

GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD)
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Roundtable 3

Enhancing Institutional and Policy Coherence and Promoting Partnerships¹

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. Yet adequate financial and human resources are needed to that end. The objective proposed by the United Nations that developed countries make concrete efforts towards the target of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product as Official Development Assistance to developing countries is of particular relevance in this context.

However coherence “begins at home”. Establishing coherence at the level of policy planning is a first step towards coordinating the two policy fields at the level of implementation. Strengthening coordination at the national level, where various ministries and departments are involved with migration and development-related issues, requires 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. To that end, consultation mechanisms have to be set up between the different ministries and departments involved, particularly those in charge of development, employment and social affairs, interior/foreign affairs, finance, trade, and agriculture. Local authorities have to be included in any proposed synergies. In addition, inter-state and institutional coordination at regional and international levels, also with other non-state stakeholders, are needed to ensure consistency of domestic initiatives with regional and international strategies and standards. The success of all 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.

¹ Revised excerpt of Working Paper VII of 01/03/2007 drafted by the GFMD Taskforce.
The full document is available on : www.gfmd-fmmd.org

Yet the human dimension of migration cannot be dissociated from the economic, social and developmental aspects of migration. According to Article 1 (3) of the UN Charter, Member States are engaged “*to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion*”. It is widely assumed that migrants whose rights are respected are best able to make their contribution to the economy of destination countries and to act as agents for development for their countries of origin. The promotion of human rights and, in particular, of the principles of equality and non discrimination constitutes an essential element of the migration and development nexus. However despite the solidity and robustness of the formal global human rights framework, there is evidence that these international human rights treaties are not always respected in practice, nor applied in an equitable manner to international migrants. While the full realization of the relevant rights may be achieved progressively, depending on the available resources of each State, steps towards that goal must be taken within a reasonable short time. They should be deliberate, concrete and targeted as clearly as possible towards the achievement of these rights.

If jointly addressed, migration and development policies can mutually reinforce each other’s 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.