



**Harnessing migration for rural  
transformation and development**  
*Regional Roundtable*  
*Summary Report*

14 -15 August 2019 Kingston, Jamaica

Funded by the European Union



Implemented by





# Regional Roundtable

## “Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development”

### Summary Report

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*This report has been drawn up with the assistance of the Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) initiative, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The*

*opinions expressed in this report do not reflect the views of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the EU or the ICMPD.*

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## CONTEXT AND INTRODUCTION

The European Union is supporting the Ecuadorian Chairmanship of the 2019 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) through the Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX) Initiative, implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in hosting a series of four regional roundtables engage regional stakeholders in meaningful dialogue ahead of the Quito Summit to be held in November 2019. The workshops respond to one of the priorities expressed by the Ecuadorian GFMD Chairmanship to engage regional stakeholders in meaningful dialogue ahead of the Quito Summit in November 2019.

The two-day regional roundtable "[Harnessing Migration for Rural Development](#)" was held on 14 and 15 August in Kingston, Jamaica. During two days, nearly 60 participants hailing from academic, governmental and non-governmental backgrounds, together with international organisations, discussed the role of migration and remittances in the transformation of rural areas, including the impact on agriculture and related industries, as well as local employment opportunities and entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Together, participants debated good practices, opportunities and challenges that migration may bring for local development. Discussions acknowledged the challenges rural movers face at points of origin and destination, and argued that governments need rethink how best to respond. These discussions will feed directly into the supporting documents for the Quito Summit's Round-table 3.2 "Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development" of the [GFMD 2019 agenda](#).

In summary, participants proposed that programmes and policies that define human mobility as a strategic, adaptive response to the challenges of growing vulnerabilities creating what Clemens (2017) describes as a "virtuous cycle" should be developed. In a virtuous cycle, migration drives development and leads to sustainable policymaking that manages future movements. In other words, migration becomes an opportunity to establish horizontal interventions that are long lasting and foster success; migrants become agents of change and the xenophobic fears that characterize national debates are put to rest.

Building upon examples from the Caribbean (particularly Jamaica), South America (and in particular Ecuador), the Philippines and beyond, the workshop revealed the important role migration and migrant remittances play in the creation of sustainable programming. These examples follow programmes developed to transform rural sending communities, support rural agriculture, and increase rural investment; and describe powerful pathways for policy makers (whether local, state or international), migrants and non-migrants to follow as they enhance positive, sustainable outcomes; and recommendations for future directions.

This report summarises the main points presented and the recommendations collected during the two days of proceedings and is organized into five sections; Section 1 sets the scene, Sections 2, 3 and 4 note the challenges, opportunities and policy recommendations that emerged from the various sessions and panels of the roundtable. Finally, section 5 notes a series of best practices that emerged from several countries across LAC. The agenda and list of participants are annexed to the report.

## SETTING THE SCENE

The debate about the relationship between migration and development is not new. From the brain drain pessimism of the 1960, the debate has moved to the importance of remittances in the possibilities of development of areas of origin (de Haas 2012; Geiger and Pecoud; 2013, Brønden 2012). Even though the early debates on migration and development did include migration from rural to urban areas in the “developing world”, the discussion has been generally on how migrants from poor countries—in economic terms—to the developed world participate in the economic development their home countries (Todaro 1970; de Haas 2012).

Today, there is a general agreement—especially within international development agencies—that migrants influence positively development in their areas or origin through remittances (United Nations 2018). This is also recognized in United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Fratzke and Salant 2018). Despite the possible negative effect of increasing relative poverty and inequality in the receiving area (Cohen 2011). Changes in the general characteristics of global migration flows and of migration drivers has made policy makers and academic research present more nuanced approaches to the relationship between migration, development and remittances.

Emigration from the developing world to the developed world still is a large and very important numerically. In recent years, however, migration has become more and more regionalized. Today, slightly more than half of the 258 million of migrants worldwide live within the same world region of their country of origin. This is even more salient in the developing world; by 2017, the number of international migrants who moved within the developing world (south-south migration) overpass migration from the developing world to the developed world (south-north migration). Internal migration is also significantly larger within the developing world as are refugee movements (United Nations 2018; IFAD 2008).

This has a direct impact in the migration, development, remittances connection. As remittances are dependent on the education and salary levels of the sender, labor migration within similar low-income countries might imply much lower remittances. Migrants to rural areas in the developing world might also suffer of higher job insecurity and vulnerability to abuses (IFAD 2008). Despite this, remittances still make a large proportion of the GDP in many countries: they were 1/4 of the GDP of Haiti and 1/5 of that of Honduras, to mentions just two examples (United Nations 2018).

A second factor that has nuanced the migration, development, remittances connection is the increasing relevance of climate change and climate induced crisis in the developing world. Climate change, through specific crisis such as hurricanes or through long-term effects such as desertification and loss of agricultural land, has become a new driver of migration. Moreover, the possible expansion of uninhabitable areas in developing countries will likely affect return migration and the sending of remittances. As was discussed in the initial presentations of the

workshop, it has become central to frame the definitions of development within the notion of sustainable development.

A third factor is the demographic characteristics that are intrinsic to rural emigration or out-migration. While this is not new, compared to the sending region, rural migration is relatively younger, more educated, and gendered. All this has direct effect on remittances and development opportunities. Emigration by a somewhat specific group of people might influence the development and maintenance of connections with the sending region, the loss of specific type of labourers, increase in food insecurity, changes in care chains, and increase in the informal economy. These effects might also negatively influence the reception of remittances and the resilience of rural regions.

Finally, we need to consider the differences among migration drivers between rural and urban areas, and their changes in the current context of advanced globalization and climate crisis. As Dr. Florinda Rojas, Executive Director of the National Migration Institute, Dominican Republic stated during her presentation<sup>1</sup>, migration is increasingly induced by poverty, violence, food insecurity and other conditions prevalent in rural areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Rojas, Florinda. *Migración rural en América Latina y el Caribe*. July 2019, available at <https://gfmd.org/docs/ecuador-2019>. PowerPoint Presentation. [Spanish]

# CHALLENGES

This section describes some of the main challenges that participants mentioned during the course of their presentations. The challenges are listed in order of the agenda of the sessions.

## DAY 1

### Session: Rural migration and development: Setting the scene

- **Rethinking the nexus between rural migrants and their communities**

Dr. Manuel Orozco (Director of the Migration Programme on Remittances and Development for the Inter-American Dialogue) and David Khoudour (UNDP, Colombia) expanded upon the positive role migration can play in development. While nearly 40% of migrants are rural; they should not be ignored or assumed to have exited their native communities and fled their homelands. Rather, the speakers noted that migrants are a powerful group, whose collective strengths and economic successes can be used to benefit rural sending communities. Rethinking remittances, focusing on the integration of diasporic communities into the everyday life of rural hometowns, and supporting investment in those hometowns can drive development and security, reduce risk and lead to economic growth (private and public) that will be beneficial for all involved.

### Session: Rural migration trends in Latin America and the Caribbean

- **Drivers of rural emigration**

Dr. Rojas (Instituto Nacional de Migración, Dominican Republic) proposed that some of the biggest challenges arise from the specificities of the drivers of rural emigration. Populations in rural areas have a structural disadvantage of unequal opportunities compared to urban areas. Rural areas in this region have less access to quality employment, particularly among youth, access to public social services, higher poverty, food insecurity, as well as a diminishing access to agricultural land, and more negative effects of processes related to climate change. As an example, in the Dominican Republic, rural population went from being two thirds of the total population in the 1960s, to a bit less than half in the 1980s, to a quarter in 2010.

- **Lack of statistical data on internal and secondary movements**

Chile, as described by Ms. Contreras of the Office of Agricultural Planning (Ministry of Agriculture, Chile), has quickly become of the main migrant-receiving country in Latin America migration has increased from close to 140 thousand in 2002 to more than 1.3 million in 2018 (7% of the country's total population). Close to 70% of this migration is from countries within South America. Aside from being a net recipient of international migrants, Chile has a significant internal rural to urban migration, associated to reduction or lack of labour and cultural/educational opportunities for young people, use of new technologies in agricultural production, and climate change. At the same time, Ms. Contreras argued that there is also a significant lack of statistical data and information about internal migration flows, beyond what the decennial censuses provide. This implies that while it is known that most international immigrants reside in

urban areas, there is no information on rural to rural international migration or on secondary international migration from urban areas to rural areas.

- **Climate change**

Ms. Giulia Mancini Pinheiro (Focal Point for Central and South America, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth) presented a more macro perspective on the impact of climate change of migration trends and flows. Her quote from the IPCC Report of Climate Change and its Consequences summarises the main challenges that climate change brings to rural populations:

*“Changes in climate can amplify environmentally induced migration both within countries and across borders, reflecting multiple drivers of mobility and available adaptation measures. Extreme weather and climate or slow onset events may lead to increased displacement, disrupted food chains, threatened livelihoods, and contribute to exacerbated stresses for conflict” (IPCC 2019: 17).* In the Americas, in 2018 close to 1.7 Million people were displaced in the region due to natural disasters. These natural disasters not only included hurricanes, but also more extreme temperatures and droughts, and increase rainfall extremes.

## Session: Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development – Practical Examples

- **Different types of environmental disasters need different responses**

Dr. Annett Fleischer (GIZ Regional Coordinator, St. Lucia) described as slow-onset event—droughts and desertification, for example—and sudden-onset events—hurricanes presenting different challenges to governments. In the case of the first type of events, they produce a worsening of life conditions, which create a vicious circle of poverty, vulnerability to climate changes, and displacement. In the second case, people with higher income can escape temporarily, while poorer populations cannot.

## DAY 2

### Session: Public policies to mitigate the negative effects of rural migration

- **Employment in rural areas**

Round-table 5.1 on "Employment in rural areas" centred mostly on the obstacles regarding employment in the rural areas that affect development in general. The participants cited the following challenges:

- Distance from urban centres have led to these areas having less access to capital and infrastructure, while having at the same time large unused or underdeveloped agricultural territory.
- Remittances assist in replacing the lack of capital; however, there are also clear difficulties in channelling them for productive purposes.
- Demographic imbalances and changes.

- Migration from rural areas is composed of mainly young workers, reducing the available labour force in the rural communities, and increasing the median age of workers.
- In this context, remittances are likely used to assist ageing family members than developing new industries or production methods.

- **Health and education**

Round-table 5.2 on "Health and Education" identified several specific challenges that confront migrants and those who stay behind.

- Rural migrants and their sending families/communities face a lack of access to the opportunities (educational and health related for example) that are more common in urban settings.
- Hand in hand with a lack of access is the disinformation that can discourage rural migrants to invest in and support their communities.
- A lack of access to resources and support combine with disinformation in three important ways.
  - First, the lack of access to resources and support can encourage rural migration as movers "vote with their feet" and leave (Hirschman 1970);
  - Second, it limits return as migrants who might otherwise resettle assume there is little to return to.
  - Third, disinformation can also discourage investment and entrepreneurial activity as other players in rural development including governments and NGOs assume that the limits on growth, investment and opportunity are primordial and cannot be changed.
- A lack of state support for rural communities and limited labour opportunities exacerbates the challenges migrants face. It can limit the organisation and expansion of infrastructure into rural parts of a nation on one hand and it can instil discrimination on the other.
- In such setting, migrants are forced to make decisions that are limited by a lack of knowledge, and the assumption that the gap between rural and urban life cannot be bridged.

- **Climate Change**

Participants to Round-table 5.3 "Climate Change" cited the following, coinciding with others:

- Lack of resources. Reduced access to existent social services or response capacity in the case of climate related crises were described as problems.
  - Firstly, real or perceived saturation of services might produce xenophobia, while cultural and social differences between public servants providing the services and the communities, can also lead to discrimination.
  - Secondly, there are no resources or planning to deal with long-term displacement and long-term impacts of climate change.
- Planning and aid is usually concentrated in local population and not on immigrant population, increasing vulnerability of migrants.
- Finally, there is no consciousness that areas where displaced populations are displaced also need support to incorporate this population. Especially in the Caribbean, where space is limited due to geographical reasons.
- Emigrants who send remittances might feel dissuaded to do it due to lack of trust in governments, difficulties to participate in the political process, and unawareness of laws and policies related to their possible contributions.
- These complications reduce the availability of funds that could be used for local development.

- Returned migrants could also contribute to local development, however they are usually seen as foreigners, who are not connected to the population or culture.

## Public policies to increase the positive effects of rural migration

- **Access to the financial systems**

Participants in Round-table 6.1 "Access to Financial Systems" echoed many of the concerns identified in session 5.2 and added several more.

- Limited access to technology, banking, and challenges around opening an account or accessing financial support
- Assumptions about investment preferences focusing on consumption rather than growth

Combined with the high cost of remitting (costs associated with the transfer of funds) and investment capital, further limits rural investment by the state, NGOs and diaspora communities.

- **Relationship between migrants/ community of origin**

The Round-table 6.2 "Relationship between migrants/ community of origin" explored the specific challenges that accompanied rural migrants as they return to their home communities. Critical challenges identified for migrants include:

- The mistrust of the government
- The mistrust of other return migrants
- The inability of return migrants to reintegrate into their home communities limits the role they can play in development and policymaking.
- The loss of connections, which can become visceral when children are separated from their parents for example, are real and can lead to crises that block integration, reintegration and development.
- These challenges can extend to diaspora communities and limit migrants who are settled in points of destination from engaging with their home communities.

- **Entrepreneurship and investments in rural areas**

The challenges presented in Round-table 6.3 on "Entrepreneurship and Investments in rural areas" largely mirrored the concerns expressed by participants of roundtable 5.1 and 5.2.

- Most business created through remittances in the home country end up as part of the informal economy.
- Lack of access to financial services, infrastructure, and education, rural cultures and "mindsets".
- Gendered characteristics of rural agricultural work negatively influence the possible development of local entrepreneurship.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Rethinking migration as a positive process and approaching remittances as drivers of development opens opportunities for sustainability, capacity building, investment, and rethinking the outcomes of mobility. Participants to the regional roundtable highlighted many positive examples and opportunities that have been already implemented or are within the grasp of governments and other stakeholders in migration.

### DAY 1

#### Session: Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development – Practical Examples

The positive opportunities that rural migration holds were highlighted in Session 3 "Harnessing Migration for Rural Transformation and Development" through five presentations that celebrated the opportunities rural migration holds particularly as it is integrated into national development goals (Szabo, Adger & Matthews 2018).

- Ms. Stacey Clarke Callum (Programme Director, Planning Institute, Jamaica) enumerated several important benefits that range from creating a framework for sustainability to effectively building capacity as she described the multi-stakeholder approach taken by the Jamaican government when creating the National Policy on International Migration and Development<sup>2</sup> led by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT);
- Ms. Daniela Celleri Endara, Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies of Ecuador, argued we must engage youth in home countries and create programmes that will support their successes in business;
- Ms. Annette Fleiser, Advisor at German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) built upon this message arguing for a regional approach to development that is founded upon sustained cross-national communication, international dialogue and community involvement;
- The possibilities of such a process were detailed by Mr. Luis Arturo Cotes Rosas, Deputy Director of Research, Ministry of the Interior, Mexico in the description of "Tres por Uno" programme, where the Government matches remittances to support local investment and foster rural growth<sup>3</sup>;
- Reaching beyond the local opportunities that come when the dialogue around migration is reset, Ms. Angela Librado-Trinidad, Labour Attaché, Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C. noted the many ways that the Philippines has organised programmes to support migration and remittance practices. She ended the session noting that state engagement creates an opportunity to welcome migrants home, to foster rural development and to enhance human rights, all of which are critical for the sustainable and rights-based governance and management of migration.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/10206>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gfmd.org/pfp/ppd/24>

## DAY 2

Round-tables 5.2, 6.1 and 6.2 focused on building rural capacity, engagement, labour and educational opportunities that are driven by migrants and non-migrants who become agents of change and forces for sustainable development. Opportunities have been grouped together by theme as there were many that overlapped across several roundtables.

- **Building Partnerships**

Critical to this process is linking the state with key stakeholders to foster horizontal integration and support by integrating rural and diaspora communities to leverage and build upon their shared strength as problem solvers to create success.

- These successes can be financial as partnerships emerge and take the form of hometown associations that link the resources of large financial institutions with local populations.
- Strengthening these partnerships will reduce migration costs and build trust as hometown association mediate between the state and the local community.
- Working together reduces the ambivalence that often challenges migrants and rural populations. It also synergises success as rural populations use social media to target locals as well as diaspora communities and facilitate future growth for further information, see OECD 2017).

- **Remittances**

The most direct opportunity of emigration in rural areas is, despite the challenges, the availability of remittances both financial and social.

- There is agreement among the participants of the workshop that remittances can help bring new skills and experiences, assist in the development of technical training institutions, connect migrants to communities, and support and overall jump-start rural areas.
- Participants in Round-tables 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 also stated that remittances provided the state—national, state, or local—the opportunity to engage more directly in the development of specific improvements to rural areas. Some examples include:
  - The development of assistance to formalize migrant's entrepreneurship, improve access to financial planning, participating in loans—using state as collateral, for example—and increase access to banking related technology with or without the partnership of financial institutions. Traditional financial institutions are mentioned as an important part, but also cooperative and credit union systems as institutions based in collective trust.
  - Finally, is relevant to mention that some participants propose, as an opportunity, the “strengthening” of traditional systems and reducing remittance costs, the latter in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal target 10.c, thus is one that governments should be more adept to undertaking.

- **Governments and emigrants**

- Aside from devising and implementing development programmes focusing on remittances, participants of Round-table 6.2 saw in this context of emigration and development an opportunity for governments to engage with its nationals abroad, reconstructing feelings of national belonging and national identity to avoid stirring criticism from their populations abroad who might feel targeted purely because the possibility of financial gains.
  - Promoting diaspora bonds, diaspora tourism, programmes like Mexico's 3x1 or “Colombia nos une” are examples of good practices in this direction.

- **Adaptation strategies to climate change**

Focusing on effects of global climate change in rural development, participants of Round-table 5.3 and others presented a series of opportunities that could enhance development.

- At the local level, desertification, changes in local crops, and more extreme weather could be used as an incentive for rural population to explore new ways of working the land, including climate smart agriculture, the production of non-traditional products, or greenhouses, among others. These “new” forms of agricultural work would benefit as well from the development of seed bank community programmes the establishment of cooperatives to increase competitiveness.
- Another opportunity is for small island states and least developed countries to collaborate in confronting shared problems. Desalinization, recycling, waste management, strengthening emergency management regional institutions, can be expensive for small states. Collective work can create “economies of scale” making these initiatives more cost-effective.
- Finally, in preparation for the impact of climate change governments must develop partnerships between public and private agencies. Also important is to include the private sector in the planning and implementation of programmes to adapt to climate change.
  - An example of possible partnerships is the creation of educational programmes that focus on climate change, the retraining of displaced populations—fishing communities, for example—and the development of adequate technological responses.

## PROPOSED MEASURES (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

- Overall, participants underlined the individual agency and self-reliance of migrants. The role for states, international organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders should foster the opportunities that rural migration can bring for development by focusing on training, coaching and guidance. Engaging and integrating rural populations, migrants and diaspora communities into policy can foster growth, setting pathways to success may energise migrants and local populations alike.
- To foster growth, engage rural communities and migration as a part of the solution means rethinking how to channel investment. Incentivising these programmes and rewarding best practices would be essential as state channel investments to rural communities and build opportunities for migrants to return. Some possibilities include:
  - The founding of community funds (*Consejos comunales* in Venezuela for example) that are organized to match state and local leadership and develop long-range plans for growth. Establishing these programmes can expedite access to state funds and programmes.
  - Defining and celebrating specially trained educators (in Mexico, *promotores*) to facilitate programming can build local capacity and move agrarian homesteads into the economic mainstream.
  - Formal partnerships between financial institutions (including remittance services) and local communities can further foster inclusion. The keys to success in each instance is trust and transparency. Local communities need to trust their partners, and everyone involved needs to have faith in the project, its policy implications and outcomes.
- The development of new policies is central to government adaptation to climate change, its impact on migration from and to rural areas, and enhancing development. Nevertheless, participants of the roundtables mentioned a significant number of good practices that were already in place throughout the countries represented.
- Collaboration and sharing lessons learned between governments is at the core of existing and desired good practices.
- A need for further development of integration policies was identified.
- Migrants should be included in national disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies. This idea recognises and values the fact that immigrants do have a positive effect on local development and that they are victims, as well, when a climate related crisis occurs.
- A policy recommendation that connects to this idea is increasing the visibility of immigrants and mainstreaming migration across government. This implies incorporating migrants and migration as an important component of any and every policy developed.

## LIST OF PRACTICES (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

- **Remittances**

Successful programmes to integrate migrants and energise remittances in Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines, Ecuador, and beyond are built upon trust, transparency and a shared commitment to growth. Best practices include policy reforms that strengthen bonds between rural communities and the state, regularise migration and recognise migrants as active drivers of change and growth. They recognise and build upon traditional systems, local practice and local values to create opportunities for growth.

- **Financial access**

The microfinancing system championed by Grameen bank offers a framework founded in mutual trust and accountability. Rather than a need for collateral, an emphasis on rurally based, cooperative banking reverses conventional practices and sows the seeds for future successes that are based upon local practices. Investing in infrastructure, increasing broadband, internet services and the reach of health and educational technology, these programmes foster teamwork and aim to mitigate the rural-urban divides that drive migration.

- **Education and health**

Rural populations need access, and the increased distribution of services, education and healthcare create security where uncertainty too often is the norm. Combined with training programmes, awareness campaigns, hometown associations and “road shows,” the state and partner institutions can introduce new opportunities to rural communities that will foster growth and development (Orozco & Garcia-Zanello 2009). In the short term, migration may increase as rural populations gain the resources they need to succeed; however, over the long term, migration should in fact decline as success seed growth, create opportunities and led to security. These programmes also build citizens, connects populations and reduces discrimination (cultural, economic and otherwise).

- **Relationship between migrants and communities of origin**

Incentivising programming and policies to encourage investments in rural areas and for returning migrants builds support, a sense of value and belonging. Creating “Diaspora Advisory Board,” tourism programmes for returning migrants and their children is an investment that can promote identity and encourage affinity to country of origin. The development of diaspora bonds and reintegration programmes further minimise reverse culture shock. Bonds and reintegration programmes validate the hard work that migrants often do, formalises remittances as important engines for change and celebrates their return to their native home communities as certified agents for future. These programmes also help to close the skills gap between rural and urban centres and celebrate the strengths returning migrants bring to their home communities.

- **Entrepreneurship and investments in rural areas**

A second set of good practices mentioned have to do with the need to decentralise national governments and provide resources for communities to participate directly of

their development. Central to this idea is the promotion of awareness on the role communities play in local development programmes and the negative impacts of climate change. Communities should install community funds (as in the case of Venezuela) or cooperatives to have share ownership of development proposals. Local communities are likely a better conduct for interacting with hometown association, as there is a shared sense of identity. These interactions can institutionalise livelihood programmes at the community level to support the families left behind. This idea is at the core of Mexico's 3x1 programme. Coincidentally, programmes like this can moderate emigration propensities, by reducing the relative poverty of families left behind and who do not have members in the diaspora. Even though migration data shows a significant feminisation of certain migration flows, in many communities women are the ones left behind to care for other family members and to work in the land. Programmes like the Grameen bank and Banco Mujeres in several Latin American countries serve as financing opportunities to enhance local development through the promotion of local entrepreneurship programmes and providing seed capital to start up projects. Participants propose policies that promote community empowerment and the establishment of cooperatives to boost competitiveness as suggestions for the decentralization of national governments. Related to these good practices is the suggestion that governments and/or communities should promote education and awareness programmes in areas that directly benefit local population. Examples of programmes are financial literacy—in particular related to receiving remittances, climate change, and new technologies.

- **Relationship between governments and diaspora communities**

A third set of good practices and policy recommendations are about the relationship that governments should develop with Diasporas. Recognising the importance of the diaspora and their networks with non-migrants in development opportunities is a core component of policy that originates from governments. This recognition includes an increasing participation of emigrants in every day actions of governments.

- An important first recommendation in this regard, is to incorporate migration or /diaspora policies in existing and future national development plans. Not as passive actors, but also in the development of such policies.
  - Jamaica, for example, has developed a Diaspora Advisory Board, composed of representatives in countries of destination who advise the Government of issues faced by nationals overseas.
- A second recommendation is to reduce the red tape and lack of information that exists on investment and remittance opportunity in the home country. Participants commented on cases where diaspora philanthropy (the creation of a library in a rural area) was curtailed by existing taxes on the importation of books.
- A third recommendation would be to create positive connections with migrants that are returning for short and for long term. Examples of these policies for return migrants are reintegration programmes to minimise reverse culture shock, facilitate the validation of educational qualifications, or creating special allowances for those who return home—countries within Latin America do have tax free importation of used goods for nationals that have lived a significant period abroad.

- For short-term return migrants, a good practice and policy recommendation is the promotion of diaspora tourism consisting in packages to promote return and encourage identity/affinity to country of origin. As mentioned above, promoting national identity abroad can influence positively the sending of remittances and other emigrant investment.
- Lastly, governments must be proactive in redirecting direct investments from the diaspora to promote investments in rural communities and on using social remittances for knowledge transfer. Tapping into knowledge and expertise abroad can help in the correct development and application of most—if not all—the previous policies and opportunities mentioned.

## CONCLUSIONS

Mr. Easton Williams (Senior Director, Social Policy Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica) offered seven proposals<sup>4</sup> that define a pathway to the future and that emphasize the role migrants can play in development and as we confront xenophobia and intolerance. Dialogue between and among migrants and local populations, building toward sustainable futures will create a framework for success.

It is important, as well, to address the fact migrants from and to rural areas are working in vulnerable and precarious conditions, as Easton Williams stated during his intervention. Governments, thus, should promote effective immigrant participation and integration to the host society, as well as their regularisation, all in a gender sensitive manner. This would significantly aid in the protection of migrants' rights.

Central to policy development and implementation is the need to have accurate and reliable data on migration trends and flows, as well as their impact on communities of origin and destination. In his intervention, Mr. Williams argued that migration data systems are scant and not significantly used for planning and development, especially for rural development. Governments should “strengthen and /or establish” data collection systems particularly for rural areas and circular migration flows, seasonal migration and short-term labour migration. Improving data collection and analysis for the benefit of more adequate migration policies is the first of the objectives of the 2018 Global Compact on Migration for a Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Data gathering and research on living conditions can assist in the objective of developing policy coherence at all levels. Policies need to be articulated and differentiated clearly to avoid ambiguity, especially considering the need to incorporate migration and development planning at all policy levels.

Ms. Fabrian from the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva discussed six proposals, emphasising migration as an individual choice and describing rural environments as places of economic opportunity. Both panellists highlighted the role of international cooperation and policy coherence in harnessing migration for rural transformation and development.

Participants coincided on the importance of promoting sustainable developments in rural areas as a way of decreasing vulnerability; increase opportunities for all community members, and achieving “peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future”. While not described as such in the 2030 Agenda, achieving this objective also would decrease emigration as a need, and leave emigration as a choice (see Piper 2016).

Finally, it was acknowledged that the challenges posed by migration cannot be faced by one country or state in isolation and that the sharing of good practices and regional collaboration among governmental official is important for good policy development.

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<sup>4</sup> Available on the GFMD website <https://gfmd.org/docs/ecuador-2019>

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# ANNEX I. AGENDA

## Agenda

### Day 1 – Wednesday 14 August 2019

08:30 - 09:00 Registration of participants

09:00 - 09:30 **Opening session**

- *Ms. Marcia Gilbert-Roberts*, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica
- *Ambassador Santiago Chávez Pareja*, Vice Minister, Ministry of External Relations and Human Mobility of Ecuador and Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (via video message)
- *Mr. Sagoh Djete*, Attaché, Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands
- *Mr. Oleg Chirita*, Head of Programme, Global Initiatives, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

09:30 - 10:00 **Introduction by Co-Chairs to the GFMD Roundtable 3.2**

- *Mr. Easton Williams*, Senior Director of Social Policy, Planning and Research, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- *Ms. Dira T. Fabrian*, Second Secretary, Political Affairs, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva

10:00 - 10:45 Pause and group picture

10:45 - 12:00 **Session 1 – Rural migration and development: Setting the scene**

Moderator: *Mr. Oleg Chirita*, Head of Programme, Global Initiatives, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

Keynotes:

- *Mr. Manuel Orozco*, Director, Migration, Remittances and Development Programme, Inter-American Dialogue
- *Mr. David Khoudour*, Advisor for Migration and Development, United Nations Development Programme, Colombia

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 **Session 2 – Rural migration trends in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Moderator: Mr. Cristián Doña-Reveco, Associate Professor of Sociology, Director, Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS), University of Nebraska at Omaha

Panellists:

- Ms. Florinda Rojas Rodriguez, Executive Director, National Migration Institute of the Dominican Republic
- Ms. Giulia Manccini Pinheiro, Focal Point for Central and South America, United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
- Ms. Paulina Contreras Hurtado, Migration Officer at the Department of Rural Development, Office of Agrarian Studies and Policies (ODEPA), Ministry of Agriculture of Chile

15:00 - 15:30 Pause

15:30 - 17:00 **Session 3 – Harnessing migration for rural transformation and development – Practical Examples**

Moderator: Mr. Jeffrey Cohen, Professor of Anthropology, Ohio State University

Panellists:

- Ms. Stacey Clarke Callum, Programme Director, Civil Registration and Migration Social Policy, Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Ms. Daniela Celleri Endara, Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies of Ecuador
- Ms. Annett Fleischer, Advisor at German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Saint Lucia Office
- Mr. Luis Arturo Cortés Rosas, Deputy Director of Investigation, Centre for Migration Studies, Secretariat of the Interior of Mexico
- Ms. Angela Librado-Trinidad, Labour Attaché, Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C.

**Day 2 – Thursday 15 August 2019**

09:00 - 09:30 **Summary Day 1**

09:30 - 11:00 **Session 5 – Public policies to mitigate the negative effects of rural migration – Group Work**

**Session 5.1  
Employment in  
rural areas**

**Session 5.2  
Health and  
education**

**Session 5.3  
Climate change**

11:00 - 11:30 Pause

11:30 - 12:15 **Presentation of the reports of the sessions 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3**

12:15 - 13:45 Lunch

13:45 - 15:15 **Session 6 – Public policies to increase the positive effects of rural migration – Group Work**

**Session 6.1  
Access to the  
financial system**

**Session 6.2  
Relationship mig-  
rants/ community  
of origin**

**Session 6.3  
Entrepreneurship  
and Investments in  
rural areas**

15:15 - 15:45 Pause

15:45 - 16:30 **Presentation of the reports of the sessions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3**

16:30 - 16:45 **Session 7 – Proposal for the GFMD Summit (by Co-Chairs of RT 3.2.)**

*Mr. Easton Williams, Senior Director of Social Policy, Planning and Research, Planning Institute of Jamaica*

*Ms. Dira T. Fabrian, Second Secretary, Political Affairs, Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva*

16:45 - 17:00 **Conclusions and next steps**

## ANNEX II. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| N°  | SURNAME            | NAME           | INSTITUTION   | POSITION   |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1.  | ARSCOTT            | Maria Fernanda | Embassy of Argentina in Jamaica   |  |
| 2.  | BARRETTO           | Clelia         | Consulate of Ecuador in Jamaica   | Honorary Consul  |
| 3.  | BARROW             | Rolando        | Embassy of Panama in Jamaica  | Deputy Chief of mission  |
| 4.  | BLACKMAN           | Chad           | Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations in Geneva                       | Ambassador   |
| 5.  | BOUTIN             | Max            | Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations in Geneva                          | Counsellor   |
| 6.  | BOWEN-MCCULSKIE    | Alicia         |   |  |
| 7.  | BROOKS             | Candace Nicole | High Commission of Canada in Jamaica - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | Counsellor and Migration Programme Manager   |
| 8.  | BROWN              | Marcia         | Planning Institute of Jamaica   | Project Associate in the Civil Registration and Migration Policy Project Unit<br>Social Policy, Planning and Research Division |
| 9.  | BROWN              | Rukiya         | International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Jamaica                            | Programme Coordinator  |
| 10. | CARDENAL DEL PERAL | Maria          | ICMPD Brussels Office – MIEUX   | Project Assistant  |
| 11. | CASTRO ARTEAGA     | Santiago Ivan  | RAFALEX Association – Ecuador   | President  |

| N°  | SURNAME           | NAME        | INSTITUTION   | POSITION   |
|-----|-------------------|-------------|---|--|
| 12. | CELLERI ENDARA    | Daniela     | National Institute of Advanced Studies of Ecuador   | Associate Professor                                      |
| 13. | CHIRITA           | Oleg        | ICMPD Brussels Office – MIEUX   | Head of Programme, Global Initiatives                    |
| 14. | CLARKE-CALLUM     | Stacey Ann  | Planning Institute of Jamaica   | Programme Director                                       |
| 15. | COHEN             | Jeffrey     | Ohio State University – United States of America  | Professor of Anthropology – MIEUX Expert                 |
| 16. | CONTRERAS HURTADO | Paulina     | Ministry of Agriculture of Chile - Office of Agrarian Studies and Policies (ODEPA)  | Migration Officer at the Department of Rural Development |
| 17. | CORTES ROSAS      | Luis Arturo | Ministry of the Interior of Mexico - Migration Policy, Registration and Identity Unit   | Deputy Director of Research                              |
| 18. | COY               | Deidra      | Planning Institute of Jamaica   | Labour Market Specialist                                 |
| 19. | DAVIDSON          | Gwyneth     | Planning Institute of Jamaica   | Communication Specialist                                 |
| 20. | DETERVILLE        | Apral       | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives of Saint Lucia - Corporate Planning Unit | Agricultural Officer                                     |
| 21. | DIXON-SINCLAIR    | Sophia      | Ministry of Labour & Social Security of Jamaica   | Welfare Officer for the Overseas Employment programme    |

| Nº  | SURNAME         | NAME     | INSTITUTION  | POSITION  |
|-----|-----------------|----------|--|---|
| 22. | DJETE           | Sagoh    | Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands      | Attaché   |
| 23. | DOÑA REVECO     | Cristián | University of Nebraska at Omaha – United States of America   | Director of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) – MIEUX Expert  |
| 24. | DURAND          | Yoshabel | Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)  | Programme Officer for the Human and Social Cluster  |
| 25. | EDWARDS         | Alistair | Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement of Saint Kitts and Nevis | Permanent Secretary   |
| 26. | FABRIAN         | Dira     | Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations, in Geneva  | Second Secretary, Political Affairs   |
| 27. | FERGUSON        | Donald   |  |   |
| 28. | FLEISCHER       | Annett   | German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) – Saint Lucia  | Advisor to the Global Programme on sustainable management of human mobility in the context of climate change & NDC Assistance |
| 29. | FRANCIS         | Andrew   | Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade of Jamaica   | Foreign Service Officer in Economic Affairs Department  |
| 30. | GILBERT-ROBERTS | Marcia   | Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade of Jamaica   | Permanent Secretary   |

| N°  | SURNAME           | NAME          | INSTITUTION   | POSITION  |
|-----|-------------------|---------------|---|---|
| 31. | INOJOSA ROLDAN    | Pablo Augusto | Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela   | Official in the General Directorate of the Bureau of Consular Relations and its Directorate of Human Mobility |
| 32. | IZQUIERDO DEL CID | Lucia         | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala - Directorate of Cooperation, Projects and Trusts    | Director  |
| 33. | JONHSON           | Jovan         | Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands | Press and Information Officer   |
| 34. | KHOUDOUR          | David         | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Colombia  | Advisor for Migration and Development   |
| 35. | LAMONTH           | Marlene       | Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands | Project Manager   |
| 36. | LEMA              | Lizeth        | International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Ecuador  | Program Officer   |
| 37. | LIBRADO-TRINIDAD  | Angela        | Overseas Labor Office (POLO) of the Philippines in Washington DC  | Labor Attaché   |
| 38. | LIEUW-A-SOE       | Tania         | Ministry Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of Suriname  | Policy Advisor  |

| Nº  | SURNAME           | NAME         | INSTITUTION  | POSITION  |
|-----|-------------------|--------------|--|---|
| 39. | LIVERMORE         | Keisha       | International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Jamaica       | Head of Office  |
| 40. | LOVO CASTILLO     | Walkiri      | Institute of Agricultural Technology of Nicaragua              | Rural Development Technician  |
| 41. | MANCCINI PINHEIRO | Giulia       | United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)     | European Focal Point for the Migration Group                                  |
| 42. | MORA PRADO        | Luis Gabriel | Unbound Foundation – Costa Rica                                | Programs Manager  |
| 43. | NOGUERA           | Sara Mía     | Organisation of American States (OAS)                          | Section Chief - Equity Promotion, Department of Social Inclusion              |
| 44. | OROZCO            | Manuel       | Inter-American Dialogue – United States of America             | Director of the Migration, Remittances and Development Program – MIEUX Expert |
| 45. | ORTEZ GONZÁLEZ    | Miguel Ángel | General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners of Nicaragua   | Deputy Director of the Border Directorate                                     |
| 46. | PINDER            | Andrew       | Department of Agriculture of Bahamas                           | Manager and Senior Agriculture Officer  |
| 47. | QUESADA ZAMORA    | Roxana       | General Directorate of Migration and Immigration of Costa Rica | Director of the Integration and Human Development Division                    |
| 48. | RICHARDS          | André        | Planning Institute of Jamaica                                  | Senior Demographer, Population and Health Unit                                |
| 49. | RICKETTS          | Roxine       | Planning Institute of Jamaica                                  | Demographer   |
| 50. | RODRÍGUEZ DURÁN   | Edgar Andrés | Embassy of Colombia in Jamaica                                 | Deputy Head of Mission  |

| Nº  | SURNAME            | NAME         | INSTITUTION  | POSITION  |
|-----|--------------------|--------------|--|---|
| 51. | ROJAS RODRÍGUEZ    | Florinda     | National Institute of Migration of the Dominican Republic      | Executive Director  |
| 52. | ROMERO SALAZAR     | Lilibeth     | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador      | Coordination Team of the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development - Quito Unit  |
| 53. | RUSSELL            | Chenee       | Ministry of Justice of Jamaica                                 | Manager, Trafficking in Persons Secretariat   |
| 54. | SÁNCHEZ VEGA       | José Antonio | Embassy of Venezuela in Jamaica                                | First secretary   |
| 55. | SAVORY             | Stéphanie    | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana                          | Foreign Affairs Officer of the Bilateral Affairs Department                                   |
| 56. | TINCOSO GAONA      | Victor Raúl  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru                            | Coordinator of the Direction of Protection and Assistance to Citizens                         |
| 57. | TORRES ZAPATA      | Nelson       | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador      | Deputy Coordinator of the Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development - Quito Unit |
| 58. | URUEÑA PALACIO     | Patricio     | Embassy of Argentina in Jamaica                                | Consul  |
| 59. | VAN GLAANENWEYGEL  | Jeanelle     | Organisation of American States (OAS)                          | OAS Representative in Jamaica   |
| 60. | WILLIAMS           | Easton       | Planning Institute of Jamaica                                  | Senior Director of the Social Policy Planning and Research Division                           |
| 61. | WOEGER             | Alfred       | ICMPD Brussels Office – MIEUX                                  | Project Manager   |
| 62. | WYNTER             | Andrew       | Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency of Jamaica (PICA) | Chief Executive Director  |
| 63. | ZORRILLA-FERNANDEZ | Laura        | ICMPD Brussels Office – MIEUX                                  | Knowledge Management and Communications Officer   |



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