

Roundtable Sessions, Marrakesh, 6 December 2018

Reporting Template

This template is meant to facilitate reporting from the different Roundtable discussions to the closing session on Friday, December 7 (15h30-17h00).

In the interest of time, we advise you to use this template to directly take notes during the respective Roundtable session. Please write in concise bullet points to facilitate the preparation of the final report.

When quoting: the sessions follow Chatham House rules, so please either ask for approval to name speakers/organizations or put "anonymous"

Thank you for your assistance!

Name of Rapporteur:	Helen Dempster (ODI)
Roundtable session:	2.2

Reporting Template
1. Summary/Main discussion points
<p>Regions are important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration is predominantly a regional issue – over 50% of people move regionally • Some regions have formal migration policies (e.g. free movement in ECOWAS, the AU common passport) and others have informal migration policies aiming for policy convergence and coherence • Regions have strengths (common history, language, proximity) and weaknesses (migration outside the region is not taken into account, overlapping membership, poor implementation or incoherence) • Most migration is also circular – we need to institutionalize new circular migration pathways and assist people to take their new skills home
2. Challenges
But poor policy coherence/implementation

- It is difficult to reach consensus/political will – may be necessary to incentivize regions to implement free movement policies (e.g. through concessional trade deals, or by using other policies e.g. climate, health, education).
- Regions need to push for policy coherence, or even convergence. The countries in SE Asia are pushing for the latter – trying to align their policies.
- It is also important to hold regular dialogues (e.g. that in Ecuador in March) to discuss regional issues
- Despite having regional units, this may actually not have a strong impact – for example most trade in ECOWAS and SADEC are between regions and European countries, not inter-regionally. We need to fully embrace regional integration

We also don't know the impact of regional mobility

- There is little evidence of the impact of regional mobility and free movement on development.
- We also don't know how regional policies influence migration – do they drive or change flows?

Regions may not be the best unit

- Often regions can find it hard to agree (e.g. ASEAN, EU) and it may be better and more helpful to work sub-regionally (e.g. SE Asia, Western Europe). They may have more similar views re migration policy.
- 'Free movement' can also get in the way of negotiating more regional-based policies – often countries are pro trade, economic development etc, but not free mobility.

3. Opportunities / good practices / innovations for the way forward

- GFMD have a strong role in finding ways to share good practices across regions, perhaps through regional dialogues – many discussions are still state-led
- Need to bring migration into large, development fora that address regional issues (e.g. HLPF, Spring Meetings)
- IOM has a strong focus on migration and development, and is aiming to implement these best practices at a regional level
- Discussion about implementing free movement in Asia, similar to ECOWAS – could be difficult given the very diverse nature of Asia. Instead, we heard about Mutual Recognition Agreements which facilitate movement (so not free movement, but a step in the right direction)

4. Relevance to the Global Compact for Migration and its follow-up, implementation and review

- The Global Compact recognizes the importance of regions – this must continue

5. Contributions to the achievement of the Agenda 2030

6. Inspiring quotes: If you like, please give one or two **quotes** that inspired you during the session.

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'It is impossible to manage migration alone'

'No region is ready for migration'