



Global Forum on MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

GFMD Belgium 2007

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Presentation of the roundtable sessions*

The GFMD is an informal multilateral and state led multi-stakeholder process that offers the opportunity to governments to come together- with other stakeholders as appropriate - to identify practical and feasible ways to strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between migration and development.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the first meeting of the GFMD in 2007 will be structured around three Roundtables running in parallel, each comprising four discussion sessions.

The three roundtables will respectively address:

- Roundtable 1 : Human Capital Development and Labor Mobility: Maximizing Opportunities and Minimizing Risks
- Roundtable 2: Remittances and other Diaspora Resources: Increasing their Net Volume and Development Value
- Roundtable 3: Enhancing Institutional and Policy Coherence and Promoting Partnerships

The Roundtable sessions will draw on existing knowledge on the connectivity between migration and development, and how policy and institutional coherence can enhance the mutual benefits of this connection. The discussions are expected to focus on how existing policies and initiatives are working for development, and what lessons can be drawn for governments. Recognition is given to the broader linkages with other policy areas beyond migration and development, but these are unlikely to be fully addressed or resolved within the scope of the Roundtable sessions.

The outcomes of the GFMD should ensure that development is not instrumentalized for migration management purposes, and avoid that migration is seen as an alternative to development or at the individual level, as the only option for development.

The issues proposed for discussion are not exhaustive, and serve as discussion guides only. Each session is expected to produce concrete outcomes such as possible policy or practical models, multi-stakeholder partnerships or identification of knowledge gaps. Further recommendations for short-to-medium term actions, such as a road map of research projects or evaluations of existing or proposed initiatives, could also result from the sessions. Progress on these could be reported on at subsequent GFMD meetings.

* This document has been drafted by the taskforce set up by the Government of Belgium, in close consultation with the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General. <http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org>. No citation from this text may be made without proper reference to this paper

Roundtable 1: Human capital development and labor mobility: Maximizing opportunities and minimizing risks

People and their education and skills are key to any country's development and growth. But in a globalized world, workers are increasingly going international, pulled by higher income and life opportunities elsewhere, and pushed by lack of opportunity at home. These movements are occurring between developed and developing worlds, but also among developing countries, with different but linked impacts and policy challenges in each case. Alongside capital and trade flows, the mobility of high skilled and lower skilled people can bring benefits to both developing and developed countries. The 90 million migrants currently estimated to be working outside their country help fill critical labor gaps in richer economies and reduce unemployment and demographic pressures in poorer countries. Low skilled migration can increase labor market participation and income for the poor; high skilled migration can increase returns to education, and help grow the knowledge base of origin countries.

For some developing countries, high skilled emigration can also have negative impacts on sectors critical to development, such as health and education. Some countries of origin and destination attempt to address this through strategies to better retain, re-train and regain brains and avoid brain waste. These strategies include ethical recruitment practices, and closer linking of capacity building for development to labor migration opportunities in certain vulnerable sectors such as health and education. Alongside efforts by developing countries to recover their investments in human resource development, many countries promote labor migration as a development strategy, and actively train their people for international labor markets.

Bilateral temporary labor arrangements can help to open up more legal opportunities and generate developmental impacts through migrants' sustained connections with the home country. Any such arrangements that protect the interests and rights of migrants while meeting labor demands in the host country are likely to bring the highest returns for all, including families back home. In an increasingly globalized labor market, private sector and other non-state actors can also help facilitate legal, safe and beneficial labor migration. This challenges governments to work more in public-private partnerships to manage labor mobility for the benefit of development. It is also becoming evident that policies which secure migrants' ties more firmly to the host country allow them to circulate more freely, to invest in or return to their origin countries, or conduct business between countries. Where migrants want or need to return, the conditions need to be in place to support sustainable socio-economic reintegration, and longer term benefits for development.

This Roundtable considers the policies and strategies of developing and developed countries at origin and destination ends that can help maximize opportunities and minimize the risks of migration for development. Session 1.1 aims to establish a matrix of practices by origin and destination countries, and between them, that help retain, retrain, recover and return skills to sectors critical for development. Session 1.2 seeks to identify model elements of a temporary bilateral labor arrangement that is beneficial to development, and gives better access to foreign labor markets, notably for low skilled, while controlling irregular migration and protecting the human rights of migrants. Session 1.3 aims at some best policy guidelines for governments to engage with the private sector to the mutual advantage of migrants, host communities, employers and developing economies. Session 1.4 aims to produce some practical policies to foster trans-national circulation of benefit to the migrants and communities of developing countries. Where possible, these outcomes should be accompanied by some indicators to assess the outcomes.

Session 1.1.: Highly skilled migration: balancing interests and responsibilities.

High skilled emigration from developing countries to OECD countries has increased more dramatically in the last 10-15 years than in previous decades, and at a higher rate than low skilled emigration. National rates vary, but are high for Sub Saharan Africa and small economies. While most countries experience some loss of qualified nationals, this could retard efforts by small, economically fragile states to achieve their development goals. For example, the loss of doctors and nurses in some countries could hamper efforts to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, although the evidence of this is still mixed. For some countries, the **brain drain** has also increasingly become a **brain gain** or “brain trust” through migrant investments, networking for contacts and projects, knowledge transfer and other forms of émigré-home country collaboration. Many countries, particularly those in post crisis situations, are calling on their émigré communities to help alleviate stress situations in **certain key sectors such as health and education.**

The conditions to recover émigré talents are the same conditions that help retain skills and reduce brain drain. Economic growth, rule of law and good governance, including respect for human rights, attract back many skilled migrants. But **flexible policies and incentives** also help, such as special research and fellowship funding, more flexible investment, business and venture capital rules, favorable property ownership laws, assistance with housing, schooling and education, and flexible policies on banking, loans, credit, customs and taxes. Often, the private sector has more success at incentivizing skilled returns and investments. Destination countries may also help minimize brain waste through better recognition and upgrading of immigrant skills, ethical recruitment schemes, and building capacities for human capital development in key “drain” sectors in developing countries. **Joint approaches** between governments, and between public and private sectors can often ensure a better balance of interests and results.

This session will address the following questions: How well are current schemes and incentives working? Any measurable and practical outcomes? How can development be factored into agreement-based and selective migration regimes for highly skilled to better protect sectors at risk in developing countries? What are some workable partnerships between public and private sectors, and between countries, to achieve this? What are the knowledge gaps regarding the impact of migration on the level of available services in developing countries?

This session will aim to produce a matrix of practices by origin and destination countries, and between them, that help retain, retrain, recover and return skills to sectors critical for development. Knowledge gaps can be included; as well as some indicators to assess the effectiveness of the practices.

Session 1.2. Temporary labor migration as a contribution to development: sharing responsibility.

Temporary forms of labor mobility are not a new phenomenon, but there has been a dramatic growth in the numbers of temporary migrant workers admitted to high income countries since the 1990s. These are mostly skills-based programs, which increasingly include foreign student schemes that lead to employment and longer-term residence, even citizenship, in the host country. But also low-skilled international migration has increased in number and size, also within government-to-government agreements.

Temporary labor migration can be a flexible and convenient way of meeting labor shortages in higher income countries, while alleviating the demographic and unemployment pressures in developing countries, and spreading the developmental gains of migration more widely. It helps migrants keep their home base in the origin country, and return their earnings and other resources, including skills, to their families and home communities. Where it is carefully managed, and governments or non-profit agencies assist in recruiting and job placement, it can help reduce the cost of migration for poor migrants. Decent working conditions are key to protecting and economically enabling migrants. Gender sensitive policies are critical to protecting and empowering female migrants as major contributors to the well-being of families, communities and national economies. **Bilateral labor agreements** can be efficient vehicles for many countries to negotiate favorable employment and social welfare terms, particularly for low-skilled migrants. By providing access to the formal labor market, they can better protect the human and social rights of migrants, and **empower them as agents of development for their home communities**. They can also help assure the temporariness of the labor migration by supporting migrant return and reintegration, and **strengthen trust between countries** for cooperation in other policy areas. But these favorable conditions can also be achieved by flexible unilateral migration systems.

This session will address the following questions: How can temporary labor migration achieve balanced trade-offs between more openness by destination countries to low-skilled immigration and greater commitment and ability of origin countries to ensure more legal migration? How can bilateral agreements work for development? How do unilateral migration regimes also work for development? What capacities do low income countries need to manage their end of any agreement?

This session will aim to produce some model elements of temporary bilateral labor arrangements that contribute to development and give access to foreign labor markets, notably for low skilled, while controlling irregular migration and protecting the human and social rights of migrants.

Session 1.3. The role of other-than government partners in strengthening the developmental contribution of temporary labor migration?

Global labor mobility today is largely driven by the **private sector**, so governments face new challenges of sharing the business of managing migration. Often called “merchants of labor”, private sector players include employers and recruitment agencies. For some large labor source countries in Asia, for example, a major part of the recruitment, job matching and placement work is done by private agents. Other partners such as **NGOs, international organizations or migrant networks** also play a key role. Many countries of origin regulate, register or authorize private agencies to recruit the labor emigrants and in some cases to inform and prepare the migrants prior to departure.

But strict regulation of the private sector has not prevented illegal and extortive practices, and many fee-charging agents engage in quasi-legal or illegal activities, including over-charging fees and abusing and exploiting the migrants.

It could be argued that **co-management** between governments can help reduce the reliance of migrants on costly middle-men, and protect them from illicit practices. Bilateral labor agreements have helped to bring public employment agencies more into the picture, and ensure safer, more cost effective labor migration through adherence to international conventions protecting migrants. Yet private and non-governmental agents can often be more accessible to migrants on the ground than governments, and can play a key role in informing and supporting migrants and optimizing

their gains for development. Balanced **partnerships between government and private and other non-state players** are therefore also important forms of co-management.

This session will address the following questions: How can private sector and other non-state agencies better ensure that migrants are well informed and protected from abusive and malevolent practices (e.g. at the hands of smugglers or traffickers), both in their migration and the job placements abroad? How to balance facilitation and control of these players to help them facilitate beneficial and protective migration without further driving such agencies underground.

This session will aim to produce a set of practical policy guidelines for governments of countries of origin and destination to engage with the private sector to the mutual advantage of migrants, host communities, employers and developing economies.

Session 1.4. How can circular migration and sustainable return serve as development tools?

Circular migration takes many forms, but essentially describes a situation where migrants can work and settle in other countries and circulate more freely between those countries and their origin countries. Research shows that this **can be beneficial for social, business, investment and other forms of productive trans-national activity** of benefit for development, both in origin and destination countries. Policies and mechanisms to facilitate this can include more flexible re-entry visas, portability of social benefits, dual citizenship, longer, more flexible contracts etc. But these would need to be based on a closer linking of migration and labor market planning, both in the country of origin and destination.

Where migrants seek to return, or need to return e.g. at the end of a labor contract, the conditions should be in place to ensure that this can benefit the country of origin through **sustainability of return**, and optimal use of their new skills and experience for development efforts. Return has always been a natural and voluntary phenomenon in migration; but there are also more involuntary forms of return. Both can have mixed impacts on developing, particularly fragile, economies, depending on the policy environments at origin and destination. Many returnees face difficulties with employment, housing, accessing credit markets, starting up businesses or investing savings. There is little policy attention to these issues, partly due to a lack of experience and resources, and a lack of connection between return migration and development.

The solution may be a mixed approach, combining **more linked-up labor market and migration planning**, flexible visa regimes, greater inter-country cooperation on preventing illegal migration and returning migrants, and incentives for return. These could direct migrant flows to where the real labor needs are, ensure more humane and protected movement, and undercut the need for illegal migration.

This session will address the following questions: How can more circular forms of migration programs be better planned around assessments of labor needs to be filled by migration and/or by skills available among diaspora? How can managed forms of return migration become productive forms of “migration **for** development” in the country of origin? What are the capacity building needs of developing countries to meet these challenges?

This session will aim to produce a set of practical policies that foster trans-national circulation of benefit to the migrants and communities of developing countries. And some indicators to assess this outcome.

Roundtable 2 : Remittances and other diaspora resources: Increasing their net volume and development value

Remittances have progressively attracted increasing interest in economic and development research and policy during the last decade. Even though precise data are lacking- notably due to the existence of large informal transfers- it is today broadly acknowledged that remittances are an important source of funding for developing countries, not only in terms of some developing countries' GDPs or export ratios, but also with regard to other financial flows such as ODA or FDI. Beyond remittances, diasporas also carry out various activities- such as philanthropy, professional capacity building, etc. which have an important development potential for their country of origin.

Migrants originating from developing countries transfer money worldwide, North-South but also South-South, with different purposes such as support to relatives, social security, investments, etc. These transfers, which can often be a financial burden on migrants, are, due to their very nature, private flows, which cannot be appropriated by governments, but whose development impact can be leveraged through incentives and tools designed and implemented by governments in partnership with other stakeholders. Remittances therefore do not diminish the need for ODA nor are they an alternative to government's development efforts.

Remittances' potential links with development are numerous: they immediately benefit the recipient through their direct effect (investment in education, consumption, etc.), or have an impact at the macro-economic level (improving credit ratings, etc.). They can also have negative effects, such as creating recipients' dependency, or possibly increasing within-country economic inequality, inflation, currency appreciation etc. The benefits of remittances for development are, however, conditional upon the broader economic and political context (investment environment, etc.)

As the numbers of migrants in the world keep growing, diasporas increasingly appear as a new player in development. While some countries of origin have long-established partnerships with their nationals abroad, countries of destination are becoming more and more aware of the relevance of supporting diasporas' financial or non financial development projects.

Addressing the issues of remittances and other diaspora resources sets various challenges, firstly at various policy levels ranging from capacity and confidence building, to governance, development and international coordination. Second, a wide range of stakeholders must be involved when discussing these issues, from governments to money transfer agencies and banks, rating agencies, micro-credit institutions, migrant associations, development and finance ministries, national, regional and multilateral financial institutions, etc.

Four discussion sessions on remittances and other diaspora resources will take place during the first meeting of the GFMD. Session 2.1 will aim to produce examples of best practices and medium-term recommendations for the formalization and reduction of transfer cost. Sessions 2.2 will seek to produce models for multi-stakeholder partnerships and medium term recommendations for increasing the micro- impact of remittances on development. Session 2.3 will discuss ways and means to leverage the development impact of remittances at the macro-economic level, and will aim at producing models for integrating private remittances into developing countries' economic development. Session 2.4 will seek to identify best practices, and formulate medium term recommendations for engaging with diasporas in countries of origin and

host countries as well as models of new public sector tools to increase the development impact of diaspora activities. Issues related to data collection as well as to the definitions of “remittances”, “diaspora” and “development” will not be addressed by these sessions.

Session 2.1: Improving the formal transfer of remittances and reducing their cost

Access to financial service providers, dual exchange rates, speed, safety and cost of transfers are some of the elements influencing the choice of remittances senders. The benefits of **reducing the cost** of remittances for the migrants, their families and their countries of origin have long been acknowledged. Proposals to that end have been made, notably relating to increasing competition and transparency, opening markets, etc. along with recommendations related to the risks of remittance channels being used for money laundering or terrorism financing purposes.

The **formalization** of remittances also seems to be beneficial for development by increasing the financial services available to both remittance senders and recipients and through their wider impact on national economies (as formalized transfers enable more accurate estimates of these flows and therefore policy planning). **New technologies** offer promising opportunities for both reducing the cost of transfers and the increase of formalization.

The session will address the following questions: What regulations and incentives should sending and receiving countries adopt and avoid in order to reduce remittance transfer costs and increase confidence in, and use of, formal financial systems? What balance is required between assuring security (fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, etc.) on the one hand and market access (regulatory and disclosure requirements, etc.) to avoid that informal channels go underground? What is the role of central banks, development banks, microfinance and other institutions such as postal services? What are the needs for capacity building? What financial literacy programs are most effective in helping senders and recipients of remittances make the best choices? How could public-private partnerships in new technologies and IT help reduce transfer costs and increase formalization? The discussion session will focus on the outcomes proposed by the background paper.

This session will aim to produce examples of best practices (by individual governments or partnerships, including multi-stakeholder partnerships) and of practices to avoid, and medium term recommendations.

Session 2.2: Increasing the micro- impact of remittances on development.

Beyond formalization, tools and incentives may be defined by governments- in partnership with other stakeholders- in order to make remittance-related savings benefit more than their sole recipients. These incentives and tools can be linked to the transfers themselves (e.g. financial services offered to the recipients such as micro-pension schemes) or focus on mobilizing savings generated by remittances towards productive investments (made by the migrant, the recipients or a local entrepreneur). When defining these tools, some specific elements could be taken into account such as gender specificities in the use of remittances or the risk of recipients’ dependency which could rather become a disincentive for development.

The session will address the following questions: How to amplify and sustain the micro impact of remittances **for, and beyond, the sole recipient** through new instruments such as micro-finance, micro pension schemes, micro-insurance, safety-net mechanisms, etc. and their integration in the wider economy? How can governments and private sector **best mobilize migrant savings** in developing countries (e.g. through tax incentives, financial literacy campaigns and other

incentives) in order to yield investments and strengthen sustainable development through local poverty reduction, job creation, venture capital and other investment initiatives? What are the possible risks of incentive schemes aimed at development projects financed by the diaspora? How can such policies and initiatives best adapt to the **gender aspects** of remittances and their impacts on household welfare? How to avoid remittances becoming an **obstacle to development**? The discussion session will focus on the outcomes proposed by the background paper.

This session will aim to produce models for multi-stakeholder partnerships and medium term recommendations.

Session 2.3: Increasing the macro impact of remittances on development.

Even though remittances are private flows by nature and destination, they also have an **impact on macro-economics** and bring **potential benefits for development**. Facing large incoming financial flows, governments may develop policies to prevent their **possible negative impact** on the domestic economy (inequality, inflation, currency appreciation, etc.) or, on the other hand, to benefit from these flows at the macro-economic level.

The session will address the following questions: What are the strategies to reinforce links between remittances and sustainable development at national, international and multilateral levels? How can countries leverage remittances to enhance their **credit rating** and attract long-term external financing? How can countries best **securitize** their remittance flows? How can developing countries use diaspora bonds and foreign-currency deposits to mobilize external financing for long-term investment? How can remittances and other diaspora resources help to cushion the balance of payments against adverse shocks? How to avoid remittances becoming an **obstacle to development**? How do remittances affect wages and external competitiveness? What are the appropriate policy responses to large remittance inflows, e.g. monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies, measures to increase productivity etc.? The discussion session will focus on the outcomes proposed by the background paper.

This session will aim to produce models for integrating private remittances into developing countries' economic development policy planning and in medium term recommendations.

Session 2.4: Working with the diaspora for development.

Diasporas can, inter alia, contribute to increasing trade and investment links and technology transfers to the country of origin. While diasporas' potential for the development of their countries of origin is broadly acknowledged, governments of both countries of origin and countries of destination face similar challenges in engaging with these partners, such as defining new tools, identifying interlocutors, or ensuring a country or community of origin's ownership of development projects while, by definition, diasporas are not based in that country/ community.

The session will address the following questions: How should local and national governments of destination and origin countries **partner** with diaspora to increase the development impact of their philanthropic, business, social, and other activities in regard to the country of origin? What **tools** should be developed both in countries of origin and host countries to increase the development impact of diaspora activities? What is the relationship between migrants' **integration** and their capacity to play a role in the development of their country of origin? The discussion session will focus on the outcomes proposed by the background paper.

This session will aim to produce examples of best practices of engaging with diasporas for countries of origin and host countries as well as in models of new public sector tools to increase the development impact of diaspora activities and in medium term recommendations.

Roundtable 3: Enhancing policy and institutional coherence, and promoting partnerships.

The idea that migration and development are intertwined and should be addressed within a coherent policy and institutional framework has gained ground in policy circles in recent years. However whilst there is growing recognition that the achievement of sustainable development objectives – including the UN Millennium Development Goals – can be supported and reinforced by better managing the positive effects of migration on development, **at the level of policy-making the two fields remain largely unlinked and uncoordinated.**

One of the biggest challenges facing national and international policy-makers in these fields today is to better understand how consideration for migration – and for the root causes of migration – can be incorporated in policy agendas of both developed and developing countries. It is also, in turn, to further understand the conditions under which migration can contribute to improving development, in order to better take development strategies into account when devising migration policies.

Enhancing policy and institutional coherence between migration and development areas poses a **challenge for governance**, which the UN Commission on Global Governance (*Our Global Neighborhood*, 1995) has defined as “the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and cooperative action taken.” Measures and strategies are therefore required at all levels.

However, coherence “begins at home”. Coordination should be strengthened at the national level, where various ministries and departments are involved with migration and development-related issues; and greater consultation and partnerships are to be reinforced at the global, bilateral and regional levels. The success of these efforts depends however on better assessing the impacts international migration and development have on each other, and on the tools and methodologies used to that effect.

This requires an **expanded effort of capacity building** to ensure that all countries, especially developing countries, can rely on the necessary institutions, information and resources to attain these objectives. Having a ‘migration and development’ **focal point** within each of the relevant ministries, a ‘migration and development’ **budget line**, or an **inter-ministerial consultative body** on migration and development at the central government level could be very helpful first steps towards that end.

If jointly addressed, migration and development policies can **mutually reinforce each other’ objectives** and avoid counterproductive competing agendas.

Against this background, Session 3.1 will aim at producing proposals for concrete actions, including in the field of capacity building, to improve the efficiency of the tools and mechanisms needed to measure certain impacts of migration on development, and vice versa. Session 3.2 will seek to formulate concrete proposals, both at the intra-governments and inter-governmental levels of governance, for achieving greater coherence between migration and development at the level

of policy planning. Session 3.4 will address the conditions to further integrate consideration for development in regional migration consultation processes and will seek to produce a set of proposals regarding the role of regional migration consultation processes vis-à-vis the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Session 3.1: Measuring Progress on Migration and Development Impacts: Latest Initiatives

Enhancing coherence between migration and development requires, above all, that **knowledge gaps** be identified and addressed. **Empirical results and information** are crucial elements missing in both migration and development debates. In other words, there is a need to develop, through targeted research, a **strengthened evidence-based approach** capable of better guiding and informing policies and decision-making in the areas of migration and development; for example for better mapping labor needs at the national, regional and international levels, and develop tailored human resources policies to address them.

Such efforts require **appropriate tools and methodologies to assess migration and development impacts** and, more specifically, to measure with greater precision those elements that are critical to maximizing the beneficial impacts of migration for development and vice versa, and minimizing their adverse side-effects. The **possible reciprocal impacts**, both in origin and destination countries, are various. Differing from male to female migrants, they range from effects on labor markets, wages and employment, to impacts on socio-economic structures and infrastructures.

Yet, **measuring progresses on the impacts of migration and development** will depend critically on three main conditions:

- to **foster understanding of the terminology** used by both migration and development communities: a common definition of significant terms and expressions will help in turn to formulate appropriate and reliable indicators and modes of data collection to evaluate the cause-effect links between migration and development, and other related policy areas;
- to **ensure cross-countries comparability both of the information collected and of its analysis**, in order to promote the sharing of experiences and to reinforce the coherence of policy-actions at all levels;
- as to the availability and quality of the information itself, it implies to **strengthen capacities**, especially research and statistical capacities in developing countries, to avoid selective and fragmented data collection unable to provide an accurate picture of the global challenges and impacts of migration and development.

Some of these questions will be addressed by the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development; others however are beyond the scope of this first session.

The session will address the following questions: What are the latest initiatives to address information gaps, and measures to evaluate the impacts of migration – and migration policies – on development, and vice versa? How to improve definitions, indicators, data collection, comparability and analysis to these ends? How effective are existing mechanisms for collecting and analyzing migration and development data (e.g. migration observatories, development agencies,...), and in particular integrating gender into these initiatives? How do these mechanisms work or network with each other?

This session will aim to produce proposals for concrete actions, including in the field of capacity building, to improve the efficiency of the tools and mechanisms needed to measure certain

impacts of migration on development, and vice versa, which could be taken stock of at the next meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Session 3.2: Coherent Policy Planning and Methodology to Link Migration and Development.

Establishing coherence between migration and development at the **level of policy planning** is a first step towards coordinating the two policy areas at the **level of implementation**. At the national level, coherent policy planning and devising a methodology to link migration and development require policy-makers to **look beyond sectoral boundaries**. Migration has to become a key issue in other development-relevant policy areas, and in particular needs to be integrated into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. In turn, development has to be taken into consideration in migration policies, to promote “win-win” opportunities for migrants and origin and destination countries. **Dialogue is critical** to achieving such mutually reinforcing policy actions.

Consultation mechanisms have to be set up between the different ministries and departments involved, particularly those in charge of development, interior/foreign affairs, finance, employment and social affairs. Local authorities also have to be included in any proposed synergies. These measures require **appropriate human resource policies capable of better mapping skill and labor needs** on the global/regional (and even national) labor markets, and better preparing migrant labor forces as part of the solution to those needs. As developing countries often lack the tools to do this, **capacity building is needed**, in particular for regional organizations.

If properly formulated and implemented, such a **joined-up approach to migration and development** – the so-called “whole-of-government” approach – can help create integrated policy agendas. **But policy coherence is needed not only at the national level**. Inter-state and institutional coordination at regional and international levels, also with other non-state stakeholders, can ensure consistency of domestic initiatives with regional and international strategies and standards.

The session will address the following questions: How to shift the paradigm and build a case for migration to be a key issue in development-relevant policy areas (notably for the achievement of the MDGs) such as development cooperation, education, health, trade and agriculture, and for development to be a key issue in migration policy planning? Would the establishment of a focal point within each of the relevant ministries, of a co-managed ‘migration and development’ budget line, or of an inter-ministerial consultative body on migration and development at the level of central government be useful for that purpose? When does it make sense for policy makers to include development considerations in migration programs, and vice versa? How can governments include migration concerns in country development plans or poverty reduction strategies? What institutional and other obstacles have existing efforts encountered, and what progress to date? Beyond national coherence, how can governments better coordinate the planning of human resource development, current and future labor market needs and migration programs across borders, regionally and internationally?

This session will aim to produce concrete proposals and examples of good practices/workable models for how to build an infrastructure for coherent policy planning, in order to e.g. include migration into national development plans and development policies of developed countries, and also development concerns into migration policies and plans. A central ambition is to identify

knowledge gaps and obstacles to coherent policy planning at the national and regional levels, bearing in mind that government and administrative structures may differ.

(Session 3.3: Discussion on the future of the GFMD)

Session 3.4: Regional Migration Consultation Processes and Development

Regional migration consultation processes (RCPs) now exist in all continents. They are based on the understanding that national or **bilateral approaches are insufficient to meet the challenges of governance of international migration** at the global level. As informal states-led fora, they have proven to be effective for sharing information, experiences and good practices, and for building capacities to better address and anticipate the multiple challenges of migration.

There is increased recognition at the international level, that **RCPs can play a crucial role in enhancing policy and institutional coherence between migration and development**. However, while they may help build institutional capacities at national levels, RCPs mostly remain focused on the technicalities of migration (specifically border management), and do not sufficiently include consideration for development issues. Their potential in this regard is under-exploited. The question is how to understand **how RCPs could become more effective vehicles for achieving coherence** between migration and development areas. In other words, how to encourage the further inclusion of development in regional migration consultation processes, in order for development to become a key-issue on RCP agendas? Initiatives to launch consultations between RCPs and development related institutions and agencies have to be encouraged in this regard.

The session will address the following questions: How do RCPs take development considerations into account when devising their projects/strategies? How are RCPs concretely enhancing the impact of migration on development, and the impact of development on migration? Have RCPs led to improved institutional and policy coherence within and among governments on the issues of migration and development? Are they a potential platform for more multilateral approaches to managing migration for development?

This session will aim to produce a summary of the ways in which development is or can be integrated into RCPs; and/or a set of proposals regarding the role of RCPs vis-à-vis the Global Forum on Migration and Development.