

## Background paper<sup>1</sup>

### Roundtable 1: Migration and Development through National Strategies: Enhancing the Effectiveness of Domestic Policies

#### Roundtable Session 1.1

#### *Tools and Safeguards for Policy Coherence – Finding the right policy mix to balance different interests and objectives*

### Introduction

#### **Problem Statement**

How can we **balance** the interests and objectives of actors through **better policy coherence** to achieve orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration that delivers better development outcomes?

1. Policy coherence is essential to achieving SDG target 10.7 of “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. Successful policy coherence contributes to leveraging the benefits of migration while mitigating its negative consequences. Migration impacts all sectors from health to education and from housing to social security. Therefore, direct migration policies need to be coherent with sectoral policies relevant to meeting the needs and rights of regular migrants and displaced persons and reducing irregular migration
2. The successful integration of immigrants depends on the extent to which people are supported to legally migrate, have access to services and have their rights protected in the destination country. This requires systematic and comprehensive migration management across **all relevant sectors**. Ensuring that the objectives and interests of all actors are considered will enhance the positive impacts of migration on the economic and cultural development of countries of origin, transit and destination, and mitigate the negative consequences, such as trafficking and smuggling of migrants.
3. We focus on domestic policies, including migration management at the national and sub-national levels. However, vertical coherence is also important to account for bilateral, regional and international policy impact. Development agencies in the Global North can play a role to support domestic policy coherence in developing countries by better integration of migration issues into sectoral investments.

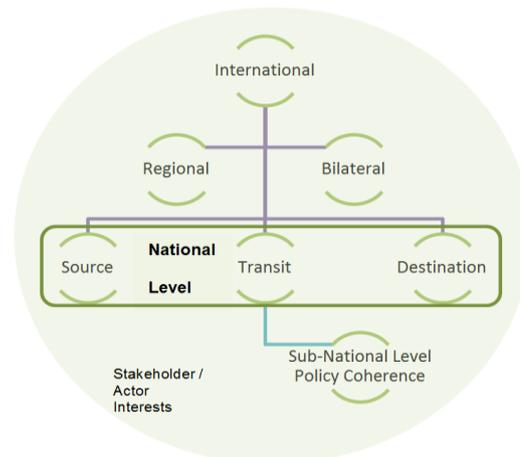
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<sup>1</sup> This paper was drafted by the RT 1.1 co-chairs Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, and United Kingdom, with many thanks to RT 1.1 Government Team members for their contributions. Though all attempts have been made to make sure that the information provided is accurate, the authors do not accept any liability or give any guarantee for the validity, accuracy and completeness of the information in this paper, which is intended to solely inform and stimulate discussion of Roundtable session 1.1 during the GFMD Summit meeting in June 2017. It is not exhaustive in its treatment of the session 1.1 theme and does not necessarily reflect the views of the authors, the GFMD organizers or the governments or international organizations involved in the GFMD process.

## Background

- To ‘balance different interests and objectives of actors/stakeholders for policy coherence’, the ‘National Level Policy Coherence Impact and Influence Model’, Diagram 1.1, describes National Level push and pull factors. The 2030 Agenda and the Global Migration Compact cut across the model at the international level.

**Diagram 1.1 National Level Policy Coherence Model**



- Building on previous GFMD material and recommendations (summarised in Annex A<sup>2</sup>), the outcomes from this roundtable will contribute to the GFMD package in support of the UN Global Migration Compact negotiations.

### **Key Issues: most important aspects for policy debate**

- The 2014 GFMD Roundtable 1.1 explains that while there is no one definition of policy coherence for migration and development, the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Policy and Institutional coherence defines it as:  
*Policies related to migration and development, across various policy domains, are coherent to the extent that they:*
  - pursue synergies to advance shared objectives and actively seek to minimise or eliminate negative side effects of policies;
  - prevent policies from detracting from one another or from the achievement of agreed-upon development goals”
- The ‘goal’ of roundtable 1.1 is to address, in line with theme A.c. of the final draft of the modalities resolution of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, “International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration”, the possibilities to **combine different tools** (i.e. instruments, frameworks, policies, research, evidence and data) **in a multiple stakeholder/actor approach** to shape adequate legal migration framework conditions on national and international levels.

<sup>2</sup>Informed by KNOMAD working paper 15: ‘Strengthening the Migration-Development Nexus through Improved Policy and Institutional Coherence

8. The outputs from roundtable 1.1 will contribute to:
  - i. The Global Migration Compact consultation process;
  - ii. Vertical coherence between the SDGs; the 2030 Agenda, the New York Declaration and; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda: Financing for Development<sup>3</sup>, and the National Level;
  - iii. Knowledge sharing of both coherent and incoherent migration policies based on vertical impacts and influences, balancing actors' objectives, at National Level.
9. A range of the existing strategies, policies, evidence, data and research were mapped onto a grid, Table 1.2 at Annex B. Although not an exhaustive list, this highlights the challenges of assessing, planning and selecting the correct policies and strategies that will work for a particular country at the national or sub-national level. It also identifies where there may be gaps requiring further work or consideration.
10. One of the challenges is to appropriately bring together relevant policy fields to form a holistic approach. Actors and stakeholders have access to a range of tool kits to shape migration governance. Still, it remains unclear how the system of institutions, legal frameworks, mechanisms and practices aimed at regulating migration (including moving away from irregular migration) and protecting migrants on various governance levels can be aligned. Strengthening the conceptual basis of policy coherence, and taking stock of policy tools, instruments and institutional arrangements in and between various countries would support this endeavour.
11. This roundtable will not stretch to the discussion of existing independent evaluations of the current tools/frameworks/policies etc.; however, future analysis of these is recommended.

### **Sub-National Level**

12. At the **Sub-National Level**, local, state and regional authorities are expected to implement or adhere to national law, yet when there is a lack of vertical policy coherence and coordination between the national and local levels; these may often be incoherent with or not adequately respond to the needs and realities at the local level. Depending on the decentralisation and political context of a State, some local and regional authorities have the competencies and resources to manage their migratory contexts independently and evidence shows that when this is the case, many can be extremely innovative and successful in harnessing the development potential of migration.
13. This is particularly the case when efforts are made to mainstream migration across the board and respond to migration through multi-stakeholder approaches that ensure the inclusion of all relevant actors, including migrants themselves and their associations. Local and regional authorities can also enhance their response to migratory channels between territories by entering into partnerships through decentralised cooperation dynamics which allows local authorities to ensure policy coherence between territories and better manage migration throughout the entire migratory cycle.

### **Policy**

14. Most of the empirical data on the impact of migration, especially in the host countries focuses only on the national level, although it is mostly at the local level that the real interaction of migrants with the local society happens.
15. Migration policies too are shaped at national level, where the related available data is also to be found. This is particularly important when observing that local and regional authorities often lack the competencies, know-how and human and financial resources to respond to migration yet are at the forefront of doing so. Policy coherence in migration management is crucial at the local level and can lead to enhanced development impact. Thus the key role of local and regional authorities must be recognised and supported. Moreover, the local level is the one that also is directly involved in the management of the internally displaced people; those who move

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<sup>3</sup>[Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) (United Nations)

from one place to another on a voluntary basis or forced by major events, but without crossing a national border.

16. While a national response is crucial, this must be aligned with local realities since persisting inequalities, one of the identified drivers of migration, exists not only among different countries, but also within countries necessitating an integral and bottom up approach from the local level. When this alignment and coordination does take place, this allows for multi-level coherence and coordination whereby local authorities can feed their expertise and knowledge into national policy making for more responsive and pertinent national policies that can, in turn, be successfully implemented at the local level. A distinction should, however, be made between regular and irregular migration; a co-ordinated approach is required to facilitate orderly, safe and regular migration both at a national and international level, which protects the human rights of migrants. Policies to tackle irregular migration however, while protecting human rights, may have quite different goals and therefore need to align with different Government Department policies and strategies.
17. Examples of the **research and existing data** contemplate locally-led efforts to mainstream migration into development planning through policy coherence, including examples of good practices in doing so. Key policy recommendations for local and national actors are also highlighted.

Such examples include:

-The **White Paper on Mainstreaming Migration into Local Development Planning and Beyond**<sup>4</sup> – published by the UNDP-led UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI), together with IOM;

-**My JMIDI Toolbox**<sup>5</sup>- developed by JMIDI through its partners ITC-ILO and IOM. It includes set of training tools aimed at local and national actors involved in migration and development;

-**The LGU Guide to mainstreaming International Migration and Development in Local Development Planning and Governance**<sup>6</sup>and “**Mainstreaming Migration and Development in Local Governance: Roadmap for Local Governments and Experience of Calabarzon**”<sup>7</sup>- published by JMIDI project partners in the Philippines.

### **National Level**

18. On the **National Level**, (including Federal) cross-government approaches play an important role in strengthening coherent policy responses. Reducing the risk of domestic and social insecurities, negative perceptions of migration, losses in economic and social potential, dangerous migration routes, and increased vulnerable trafficking in persons and other forms of exploitation. A multiple actor/stakeholder approach is needed to bring together the different levels of policy domains relevant for migration and development within a government. This approach is based on a common understanding of the challenges, as well as short, medium and long-term plans with clear targets, milestones, indicators, etc. and policy solutions that include formal and informal mechanisms of coordination, i.e. horizontal coherence.
19. There are three main channels countries use to promote and pursue policy coherence in migration governance: (1) broad planning processes; (2) specialised interdepartmental committees; and (3) the activities of a lead agency working independently or in collaboration with other relevant agencies.
20. What has been observed in several countries is that the Government Department with the most technical expertise on the subject may not have the capacity to coordinate with other Ministries, or may not hold the **decision making power**. The number of line ministries involved can complicate and cause difficulties in prioritising and balancing interests. Parliamentary bodies

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<sup>4</sup> <https://publications.iom.int/books/white-paper-mainstreaming-migration-local-development-planning-and-beyond>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.migration4development.org/en/resources/toolbox/training>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/the\\_lgus\\_guide\\_in\\_mainstreaming\\_final\\_sept3.pdf](http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/the_lgus_guide_in_mainstreaming_final_sept3.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.migration4development.org/en/resources/library/mainstreaming-migration-and-development-local-governance-roadmap-local-governments>

outside of the Civil Service can also shape policy. Complex bureaucracy, silos and lack of co-ordination between Government offices add to difficulties.

21. An example of a whole cross-Government (horizontal) approach to migration is the Philippines, a model that countries with a similar or greater dependence of labour migration could consider. Their labour policies e.g. nursing qualification standards, also work on a multilateral level, where Philippine nursing qualifications are recognised internationally.

**Table 1.2: Horizontal Policy Coherence in the Philippines**

An example of vertical and horizontal policy coherence achieved in the Philippines between local, regional and national levels is set out here. The work of the Municipality of Naga City in the Philippine region of Bicol is an example of good coordination efforts between all levels of governance for enhanced migration management for development. With the support of the JMDI under the project “Mainstreaming migration and development into the governance of local authorities of the Bicol Region”, Bicol has successfully managed to mainstream migration into its development planning as well as promote this at the local level in its municipalities with the support and endorsement of national authorities.

To achieve this, a well-managed coordination mechanism between the national, regional and local levels was set up. At the local level, local centres and councils on migration and development were established with corresponding budget and personnel to lead the main activities in each municipality. Technical working groups were also established at the local level to bring in the expertise and support of various key actors/stakeholders to oversee the mainstreaming of migration into their local development planning.

Naga City acts as coordinating and support role at the regional level (Bicol) through a Migration and Development Council to provide capacity building and technical support at the local level. At the national level, Naga City has partnered with the state through the Commission for Filipinos Overseas and fosters coordination, dialogue and mutual knowledge sharing and support between the local and national levels. All of which has allowed the migration management process to be localised whilst remaining aligned and supported at the national level and thus enhanced its effectiveness and outreach to support migrants and families of migrants, as well as the communities overall.

**Table 1.3 The Republic of Moldova: a coherent Governmental Approach**

The Republic of Moldova also promotes a coherent governmental approach, even though there is no central coordination structure on policies implementation and management of activities. The main legal framework<sup>1</sup> is based on documents coordinated among institutions, and approved at the governmental level, by the State Chancellery, in conformity with the Handbook for mainstreaming migration into development planning. Thus, ownership is given to the institutions more related to a specific migration aspect and activities or policy implementation in that sense.

The relevant institution takes over the coordination process in that field (e.g.: it can create working groups or promoting action plans and other activities). All the competent line institutions are involved in the decision making process, consulted upon specific parts, under the coordination of one institution for which the given policy is closer in terms of competences.

For example the Bureau for Migration and Asylum covers issues as illegal migration, asylum, etc. and is also in charge for the drafting of the contingency plan in case of a major wave of immigrants on the national territory.

The Bureau for Relations with Diaspora respectively is focused on diaspora matters and its contribution to the development of the country. It currently coordinates the process of drafting the National plan for the reintegration of the returned migrants for 2017-2019. For a better and coherent coordination through a Governmental Provision, an inter-institutional group of focal points responsible for the Diaspora was created, with the overall coordination for the decision making process, at deputy ministers level.

Therefore, coherence in managing migration on the national level is ensured by institutional ownership which is also in line with the migration trends and respectively with the policies related to that specific migration area.

## Policy

22. Traditionally the focus of national migration and policy coherence has been on aligning local and national policies (vertical coherence). However, there are two additional types of horizontal policy coherence that should be considered at the national level (1) the coherence of migration policy within its own domain; and (2) migration policy’s connections and inter-linkages to other policy areas. For example, Sri-Lanka labour migration policy influences policies on

employment, skills, etc.; and migration policies themselves influence a broader set of social and economic policies, objectives and outcomes e.g. trade and investment, economic growth, human rights, education, land, social protection, etc.

**The effectiveness of National level institutional and policy coherence depends in large part on its adherence to the International standards and conformity with bilateral and regional frameworks.**

23. Evidence proving this has been recognized in the policy tools developed by international organizations such as:
- **IOM's - Migration Governance Framework**<sup>8</sup> (MiGOF) published in 2016;
  - the **Dashboard of Indicators for measuring policy and institutional coherence for migration and development** (PICMD) drafted by OECD, within the framework of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) under the World Bank, the Thematic Working Group on Policy and Institutional Coherence;
  - **Inter-relations between Public Policies, Migration and Development**<sup>9</sup> (IPPM) project carried out by the European Union and the OECD.
  - ILO's **Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration**<sup>10</sup> which has been important for the national labour migration policy information in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nigeria, etc.;
  - The **Guidance Note on Integrating Migration and Displacement in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks**<sup>11</sup> (UNDAFs) of the GMG in collaboration with UN DOCO, that spells out key programming options and relevant suggestions on policy coherence regarding the inter-linkages between human mobility, and Economic Development, Social Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Climate Change and the Environment, Good Governance and Rule of Law, as well as Peace and Security.

### **Impacts and Influence of the Outer Levels**

24. **Bilateral frameworks** often tend to be utilised for temporary labour migration of low- and semi-skilled workers. While Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or Bilateral Agreements (BLAs) aim to provide coherence in goals and objectives, there often remains a lack of coherence between policies, systems and data, which contributes to ineffectiveness. Coherence between a country of origin and destination is even more important between neighbouring countries with large differences in wages and close geographical proximity (e.g. Malaysia – Indonesia; or Myanmar – Thailand). There is ample space for more bilateral collaboration on social protection, fair and ethical recruitment, skills recognition and sharing of labour market information. EPS Korea is an example of a system where there is an investment in the bilateral relationship, strengthened through regular, evidence-based dialogue.
25. **Regional consultative processes** (RCPs) at the same time provide mechanisms to promote policy coherence at both the regional and international levels.
26. An example in this sense is the EU Global Approach on Migration and Mobility<sup>12</sup> which is a policy framework adopted by all the EU member states. The EU is striving to create partnerships with the countries of origin and of transit in order to better organise legal migration and curb irregular migration, to improve the link between migration and development, as well

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<sup>8</sup> <https://emergencymanual.iom.int/entry/26102/migration-governance-framework-migof>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dev/migration-development/ippmd.htm>

<sup>10</sup> [http://ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/WCMS\\_146243/lang--en/index.htm](http://ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_146243/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/summary-note--integrating-migration-and-displacement-into-united.html>

<sup>12</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration_en)

as to strengthen the rule of law and promote respect for rights and fundamental freedoms in these countries. Mobility Partnerships<sup>13</sup> with countries of the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood of EU are exemplary in this sense.

**Table 1.4: The Swiss Migration Partnership**

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance conducted an independent review of the Swiss migration partnerships in 2015. The partnerships migration bilateral cooperation instruments set up between Switzerland and their partner countries.

The report states “[the instrument has] evolved within the context of a broader shift towards promoting inter-ministerial cooperation through a ‘whole of government approach to migration’ in Switzerland. Migration partnerships are a flexible and individually adjustable set of initiatives put in place in order to mutually address the needs and interests of Switzerland and the respective partner country on a long term basis but without a pre-defined timeframe. To date partnerships have been signed with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Nigeria and Tunisia.

The main added-value of the migration partnerships compared to past approaches to bilateral cooperation can be summarized in five main points: 1) they capture a broad range of issues within one framework; 2) they institutionalise and legitimise long-term cooperation; 3) they are reciprocal; 4) they are flexible and create bridging social capital that can be activated as problems arise; and 5) they are focused on lasting, holistic solutions to problems.

Improved inter-ministerial cooperation, fostered through regular dialogue is one of the main achievements of the migration partnerships to date, which is contributing to achieving policy coherence. Thus, the regular migration dialogues involving all of the relevant actors working on migration are considered by the evaluators to be one of the most significant contributions of the partnerships in terms of achieving their goals. Furthermore, working together to tackle a sensitive topic such as migration establishes trust and can create opportunities for cooperation on other issues requiring bilateral cooperation.”

27. The Colombo Process<sup>14</sup> (CP) is another case of regional progress towards policy coherence. The CP addresses a number of thematic areas which serve as an important platform for CP Member States to share experiences, good practice and foster policy coherence.
28. The Abu Dhabi Dialogue<sup>15</sup> (ADD) is also an example of a regional consultative process taking positive action on policy coherence between countries of origin and countries of destination. The ADD has focused on improving regional coordination across three distinct thematic areas – Recruitment, Skills and Certification, and Technology – with the collective aim of improving outcomes for migrant workers in the Asia-GCC corridors. In particular, partnerships between countries of origin and destination have been developed to manage pilot projects, with insights and recommendations from the pilot projects shared among Member States. The effect of these partnerships has been to foster cooperation and improve policy frameworks within the corridor.
29. Furthermore, the Budapest Process is a good example of cooperation between countries of two regions; Europe and Asia. A successful process, it gathers over 50 countries and more than ten international organisations. It aims to foster dialogue and share best practices in managing migration flows in order to achieve concrete and results-oriented outcomes.
30. Cooperation on migration at the regional level goes beyond RCPs. It also takes place in the context of ‘Regional Economic Communities’ (RECs) where they have a role in facilitating (labour) mobility at the regional level, for example (this is not an exhaustive list): the EU; the Economic Community of West African States<sup>16</sup>; Southern Africa Development Community<sup>17</sup> and; the Association of States of Asian Nations.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>13</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/eastern-partnership/mobility-partnerships-visa-facilitation-and-readmission-agreements\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/eastern-partnership/mobility-partnerships-visa-facilitation-and-readmission-agreements_en)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.colomboprocess.org/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://abudhabidialogue.org.ae/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

<sup>16</sup> [Economic Community of West African States](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Southern Africa Development Community](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Association of States of Asian Nations](#)

31. On **International level**, States have a sovereign right to develop their own immigration policies consistent with their international obligations, including those under international human rights and refugee law, and relevant international frameworks and standards, as described in Table 1.2 at Annex B.
32. A key challenge to the creation of adequate legal framework conditions is failure to comply with obligations by states who are parties to relevant conventions and agreements, i.e. vertical coherence. Many international conventions and recommendations apply to all workers, including migrant workers.
33. Both the ‘Employment Policy (Supplementary Provisions) Recommendation’ and the ‘Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation’, recognise the importance of integrating labour migration policies within other policies i.e. particularly employment (both sending and receiving countries) and the standards on skills and social protection, which specifically reference the importance of coordination on social security including portability.
34. **Examples of research in this area are:**
  - the **Review of Global Bilateral agreements and MOUs<sup>19</sup> of ILO** ;
  - IOM’s study on the **Labour Recruitment Industry between the United Arab Emirates, Kerala (India) and Nepal<sup>20</sup>**, also available on the GFMD PFP database.

### **Key Drivers for National Level Policy Coherence**

35. Reflecting on the ‘Problem Statement’, a key driver of policy coherence is **balancing the needs of stakeholders/actors at every level**. At the Sub-National and National Levels, actors include migrants themselves; the diaspora; local Government policy experts, e.g. migration, essential services such as education, water and sanitation and health; labour services; skills; housing; urban development; spending departments etc. Given the range of co-ordination between actors for policy coherence, a complex picture begins to emerge. Engaging stakeholders to include a bottom-up approach for mainstreaming policies at a National Level will result in a more joined up, coherent migration approach with the strategic oversight that the National Level offers.
36. There is “growing consensus that a lack of coherence can have a major repercussions or unintended consequences on migration flows and patterns for the development potential of migration”<sup>21</sup>. Incoherent policies can lead to domestic and social insecurities, negative perceptions of migration, losses in economic and social potential, dangerous irregular migration routes and increasing vulnerability to trafficking in persons and other forms of exploitation. Conversely, successful policy coherence can facilitate the economic and cultural beliefs of migration and lead to filling labour shortage gaps, increasing numbers of highly skilled migrants, increased access of migrants to public services such as schooling and health services, and lower remittance costs. The working paper ‘[Strengthening the Migration-Development Nexus through Improved Policy and Institutional Coherence](#)’ prepared by KNOMAD<sup>22</sup> describes not only the positive effects of policy coherence but also discusses the possible negative effects of **policy incoherence**.
37. Therefore, given the complexities involved to achieve policy coherence at Sub-National and National Level, for many countries, is a more achievable target therefore, **how do we avoid policy incoherence?**

### **Main Controversies: Challenges for migration policy coherence**

38. There is a range of challenges for ensuring policy coherence. These include but are not limited to:

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS\\_385582/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_385582/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>20</sup> <https://gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/5097>

<sup>21</sup> Concept Paper, 28 February 2017, GFMD – Germany and Morocco 2017-18

<sup>22</sup>KNOMAD: Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development

- Differences between countries with dissimilar interests, especially in relation to whether they are sending or receiving countries.
- Local and regional authorities often lack the competencies, know-how, human and financial resources to respond to migration yet are at the forefront of doing so.
- The Government Department with the most technical expertise on the subject may not have the capacity to coordinate with other Ministries, or may not hold decision making power.
- The number of line ministries involved can complicate and cause difficulties in prioritising and balancing interests.
- Complex bureaucracy, silos and lack of co-ordination between Government offices add to difficulties.
- All parties involved in the formulation and implementation of the agreements are not necessarily equal or able to negotiate without financial consideration or financial assistance/restraint.
- Many countries do not have a ministry for migration and some are more focussed on emigration than on migration.
- Other Ministries beyond the Ministry for Migration formulate and implement policies that have a direct bearing on migration.
- Lesson learning - it can be politically problematic for Governments to share difficult policy coherence experiences e.g. conditionality.

### **Conclusion**

39. A comprehensive approach to migration management should keep in view that the right mix of policies needs to be tailored to the specific situation of the migratory process in terms of the needs of the different categories of migrants and countries hosting them (destination/ origin and respectively integration/reintegration schemes) from case to case.
40. The conformity to the international standards, especially the protection of the rights of migrants and their families should be at the basis of national policy making. On the other hand coherence with other policies not immediately related to migration should not be disregarded for a successful match of objectives and interests of the relevant stakeholders, including migrants themselves.

### **Ideas for action**

41. As part of the vertical and horizontal policy coherence discussion, strengthen regional labour mobility policies and practices. RECs can support this.
42. **Avoid incoherence** within countries as policies often conflict with each other or that have opposing objectives.
43. **Independently evaluate and learn lessons** from where coherence has been tried and tested – is it working and how could it be improved?
  - Academic research such as the ‘[Moving out of Poverty](#)’ (MOOP) partners in West Africa, Southern Africa and South East Asia could be tapped into.
  - Commission a synthesis of independent academic research on vertical and horizontal policy coherence at all levels.
44. **Improved data on migration** and development at all levels, to provide an evidence base for better policy coherence<sup>23</sup>. OECD, UNDESA and IOM are already taking steps to make progress in this area e.g. with the [UNSC side event](#) in March 2017 and the forthcoming ‘[International Forum on Migration Statistics](#)’ in January 2018.
45. **Bring together policy coherence frameworks**, i.e. the coherence of policy coherence frameworks.
46. **Informally share difficult experiences** of policy coherence (i.e. not recorded for the GFMD read-out) on the margins of future GFMD meetings.

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<sup>23</sup> Highlighted in the GFMD 2011 (roundtable 2.2) and 2014 (roundtable 1.1) background papers.

47. Seek to understand the **cost of policy coherence versus the benefits**. KNOMAD is beginning to study this area.

**Guiding questions for roundtable debate**

- i. How can the interests of actors/stakeholders be balanced?
- ii. What examples and experiences of **coherent and incoherent** migration governance at Sub-National and National Levels (notwithstanding the impacts and influences of vertical coherence, i.e. co-ordination mechanisms, frameworks, strategies, tools and instruments) can provide key lessons (for source, transit and destination countries)? What new or ongoing research or policy proposals are underway to **develop new migration instruments or to evaluate existing ones**?
- iii. What resources are available for implementing the range of international and regional agreements that will contribute to migration policy coherence?
- iv. Are there ways of **promoting policy coherence** in migration management that could **both match the interests of all stakeholders and have a positive impact on the development** at the same time? Where has this worked well/less well and what lessons were learned? Is development considered to be an automatic outcome of the harmony of interests and objectives in coherent migration policies?