MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Joint Migration and Development Initiative

Global Forum on Migration and Development

Side event: Exploring the key role of local and regional authorities in implementing the international migration and development agenda

Date: Friday, 16 October 2015
Time: 12.15 – 13.15

Context

Local and regional authorities are increasingly finding themselves at the forefront of confronting not only development challenges but dealing with the effects of migration where the impact of migration is most strongly felt. This is highly pertinent given that more than half of the world's population now lives in urban areas with the majority of migrants and displaced populations also moving to urban areas. Local governments are therefore increasingly responsible for issues ranging from integration, reintegration, legal protection, education, public order, economic development, and health to urban planning. They must often act in the face of multiple challenges linked to the changing face of urban/rural populations; harsh economic landscapes; rapid, concentrated social change; difficult political climates; and new kinds of integration policies.

It is within the context outlined above that the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)[1], together with the World Bank/KNOMAD and UNITAR, are organizing this side event entitled *Exploring the key role of local authorities in implementing the international migration and development agenda*. This event will serve to bring local and regional authorities' voices, expertise and knowledge to the GFMD in order to further the global understanding and dialogue on migration and development, as well as ensure that the local dimension of migration and development is considered within the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objectives

Specifically, the side event will bring 6 speakers together in order to:
- Understand the relationship between local, regional and national decision-making on migration, displacement and asylum and the role of local authorities within this context;
- Share the good practices, success stories, obstacles faced and needs of cities and other local authorities through concrete initiative undertaken to harness migration for local development;

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[1] The Joint Migration and Development Initiative is a global inter-agency programme led by UNDP and implemented in close cooperation with IOM, ITC-ILO, UNITAR, UN Women, UNHCR and UNFPA and funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Development Cooperation.

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- Explore how partnerships with national governments, civil society and the international community can enhance global coherence of migration and development initiatives and further support local efforts in migration and development;
- Explore how the role and potential impact of local leadership can be included in key inter-governmental meetings including the GFMD and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Outcomes

- Furthering the understanding and recognition of the key role of local authorities and cities in migration and development by national and international actors in migration and development;
- Making recommendations for further inclusion of local actors in national and international dialogue on M&D and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Making recommendations to national and international actors in migration and development to support local actors' initiatives.

Moderator:

Ms. Cihan Sultanoğlu, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS

Participant speakers:

- Mr. Badji Nfaly, Director, Regional Development Agency, Sedhiou, Senegal
- Mr. Manuel Pleguezuelo Alonso, Director-General for Public Participation, EU and External Action, Region of Murcia, Spain
- Secretary. Imelda M. Nicolas, Chairperson, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Philippines
- Ms. Bettina Etter, Programme Officer, Swiss Development Cooperation
- Ms. Camilla Haegstrom, Programme Officer, Directorate-General for Development and Co-operation – EuropAid, European Commission
- Ms. Jill Helke, Director, International Cooperation and Partnerships, International Organization for Migration

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