



SECOND MEETING OF THE GFMD
Manila, Philippines 27 to 30 October 2008

“PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING MIGRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT”

ROUNDTABLE THEMES

Roundtable 1: Migration, Development and Human Rights

There is increasing evidence that the benefits of international migration, not only for migrants themselves but also for origin and host societies, are contingent on the protection of migrants' rights. It is reasonable to assume that migrants are best able to contribute to development in both the countries of origin and host countries, when they are protected and empowered socially, economically and in terms of their basic human rights, regardless of their migration status. International and national law provide the framework for states to protect the rights of all persons living and sojourning on their territory, including migrants. Countries along the migration continuum -- origin, transit, and destination- thus share a common obligation and responsibility to ensure that the rights of migrants are respected.

Respecting the rights of migrants is especially relevant for lower skilled labour migrants and also for female migrants who predominate in some of the most critical service areas for development and growth in both high and lower income countries, such as nursing, domestic work and care-giving. Where this kind of work is inadequately protected by labour laws, and forms part of the informal labour market, abuse and exploitation can occur, particularly gender-specific violations against women and children.

Migration can also be an empowering experience, in particular for female migrants, lower skilled migrants and those in the vulnerable sectors, enabling them to contribute more freely to development in host and origin countries. Current studies suggest that migration of low-skilled workers is the most likely to reduce poverty in developing countries; but can also have beneficial social and economic effects in the host country. The migrant worker contributes directly in the production, manufacturing, and services industries of the host country. Aside from that, low-skilled migrant workers take on the dirty, dangerous, and difficult jobs that nationals of the host country would normally shy away from, thus allowing the latter to take on more skilled and higher-paying jobs.

The positive impacts of migration are multi-dimensional: for the migrants and their families, economic and social empowerment through greater purchasing power, access to education, and capacity to make choices for themselves; and for communities, increased incomes and sharing of skills learned abroad among constituent migrant families. On a national level, migration can bring much needed foreign exchange reserves and improve the country's income through direct consumption and investment spending. Other social, cultural, and political benefits from migration,

can be experienced on personal, community, and national levels. To optimize these potential benefits, protective and empowering policy environments are necessary in both host and origin countries. Such enabling environments can only be fostered if governments approach migration in a holistic manner, by engaging multi-sectors and non-traditional stakeholders, including the private sector and diaspora communities, in harnessing the positive impact of migration on development.

This Roundtable will focus primarily on migrant workers and governments' efforts in protecting their rights. It will examine the evidence for whether and how improved rights for migrants can strengthen their contribution to development. It will consider best practices by governments, including cooperation between origin and host countries, in protecting and empowering migrants and diaspora to contribute to development. It will build on the work begun in RT 1 in Brussels on best practices in this area, including gender-sensitive policies and the role of the private sector and multi-stakeholder partnerships in supporting and protecting migrants and their families. It will also build on the debates in Brussels RT 2 on diasporas and promoting public-private partnerships to mobilize diaspora resources for development.

Sessions:

1.1 Protecting the rights of migrants – a shared responsibility

This session will discuss the policies, programs and initiatives that countries are taking to ensure *the social, economic and legal protection of migrants*. The session will showcase the life-cycle approach to protecting migrants' rights, ranging from pre-deployment, to on-site protection, and then to return and reintegration. This approach is premised on the proposition that the best protection for migrants starts at home.

On pre-deployment, this session will demonstrate that providing information on the rules, rights and obligations of migrants in destination countries, and access to training and counselling, can shield migrants from potential exploitation before they leave the home country. The session will thus showcase examples of effective regulatory frameworks for overseas employment, varied mechanisms for disseminating clear and vital information to migrants and their families, and institutional structures that ensure fair application of the rules and affords migrants administrative and legal recourse for redress of their grievances.

On on-site protection, the session will explore the standards, safeguards and entitlements accorded to migrants while they are working in host countries, including standards on wages, working conditions, benefits, recruitment practices, gender-sensitive policies, protection against exploitation and abuse, and the role of the private sector. These standards and rights are accorded to migrants on the assumption that a protected worker is a more productive worker, and thus, becomes a better agent of development. The session will also look at initiatives taken by host countries in facilitating integration of migrants. It will also give examples of origin and host countries sharing in the responsibility of negotiating and monitoring decent work contracts, providing adequate consular services, and cooperating with other directly concerned governments and stakeholders..

On return and reintegration, the session will further look at governments' initiatives in both host and origin countries to promote the return and reintegration of migrants to their origin countries, especially during crisis situations.

The session will draw on the experiences of participating countries, as well as the outcomes of the workshop on good recruitment and employment practices and the study on the private sector in

supporting and protecting migrants, led by Bangladesh and other partners. It will aim to create a body of best practices that can inform governments' efforts to protect the rights and interests of migrants, and enhance the potential benefits of migrants not only for their personal development but also for the development of their home and host countries.

The session will address the questions:

- *What are the observed benefits of the social, economic, and legal protection of migrants?*
- *What are some key effective practices by governments to maximize the potential of migrants to contribute to the development of their countries of origin?*
- *What are the key elements of effective cooperation between countries on migrant protection, including with the engagement of the private sector?*

1.2 Empowering migrants and diaspora to contribute to development

This session will explore the range of good practices in host and origin countries *to ensure that the gains made by migrants and their families through migration can contribute to positive development*. It will consider the full range of assets arising from migration, including remittances, investment, knowledge transfer, technology transfer, the sharing of ideas, the creation and expansion of networks, and the establishment of business partnerships. The session will focus particularly on the conditions for success in realizing the potential of these assets and how to create them. It will consider measures such as dual citizenship to facilitate diaspora ties to their country of origin and to promote investment or entrepreneurship among migrants and their families.

The session will also look at migrant integration strategies by host countries, and the conditions and capacities in host countries most likely to empower migrants and diaspora to mobilize their resources for positive development outcomes. These include public-private partnerships to support migrant remittances; support to and partnerships with, migrant associations; diaspora-backed development projects in the country of origin; and cooperation between countries.

The session would link to session 1.1 on protecting the rights of migrants abroad, and draw in part on the work and outcomes of Brussels RT 2 on diaspora resources for development. It will aim at identifying some effective practices for migration and development policy makers in countries of origin and host countries, and the policy environments which have made these work.

The session will address the questions:

- *What measures have countries put in place to allow migrants to maximize the use of the resources they bring or send home (what are the conditions for success)?*
- *What kinds of partnerships empower migrants to better use their financial, skills and other resources for development, including at the public-private levels?*
- *How can the development impact of these policies and practices be best assessed, possibly scaled up, and shared across different countries and regions?*

Roundtable 2: Secure, legal migration can achieve stronger development impacts

Regulated migration programs can provide the best frameworks for ensuring that migration benefits not only the migrants and their families but also their origin and host countries. Promoting secure, legal migration requires *better linked-up labour market and migration planning and policy* between

origin and host countries, which can ensure income benefits for the migrants and sustainable labour supply for both countries.

Facilitating legal migration could also have a deterrent effect on the incidence of illicit migrant labour recruitment. Enforcing legality can *effectively control irregular migration* practices, particularly by smugglers and traffickers, and *protect public security and stability as well as the human security of migrants*, thereby strengthening the credibility of migration and its flow-on effects for development. More regular labour migration programs should undercut the profitability of smuggling and trafficking, and reduce the incidence of exploitation and abuse of migrants and strengthen migrants' capacities to remit earnings and other resources to needy families and communities.

It is in the interest of all migration and development stakeholders to share the responsibility of promoting secure legal migration through agreements and mutual arrangements, also giving regard to mixed flows of migrants, including asylum-seekers. This can foster mutual trust between countries, and strengthen cooperation in other strategic areas. Where countries lack the ability and resources to do so, there should be bilateral, regional and international *capacity building strategies* to support them.

This Roundtable will build on the Brussels RT 1 discussions on “good practices” for managing migration to the benefit of development, in particular through bilateral and circular migration arrangements. It also introduces the additional element of security and enforcement, with a specific focus on counter-smuggling and trafficking, including the capacity building needs of countries to better address these issues, and efforts within regional consultative processes to better share the costs and benefits of cooperation.

Sessions:

2.1 Fostering more opportunities for legal migration

This session will examine the policies and conditions that can create more opportunities for legal migration supportive of development. It will share good practices in *migrant labour admissions programs, particularly temporary and circular labour migration*, and the unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral frameworks for managing labour flows to the mutual advantage of migrants, their families and the origin and host countries. It will address the overriding need for better linked-up labour market and migration planning, including the role of private sector and other non-state actors in achieving this. It will consider the effectiveness of joint efforts to avoid and redress the negative impacts of highly skilled migration on development efforts, e.g. through “brain drain”; but also the capacities required by developing countries to manage labour emigration and partner effectively with other countries in sustaining their domestic labour requirements while responding to global demand..

The session will draw on the compendium of good practices in temporary labour migration prepared by the Spanish and Moroccan governments, the outcomes of the workshop on circular migration by the Mauritian Government and the EC, and the evaluations of the UK and the Global Health Workforce Alliance on codes of ethical international recruitment practices in the health sector. It will aim to further consolidate the compendium of best practices as a guide for governments to achieve more inclusive and mutually beneficial migration arrangements.

The session will address the questions:

- ***What makes a temporary labour migration program beneficial for development?***

- *How can the capacities of developing countries be strengthened for them to negotiate partnerships and be viable partners on mutually beneficial labour and skills exchange?*
- *How to apply or test some of the better practices between countries of origin and host countries?*

2.2 Managing migration and minimizing the negative impacts of irregular migration

This session will examine the *links between irregular migration and development*, in particular how unregulated systems of migration can weaken personal and public security and the potential flow-on gains for development. It will look at effective programs that address *migrant smuggling, human trafficking*, and illegal recruitment problems, which can negate the economic and social benefits of migration to the migrants and their host and origin countries. The role of NGOs, international organizations, and other civil society actors in addressing such irregular migration issues will be discussed with a view to promoting closer cooperation among them and with governments on preventing harmful illicit practices, protecting migrants from abuse and exploitation, and assisting victims of trafficking.

The session will give regard to the special circumstances of forced migrants and other vulnerable groups within mixed migratory flows, as well as the push and pull factors encouraging them to resort to irregular forms of migration. The benefits of cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination will be discussed, also in the context of south-south movements, and in regional processes focused on this issue, such as the “Bali Process” in Asia and the “5 plus 5” among Western Mediterranean countries.

This session would complement session 2.1 on fostering more opportunities for legal migration. It will aim at identifying effective practices within and between origin and host countries to curb smuggling, trafficking and other related illicit activities, and the capacities needed by developing countries to pursue such practices.

The session will address the questions:

- *What are the cause-effect links between irregular migration and development?*
- *What have proven to be the most effective practices in curbing smuggling and trafficking to the mutual benefit of migrants and origin and host countries?*
- *What are the capacity building needs of developing countries to manage irregular migration?*

Roundtable 3: Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships

Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships can optimize the beneficial impact of migration on development and vice versa. They should be promoted on the domestic, regional, and international fronts among the diverse stakeholders in migration and development.

To achieve policy and institutional coherence, data gathering and research need to be strengthened as a matter of priority. The GFMD meeting in Brussels brought to light *the chronic lack of data and research* to inform and reinforce policy and institutional coherence, in regard to the links between migration and development and between these and other related policy areas such as aid and trade. There is an urgent need in both origin and host countries for measurable evidence of these linkages, and for better identification of the knowledge gaps to enable government and other policy makers to prioritize their research needs. Piecemeal research efforts to measure impacts and establish new

analytical tools need to be coordinated across countries, and research networks need to be strengthened internationally to assist in this task.

Underpinning any efforts at more *linked-up policy making* is the need for *appropriate formal and informal structures and mechanisms* to enable government officials in the migration and development fields, as well as concerned Parliamentarians, to consult with one another, also from country to country. The GFMD focal point system can be a catalyst for this. One important strategy to better link the two policy fields is to include migration concerns in national development planning processes and Poverty Reduction Strategies, where appropriate. Capacity building to achieve this may need to be built into development partnerships.

Regional consultative processes (RCPs) on migration, and other forms of regional coordination and cooperation, are also increasingly effective frameworks for pursuing coordination and coherence through informal dialogue, partnership and capacity building. While most RCPs are still not primarily engaged with the migration-development nexus, they can offer some good practices in international cooperation between countries of origin and host countries of interest to the GFMD. For example, they can facilitate circulation and bilateral agreements on migrant protection and counter trafficking, and reduce bureaucratic obstacles to freer circulation. The GFMD can help encourage such initiatives within the development context.

This Roundtable will continue the work begun in Brussels RT 3 on data and research on impact measurement, key policy lessons from research, proposals to establish inter-country and inter-institutional working groups on these issues, the intergovernmental survey on institutional structures and mechanisms towards policy coherence and follow-up efforts at greater coherence among RCPs and between them and the GFMD. It will bring to the debate the outcomes of Brussels follow-up actions undertaken in these areas by Finland and Sweden and their respective partners, and by some member governments and secretariats of the RCPs and their international partners.

Sessions:

3.1 Strengthening data and research tools on migration and development

This session will provide an update on efforts within and between countries *to better collect data and measure the development impacts of migration towards more synergistic policy-making and cooperation* on migration and development. It will continue the work, and build on the results of the RT3.1 session in Brussels, to examine more common definitions and methodologies for data collection and research across countries, and to identify gaps in research on migration and development. Governments and expert agencies will share ideas and experiences on how best to evaluate the impacts of migration on development and vice versa, as well as the respective impacts of policies in both areas.

The outcomes of the working group and experts meeting organized by Finland will be presented with a view to identifying ways of strengthening research networks across countries and regions, enhancing research capacities in developing countries, and ensuring greater inclusion of migration in national development plans and strategies, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs (PRSPs).

The session will address the questions:

- *What are the critical gaps in data on the migration-development inter-linkages?*
- *How can research and analysis be linked most productively with policy-making?*

- *What are the key indicators of the development-relevance of migration policies; and the key indicators of migration impacts of development policies?*

3.2 Policy and institutional coherence on migration and development within Government

This session will continue the work of the Brussels meeting in identifying and sharing *good practices by governments on policies and institutional structures that can strengthen coherence between migration and development*. It will draw lessons from the growing efforts of governments to strengthen communication, information-sharing, coordination and negotiation among the various arms of government involved with migration, and will also consider the crucial role of Parliamentarians in drawing up appropriate legislation. The discussion will be extended to mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between governments, such as the GFMD focal points. It will look at how consensus building can be achieved within government on ways to link up migration and development policy-making to mutual benefit. Some emerging efforts to incorporate migration into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies will be examined for their applicability to other countries.

The outcomes of a follow-up survey of governments undertaken by Sweden will be reported on, with a view to identifying a) good practices in developing and developed countries, and between them, and b) the capacity building needs in developing countries at both policy-making and institutional levels to better address migration and development-related impacts.

The session will address the questions:

- *Which mechanisms have proven most effective in promoting policy coherence? What are the key indicators of “effectiveness”?*
- *How can consultative processes between involved ministries, departments and agencies, and between governments, be improved?*
- *What are some concrete examples of effective inclusion of migration into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies? How to measure “effective” in this context?*

3.3 Regional consultative processes (RCPs) at the interface of migration and development

This session will look at the experiences and advances made by regional consultative processes on migration in addressing migration and development issues at a more multilateral level. RCPs are often able to achieve forms of cross-border and cross-cutting cooperation and mutual capacity building not yet possible at the global level. They can also be effective in bringing migration issues into the agendas of larger regional economic and political integration processes. Pursuant to the Brussels meeting, the session will explore ways of strengthening the potential role of regional consultative processes in enhancing the contribution of migration to development. RCP partner governments will consider how to encourage closer linkages between RCPs and formal regional governmental processes and regular information exchange between RCPs and the GFMD.

The session will build on the outcomes and follow-up actions of Brussels RT 3 by RCP partners to strengthen the migration-development linkages in the agendas of regional consultative processes, and to foster stronger networking among the RCPs and between RCPs and the GFMD.

The session will address the questions:

- *How are RCPs and other forms of regional cooperation effecting change regarding migration and development policies at the national level? And within the agendas of larger regional economic processes?*
- *What are the good practices in integrating development considerations into RCP agendas?*
- *How can RCPs work more closely with the GFMD in mutually reinforcing ways?*

Separate Session

4. The future of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

This session will be held separately from the thematic Roundtables, and at the level of delegation heads. Based on the experiences of Brussels and Manila, it will discuss the effectiveness of the GFMD as a global, government-led consultative process that seeks to address the multi-dimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to migration and development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcomes. This will include the concrete role of national focal points in promoting and disseminating Forum outcomes at the national level, the role of the Chair-in-Office, the Troika, the Steering Group and the Friends of the Forum, the effectiveness of the Forum support structure, and other relevant issues such as the Forum funding policy and the link with the United Nations, international organizations and civil society. As reflected in the Forum's preliminary Operating Modalities endorsed by the Brussels Forum, the session may also review these modalities in the light of the Brussels and Manila outcomes.