

# **Report on Roundtable 3 Outcomes**

## **"Enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility"**

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Mr. Chair, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the co-chairs of Roundtable 3.1, Eritrea and Moldova; and of Roundtable 3.2, Canada and France, the Philippines is honored to present to the plenary of the 2015 GFMD Summit the consolidated report of Roundtable 3 Outcomes on "Enhancing international cooperation on emerging issues in migration and mobility".

The two (2) emerging agenda on migration that the GFMD chair-in-office, Turkey, has chosen to table for discussion in this Roundtable are uncharted territories. The condition of people forcibly displaced across international borders, and the job creation potentials of migrant and diaspora entrepreneurship are being discussed for the first time in the context of the GFMD. Once again, the Forum has created a unique opportunity to explore and freely discuss agenda and ideas that are being introduced or used for the first time. It is important to note that these pioneering roundtable discussions have already ushered relevant discussions of the migration agenda under the newly adopted UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and its associated goals and targets.

During the Summit Roundtable 3.1 discussion yesterday, there was an interesting exchange of views on concepts of displacements, on whether or not 'forced migrants' should include refugees, and to what extent the discussion of refugees should be covered in the GFMD. The sharing of actual government experiences and initiatives in assisting forced migrants, whether refugees or not, has opened concrete possibilities on international cooperation.

In the Summit Roundtable 3.2 discussions, the concept of 'migrant entrepreneurs' and 'diaspora entrepreneurship' was elaborated on by actual actors from origin and destination countries who sat in the panels. They were helpful in illustrating what enabling conditions mean for a struggling entrepreneur, for women entrepreneurs, and for SMEs built by migrants and diaspora whose access to credit, business services, and skills development are often limited or less favorable.

On both sessions, there was a very high level of interest and engagement on the floor, the panelists were not only distinguished but were forthright, bold and often thought-provoking in their assertions. The background papers, while acknowledging its limits, provided a solid structure for the roundtable discussions, and we thank the Migration Policy Institute (for RT3.1) and the ICMPD (for RT 3.2) for elaborating on the development of draft documents. The co-chairs of the two roundtables and moderators did an excellent job in steering the meeting to its fruitful conclusion, which was particularly challenging given the many flags that wished to give their interventions and the time constraint.

## **On the Outcomes:**

On RT 3.1 "International cooperation and responsibility-sharing and human security for people forcibly displaced across international borders", chaired by Moldova and Eritrea, this roundtable has given us encouraging practices and evidences that effective measures on full integration of migrants forcibly displaced across borders can be done.

These models of assisting forced migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, in transit and destination countries include migrant development program reported by Australia, Cameroon, the EU, Moldova, Philippines,, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the US, Zambia and many other countries including those where the UN has been implementing cooperation projects. In many of these efforts, State policies are carried out based on strong humanitarian principles and international commitments to human development and human security.

Resources are vital to the continued and effective provision of relevant services to forced migrants such as housing/shelter, health, education, skills training and livelihood, and socio-cultural integration. For some receiving countries, increased international aid or assistance is urgently required in view of the increasing inflows of people forcibly displaced in their lands.

In terms of priority areas for assisting forced migrants, many indicated that greater investment should be given to skills training / retraining, education and employment assistance to enable them to obtain employment in occupations needed by the country. It was generally recognized that migrants could help ease labor market inefficiencies with their skills and talents, but in the case of forced migrants, receiving countries need to work doubly hard or invest more on their skills training/ retraining and education. In countries where there is high unemployment, however, governments should be prepared to build their case as assisting forced migrants in terms of employment could be raised as a public concern.

A major concern of some receiving countries, as a consequence of the increased inflow of forced migrants, is security, conflict and cultural integration of the community in settlement areas. Socio-psychological services/ programs are needed to help manage the situation, but the costs are often prohibitive if not unavailable.

Monitoring is key, not only on whether or not forced migrants accessed the programs and services available to them, but on their long-term progress and success in integrating economically and socially in their new environment.

Ladies and gentlemen, RT3.1 has called for greater and international cooperation in carrying out our shared responsibilities in enhancing human security and development for people forcibly displaced across borders, through a coherent, collaborative and continued process. The framework of action should facilitate access of forced migrants to vital services and closely focused programs for them; it should enable them to be involved in charting solutions, it should explore new pathways towards regular migration, and finally, it should secure sufficient funding assistance particularly for countries of first-stop for migrants, regardless of their economic development level.

There is growing support for ongoing international cooperation on specific groups of displacements, some excellent examples of which include the Swiss-led 'Nansen Initiative' which has developed a framework for assisting people forced to flee due to disaster or climate change effects. Already, 110 countries have signed up for this initiative. The US-Philippine led "Migrants in Crisis Initiative" is another cooperation framework that is focused on assisting migrants who are caught in conflict situations or crises in the country of destination. Existing programs for refugees undertaken by the relevant UN agencies and international body continues to be supported by donor countries.

Finally, RT3.1 called for continued discussion in the GFMD on particular groups of people -- those who are extremely vulnerable, including those "in between" , and to recognize that they are brought to their situation because of a host of factors, for instance market failure. The GFMD is asked continue to discuss the conditions of people forcibly displaced across international borders, address policy gaps, and explore solutions with great urgency in the context of sustainable development, under the next Chair, Bangladesh.

Now, we go to the outcome of RT 3.2, which is about "Private sector - government partnerships to support migrant/ diaspora entrepreneurship and job creation, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises." This RT was co-chaired by Canada and France.

RT 3.2 recognized the vast potential of migrants and diaspora to become entrepreneurs and contribute to employment creation, whether in the country of origin or destination. The discussion successfully surfaced elements that are a key to initiating and growing small and medium enterprises by migrants and diaspora, including successful private sector-government partnerships.

First, the roundtable discussion stressed the importance of successful integration to migrant entrepreneurs. If migrants feel safe and secure, have valid and longer terms permits, they will feel more confident and eager to invest. Successful integration also means learning the language, being trained or re-trained for one's intended occupation, and having their professional qualifications recognized by the destination country.

Second, migrants/ diaspora entrepreneurs more often face difficulties in accessing credit/loans and high interest rates. There is a need to facilitate the launching of start-ups, e.g. through special "start-up funds", or well-studied tax incentives for migrant-entrepreneurs. Support on business incubation and basic business management program should be available for them. Government-private partnership, government-civil society partnership, and government-international organizations partnership in this area is most important.

Third, migrant/ diaspora entrepreneurs need to understand business needs and profitable markets in countries of origin and destination. Effective market linkage support, including with industry association, are particularly helpful for fledgling enterprises.

Fourth, Accessible information, such as "one stop facilities", 'information hubs', use Chamber of Commerce resources, or information from the different embassies on markets, business conditions,

country legal and commercial standards are needed. From the diaspora side, there is also a need for better organization.

The roundtable stressed the huge potential of women migrant entrepreneurship. For this purpose, a women entrepreneur's network, either online or otherwise, both at national and international levels, could provide effective support for putting up capital, marketing products, and the like.

While recognizing the potential contribution of migrants, the challenge remains in engaging support from the private sector or businesses to deal with migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs. Government support may come through in the form of incentives, small brother-big brother initiatives, training and apprenticeship partnerships, publishing inspiring stories of successful migrant entrepreneurs, and continued consultation with the private sector on this area.

In closing, it is important to note that the Outcomes of RT 3 clearly advance the discussion of the GFMD on at least 5 of migration-associated goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and the relevant targets are supportive of Goals number 5, 8, 9, 10 and 17. Having said these, we are confident that the pioneering discussion of RT 3.1 and 3.2 that took place during this 2015 GFMD Summit under the Turkish chairmanship will find its continuity in the succeeding agenda of the GFMD.