



GENERAL REPORT ON ROUNDTABLE 3

*by Mr. Richard Manning,
Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC)*

Dear Chair, Excellencies, ...

Migration and development have long constituted separate and largely independent policy fields, often with divergent goals. Enhancing policy coherence in the fields of migration and development – which was the subject of the third Roundtable of this meeting – requires that development policy-makers recognize the effect of migration on achieving desired development outcomes – including the UN Millennium Development Goals – and that migration policy-makers understand and consider the development impacts of migration policies. This applies to policy-makers in both developed and developing countries,

However achieving policy coherence between migration and development is by no means a simple task.

- It requires, at all levels, strong political commitment and shared responsibilities, as well as formal institutionalised frameworks for cooperation and informal consultative processes.
- It also implies further research and strengthened evidence, credible impact assessment as well as a concerted effort of capacity building.

As you know, there were three Roundtable sessions, chaired by Finland, Sweden and Ireland. I should like to thank the Chairs and Rapporteurs for facilitating my reporting task.

Here is my 10 minute summary of the some of the key findings and proposals for action from nine hours of discussion.

The main findings of Roundtable 3 could be summarised as follows:

- There is a big job to do to get good policy-oriented research done and made easily available to policy-makers. The basic statistics are themselves far from adequate, though some useful initiatives are in train. More work needs to be done on conceptual tools.
- Reflecting the variety of country circumstances and development strategies, a wide variety of potential research priorities were sketched out, from social aspects to the propensity to emigrate and, indeed, to return in later years.
- A clearer view is needed of what donors need to do differently.
- Better coordination, sharing and dissemination of research and of country experiences were needed.

- Similarly, better information should be made available to migrants both before they leave their country of origin and when they arrive in the country of destination.
- Participants recognised that there were both synergies and tensions between development and migration related policies
- All agreed that there was a need to improve policy coherence in the fields of migration and development, without “instrumentalising” or subordinating either policy. How this is done needs to reflect the circumstances of each country
- A systematic approach should be adopted for integrating migration in frameworks for planning at the country level, for instance in poverty reduction strategies, and in operational activities including the human dimension of migration. This should be done in consultation with civil society including diaspora.
- Institutional capacity, including mechanisms for cooperation and systematic dialogue, will to a large extent define how well a country can create coherence between the roles of various ministries and agencies engaged in migration and development-related issues.
- Promoting coherence between these policies requires therefore a substantial rethinking of existing institutional set-ups to address the current, common segmentation across ministries, institutions and organizations.
- Adequate staff, financial and other resources are also necessary preconditions for migration and development policies to be made more coherent, as are mechanisms and instruments to measure progress and identify obstacles to policy coherence.
- The role of regional consultative processes in enhancing the contribution of migration to development was recognised and needs to be strengthened and supported
- Closer linkages between RCPs and formal state processes, without losing the informal, non-binding, and information-sharing characteristics of RCPs must be encouraged
- RCPs are not substitutes for formal state processes but they do provide an important complementary mechanism to enhance and facilitate interstate cooperation
- Participants supported the establishment of RCPs where they do not exist but noted that these are state-led processes and that any decisions regarding RCPs need to be taken by participating states

As to the main concrete recommendations and proposals for Roundtable 3, they could be summarised as follows:

- *States are invited to support* initiatives aiming at gathering policy-relevant data on the migration and development nexus (by gender, age, skill level, region etc.) and at making analytical information and knowledge available for use by policy-makers. This requires strengthening partnerships between the official sector and other stakeholders.
- Capacity building is needed both for Southern research institutions and for more effective systems for monitoring migrant flows to and from developing countries and for better policy planning.

The Forum is invited to consider the case for:

- A) a meeting between researchers, civil society and official policy-makers from both migration and development communities to assess research priorities
- B) a brief report, to be available for the Manila meeting, on key policy lessons from existing research.

- *States are invited to ensure* political commitment and shared responsibility for promoting policy coherence and putting into effect

- *States are invited to establish* formal and informal mechanisms, adequately resourced, to enable those responsible for migration and development policies in relevant ministries, departments and/or agencies to communicate and consult with one another on ways to promote synergies between their respective policies and decisions.

- *The Forum is invited to consider* setting up a working group to look at good practice and lessons to be learned in promoting policy coherence within Governments, building on the questionnaire completed this year.
- The creation of a focal point specifically for the GFMD has contributed to improved policy consultations on migration and development within many countries. *In order to facilitate further dialogue, States are invited to maintain and reinforce* such focal points.

- *States are invited to include* migration in national planning processes, including where relevant Poverty Reduction Strategies, in order to facilitate the use of development cooperation to support the developmental potential of migration.

- *States are invited to provide* ongoing capacity building and funding support for Regional Consultative Processes

- *States are invited to encourage* the participation of development actors in RCPs.

- *States are invited to facilitate* dialogue and information exchange – either formally or informally – between the RCPs most concerned with migration and development in a more systematic way.

- *States are invited to promote* more systematic evaluation of RCPs’ achievements and impacts in order to enhance the contribution of RCPs to managing migration for development

A sustainable two-way information flow between RCPs and the GFMD could be encouraged, for example:

- by undertaking regular surveys of RCPs from a migration and development perspective.
- by creating a network of GFMD focal points in different RCPs to support this exchange.

Thank you.