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ROUNDTABLE 3: POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL COHERENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

(Coordinator - Dr R.K. Jenny)

**Roundtable Session 3.1
Strengthening Data and Research Tools on Migration and Development¹**

**Co-chairs:
Government of Argentina
Government of Finland**

**Wednesday, 29 October 2008
15.00 – 18.00**

INTRODUCTION

Good quality data and research tools are vital for government policymakers to enhance national and international policies in the field of migration and development.

Roundtable session 3.1 of the Manila 2008 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) addresses the theme of ‘strengthening data and research tools on migration and development.’ The session will examine efforts to collect better data and more effectively measure the impacts of migration on development, and of development on migration. Building on discussions at the 2007 GFMD in Brussels, the session will also seek to promote better partnerships and cooperation in research activities on migration and development. Furthermore, suggesting ways to improve data collection and strengthening research tools will contribute to the overall theme of the Manila 2008 GFMD of ‘Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development’.

This paper consists of four parts. This first chapter provides the conceptual framework, setting out very briefly the relationship between migration and development, and what different kinds of data and

¹ This paper has been prepared by the Institute for Public Policy Research/IPPR, London, in consultation with the 3.1 Roundtable session co-chairs Argentina and Finland, and the Roundtable coordinator. It also draws on comments and inputs from the 3.1 Roundtable session team member governments and from studies and findings of international organizations. The aim of the paper is to inform and facilitate the discussion of Roundtable session 3.1 during the Manila GFMD meeting in October 2008. It is not exhaustive in its treatment of the RT 3.1 theme, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the GFMD organizers, or the governments or organizations involved in the GFMD process. Any reproduction, in part or whole, of this document, should cite the source.

research tools will be required to better understand this relationship. The subsequent chapter examines effective practices, discussing efforts currently underway around the globe to build the necessary data and research tools. It includes descriptions of initiatives being undertaken by various actors including individual governments, regional bodies, international agencies, academics, and NGOs. Chapter 3 highlights the challenges that lie ahead, including areas where further work may be required. A final chapter raises a series of questions to guide the discussion and sets out some actions and possible ways forward that the participants at the GFMD may consider undertaking in order to address these challenges and thereby strengthen data and research tools.

1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

1.1 The migration and development nexus

Migration and development are highly inter-related. At a very basic level, the nexus between migration and development works in two ways – migration affects development and development affects migration (though, as will be discussed in greater detail later, this relationship is mediated through a host of actors and policies, in both countries of origin and receipt, and including the migrants themselves). However, at the most simple level there is a somewhat circular relationship between migration and development, in which development circumstances influence migration patterns and migration decisions, which in turn affect development, and so on. The GFMD deals with both ‘sides’ of this relationship: migration’s influence on development, and development’s influence on migration.

Looking at each ‘side’ of the relationship in turn, and examining first the impact of development upon migration, current evidence suggests that the development circumstances of a country may determine people’s propensity to move (including their decision to leave in the first place, as well as whether they decide to stay, return or go elsewhere), the choice of destination, the length of stay and their migration status, amongst other things.

It is important to recognise that policies – in both origin and destination countries - play an important role in this process. Moreover, it is not just ‘migration’ policies and ‘development’ policies that have an influence. Rather, policies and actions which may seem unrelated (including economic, sectoral, social and employment policies, as well as failures to respect the principles of good governance) can nevertheless affect development and in turn influence migration patterns.

For example, taking a case of a destination country, US policymakers recognised that US economic policies had the potential to shape Mexico’s development, and with it, its migratory flows. NAFTA’s supposed potential for boosting Mexico’s exports and wealth, and thereby reducing Mexico-US migration flows was one of the key arguments put forward for it. Another example might occur if governments fail to respect the human rights of their people, thus limiting human security and development, and, as a result, promoting and/or forcing migration. Lastly, taking a sectoral policy example, there have recently been debates examining the role of EU agriculture and fishing policies in apparently fuelling emigration from neighbouring regions. It is clear that the impact of policy on development, and thereby migration, is a complex but important phenomenon.

On the other ‘side’ of the migration and development relationship, migration can impact on development through a number of channels, including:

- (a) the **flow of people** immigrating, emigrating or returning. For example, the emigration of highly skilled persons (‘brain drain’) can hamper economic development in key sectors.
- (b) the **flow of remittances**. For example, remittances can reduce poverty or improve health and education outcomes amongst recipients.

- (c) the **flows from diasporas**. For example, diaspora associations often invest in the development of their home countries.
- (d) **changing behaviours associated with the prospects of migration**. For example, if more educated people have a greater chance of migrating, this may increase the incentives for people to pursue education (the so-called 'brain gain' effect).
- (e) the **effect on the migrants themselves, their human security and human rights**. For example, by moving a migrant may into an insecure situation, where their rights are not respected. This hampers the human development of the migrant themselves.

As is clear from these examples, the effects of migration on development can be both positive and negative. It should also be clear that there are important roles for destination countries, origin countries and migrants to cooperate in ensuring that the positive contributions of migration to development are maximised, and the negative effects are minimised.

1.2 Why are data and research important, and what more needs to be known?

Detailed data and careful research are needed to disentangle the complex interrelations between migration and development. In particular, three types of evidence are needed to guide policy.

The first requirement is good quality, up-to-date **raw data** about key variables. An essential place to start is data on migration itself - statistics on stocks and flows of international migrants. Data on stocks are normally produced by population censuses, and can allow for migrants to be classified by sex, age, citizenship, place of birth and other socio-economic characteristics (e.g. education, labour force participation, type of employment, length of stay etc). Data on flows include data on persons admitted as immigrants, emigrants and returning migrants, though few governments place much emphasis on gathering return data. Data on flows, can also be classified by sex, age, citizenship, country of birth, and should be where possible, as these details are vital to allow for a more nuanced understanding of the migration and development inter-relationship, particularly the gender dimension of migration, where analysis can sometimes be lacking.

However, as in chapter 1.1, not all the effects of migration arise directly from the movement of people. Good quality raw data is therefore also required on key migration-related variables such as remittance flows and diaspora activities, as well as on key development variables that may be affecting or affected by migration. It is also important, where analysis is being done at an individual or household level, that data is gathered to allow for analysis of what would have happened had migration not occurred. This can be achieved by gathering information not only about migrants but also about relevant comparison groups. For example, to examine the impact of remittances on households, data should be gathered on households that don't receive remittances as well as those that do. Only by examining both groups can the specific effect of remittances (as opposed to other factors affecting the households) be determined. It is also important to gather data over time, because the effects of migration may take some time to play out.

Second, appropriate research tools are needed to assess the **impact of migration on development and vice versa**. These will build on the raw data discussed above. Research tools need to be based on a good understanding of how economic and social theories suggest that migration may affect development and vice versa in order to measure whether these effects are indeed occurring. In doing so, they must take account of the changing effects of migration over time, and the need for using appropriate comparison groups. Once again, it is vital that a gender perspective is adopted in developing and assessing research tools.

Third, building on the above, instruments and research approaches that assess the **impact of policy** on migration and development outcomes should be devised. These are in some ways the most interesting

and useful tools to develop, as they have the greatest direct policy relevance. However, they also require good quality data and effective tools for impact analysis. This is because without understanding what is happening in terms of the data and the causal relationships involved, there is no way of assessing how policy can affect these impacts.

A brief review of the recommendations made at the 2007 GFMD (Table 1) suggests that all three areas (data, impact analysis, and policy assessment) were identified as being important and in relatively equal measure. It is also clear that several specific priorities within these broad headings - such as the impacts of migration on families and the success of policies to protect migrants - were felt to be important at the 2007 GFMD.

Table 1. GFMD 2007 recommendations relating to data and research tools

Recommendations related to basic data	Recommendations about impact assessment	Recommendations about policy assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve remittance statistics • Map and support diaspora organisations and capacity • Develop more effective systems to monitor migration flows in/from developing countries • Create a working group of relevant institutions on better data collection and sharing • Improve gender related data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research on tools and investments needed to enhance the microeconomic impact of migration • Address possible negative impacts of remittance flows • Support research on the role of diaspora in development in origin countries • Create an expert working group to co-ordinate research • Improve the analysis of the impact of migration on families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document good practices and policies to train, retain and recover health workers • Include migration in national development planning processes, including PRSPs • Prepare an overview of key policy lessons based on existing research • Evaluate RCP achievements and impacts in migration and development • Monitor the impact of initiatives taken to protect the rights of migrants in relation to development

2. EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

This chapter examines some current initiatives that seek to build the evidence base and research expertise in the three areas discussed above.

2.1 Effective practices in data

There are a number of initiatives currently underway attempting to collect better data relating to migration, remittances and diaspora (each of which was identified as a priority at the GMFD 2007, see the first column in table 1). As well as collecting better, more comprehensive data, it is also vital, as recognised at GFMD 2007, to try to collect more comparable data. This will allow for more cross-country comparisons to take place, enabling greater learning and sharing of best practice.

Some projects that are taking up the challenge of improving **migration** data include:

Initiative: Commission on International Migration Data for Development Research

Status: currently underway; led by the Center for Global Development (CGD)

Objective: To determine if new initiatives can be taken to build the empirical base required to assess migration's impact on developing countries.

Methodology: Establishment of a group of distinguished international experts to discuss and suggest possible initiatives that would improve the availability of data on international migration and development.

Initiative: *The Global Migration Research Database*

Status: Implemented; led by UN/DESA, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNDP (South-South Unit) and the World Bank

Objective: To disseminate data collected by censuses or population registers on the international migrant stock by sex, age and country of origin (citizenship or birth).

Methodology: Compile, verify and digitize all publicly available tabulations on the international migrant stock by age, sex and origin.

Initiative: *EMIF (Migración en la Frontera sur de Mexico)*

Status: Currently underway, undertaken by the Government of Mexico

Objective: To gather migration data about person moving across both Mexico's northern and southern borders.

Methodology: Involves two large surveys, one focused on migration over the northern border with the USA (EMIF NORTE), and one focusing on the southern border (EMIF GUAMEX). The southern survey focused first on migration with Guatemala, but has just been extended to Honduras and El Salvador.

Initiative: *Experts Meeting on Data Collection on Migration and Development*

Status: To be undertaken at the start of October 2008 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

Objective: To map existing knowledge and initiatives on data collection in the area of migration and development, support the creation of synergies, identify challenges related to information and data collection, and identify core issues related to the comparability of data, and methods for improving comparability.

Methodology: Gathering together experts from policymaking, research and data collection to discuss the issues and produce recommendations.

Initiative: *Migration Information and Statistics System for Mesoamerica (SIEMMES)*

Status: currently underway; led by the IOM and the National University of Costa Rica.

Objective: To share information on migration flows within and into and out of the Central American region.

Methodology: SIEMMES is a regional database on migration for Central America, where data on migration flows is received, compiled and analysed.

Initiative: *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*

Status: First edition published in 2002, revised edition available in 2009. Undertaken by UNCTAD.

Objective: The manual provides guidance on the collection and use of data on services trade for more and better internationally comparable data, including the movement of service providers

Methodology: Through an extensive international consultation and review process the Manual describes how countries can progressively expand the scope and structure of services-related data they compile in an internationally comparable way.

Initiative: Trafficking in Human Beings: Guidelines for Data Collection

Status: currently underway; led by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior and the IOM.

Objective: The development of guidelines on the collection of data on trafficking in human being, including comparable indicators. It is hoped they will help to enhance the efficiency of counter-trafficking initiatives.

Methodology: The creation of a set of guidelines on data collection in human trafficking. The guidelines will be based on consultation with a wide array of stakeholders.

Initiative: Database on Return Migration to the MAGHREB

Status: Completed by the European University Institute

Objective: To understand factors shaping returnees patterns of reintegration in the MAGHREB countries.

Methodology: Return migrants were surveyed in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and a database compiled regarding their experiences before, during and after migration. The database is available at <http://www.mirem.eu/datasets/survey>

Innovative work is also being undertaken to understand **remittance** flows better. This work is based on the premise, emphasised at last year's Global Forum, that remittances are private flows of money, and should be viewed in this way by government, rather than as a development resource that can be forcibly mobilised for national development.

Initiative: Migration, Remittances and Development in Africa

Status: currently underway; led by World Bank and African Development Bank.

Objective: To improve understanding of migration and remittances in Sub-Saharan Africa including their magnitude, causes, and impacts on poverty reduction.

Methodology: The project will publish a report organised around five key areas. Amongst other things, the remittance section of the report will present new data on the size and structure of remittances flows in Africa. The report will draw from an extensive literature review; surveys of households, migrants, financial institutions, central banks and trade associations; and case studies.

Work on improving the understanding of size, location and resources of the **diaspora** includes:

Initiative: The Diaspora Database

Status: currently underway; led by AfricaRecruit, Femmes Africa Solidarite and the IOM.

Objective: To gather information on the African diaspora who are willing to contribute to the development of their countries of origin.

Methodology: African migrants register with the database. Their details are then shared with governments, civil society and the private sector who may wish to contact them regarding project assignments, job vacancies, investment opportunities etc.

2.2 Effective practices in impact assessment

There are also initiatives currently being undertaken which attempt to build a better research framework for measuring the developmental impacts of migration and the migration impacts of development. These are of two broad kinds – those which focus in on specific inter-linkages between aspects of migration and aspects of development, and those which attempt to give a more holistic picture.

There are numerous initiatives underway which attempt to examine **specific relationships** within the migration and development nexus. Below are examples of four projects which address the specific concerns raised by states at GFMD 2007, namely the impacts on families (and women), and microeconomic impacts (see column 2 of table 1).

Initiative: The Impact of International Migration on Children Left Behind

Status: currently underway; led by UNICEF.

Objective: To improve understanding of the effects of international migration on children left behind by emigrants by collecting reliable, comparable quantitative data.

Methodology: The project will create a cross-national cross-cultural survey instrument using a common methodology that can be supplemented with country-specific components. The project will also facilitate a policy dialogue on the root causes of migration and its effects. Two pilot studies of the survey are already underway in Albania and Ecuador.

Initiative: The International Migration of Women

Status: completed in 2007, undertaken by the World Bank

Objective: To add to the gender analysis in the economic literature on migration and development.

Methodology: Using eight studies, the book examines the trends in migration in relation to gender, and examines how gender interacts with a range of migration's development impacts.

Initiative: Remittances and Poverty in Central Asia and South Caucasus

Status: currently underway; led by the Asian Development Bank

Objective: To increase the positive effects of remittances on poverty in Central Asia and South Caucasus.

Methodology: This project draws on questionnaires of the financial sector as well as household surveys on remittances in the region. Two reports will be produced: one on the financial sector and remittances, and another on remittances and poverty within the two regions.

Initiative: Reinsertion of Migrants returning to Morocco

Status: Completed, undertaken by the Government of Morocco and the Centre for the Study and Research of Demographics.

Objective: To examine the experiences of returned migrants to Morocco, both whilst away and on return, and determine their impact upon development.

Methodology: Survey of returned migrants.

There are fewer projects that take the second, **more holistic approach** to migration and development. However, one example follows:

Initiative: Development on the Move: Measuring and Optimising the Impacts of Migration on Development

Status: currently underway; led by the Global Development Network and the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Objective: To conceptualise and measure the different ways in which migration impacts upon social and economic development, and to design policies which maximise the positive impacts and minimise the negative.

Methodology: The project draws on household surveys, stakeholder interviews and comparative analysis. A pilot has been completed in Jamaica and in six country case studies are underway in Colombia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Macedonia and Vietnam.

2.3 Effective practices in policy assessment

Efforts have also been made to measure the impact of policy. As briefly discussed in chapter 1.1, policy in reference to migration and development can mean a number of things: The impacts that migration policy has on development (e.g. the impacts of entry regulations on development in origin countries), the impacts of development policy on migration (e.g. the impacts of employment-generating projects on emigration), and the impacts of other policies – neither migration nor development policies - on migration and development.

While this final category may be difficult to comprehend, these policies can have important impacts. For example, if a country changes its education system and begins to offer qualifications which are recognised by employers in destination countries, this may change migration patterns as more people may find it easier to emigrate. Moreover, it may alter the way in which migration affects development, for example, because migrants may be able to get jobs more suited to their abilities, earn more and send more remittances back home (recognising that certain countries doubt that remittances have concrete positive impacts on development and poverty reduction in countries of origin). On the other hand, if the educational change addresses needs present in the country of origin, the impact on national development will be maximized as skills and abilities of the local work force are developed, and workers become more productive. This could make the population less dependent on remittances, and the country is more likely to retain its population.

It is important to recognise the range of such policies when assessing the policy impacts in this area. Analysis should include the effects of policies in both countries of origin and destination, as well as at a multilateral level. At the multilateral level, the Millennium Development Goals are of particular relevance, as they provide a framework of international cooperation which can be useful in order to bridge the structural tendencies which make certain countries a source of labour for others. These asymmetries may be dealt with in the context of the Millennium Goals commitments, and the progress made toward decent employment in countries of origin should provide practical examples of best practices. Further research on the potential of the MDGs to improve the outcomes of the migration-development nexus is thus important. This would include consideration of the potential for the MDGs to promote the inclusion of migration and development issues in PRSPs and other national development plans, and in donor policies.

A number of initiatives have tried to assess the impact of policies in some of the priority areas highlighted by the 2007 GFMD (see column 3 of table 1). These include the impacts of policies to protect the rights of migrants, the impacts of regional consultative processes (RCPs) on migration and development, and the inclusion of migration into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). Examples of efforts in each of these areas are presented below:

Initiative: Protecting Overseas Workers: Lessons and Cautions from the Philippines

Status: completed in 2007; led by the Migration Policy Institute

Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness of the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the world's largest worker welfare fund, in protecting and providing essential services for Filipino migrant workers.

Methodology: The authors provided insight into the strengths of the fund, lessons to be learned as well as recommendations to improve transparency and accountability.

Initiative: Regional Consultative Processes for Migration and Development

Status: currently underway; led by the IOM.

Objective: To bring together representatives of states, international organizations and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for informal and non-binding dialogue and information exchange on the relationship between migration and development.

Methodology: IOM facilitates inter-governmental dialogue and organises RCP's for Migration and Development on a thematic basis. There are currently several high level workshops underway.

Initiative: Mainstreaming migration into poverty reduction and development strategies

Status: currently underway; led by IOM, in coordination with the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO.

Objective: To develop a practical tool for policy makers in developing countries to help integrate migration into the poverty reduction and development strategies in a way that fosters policy coherence.

Methodology: To produce a comprehensive and policy-coherent Handbook which governments and others can use to help shape poverty-reduction and development strategies in light of migration. The methodology developed in the handbook is drawn partly from the Integrated Framework strategy for trade related assistance and from interviews with people involved in mainstreaming migration and other issues into national development plans.

The difficulties of assessing the impact of policies on migration and development outcomes are highlighted by the fact that initiatives in the last two areas (RCPs and bringing migration into PRSPs) do not actually attempt to assess impacts. Rather, they try to establish processes for considering migration's impacts on developmental objectives and vice versa, whether at the regional or national level. This is vital because including migration in these processes is an important first step towards creating better policies. However, it does still leave some work to do in terms of assessing policy impact.

3. POLICY CHALLENGES

While a significant amount of work is being undertaken to try to strengthen data and research tools, a number of challenges remain.

3.1. Challenges in strengthening data

In the data area, some concerns have been expressed that efforts to improve data may be focusing in the wrong areas. Some policymakers have suggested that too much attention is being paid to data on remittances and that there should be greater focus on **improving data in areas such as migrant flows and the diaspora populations and activities.**

The second priority in terms of strengthening data appears to be **generating more comparable data.** More comparable data would allow for more comparisons across countries, and therefore the possibility of greater learning. While there are growing numbers of projects attempting to generate comparable data, and establish standards for data collection (as detailed in the above examples), there is certainly still room for further progress.

3.2. Challenges in strengthening impact assessment

In the area of impact assessment, two key areas may require attention. First, there is a need for **more conceptual work on the relationship between migration and development**, and in particular the question of **how migration contributes to development**. A lot of good work has been done, and continues to be done, on the linkages between migration and particular outcomes (for example, expenditure on education). However, there seems to be scope for doing broader, more holistic conceptual work on how and through which channels migration shapes the process of development in a given country. Theoretical work that looks at these structural questions might sound far removed from policymakers' concerns but it could potentially be very helpful. Policymakers are not simply responsible for migration's impacts on one or two outcomes, but have to consider migration's impacts on development as a whole when making policy decisions.

The other area that could benefit from greater attention is **explaining what factors drive emigration and return**. Two streams of work seem necessary. One set of initiatives is needed to look at the macro-level factors behind emigration and return, examining under what development circumstances people tend to leave their countries, and under what circumstances they tend to return. This could be more powerful if combined with a set of initiatives of work that examines the micro questions around individuals' propensity to emigrate, or to return. For example, work which explores the role of qualifications and gender in propensity to move could provide useful insights for migration management.

3.3. Challenges in strengthening policy assessment

As noted in the previous section, policy assessment relies upon good data and impact measures. Since these are being developed now, only a limited number of **assessments of policy effectiveness** have been conducted to date. However, various processes are currently being set up to formalise how the development impacts of migration, and vice versa, are taken into account in policymaking. The challenge in such activities will be to ensure that the focus is on the right processes. Key processes currently being developed include **'co-development' type processes, certain regional consultative processes, and the inclusion of migration and development impacts in national development strategies**. There appears to be particularly strong support for the latter, with many governments feeling that this is an effective way of taking account of migration's impacts on development and vice versa.

3.4. Other challenges

Three further challenges can be noted. Firstly, **collaboration and co-operation** will be essential. Whilst many good initiatives to strengthen data and research tools are underway, most of them are **projects run by individual organisations**, with specific aims and outputs. As noted above, more comparable work would be desirable, and it seems likely that this would be promoted by greater collaboration and cooperation between organisations. More cooperative working should allow for more comparison across countries, and a greater potential for learning from one another's experiences.

The second challenge is to provide **greater support to migration and development related data collectors and researchers based in the developing world**. Actions to strengthen research networks, enhance research capacity in developing countries, and to help link migration researchers with policymakers could all play a role in bringing more voices to the table.

A third challenge arises from the possibility of **considering the relationship between migration and development from different government and regional perspectives**. This is linked to, but extends the challenge noted in chapter 3.2 about understanding better the conceptual linkages between migration and development. In some cases, countries consider that research into the inter-relationship between migration and development should be based within the **framework of analysis of the world economic structure**. This implies shifting the focus on the international processes that influence patterns of

migration and development in particular countries. Specifically, taking this perspective might imply, for example, undertaking the following initiatives:

- a. An assessment of the migration flows in relation to the world economic structure. Taking this perspective, certain governments argue that underdevelopment in some regions or countries of the world may result from, or be the condition for, development in other regions or countries.
- b. An examination of the influences of the global mobility of capital, the industrial relocation and the policies of transnational businesses in the development processes of countries and regions, and consequently on freedom of movement.
- c. A study of what models of national or regional development might make the right to migrate, stay or return free from the impositions of structural factors, beyond the will of the individual.

4. QUESTIONS TO GUIDE THE DISCUSSION – POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD

4.1 Questions to guide the discussion

The following questions, which flow from the various challenges described in the previous chapter, are proposed to guide the discussion.

a. Strengthening data

- (i) Is more comparable data a priority? If so, what should be done to encourage their production?
- (ii) Is it time to switch the focus of data collection efforts from remittances towards better understanding migration itself, as well as the characteristics and activities of diaspora communities?
- (iii) If so, what sort of data collection efforts should be prioritised? Should the focus lie on strengthening census data? Should more migration-related questions be added to existing key surveys, such as labour force surveys, demographic and health surveys, and living standards measurement surveys? Or should more specific surveys of individuals, households and communities be commissioned?
- (iv) If more data collection about migration and diasporas is a priority, how could one ensure that such data are collected in a comparable way?

b. Strengthening impact assessment

- (i) Do we have a good enough understanding yet of how migration impacts upon development? If not, what might be done to increase this understanding?
- (ii) Do we have a good enough understanding yet of the micro and macro factors that drive people to migrate? If not, what might be done to increase this understanding?

c. Strengthening policy assessment

- (i) Is there enough of a focus on migration in national development strategies (such as PRSPs)? If not, why? What measures could be taken to help interested countries further include migration and development issues in their national planning?

d. Improving ways of working

- (i) Is there sufficient collaboration within and between communities of migration and development researchers and data collectors? If not, how could more collaborative working be encouraged and supported?

- (ii) Is there enough migration and development research being done in the developing world? If not, how could greater research in developing countries be encouraged and supported?

4.2 Possible ways forward

The “possible ways forward” that follow are offered for consideration and discussion. They build on the questions posed above and are offered with a view towards facilitating the work of delegates participating in Session 3.1 to identify practical and action-oriented outcomes. They are not intended to preclude different or additional outcomes.

a. Promoting new approaches to data and research.

i) New ways of working to improve the development of data and research for migration and development policymaking could be promoted. This could include the **creation of an expert working group** of government policymakers, international organizations and civil society experts from both **developing and developed countries**. The group could identify key priorities for data collection and research amongst policymakers, with an emphasis on producing **comparable data** and on **strengthened collaboration** and coordination. It would also allow policymakers to share their data and research-related needs and priorities on an ongoing basis, and thereby ensure that migration and development research and data collection are as policy relevant as possible.

ii) Governments could also promote the availability of relevant data. Many donors, for example, currently sponsor the collection of migration and development-related data by academics, civil society and international organisations. The pool of publicly available data could be substantially expanded if governments were **committed to ensure that any data collection work they sponsor would result in publicly available data**.

b. Supporting existing initiatives, particularly those promoting better data on migration flows and diaspora populations, and which enable better national planning.

Supporting existing initiatives could be a relatively cost effective and efficient way to proceed. Amongst the current initiatives underway, it would seem sensible to prioritise those areas which policymakers feel address outstanding policy questions.

(i) More specifically, initiatives that aim to improve data (as outlined in chapter 2.1) will be vital to improving policy, as better data is required to assess how migration and development impact on one another, and therefore how public policy can improve those impacts. Given the relative advances in data collection on remittances in recent years, it may make sense to **promote initiatives that build understanding of migration flows and the composition and activities of diasporas**.

(ii) Another policymaker priority which is being addressed by current initiatives is **incorporating migration and development considerations into national development plans, such as PRSPs** (an example of such work is provided in chapter 2.3). Governments could support initiatives which promote this process.

c. Expand existing projects and launch new initiatives

Given that the scope and coverage of work currently underway does not cover all the priorities identified at the GFMD 2007, perhaps there is a role for the Global Forum to support the expansion of existing projects and the development of new projects (some of which are outlined in chapter 2).

A major opportunity arises in the **2010 round of population censuses**. A commitment by governments to **give priority to the processing of information on migrants counted by censuses and the dissemination of detailed tabulations** would permit an assessment not only of the global number of migrants and their change over time but also the estimation of the size of diaspora populations. Another opportunity is the proposed **Manila Initiative in Migration Data**, as put forward by the World Bank.