

ANNEX to GFMD Roundtable 3.3 Background Paper*

Key Developments within Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) and Inter-regional Fora (IRFs) post- 2009 Athens GFMD

The **Regional Conference on Migration (RCM – Puebla Process)** in their XV Meeting of May 2010 in Tapachula, Mexico, had as its central theme ‘Migration and Family’. Under its current Plan of Action, the RCM lists the “Link between Migration and Development” as one of three topical areas of activity. RCM seminars, workshops, and campaigns have explored issues relevant to migration and development in the past. RCM members intend activities to promote a comprehensive, objective, and long-term approach to migration in the region; improve migrant integration; and encourage the exchange of statistics on migrant workers and other migration flows. A seminar on migration and development was held in September 2010, which addressed issues such as temporary migrant workers, remittances and children in migration processes.

- The **Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime**, which involves more than 50 countries and numerous international agencies, was launched in Bali in February 2002, co-chaired by Indonesia and Australia. The Bali Process focuses on identifying practical and clearly targeted activities which can assist in enhancing the skills of those working in the key agencies dealing with people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime. Thus, capacity-building and training for operational level officials working in the fields of justice, law enforcement and foreign affairs is an important objective of the Bali Process. Since the Third Bali Process Ministerial Meeting in April 2009, several workshops and Ad-hoc Group Meeting have been held in order to further implement its programs and recommendations. Workshops and similar activities are highly participatory and are designed to generate practical ideas and solutions which can contribute to efforts to combat transnational crime at the national and regional level. In 2010, a “Workshop on Protection, Resettlement and Repatriation” was held in Bali (7-8 June), followed by “Third Meeting of Ad-hoc Group Senior Officials” (Bali, 10-11 June). The most recent event was a “Workshop on Immigration Aspects of Seaport Security”, held in Singapore, 12-15 July.
- The **European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Structured Dialogue** on Migration has advanced considerably since its launching in June 2009: the first High Level Meeting of the Dialogue that addressed synergies between migration and development and the subject of remittances was held in Brussels in September 2009 and resulted in ideas (reflected in the Final Report of the Co-Chairs) that can be shared with other RCPs. The subsequent High Level Meetings of the Dialogue held in Madrid in February and March 2010 addressed the subjects of “Migration, Education and Health” and “Families and Vulnerable Groups”. The EU-LAC Summit of May 2010 took positive note of these developments in the dialogue.
- The **Rabat Process**, whose three identified thematic areas of focus are: migration and development, legal migration and irregular migration, is moving towards undertaking concrete actions that would further the attainment of its set out objectives. The vibrancy of

* For background reading on RCPs and IRFs, please refer to:

GFMD I (Brussels, 2007) Roundtable 3 Session 3.4 *Regional Consultative Processes and Development: Advancing Cooperation*.

GFMD II (Manila, 2008) Roundtable 3 Session 3.3 *Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), Inter-regional Consultative Fora and Regional Organizations and Economic Integration Processes at the Interface of Migration and Development*.

GFMD III (Athens, 2009) Roundtable 3 Session 3.2 *Regional and Inter-regional Processes and Fora*.

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the process is evidenced by the series of meetings in a range of subject areas (see Annex) that have taken place since its establishment. In December 2007 Spain established establishing a Fund of the current total of 15 million EUR with the objective of allowing ECOWAS to manage the development component of migration policies in the region. Building on the **Second Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development of November 2008** and the **Tri-annual Action Plan** adopted there, the Monitoring Committee meeting of 19 January 2010 included, among others, the subject of the portability of social rights of the immigrants on the list of areas addressed by the Process. Several expert seminars were organised in the last few months on issues related to migration & development, in particular on enhancing remittances impact on development (Dakar, 21, 22 & 23 October 2009) and Diasporas role as actors in Development (Bamako, 23,24 & 25 March 2010). A seminar on Vulnerable Groups of migrants, notably women and unaccompanied minors, was held in Rabat on 27-29 July 2010.

- The **European Union (EU)-Africa Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment** that resulted from the EU-African Union (AU) meeting on migration and development in Tripoli (**Tripoli Process**) is now a key part of the EU-Africa strategic partnership within the framework of the joint **EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Development**. Within this framework, the AU is being supported by the European Commission (EC) on its **capacity building initiatives** with the Africa Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as on the **establishment of the African Remittance Institute (ARI)** which was launched in Addis Ababa in early June 2010[†]. The Joint EU – Africa Declaration on Migration and Development has contributed to wider initiatives including migration and mobility partnerships of which the seventh partnership on stability, employment and migration is vigorously being pursued as a key agenda item for many governments with the support of the EU. Similarly, the EU is providing support to the African Union towards its capacity building initiatives in support of the RECs within the framework of the EU-Africa strategic partnerships.
- The regional project on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean area, "**EuroMed Migration II**" is based on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership which started since the **Barcelona Declaration (1995)** and its subsequent evolution with the Five Year Work Programme of the **Barcelona Summit (28 November 2005)**. It contributes to the implementation of some of the activities approved at the first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Migration, which took place on 18-19 November 2007 in Portugal (Algarve), where political and operational conclusions were approved, confirming the importance of concrete cooperation in the various fields of legal migration, illegal migration and migration & development. On that last topic, six training sessions were organized in 2010, notably on tools and strategies that can incorporate migration into the national development plans, regulatory & institutional practice on money transfers, diaspora & practices in development and the potential of women empowerment in countries of origin and destination.
- The closing Conference of the joint ICMPD-IOM project “Linking Emigrant Communities for More Development - Inventory of Institutional Capacities and Practices”, implemented within the framework of Pillar II on ‘Migration and Development’ of the **Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM)**, was hosted by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 13 and 14 April 2010. Although non-exhaustive, the Inventory of the joint ICMPD-IOM project offers an overview of comparable information on existing institutional practices and identified challenges related to emigrant communities faced by 13 countries of origin in Africa & the Middle East.

[†] The first Steering Committee meeting of the ARI -bringing together the main partners: African Union, European Commission, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AFDB) and IOM- took place in Brussels at the end of June 2010.

- The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Development Conference II *Towards an Asia-Europe Partnership for Sustainable Development***, held in May 2010, brought together high level government officials and experts from Asia and the European Union to discuss Asia-Europe cooperation for sustainable development and policy coherence. The Conference adopted the Yogyakarta Statement, which stated, *inter alia*, that “in order to **make all dimensions contribute to sustainable development, policy coherence for development is important**, in particular in the areas of trade, finance and investment, climate change, food security, **migration** and security.”
- **The EU-led “Building Migration Partnerships” Process** that involves 27 EU Member States and 21 countries of the Western Balkans, Turkey and the former USSR launched at the Prague Ministerial Conference in April 2009, held its Senior Officials Meeting in November 2009 and proceeded with its activities throughout 2010 on migration route visualisation and migration profiles that include a strong development component.
- The **Ibero-American Forum on Migration and Development (FIBEMYD)** by its Spanish acronym), associated with the Ibero-American Conference, is a major Inter-Regional Forum on migration with a specific focus on development. After its first meeting in Cuenca, Ecuador in March 2008, FIBEMYD held its second meeting in **San Salvador, El Salvador in July 2010**. Under the theme “Impacts of the economic crisis on migration and development: political and programmatic responses in Ibero-America”, government representatives from the 22 countries of the Ibero-American Conference (of which **19 are in Latin America and 3 are in Europe**) and participants from international organizations, regional consultative processes on migration (the South American Conference on Migration, SACM, and the Regional Conference on Migration, RCM), and civil society as well as distinguished experts exchanged experiences and good practices aimed at mitigating the effects of the crisis. The Forum issued recommendations for the following areas of action: remittances, co-development, inclusion of migrants in the labour market, human rights, and health and social protection of migrants. FIBEMYD II was co-organized by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (which serves as the technical secretariat of the Forum), the Government of El Salvador, IOM and the Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with collaboration from UNFPA, UNHCR, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development, and the Fundación Carolina de España.
- Following the Ninth Conference in Quito, Ecuador in September 2009, the **South American Conference on Migration (SACM)** held its Fifth Intersessional Meeting in June 2010 where it identified strategic and programmatic priorities for the process in the coming years. It further produced a Declaration of Principles and a draft proposal to develop a South American Plan for Human Development of Migration. This meeting also discussed **mechanisms for ensuring and enhancing the participation of civil society from the South American region at the Puerto Vallarta GFMD**. The need for **Migration Profiles for the South American countries** as a basis for enhanced migration management capacity that would ensure informed policy making was discussed.
- **Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MISDA)**: Supported by the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) and IOM, MISDA will be holding a ministerial conference in 2010 on irregular migration flows that affect all South African Development Community member states. MISDA objectives include improving understanding of migration issues, enhancing regional cooperation and dialogue, and strengthening regional migration management. Concrete outputs of 2009 workshops include legislation, border management systems, and standard operating procedures on irregular migrants.
- **Inter-Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Labour and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin (Colombo Process)** under the current Chair, Bangladesh, is planning

a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in October 2010 that would bring together concerned officials from all 11 countries to deliberate on the status of labour migration from the region with a view to making policy recommendations that would inform both policy and practice. The overarching theme of the SOM and the ministerial session that will precede it is ‘**Migration in Dignity**’, in recognition of the important **developmental role that labour migration from the Colombo Process countries** plays and the need therefore to ensure that the dignity of the individual is ensured through all stages of the migration process.

- **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS):** The Central African Region is the only region on the African continent without an RCP. However, in recent times the ECCAS Member States, motivated by a better understanding of (potential) benefits of belonging to a RCP, have in 2010, with the support of IOM, initiated steps towards establishing an ECCAS-RCP with the objective of arriving at a common understanding and improved policy coherence on migration issues.
- **Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA):** Established in 2000 with the objectives of, among others, promoting peace and stability in West Africa and the protection of migrants’ rights, **enhancing the contribution of migrants to the development of their countries of origin** and the **alleviation of poverty in regions of high emigration**, the MIDWA has since early 2010 developed a program of action to revamp its activities for the next three years in the lead up to the **second UN High Level Dialogue for Migration and Development (UN HLD)**.
- Following the African Union (AU) recommendation and IGAD concurrence, the **IGAD-RCP** was launched in May 2008 with the overall objective of facilitating dialogue, regional cooperation and policy coherence on migration issues amongst IGAD Member. Funding obtained in 2010 is set to enhance the capacity of the IGAD-RCP in the coming months to meet some of their identified priorities, among them the holding of a meeting to prepare a regional position for tabling at the fourth GFMD.
- **The Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum, and Refugees (IGC)** is an informal, non-decision making forum for intergovernmental information exchange and policy debate on issues of relevance to the management of international migratory flows. The IGC brings together 17 participating states, UNHCR, IOM, and the EC. While the migration-development nexus is not a central focus of the IGC, several of the themes it has taken up and the workshops in which it engages do implicate development issues, especially as regards labor migration issues.

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