

Common Space

Wednesday 14 May 2014

Partnering to realise the potential of migrants and migration for inclusive development

Common Space 2014

Only one international forum regularly brings together a rich, multi-actor diversity of perspectives and practices on migration and development: the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Since 2010, a “Common Space” organised within the Global Forum has convened governments and civil society representatives from all regions of the world to share and bridge these perspectives, as an integral part of the annual GFMD meetings.

Building on the successes of Common Space in previous years, as well as the experience of shared panels in the UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2013, Common Space 2014 will be geared towards building further trust, inspiration and partnerships on the ground between governments and civil society.

Connecting the program of the GFMD Civil Society Days (12-13 May), with the programme of the GFMD Forum Meeting (14-16 May), the Common Space will take place on Wednesday 14 May, under the central theme “*Partnering to realise the potential of migrants and migration for inclusive development*”.

Format for Common Space 2014

Common Space 2014 will be structured around three segments:

- i. ***Opening plenary: The Big Picture (45 minutes)***, featuring inspirational speakers who will present facts and figures on current migration and development dynamics.
- ii. ***Three simultaneous break-out sessions (2 hrs)***, which will bridge principal focus themes of the GFMD Civil Society Days 2014 and the GFMD 2014 Summit. Facilitated by skilled conveners, each break-out session will include a multi-stakeholder panel of 4-6 expert speakers, as well as interactive engagement with governments and civil society from the floor.
- iii. ***State-of-the-future concluding plenary (1 hr) which will include a presentation from*** rapporteurs from the break-out sessions, presenting a snapshot of cooperation and partnerships discussed, as well as the recommendations coming out of the sessions. There will be some time for reflections from the floor.

Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1: Situating migration and migrants in national and post-2015 international development agendas

Partnering with the international development community, national policy makers and development, migrant and other civil society organisations [linked to RT 1.1 and RT 1.2]

(Coordinator: Justin MacDermott)

Migrating, whether across borders or within a country, is one of the oldest, most direct and effective strategies to escape poverty, adapt to environmental and economic shocks, advance human development and improve the livelihood of the migrants, their families and communities. Increasingly research and data point to the positive contributions that migrants and migration can make in countries of origin and destination, especially where processes in which movement of people, skills and remittances are fair, orderly, and safe. Improving the opportunities and quality of migration and mobility could therefore significantly increase positive human development outcomes.

To date however, global and national development agendas have rarely reflected the phenomena of migrants and migration. With the negotiations fully underway for what will follow the current set of Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015, now is the time – and this forum is the place – to discuss how migrants and migration should figure in the new global development agenda. Complementing and bridging sessions in both the Civil Society Days Programme and Government Roundtables 1.1 and 1.2, this Common Space session will discuss the possibilities of migration being part of a goal in the post-2015 framework and/or transversal across the post-2015 agenda; as well as measurable targets and indicators to track progress. At the same time the session will include an operational focus, by featuring existing partnerships, experiences and benefits of migrants and migration being integrated in national or local development plans.

Guiding questions:

- *How has migration/migrants contributed to the achievement of MDGs or relevant focus areas of the Open Working Group on SDGs? (e.g. Poverty eradication, Education, Health and population dynamics, Economic growth, Promoting equality, and Employment and decent work for all).*
- *How has your country/organisation planned towards making this contribution possible?*
- *How would the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda facilitate the inclusion of migration in development planning in future?*
- *How would your country/organisation like to see the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda?*

Breakout Session 2: Realising decent labour migration and decent employment - *partnering with states, businesses, labour organisations, diaspora entrepreneurs and other civil society organisations [linked to RT 2.1 and 2.2]*

(Coordinator: Frida Le Covec Westin)

The vast majority of international migration flows are driven by the search for better employment and a better livelihood, whether it is compelled by a lack of decent jobs at home, or motivated by the prospect of improved work opportunities abroad. Employers and economies are increasingly looking for foreign workers at all skill levels, and migrants and diaspora often contribute to job creation in the countries to, or from which they have moved. At the same time problems of mismatching and also abuse of migrant workers are known occurrences, often beginning in recruitment and placement processes.

This session will focus on improving migrant worker recruitment processes and skills-matching for decent work. It will look into how employers and recruiters can work together with governments, trade unions and civil society organizations for better skills-matching and addressing labour shortages, while ensuring that migrant workers have access to decent work and that their rights are adequately protected.

Guiding questions:

- *How can employers and recruiters work together with governments (of both countries of origin and destination) and civil society organizations to improve labour and skills-matching?*
- *How can labour and skills shortages be addressed while ensuring decent work and the protection of migrant workers' rights?*
- *How can governments of origin and destination countries, businesses, trade unions and civil society work together on ways to increase transparency of the*

recruitment process and improve access to relevant information for both migrants and employers?

- *What are the challenges and best practices related to the regulation of recruitment agencies?*
- *What can be done in order to facilitate migrants' recognition and reintegration back in the country of origin labour market in order for new and reinforced skills and work experience from abroad to be leveraged for development?*

Breakout Session 3: Empowering migrants and communities for social inclusion and human development - partnering with states, local authorities and civil society [linked to RT 3.1]

(Coordinator: Marielle Sander-Lindström)

Ensuring that migrants and diasporas have access to public services promotes both social and economic inclusion while reducing vulnerability. Access to education and health services, justice and social protection – as well as opportunities and responsibilities that promote participation in public life and social interaction – empowers migrants and their families to build better lives, while enabling them to act as agents of development for their countries of origin, the communities they live in and those from which they come. Coherent national migration policy frameworks are needed to foster both rights and opportunities for migrants and diasporas, but local authorities and civil society organisations are also extremely important actors when it comes to implementing services on the ground every day. Local authorities are often the primary interface between migrants and schools, health care institutions, banking services, police forces, housing authorities, or local political parties and the many other structures of daily life in the community. Civil society organisations (including migrant and diaspora associations) are often critical sources of information and advocates for migrant access to services.

Local authorities and civil society organisations in countries of origin, often working together, play a critical role in maintaining connections between migrants/diaspora and their communities of origin, as well as in creating support structures for families that remain behind. For the first time at a GFMD meeting, this Common Space session will spotlight related experiences and mechanisms of practical cooperation between national governments, local authorities and migrant and other civil society organisations, in and among countries of destination, origin and heritage.

Guiding questions:

- *What kind of partnerships between local authorities and civil society organisations are most effective in opening public services to migrants and diasporas?*
- *What are the most significant obstacles to inclusion of migrants in civic life and how can they be overcome?*
- *What forums exist for towns and cities to share their programs and experiences of migrant integration and empowerment?*
- *What issues should be the focus of national frameworks of migrant empowerment—for countries of origin? For countries of destination?*
- *How can local and national authorities help migrants and diasporas maintain connections with their countries and communities of origin to promote human development?*