GFMD REGIONAL WORKSHOP

“Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development”

CO CHAIR PROPOSALS

JAMAICA
Empirical evidence and experience indicate that rural labour migrants are living and working in vulnerable and precarious conditions with less than subsistence wages and limited or in many cases without access to basic social protection services.
Countries benefitting from migrant labour should formulate and implement policies, plans, programmes and mechanisms to facilitate **formal integration and regularization of migrant labour** in the agriculture sector and the rural economy and society in general. All policies and strategies should be **inclusive and gender sensitive**.
Countries should take steps to develop and implement rural development strategies and policies addressing not only issues relating to agriculture but the entire rural economy and society within the context of sustainable development.
Presentations and discussions on the issue of remittances focused heavily on the volume, cost of transfers, contribution to Gross National Product and uses to which remittances have been made in the country of destination.

Research and studies on remittances have also focused almost entirely on the receiving country side.
PROPOSAL 3

Conduct **studies in migrant receiving countries** to determine the relative **contribution of migrant labour to agriculture, GDP and rural development** in general for policy and advocacy purposes.

One of the objectives for studies of this nature is to provide **empirical evidence to target discrimination**, xenophobia and other intolerances against migrants.
PROPOSAL 4

• Strengthen and /or establish *administrative migration data collection systems*

• Conduct cost benefit analysis *studies on circular migration, seasonal migration and short-term labour migration*. 
Recent approaches have focused almost entirely on drivers of migration from the country of origin side. This is often correlated with remittance flows to countries of origin.

This approach tends to distort the demand side for migrants in countries that have completed or near completed their demographic transition. These countries have critical need for labour and school age and youth population for replacements in these areas.

Developing countries with surplus population in these groups need to exercise their bargaining and negotiating advantage around these issues.
The GFMD documents and papers should provide a more holistic approach and analysis of all relevant factors (both the push and pull factors) underpinning migration dynamics as well as provide a more balanced perspective in all recommendations emanating from the forum. The elephant in the room needs to be chained and dissected. Plus we need to specify the type of migrations to which we are referencing to avoid ambiguities.
The **sharing of good practices** on the use of migrants’ resources for rural development and transformation from the Latin America and Caribbean Region and other regions is commendable. **This was a good learning experience and should be documented** for wider dissemination.
Proposition 6

Summaries of these good practices should be prepared and included in the background paper 3.2.
A relatively large proportion of migrants originates from rural areas and has gained extensive international experience that can be mobilized or contracted for rural development.
Countries need to mobilize the capacities and resources of their diasporas through contracts; joint investment programmes and other forms of engagements towards development and transformation of rural agriculture and the rural economy in general.
THANK YOU!

¡GRACIAS!