

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

Roundtable 2 - Factoring Migration into Development Planning

Report to Plenary by RT 2 General Rapporteur Ambassador Abdul Aziz Dankano,
Director, Consular and Immigration Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Nigeria

RT 2 Coordinators: Dr Rolph Jenny; Viraj Ghoorah Latanraj

RT 2.1: Supporting National Development through Migration Mainstreaming Processes, Extended Migration Profiles and Poverty Reduction Strategies

Co-Chairs of RT 2.1: Morocco and Switzerland

Roundtable Rapporteur: Sweden

This session addressed four overall questions:

1. How governments have worked to mainstream migration into development planning and the lessons learned from this
2. How to ensure institutional coherence and synergies between mainstreaming tools
3. What assistance governments need in their work to build on the synergies from migration
4. How can migration be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

In terms of mainstreaming migration into development planning, participants stressed that migrants are human beings and not commodities. Plans thus need to include efforts to address the social costs of migration. Mainstreaming migration has contributed to identification of gaps in policy frameworks; prioritization of migration-related objectives; and opportunities to advance the dialogue with destination countries. Mainstreaming efforts also need to consider internal and intra-regional migration, and recognize the importance of South-South migration since its impact on development and economic strategies is critical. Mainstreaming also offers opportunities for improved exchange of data and for advancing the dialogue with destination countries. Extended Migration Profiles are not designed to capture all information needed for migration and development work, and mainstreaming migration should thus also include more specific development surveys.

Ensuring institutional coherence and synergies between mainstreaming tools requires high-level political will and national ownership, a dedicated coordinating body mandated to engage across ministries, broad based consultations with non-governmental actors, local-authority engagement, inclusion of mainstreaming processes and related institutional activities in key long-term development planning documents, and a designated budget for migration issues. Synergies between different tools can be attained by using Migration Profiles to launch broader M&D mainstreaming processes.

Concerning assistance that governments may require in their work to build on the synergies from migration, participants stressed the need for capacity building, increased access to labour markets, that key development partners need to recognize the contribution of migration, and that data on migration be included in key development surveys. Governments need to be specific regarding the type of assistance they need and regional bodies should also be providing such technical support. UN Country Teams also need to enhance their capacities to lend support at the national level.

In terms of integrating migration into the post-2015 development agenda, the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the work on the post-2015 development agenda offer a

unique opportunity to ensure the inclusion of migration in the future development agenda. For this purpose we also need to develop indicators to measure and monitor the effects of migration on specific development outcomes. Entry points for getting migration into the post-2015 development agenda include the population dynamics global consultations, and having migration mainstreamed under inclusive social and economic development or into the equivalent of the current MDG 8 which address global partnerships. Finally, participants reiterated the need to act fast, as the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda are already underway.

RT 2.2: Addressing South-South Migration and Development Policies

Co-Chairs of RT 2.2: Bangladesh and Ghana

Roundtable Rapporteur: Argentina

This session sought to address capacity gaps with regard to data collection and managing migration in the Global South, deepen the understanding of migration patterns in the Global South, examine the impacts of labour mobility between developing countries on sustainable development, and offer an overview of latest developments in the context of climate change and environment-induced migration.

In terms of capacities to develop better data on South-South migration, participants recognized that the different definitions applied to define the Global South matter since variations among existing definitions are considerable. The UN may need to review its recommendations on defining ‘international migrants’ since South-South migration is often short-term or seasonal, and informal/irregular migration is not covered. It is difficult to measure internal migration, but there is no need to define ‘environmental migrants’. S-S migration data should be included in censuses and sectoral surveys and be disaggregated by gender & age. Little is known about the transit migration in the South and there is a need to look at migration in the South as a holistic process, entailing also transit and return migration. The ‘Migrants count’ report, including its 5 steps to collect comprehensive data, was considered important, and political support for specific migration surveys was recognized as essential.

Concerning labour mobility and development, the protection of migrants’ rights was considered of paramount importance, not least because of the high number of irregular labour movements. Participants also discussed the underlying reasons for the high number of such irregular movements and informal employment, and why informal channels of remittances often remain a preferred option. The negative impact of the financial and economic crisis was also addressed.

With regard to Migration and the Environment (M&E), the focus should not only be on populations that move away from environmental threats, but also on those who do not have the means to move, and those who move towards environmentally hazardous areas. Governments, and in particular the GFMD, also need to focus on cities in the South, including internal migration, urbanization and related general infrastructure planning, in particular in low-lying coastal areas in Africa and Asia). M&E implies challenges that go beyond migration, and discussions need to bring together migration, development and environment stakeholders. More practical tools, such as those proposed in the UK’s *Foresight report*, need to be considered.

Challenges in migration governance in the South are manifold. There is a lack of basic data as most data are retrieved from databases in countries in the ‘North’ and because of large data inconsistencies among different databases. Also, in many instances S-S migration is not included in national development plans. The lack of institutional coherence in managing migration and development activities should be addressed through mainstreaming processes, and there should be more sharing of experiences on national migration policy development among countries in the South.

Participants also discussed the large number of refugees and IDPs among international migrants in the South, the large population growth, in particular in Africa and Asia, and the mostly young populations, the impact of migration on small countries in the South, the high remittances transfer costs, the slow number of ratifications of major international legal instruments, in particular in Asia & Africa, and the resulting negative effects on migrants' human security. The challenge of dealing with irregular cross-border labour migration was also considered highly complex. Regarding capacity building at the regional level, this should be approached from a regional perspective. Regional dialogues and consultative processes should continue playing an important role in this context.

Participants agreed that there was a great need for this first-ever GFMD roundtable on South-South migration and development policies, but that more time was needed to study the phenomenon. The GFMD should pursue the topic of South-South migration and devote more discussions and background work. Regional fora should also focus on this theme. The issue of migration, environmental change and climate change needs be followed up in future GFMD meetings. Finally, with regard to the post-2015 Development Agenda, it is essential that governments ensure that migration be integrated in this agenda.