

GFMD Side Event

The Role of Regional Migration Dialogues and the Global Migration & Development Agenda

Venue: Istanbul Lutfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Center

Date: Friday, 16 October 2015

Time: 12:15 - 13:15

At the occasion of the 8th GFMD Summit in Istanbul, and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development organises a side event on the role of regional migration dialogues in implementing and contributing to the global migration and development agenda, with a special focus on linkages with the GFMD.

A panel with key stakeholders actively involved in regional migration dialogues and the GFMD will share their experiences and visions. To introduce the discussion, ICMPD will present the results of a recent study on “Regional Migration Dialogues and the Global Migration and Development Agenda”.

- **H.E. Amb. Mehmet SAMBAR**, *Director General for Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey*
- **H.E. Amb. Eduard GNESA**, *Special Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation for International Cooperation in Migration, Switzerland*
- **H.E. Amb. Antoine JOLY**, *Ambassador for Migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France*
- **Mr. George JASHI**, *Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues, Ministry of Justice, Georgia*
- **Mr. Berlan PARS ALAN**, *Senior Migration Management Policy Advisor, IOM*
- **Mr. Bernhard PERCHINIG**, *Senior Researcher, ICMPD*
- Moderated by **Mr. Martijn PLUIM**, *Director Eastern Dimension, ICMPD*

Background and Rationale

Migration cannot be dealt with by one country alone; it is, as development, a global phenomenon. This is one of the underlying assumptions that led to the establishment of regional migration dialogues as well as the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Inter-governmental dialogues on migration started emerging some twenty years ago and these regional and sometimes cross-regional approaches cater for states' need to cooperate on migration in the absence of a binding global framework.

Since the establishment of the GFMD, attempts were made to better link regional discussions on migration (and development) with global fora and discussion. The assessment exercise of the GFMD resulted in a number of recommendations touching upon the linkages between the regional and global level: “*The Forum may also explore closer cooperation with regional consultative processes, fora and dialogues in order to share experiences and enrich each other's discussions on migration and*

development.” And “The specific role of regional entities, fora and processes to foster and implement migration and development policies should [...] be appropriately acknowledged in the GFMD process.”

Although increased interactions take place between dialogues (for example through the Global RCP meetings) and the GFMD and regional migration dialogues, these exchanges have not achieved regularity or maturity. Against this background, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its role as chair of the Budapest process and the GFMD commissioned a study which aimed to investigate the role of regional migration dialogues in a new global Migration & Development agenda.

Objectives of the side event

The proposed side event aims to stir the debate and add new perspectives on the discussion on links between regional and global inter-governmental migration dialogues. More specifically, the side event will address the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of regional and global migration dialogues respectively? What goals do they aim to fulfil? In which ways are these goals compatible?
2. Which role does the development aspect play in regional migration dialogues? Can regional migration dialogues have a role for implementing a new Global M&D Agenda?
3. What role could the global partnership have for driving/implementing migration policy dialogue at the regional level?

The results of the study, based on consultations and interviews with more than twenty representatives of leading states and support structures of five inter-governmental migration dialogues¹, shed light on the different viewpoints that exists on why and how a better link between these dialogues and the global level should be sought or not be sought for. The results show that regional inter-governmental migration dialogues are to the same extent as the GFMD peculiar structures with their own narratives catering for specific needs of participating states. Only a careful proceeding of bringing the GFMD and the regional dialogues closer together will cater for the complexities of these formations.

Expected Outcomes

The side event will provide the opportunity to discuss policy recommendations that were developed as a result of the study with a broader group of government stakeholders. Having said this, the side event does not aim to present a simple solution on how to achieve a closer link between global and regional migration dialogues but to form the basis for a nuanced discussion and understanding of the complex realities and interactions between these different formations which follow one common objective: to establish partnerships and cooperation between countries on migration.

¹ The Budapest Process, Prague Process, MTM dialogue, Rabat process and EUROMED Migration framework