrough on both funding and encouragement from the European Union, ICMC organised a dozen leading non-government organisations and States throughout Europe to launch a European Resettlement Network to develop cooperation and capacity for the resettlement of greater numbers of refugees in Europe.

Serving and Protecting People on the Move

At the humanitarian level, the United Nations and the world have centred their response to refugees on “three durable solutions”: resettlement in a third country, local integration in the host country or return and reintegration in a country of origin. ICMC's mission is to work towards these solutions for refugees and to provide assistance and services to people displaced within their countries, with special attention to those who are extremely vulnerable.

□ Publication of Expertise and Action

In 2006, ICMC published *Expertise and Action* in French, English and Spanish. The publication is an overview of ICMC's identity and core activities with members and other partners over the years:

- Return and reintegration;
- Local integration;
- Refugee resettlement and cultural orientation;
- Technical cooperation with governments;
- Work with extremely vulnerable individuals;
- Counter trafficking and rescue;
- Local NGO and capacity building;
- Emergency response;
- Policy building and advocacy.

The publication highlights ICMC's underlying approach, which is based on respect for migrants as individuals and as valued members of society.

□ Services to Extremely Vulnerable Individuals: Recognising and restoring dignity

Extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) are people exposed to exceptional risk or suffering because of a physical or mental disability, a chronic or life-threatening illness, severe torture or trauma; and include women at risk, ethnic or religious minorities, single heads of households, unaccompanied or frail elderly and children. They tend to be broadly excluded from development activities and have only limited access to health care, education, training, employment opportunities and other resources available to the majority of the community. ICMC's passion and particular expertise lies in working with people who are made even *more* vulnerable because they are displaced.

■ Before 2006, four million Iraqis had fled their homes and sought refuge in other parts of Iraq or in neighbouring countries. In 2006 the number of Iraqis fleeing their homes reached over 30,000 per month. Unable to meet basic needs for shelter, health, sanitation, and education for their children, the lives of the extremely vulnerable among the refugees and asylum seekers are increasingly precarious. The EVI Programme offers health, education and humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. In 2006, ICMC in close collaboration with its local partners assisted some 20,000 extremely vulnerable Iraqi individuals in those countries.

■ In Pakistan, ICMC provided humanitarian assistance, legal aid, vocational training, livelihood development and

psychosocial counselling to some 30,000 earthquake victims in the northern regions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and in the North West Frontier Province. Courses were offered in masonry, carpentry, electrical wiring and plumbing to build skills that are critical and in great demand for reconstruction. Training in sewing, construction of smokeless stoves, embroidery, and kitchen gardening was also provided. Group counselling sessions proved important both for dealing with mental health issues and for identifying particular vulnerabilities which were then referred for appropriate assistance, including legal aid. ICMC's legal aid teams assisted thousands of people in obtaining identity cards, birth and death certificates, guardianship status, livelihood cash grants and house compensation.

■ In Turkey, the ICMC Social Services Programme provided refugees and asylum seekers with social, legal, financial and mental health counselling, material assistance, home visit monitoring, health services, registrations and help in the search for durable solutions. As of December 2006, ICMC was actively working with 2,277 refugees and asylum seekers, an increasing number of whom came from Iraq. In the final months of 2006, ICMC noted a dramatic increase of asylum seekers arriving from East Africa as well, most arriving in the region by boat from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan.

■ ICMC's "Safe Passages Programme" provided services during the year to 2,595 unaccompanied, undocumented migrant children who had been apprehended and placed in the legal custody of the U.S. federal government. In collaboration with the Migration and Refugee Services of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, ICMC promoted these children's care, safety, and well-being and worked on their behalf in placement and care decisions. Through the programme 800 children were reunited with their families.

■ Responding to ongoing effects of the tsunami in Indonesia, ICMC continued to implement an array of community-driven programmes. These included a psychosocial recovery programme in over 60 displacement sites that supported communities and individuals in their recovery from the disaster: critical medical treatment; livelihood support and advocacy for reconstruction and other assistance. Over the course of 2006, ICMC programmes responded to and supported over 2,600 individuals. ICMC's Community Income Generation programmes in Aceh and Nias complemented these interventions by helping victims to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, and to once again contribute to their communities. Community Committees helped design livelihood interventions, promote the involvement of women, evaluate clients and support income generation teams in their work. By the end of 2006, 1,260 households had been assisted through business training and in-kind grants of equipment and materials to initiate their enterprises. As this work enters its third year, more than 80 per cent of the businesses ICMC has helped to establish are still operational.

□ Counter-Trafficking and Rescue: Escaping modern slavery

Human traffickers trick, trap, control and exploit an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children migrants each year for forced labour or sex in conditions from which they are unable to escape on their own. Working with migrants over the decades directly and through our members, ICMC is reminded again and again of the special vulnerability of victims of trafficking and other irregular migrants. Their lack of status and/or fear leaves them dependent on smugglers, traffickers, employers and landlords who often exploit or abuse them. In 2006, over 1 000 victims of trafficking and torture were supported by ICMC's operations in Indonesia and Lebanon.

■ Indonesia's unique socio-economic situation makes it a prime target for human traffickers. In 2006, ICMC and the American Center for International Labor Solidarity supported 45 local faith-based and non-governmental organisations in delivering recovery and reintegration services to hundreds of trafficking survivors as well as in reaching close to a million people across Indonesia with counter-trafficking messages via trainings and mass media. The collaborative effort produced Indonesia's first-ever website devoted solely to the campaign to fight human trafficking, a counter- trafficking training kit, the second edition of the book *Trafficking of Indonesian Women & Children* entitled “*When They Were Sold*” — a report on trafficking women and girls in 15 provinces in Indonesia, and a comic book to educate migrant workers on strategies for safe migration. Several substantive studies on the nature and extent of trafficking were conducted, and a database was created to assist local NGOs and government partners in their reporting of trafficking.

■ In Lebanon, ICMC and the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center operated a “Safe House” providing shelter, protection, medical care, psychosocial assistance, legal aid and counselling to 150 victims of trafficking in 2006, primarily female domestic workers from the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

□ Voluntary Returns and Integration: Building community

An important solution for refugees and internally displaced persons is the return to one's country or community of origin. Each year, hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons just do that, and although some receive humanitarian assistance, many return unaided. Reintegration support is often critical in avoiding inter-community conflict, instability and increased chances of further displacement.

■ ICMC's Individualised Minority Return Assistance Programme continued to help minority groups to return safely and in dignity to their cities and villages of origin in Kosovo. ICMC teams addressed security concerns, infringements on freedom of movement, inability to prove property ownership, problems related to insufficient financial resources and issues in regards



to occupied homes, income generation, costs and health, educational facilities and administrative services. In 2006 some 550 individuals were able to return to their homes in Kosovo from Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

■ ICMC continued to implement, on behalf of UNHCR, the Lead Agency Programme in the Kosovar regions of Prizren and Pejë/Pec, providing care and assistance to Serbs, Roma and other members of minority groups with the objective of achieving sustainable community-based re-integration of the returnees.

□ Refugee Resettlement: Restarting lives

For refugees unable to ever go home, resettlement offers hope and new life: a process through which refugee individuals or families are identified, legally documented and assisted to restart their lives and remain in another country permanently.

■ The **Resettlement Deployment Scheme** is a multi-donor initiative that ICMC administers at UNHCR's request to post experts in UNHCR field offices to assist in the identification, processing and referral of refugees for resettlement. With 50 experts deployed by ICMC in 35 countries in 2006, over 13,000 refugee individuals were referred for resettlement.

■ Based in Turkey with sub-offices in Lebanon and Pakistan, ICMC's Overseas Processing Entity (OPE) prepares case files for refugees prior to interviews in which American immigration officials determine whether or not to accept those refugees for resettlement in the US. The OPE works with refugees in a wide geographic area covering Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen as well as Turkey. In 2006, the OPE assisted 1,459 people who were approved for resettlement to the United States, preparing their security clearances, medical examinations and travel documents and providing food and clothing assistance to the most vulnerable. As in recent years, most of the refugees approved by the US for resettlement came from the Iranian Bahai' population, a minority persecuted on religious grounds.

■ The Cultural Orientation Programme represents a crucial step in preparing refugees for resettlement in their new country. In 2006, ICMC conducted cultural orientation trainings in Kuwait, Lebanon, Turkey and the UAE for 1,153 people, originating from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Along with the inauguration in 2006 of a special training course for children, a new adult curriculum was also developed.

■ ICMC largely contributed to build a European Resettlement Network and invited several European States to operate resettlement programmes involving NGOs in the process. ICMC has convened seven international NGOs currently active in resettlement and integration of refugees. This core group of NGOs is partnering with ICMC to provide practical training to assist

additional NGOs to create or increase their operational resettlement capacity based on the application of resettlement criteria in the field, an exchange of best practices and case studies and the potential deployment of members of their staff as trainees in UNHCR field operations. Collaboration with governments, namely in the Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain and Sweden, is an important component of this network-building.

Policy building for rights-based solutions

ICMC's policy focus in 2006 centred on expanding protection, resettlement and other solutions for refugees; migration and development; migrant rights; and responses to extremely vulnerable individuals, in particular victims of trafficking, women migrants and unaccompanied migrant children.

■ Recognised as a leader in the global discussion of international migration and development, ICMC represented the Holy See at the inter-ministerial symposium on migration and development held in Turin in June, participated at the interactive hearings at the United Nations in New York in July, and was one of only five NGOs selected to participate with States in the UN General Assembly's High Level Dialogue in September. ICMC consistently raised the Church's call for attention to the fundamental rights of migrants, that these rights are not just central to migration, but solve problems, are the key to policy coherence, and further are the very bridge between migration and development.

■ ICMC worked closely with the Government of Indonesia this year, providing technical assistance in drafting groundbreaking anti-trafficking legislation, providing technical assistance from the conceptualisation stage to preparation of a bill for Parliament in early 2007. Also, ICMC further partnered with Indonesian authorities to develop and deliver training on Standard Operating Procedures, to build the capacities of hundreds of government officials to identify incidents of trafficking of women and girls, and to provide rescue, return and reintegration services for trafficking victims.

■ ICMC organised the third and final year of its Police Training Programme for Turkey's Ministry of Interior. ICMC had created this project at the request and with the active engagement of the Ministry of Interior to improve the capacity of local police personnel in the areas of protection and the defence of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, and help Turkey bring its overall asylum system in line with European Union standards and international best practices. The project trained 297 border police and immigration officials to address human rights advocacy issues and the protection of forcibly displaced people by seeking to protect their rights through effective legal and governmental systems.

■ With the reopening of ICMC's affiliate office in Washington in September, ICMC was able to increase its attention on issues relating to unaccompanied migrant children, with a

special focus on policies and programmes that minimise the use of detention for minors and place priority on child welfare, best interest determinations and case management.

■ ICMC continued to promote further ratification and implementation of the Migrant Workers Convention. Among other activities, ICMC presented formal statements to the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, which supervises the implementation of the Convention, on conditions and treatment of migrants in and from Mexico and the situation of migrants in Egypt. These interventions resulted in an important clarification by the Committee that the Convention applies to migrants even when they seek asylum. ICMC also repeatedly emphasised that greater respect for migrant rights reduces forced and irregular migration, and increases integration and social cohesion.

■ In response to demand from members, international and non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and migrant groups around the world, ICMC completed and published the second edition of its popular migrant rights toolkit, *Strengthening Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families With International Human Rights Treaties: A Do-It-Yourself Kit*. The book has been translated into Spanish and is available on the ICMC website at www.icmc.net/en/publications/publications.htm.

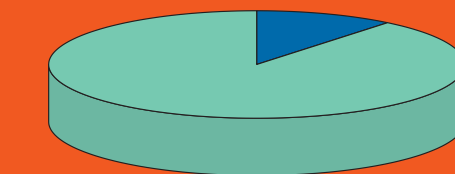
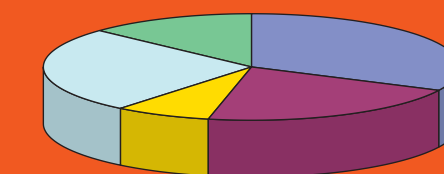
■ Consulting in advance with members, ICMC field staff and other partners, ICMC submitted concerns throughout 2006 for joint NGO statements to the UNHCR Executive and Standing Committees regarding issues in the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Iraq, North and Southern Africa.

Summary of Financial Position (in USD)

Audited by Pricewaterhouse Coopers S.A.
As of December 31, 2006

Revenus		Expenditure	
■ US Government grants	5,581,000	■ Administration	1,820,000
■ UN Institutions	3,658,000	■ Programmes	15,078,000
■ ECHO	1,303,000		
■ Other grants and contributions	4,534,000		
■ Private income and management fees	2,258,000		

Total Revenue 17,334,000 **Total Expenditure 16,898,000**



General Assembly and New Strategic Plan

ICMC's 54th Council Meeting was held in July in Rome, Italy. An important consultation process involving all ICMC members generated the Strategic Plan which was subsequently debated and approved by the ICMC Governing Committee. While expressly affirming ICMC's longstanding operational and advocacy commitment, the Council explicitly endorsed ICMC's mandate and strategy to act on migration broadly, and specifically with regard to growing international labour migration. A second major emphasis of the Council was the commitment in the Strategic Plan to greater regional collaboration with members on migration matters, through existing or new regional processes.

During the General Assembly Mr John Michael Klink (USA) was voted as the new President to take up his function in 2007. He has major experience in the international environment and will largely contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan and chair the International Catholic Migration Committee for the next mandate period. ICMC wishes him a warm welcome in taking over from Professor Stefano Zamagni (Italy) who completed two successive mandates of four years. ICMC is grateful for the inspiring work professor Zamagni accomplished during this extremely challenging and difficult period.