

**Fourth Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of  
Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs)**

***Break-out Groups: Preparing for the 4 Roundtables of the 2<sup>nd</sup> HLD***  
**Group III: Multi-stakeholder Coherence and Cooperation**

**1) Background and context<sup>1</sup>**

Terms such as ‘coherence’ and ‘partnerships’ are often used in the policy discourse on international migration and development with different meanings. To provide a common starting-point for discussion and debate at the (HLD) round table, this paper distinguishes four concepts: Coherence is defined here as the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions. Consultation is the process of seeking input from relevant actors in order to achieve greater transparency and efficiency. Coordination refers to organizing different institutions towards the achievement of a common goal. Cooperation is the process of working together. Unified, coherence, consultation, coordination, and cooperation are essential for effective migration management, and for integrating migration and development meaningfully, especially against the backdrop of the changing character of contemporary international migration. (...)

Consultation is important for more effective migration and development policies first because the range of stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in the process extends well beyond government; second because it is good practice to consult those who are likely to be impacted by policy; and third because consultation is one way to ensure ownership and legitimacy. In the migration-development context particular attention has been paid to consulting with the private sector and civil society. Challenges consulting with the private sector include a concern on the part of business leaders that they may experience a public backlash for supporting migration, that they may lack influence among policy-makers and because policy-makers may be unwilling to accept their recommendations. Challenges consulting with civil society include: identifying legitimate representatives, achieving consensus between differing opinions, and developing appropriate forums for consultation. (...)

International migration is a multi-sector issue. Ministries such as justice, home affairs, labour, employment, health, trade, development, social welfare, housing and education may include migration-and integration-related issues in their wider portfolios. At the same time coordination is required at all levels – national, regional, and local. At the national level, institutional arrangements for coordination between relevant ministries vary widely, and there is no clear evidence on whether one model is most effective. One way to support greater coordination on migration and development is to provide a better evidence-based data such as through Migration Profiles. International organizations and initiatives also provide technical advice and expertise on cooperation on migration and development. (...)

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<sup>1</sup> The following section consists of excerpts from the background paper drafted to support round tables organized to help prepare Permanent Missions at United Nations (UN) Headquarters for the 3-4 October 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The complete version of this paper is available at [http://unobserver.iom.int/images/HLD\\_2013\\_Series\\_-\\_23\\_April\\_-\\_Background\\_Paper.pdf](http://unobserver.iom.int/images/HLD_2013_Series_-_23_April_-_Background_Paper.pdf).

There has been increasing cooperation between states on international migration and development at the bilateral and regional levels. At the bilateral level there is a plethora of labour mobility agreements, and clear guidelines on good practice. The European Union (EU) Global Approach to Migration is an example of a set of partnerships between a region and individual non-EU states, with a number of concrete activities targeted on migration and development. Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCPs) also increasingly include migration and development on their agendas, as do Regional Economic Communities. Common principles for effective cooperation on migration and development include: country ownership and leadership through an integrated approach; genuine partnership; result orientation; consideration of migration in relation to peace, security, development and human rights; equity; voice and representation; and a balanced role for the State and market considerations.

## **2) Guiding questions**

- a) *Does your RCP engage civil society organizations and/or private sector entities in some of its deliberations? If so, what are the modalities of this engagement and what do you consider as potential challenges that can/do accrue from such engagement?*
- b) *What mechanisms are in place to coordinate participation at the national level for your respective RCP meetings? To what extent does this pre-RCP meeting coordination take an all-of-government approach?*