IDM Session 4

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I have been asked to introduce this session which focuses on addressing needs of national actors and promoting solutions. In line with the theme of this session, I will focus my intervention on the need to ensure the participation of a wide range of actors operating at different levels of governance for the delivery of efficient and sustainable capacity development in the field of migration. I will also argue that capacity development on migration needs a common narrative to connect the many threads related to migration and that the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development should be this joint framework. I will at that point present a specific capacity development material developed by IOM which has been designed to that effect.

All the points I will make in my presentation are made to inform the set-up of the capacity-building mechanism (CBM) foreseen in support to the efforts of the Member States for the implementation of the GCM.

1. Connecting capacity development with policy coherence on migration

Migration outcomes depend on the intended or unintended interactions between migration policies and other sectoral policies such as housing, development, trade, health or agriculture. Capacity development in migration therefore needs to clearly emphasize the importance of securing a whole of government approach that considers how other policies affect and are affected by migration and what sectors and actors need to be mobilized. Training government officials should frame migration as a cross-cutting issue and provide them with a broad understanding of migration across different sectors. This is what has been achieved in the context of the joint IOM UNDP programme on policy coherence in migration and development which has relied on a strong capacity development component, whereby joint training of government officials coming from different line ministries has facilitated joined up policy making on migration.

Another dimension related to the whole of government approach is the need to include cities and local and regional authorities in capacity development on migration. The key role of LRAs has been duly recognized in the New Urban Agenda and is enshrined in SDG 11 on resilent cities. The local level – where the development impact of migration is most profoundly felt – is crucial for comprehensively addressing the challenges and opportunities related to migration. These dynamics are mediated by cities and local and regional actors on the ground, who find themselves at the forefront of providing services to migrants and their families and to communities. Needs for capacity development of local levels of governance are enormous in a context where migration is still largely perceived as a national level prerogative.

Upon bringing in the local dimension on capacity development on migration, vertical policy cohrence between national and sub-national authorities through the promotion of coordination mechanisms should be an important component. Specific capacity development tools have been developed in the context of the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), and specifically a toolbox for local decision makers on migration management whereby over 6,000 local stakeholders have been trained so far. The organization of joint capacity development activities bringing together local and national government officials have proven to be very instrumental.

Along with a whole of governance approach, the participation of a wide range of actors is paramount. When talking about capacity development for migration governance it is important for states to include all relevant stakeholders, also in order to contribute to the implementation of the frameworks for migration governance. Actors like recruitment agencies who play an important role in contributing to fair and ethical recruitment, diaspora organizations or service providers for digital technology are crucial and should be captured in capacity development efforts.

The capacity-building mechanism (CBM) foreseen in support to the efforts of the Member States for the implementation of the GCM should therefore fully reflect the need for a whole of governance and whole of society approach. While the primary focus of the CBM is to strengthen the states capabilities in the area of migration and equip them in terms of legislation, policies and capable institutions, civil society organizations, LRAs and other relevant stakeholders should also be considered for support.

2. Framing capacity development on migration with Agenda 2030

In line with the need for a whole of society and whole of governance approach to capacity development on migration, I would like to argue that the 2030 Agenda provides for an important framework against which capacity development on migration should be framed.

The inclusion of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals sets an important precedent for how migration governance can progress in years to come. The principle of universality that underpins the Goals is especially significant for migration, as it can promote national and international collaboration on the issue. The applicability of all SDG targets to all countries underlines how each has a role to play in migration, and provides a framework for progress towards more effective international governance of migration that is based on global partnerships.

The inclusion of migration in the SDGs also paves the way towards greater collaboration between the migration and development sectors and, through this, towards greater policy coherence. The 2030 Agenda has been named a “declaration of interdependence” (United Nations, 2016). It encourages going beyond governance as usual and under target 17.14 calls to “pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors”. The Agenda requires stakeholders to move to a whole-of-government approach to achieve policy coherence on migration governance. The migration-SDG connections reach far beyond implementing migration policies, and entail integrating migration across governance sectors.

**In this context, IOM is launching a new Guide for Practitioners on Migration and the 2030 Agenda**. You have copies of the guide available outside of this room. This guide is designed to serve government actors, both national and local, involved in any process of Sustainable Development Goal implementation, including those working specifically in migration, and those working in other sectors who are interested in integrating migration. It is also for government actors working in the migration field who wish to integrate the SDGs into their work.

These interventions may take the form of legislation, policies, programmes, projects or other activities, and may relate to core migration topics or integrate migration into activities in another sector. For example, policymakers may use this guide to design interventions that directly address human trafficking, as well as interventions in the health sector that help protect victims of trafficking. For actors with experience in migration mainstreaming, this guide offers a new approach that is based on the 2030 Agenda. For those with no experience in migration mainstreaming, it offers an introduction on how migration and development are linked in the context of the SDGs, and how to take action around these connections.

Section 1 is a thematic overview of the ways in which migration is included in the 2030 Agenda and the main opportunities this presents. It offers thematic explorations of direct and indirect connections to migration throughout the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. This enables actors to consider how the SDGs are most relevant to their particular local or national migration contexts.

Section 2 provides operational guidance and a suggested process for implementing migration aspects of the SDGs. It provides actors with a flexible framework for integrating migration into SDG implementation that can be modified to fit their local or national context. The process is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive, as migration policymaking must respond to local and national migration dynamics and institutional contexts, and 2030 Agenda implementation can take many forms.

Tools for each step of the process assist actors as they engage with stakeholders, set priorities, assess their data needs and other activities throughout implementation. Case studies are referenced throughout, providing real world examples of how various actors have implemented the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. References to relevant sources of information have been included for each step of the process, as well as in the annexes.

Conclusion

The CBM of the GCM has the potential to ensure an efficient use of the existing technical, financial and human resources for strengthened capacities and multi-partner cooperation. A lot of tools are already on the table, but the challenge is to connect them. I suggest that agenda 2030 rooted in a whole of governance approach be that backdrop at the heart of the conptualization of the CBM moving forward.