



GFMD Dialogue on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Palais des Nations, Geneva, 6 April, 2017

Room XXV

Working Session II:

GCM Cluster 4: Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits

This session focuses on Cluster 4 of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, on the issue of contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits.

GFMD has increasingly focused on recognizing and promoting ways in which migrants and diaspora can contribute to development processes, both in their country of origin as well as in their host countries. Subsequent chairmanships have progressively delved into thematic discussions on remittances and portability of earned benefits, as well as reiterating the positive role of migrants, and migration overall, towards enhancing development goals, which has received even more emphasis in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Social security as a basic social right has been discussed under the Belgian chairmanship, with subsequent GFMD platforms reviewing contributions of diaspora communities, the role of lower skilled temporary labor migration in increasing remittances, as well as promoting incentives that strengthen the ties between countries of origin and countries of destination (such as lowering cost of remittances transfer and promoting access to credit) to encourage voluntary investments in the development of communities in countries of origin.

The objective of this session is to identify key policy recommendations and best practices, drawn from GFMD reports, that might be of particular relevance for GFMD's contribution to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Key recommendations from GFMD Discussions

1. Consider policies to reduce transfer costs, including: a) enhancing market competition; b) helping remittance providers access new payments technology; c) disseminating information to both remittance senders and receivers; and d) bilateral negotiations between governments. (2007; 2011; 2013; 2015)

2. Provide migrants financial literacy programs (including pre-departure), promote gender mainstreaming, and encourage domestic banks to expand to countries with a high concentration of their migrants. (2007; 2010; 2011)
3. Promote bilateral agreements, especially on access to financial institutions and the acceptance of identification cards for migrants. Likewise, the possibility of multilateral agreements, particularly in setting up region-wide payments infrastructure such as in the EU but also in other regions, such as the South African Development Corridor, ASEAN or ASEAN + 3, could be explored. (2007; 2009)
4. Promote diaspora networks by drawing up a road map for supporting their establishment, and discuss the ways home and host countries can become active partners with diaspora networks. (2008; 2009)
5. Foster co-development projects by developing models for individual initiatives and community action to leverage the knowledge and other resources of the diaspora. (2010; 2013-2014)
6. Identify sectors in which bilateral negotiations between institutions of home and host countries are most relevant to enhance the development potential of diaspora (such as for the portability of social rights) (2007; 2010)
7. Enhance the role of the diaspora in promoting trade and investments, which would cater to employment needs in countries of origin as well as to enhance trade benefits in countries of destination. (2013-2014)
8. Consider measures that reduce the costs of migration, including the costs borne by the worker through the recruitment and deployment process. This includes having regulations which govern recruitment fees, selection of workers, consular assistance, and employers providing financial contribution, low cost banking and remittance options. (2007; 2014-2015; 2016)

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the existing limitations and challenges that States and other stakeholders have encountered in their partnership with financial institutions and diaspora networks?
2. How can existing resources and partnerships be enhanced for promoting contributions of migrants and diaspora communities to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination? (this includes role of consular offices, business associations, trade investment and financial institutions)
3. What are good practices to promote not only the transfer of financial resources (i.e. remittances) but also knowledge, skills, innovative ideas or expertise of migrants to foster sustainable development?