

30 November 2007

**The 7 Recommendations**  
of the  
*G8 Outreach Meeting on “Remittances”*  
28 – 30 November 2007, Berlin

**Background:** In response to the request of the G8 in Heiligendamm, the German Federal Ministry of Finance hosted a high-level meeting on remittances in Berlin from 28 to 30 November 2007. The meeting was held in a G8 outreach style, with delegations from G8 countries and the European Commission as well as participants from other countries, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and the media. The high-level meeting had two objectives: First, to assess the progress of measures to facilitate remittance flows agreed at the Sea Island Summit in 2004, where the G8 launched its Global Remittances Initiative. Second, the meeting was intended to initiate a dialog on new channels for transferring funds, instruments to promote migrant transfers and other potential measures. During the course of six panel discussions with 19 presentations by high-ranking experts, the following seven recommendations were formulated by the participants of the G8 Outreach Meeting.

**Recommendation No. 1:** The participants welcomed the work done to improve remittance data following the G8 Summit at Sea Island. National statistical offices and central banks are encouraged to continue their efforts to improve the quality of data used to compile estimates of remittance flows within the Balance of Payments framework. In this regard, the conference recommends that they make use of the forthcoming compilation guide drafted by the Luxembourg Group. The conference also recommends that the Luxembourg Group continues to play an active role in helping countries improve their estimates of remittance flows.

**Recommendation No. 2:** The participants recognized the extensive research on the development impacts of remittances which has been undertaken in recent years. They invited the international community to explore ways to encourage formal transfers and innovative mechanisms to leverage remittances for development.

**Recommendation No. 3:** The participants welcomed the preparation of General Principles for International Remittance Services by the international taskforce led by the Bank for International Settlements and the World Bank. Policymakers should use these principles as an instrument to improve the regulatory framework of the remittance industry, foster competition, enhance transparency, and strengthen consumer protection in their remittance markets.

**Recommendation No. 4:** The participants of the G8 Outreach Meeting recognized the contribution of the G8 countries, in collaboration with their bilateral partners, as well as the

efforts of the European Commission to facilitating remittances flows and deepening the development impact of those flows. Participants urged the national authorities to continue to pursue such collaborative efforts. Participants also suggested that to avoid duplicative efforts, coordination of the work by the national authorities with other national authorities, the NGOs, the private sector and the MDBs should be pursued.

**Recommendation No. 5:** One of the major challenges is still to attract remittances to bankable channels. While recognizing the considerable efforts undertaken so far, the participants of the G8 Outreach Meeting called upon policymakers, the private sector, and the international community to continue their work to strengthen financial systems and to improve access to financial services – through better systems and attractive ways to remit, save and invest for migrants, diaspora, and remittance recipients – thereby contributing to reducing poverty and promoting economic growth.

**Recommendation No. 6:** Innovative payment instruments are evolving at a rapid pace and might further reduce the cost of remittance services and increase the access to financial services. International organizations and policymakers should monitor these developments closely and should be prepared in case adjustments to the regulatory framework are needed. Policies aimed at influencing remittance flows should be further monitored.

**Recommendation No. 7:** The participants of the G8 Outreach Meeting welcomed the several attempts of the public and private sector as well as the civil society aimed at coordinating and moving forward the existing and forthcoming initiatives to promote remittance flows. The participants regarded the establishment of a Global Remittance Working Group as an interesting proposal which should be considered by the G8. Such a group should be led by an International Organization, which wants to take the lead, and should consist of members from the public and private sector as well as the civil society. The tasks of this group should be – among others – to heighten the awareness of the remittances phenomenon, to encourage further research on the development impact, to support the implementation of the General Principles for International Remittances Services, and to initiate pilot programs with a demonstration effect.