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**Human mobility and development: emerging trends and new opportunities for partnerships**

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**SOUTH-SOUTH MIGRATION: PARTNERING STRATEGICALLY FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**Background paper**

**Introduction**

The number of countries affected by human mobility has increased due to, among others, social, economic, demographic and environmental changes of a global nature. Many countries in the “Global South,”<sup>1</sup> in particular emerging economies, are no longer only countries of origin, but also – and increasingly – countries of transit and destination. The current global migration trends present significant challenges, as well as opportunities for development. This background paper examines emerging migration dynamics, with a focus on human mobility among countries and regions of the South and calls for a deeper understanding of such dynamics, as well as of their multifaceted impacts on migrants and societies, from future policy and academic discussions.

While South–South migration is not a recent phenomenon, it has only recently received increasing attention from researchers, economists and development experts.<sup>2</sup> Evidence shows that the magnitude of South–South movements (82.3 million migrants worldwide) is roughly equal to South–North flows (81.9 million).<sup>3</sup> The 2013 World Migration Report, entitled *Migrant Well-being and Development*, shows that more than half of the top twenty migration corridors worldwide are along the South–South axis. Moreover, only a minority of migrants move from the South to the North (approximately 40%) and at least one third of migrants are moving between countries of the South.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There is not yet a universal definition of the “South.” The three most commonly used methods of defining “North” and “South” were developed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The present paper adopts the definition by the World Bank when it refers to the “South.” The South, therefore, includes upper-middle-income, lower-middle-income and low-income countries, as classified by the World Bank; the North includes high-income countries as classified by the World Bank.

<sup>2</sup> See the ACP Observatory on Migration for a collection of studies on South–South migration: [www.acpmigration-obs.org/PublicationsonMigrationandDevelopment](http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/PublicationsonMigrationandDevelopment).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs, *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision*, webpage. Available from <http://esa.un.org/unmigration/wallchart2013.htm>.

South–South migration is estimated to account for half of all outward migration from South Asia, 64 per cent of migration from Europe and Central Asia, and 69 per cent of migration from sub-Saharan Africa. (Source: D. Ratha and W. Shaw, *South–South Migration and Remittances*, World Bank Working Paper No. 102 (Washington D.C., World Bank, 2007).

<sup>4</sup> International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development* (Geneva, 2013), page 59.

Yet, it should be remembered that the number of migrants living in the South depends largely on which definition of “South” is used.

Due to its potential to positively impact development, South–South migration today receives political recognition, especially from the governments involved in discussions on migration and development.<sup>5</sup> In this sense, the representatives of States and governments at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in October 2013 “acknowledge[d] the complexity of migratory flows and that international migration movements also occur within the same geographical regions, and, in this context, call[ed] for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions.”<sup>6</sup>

More effort and attention are required to assess the development potentials of South–South migration at the national, regional and interregional levels. Such attention needs to go hand in hand with efforts to consolidate the positive impacts and mitigate some of the negative impacts linked to this trend of human mobility by further mainstreaming migration policies and processes into development.

### **Introducing recent migration trends**

Under globalization’s driving forces, the world is screening a complex picture characterized by increasingly unequal scenarios. While some parts of the world continue to experience high demographic growth resulting in a young workforce, coupled with slow economic development and poverty and conflict, others witness a low demographic trend resulting in a shrinking young workforce and ageing societies, coupled with severe economic and financial crises. These factors have been triggering new mobility patterns and flows, and global migration can no longer be reduced to South–North, developing–developed country migration flows.

Moreover, the so-called “emerging economies” of the South (e.g. those of the BRICS,<sup>7</sup> MINTS<sup>8</sup> and MISTS<sup>9</sup> countries) have significantly impacted international migration, an aspect that is particularly evident in the intensification of extraregional flows. Economic growth in natural resource-producing countries, such as Angola, Papua New Guinea and Gulf countries, for instance, have driven migration flows to them (ACP Observatory). Potentially continuous economic growth in these countries will lead to an increased demand for migrant workers. As a response to the situation, there have already been increasing political and diplomatic linkages between countries and regions with shared interests in various strategic business areas. Notable are the examples of the relations between sub-Saharan African countries, such as Ghana and Nigeria, and certain provinces of China.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See, among others: Global Forum on Migration and Development, “Addressing South–South Migration and Development Policies,” Roundtable 2 background paper. Available from [www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd12\\_mauritius12\\_rt\\_2-1-background\\_paper\\_en.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd12_mauritius12_rt_2-1-background_paper_en.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> See the Declaration of the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, paragraph 22. Available from [www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/Final-Declaration-2013-En.pdf](http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/Final-Declaration-2013-En.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Group of countries comprising Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa; acronym coined by economist Jim O’Neil. These are among the economies most likely to “explode” over the next decade.

<sup>8</sup> Group of countries comprising Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey; acronym coined by economist Jim O’Neil. These are among the economies most likely to “explode” over the next decade.

<sup>9</sup> Group of countries comprising Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea and Turkey; acronym coined by economist Jim O’Neil. These are among the economies most likely to “explode” over the next decade.

<sup>10</sup> O. Bakewell and G. Jónsson, “Migration, Mobility and the African City,” synthesis report on the African Perspectives on Human Mobility research programme, August 2011.

A significant share of migration within the global South is intraregional migration.<sup>11</sup> South–South corridors include especially movements from the Russian Federation to the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and vice versa; Bangladesh to Bhutan; Afghanistan to Pakistan and Iran; India to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; and Burkina Faso to Cote d’Ivoire.<sup>12</sup> The rates of movement vary across countries within the same region.

Migration is managed differently within and between various regions. While migration within or across some regions may take place largely in an irregular fashion, some States have established mobility partnerships (the Economic Community of West African States, for example) to ensure various degrees of free movement. Aspects such as border management, travel documents, labour mobility, the mobility of highly skilled migrants and social integration are usually looked into by regional agreements. Certain agreements, such as the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, tend to target highly skilled professionals, as they shape intraregional movements. An assessment of the existing mobility regimes which looks at how they consider migration dynamics in their provisions for effective management, as well as at the challenges and limits in the implementation of such provisions, could generate recommendations for new and better opportunities for partnerships in line with new mobility trends and challenges.

The role of members from civil and business society as partners for cooperation on migration management and as advocates of the role of migration in development is very important. Driven by similar factors, extraregional migration has been rapidly emerging in dimension, as well as economic relevance. For instance, extraregional South–South migration patterns are rapidly emerging in Latin America and in the Caribbean, where a growing number of migrants coming from Asia and sub-Saharan Africa have been registered in the last few years<sup>13</sup>. Moreover, the expanding economy of some of the Latin American countries is increasingly attracting labour migrants from various regions of the global South, while the proximity to the United States of America makes Central America and the Caribbean a strategic area for transit movements.

Finally, recent global economic developments have likewise been shaping a trend with a potential impact for the North: North–South migration flows, as well as patterns based on historical ties (refer to, for example, the Lusophone countries, which, against a background of economic recession in the North, have been recently seeing increased flows among them, encouraged by a common language and similar cultural backgrounds, i.e. Portuguese migrating to Angola and Brazil<sup>14</sup>). Little attention is given to North–South migration, despite the fact that 7 to 13.7 million migrants from the North were living in the South in 2013.<sup>15</sup> The real figures are likely to be bigger, since available data is poor and flows are difficult to record.

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<sup>11</sup> The World Bank, *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011* (Washington D.C., The World Bank, 2010).

<sup>12</sup> International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development* (Geneva, 2013), page 59.

<sup>13</sup> International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2011: Communicating Effectively about Migration* (Geneva, 2011). Available from [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/WMR2011\\_English.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/WMR2011_English.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> Bakewell, 2013 and Martin, 2009 cited in ACP Observatory, “South–South extraregional migration: An overview of emerging trends (Geneva, International Organization for Migration, 2012). Available from [www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/EN-BN%2008%20extrag.pdf](http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/EN-BN%2008%20extrag.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Eight per cent are migrants from the United States living in Mexico. Other large corridors are Germany–Turkey, United States–South Africa, Portugal–Brazil and Italy–Argentina. (Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Population Division, “Population Facts of September 2013.” Available from [http://esa.un.org/unmigration/documents/The\\_number\\_of\\_international\\_migrants.pdf](http://esa.un.org/unmigration/documents/The_number_of_international_migrants.pdf).)

## Opportunities ensuing from South–South migration

New migration patterns and flows emerge and will continue emerging in response to global developments. Some countries and regions of the world are growing economically, while others are facing economic and financial crises, recession and slow growth. Emerging crisis situations and slowly, but surely,<sup>16</sup> environmental degradation and climate change further complicate the scenario. Against this intricate background, migration remains one of the most effective strategies for individuals and their families to cope with such challenges and improve their well-being, as well as promote the development of both destination and origin countries.

Migration can make important contributions towards poverty reduction and sustainable economic development by fostering labour creation and diversification, which are so crucial to the economic viability and development of countries worldwide. Migrants returning home from various destinations around the world and for various reasons are an incredible source of innovation and community empowerment. According to the ACP Observatory<sup>17</sup> examination of return migration in several countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, the number of returnees from within a region and countries in the South is significantly higher compared to those from the North. This trend may be due to lower travel costs and shorter distances, as well as improved living conditions in the countries of origin, or economic recession and discriminatory policies in the countries of destination. Encouraged by appropriated free movement policies, return migrants are instrumental in job creation through their entrepreneurship initiatives, supported by their rich luggage of knowledge and skills, and thus in filling the gaps in labour markets.

Labour migration represents a noteworthy share of the total flows of migration. The ACP Observatory research shows that the last three decades have seen significant increases in labour migration. Rapid economic growth in several countries of the South has been driving large flows of labour migration, not only between countries within the same region, but also between regions of the South. Successful management of labour migration necessitates the close collaboration of governments, the private sector, and international and civil society organizations. Each of these stakeholders is already making significant contributions to the development of ethical recruitment norms and policies that have undoubtedly reduced worker vulnerability to unethical recruitment. The benefits of adopting ethical recruitment practices are extolled by stakeholders as being critical to worker protection and to improving labour migration management. Socially responsible employers who want to ensure that migrant workers in their labour supply chains are fairly treated have echoed that praise.

Despite these endeavours and given the variety of intermediaries and jurisdictions involved, recruitment practices are sometimes unregulated, and where regulation does exist, it may not be adequately enforced or may be inapplicable given the national context, leading to the prevalence of informal or “ghost” intermediaries who act outside of the regulatory framework. This is due in part to the limitations of States to monitor and enforce international recruitment activities; an absence of bilateral information-sharing agreements that would assist in identifying and sanctioning offenders;

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<sup>16</sup> ACP Observatory on Migration, “Slowly, but surely: The environment, climate change and migration in ACP countries,” background note (Geneva, International Organization for Migration, 2011), available from [www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/EN-BN04Environment.pdf](http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/EN-BN04Environment.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> International Organization for Migration, IOM Migration Research Series No. 46: *Migration and Development within the South: New Evidence from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries* (Geneva, 2013).

and a reluctance or inability to prosecute offences extraterritorially. In the absence of strong partnerships and joint efforts, unethical intermediaries are able to act with impunity to the detriment of migrants, employers and governments who are trying to manage labour migration.

Remittances are perceived to be migrants' main contribution to development and are thus a key element of the debate on migration and development. The level of remittances from the South is another factor worth considering when examining the development potential of mobility between countries of this region. Remittances from the South are as important as remittances sent from the North in the case of least developed countries (LDCs): about two thirds of the remittances received by LDCs in 2010 originate either from other LDCs (5% of the total inflow, equal to 1.3 USD billion) or other developing countries (59%, 15.3 USD billion).<sup>18</sup> According to the World Bank, the main recipients of remittances in 2013 were China, India and the Philippines. Since 2012 the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia have been experiencing a rapid increase in remittance inflows, while remittances to Europe and Central Asia have been declining, and those to Latin America, the Caribbean, East Asia, Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa have largely stayed the same. Nonetheless, the cost of sending remittances among the countries of the South, and particularly between least developed countries in Africa, remains particularly higher than the cost of transfers from developing countries. Such costs diminish the contribution of these remittances to the economic and human development of these countries; thus, efforts to decrease their transfer costs should be strengthened.

Estimates show as well that the amount of remittances transferred through informal, unrecorded channels is particularly high in the South–South context,<sup>19</sup> and thus the share of remittances between countries of the South is low, as transfers from high income countries in the Southern hemisphere (see from the Gulf Cooperation Countries to Asia) are not included in the statistics<sup>20</sup>. Therefore, scarce information on remittances sent between countries in the South, including on their specific characteristics (informal nature, the availability and use of innovative money transfer devices, among others) prevents a full understanding of South–South remittances and the contributions they can make to development.

A recent trend in remittance transfers indicates that migration can also incur costs for the families of emigrants. Especially since the start of the global financial crisis of 2008, some families in countries of origin have been sending money to their migrant members residing in the North. Studies on families of emigrants in Cameroon show that for families in countries of origin, it is actually more expensive to have emigrants residing in the North than in countries of the South. By analogy, this trend could reflect the potential of migration between the countries of the South for the well-being of families of migrants in both origin and destination countries.

Social remittance transfers, defined as “the flows of ideas, knowledge, attitudes, identities, behaviours and social capital through migrants to family, friends and beyond in the sending

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<sup>18</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2011, as cited in: Global Forum on Migration and Development, “Addressing South–South Migration and Development Policies,” Roundtable 2.2 background paper. Available from [www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd12\\_mauritius12\\_rt\\_2-2-background\\_paper\\_en.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd12_mauritius12_rt_2-2-background_paper_en.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Ratha and Shaw, 2010, as cited in *World Migration Report 2013*.

<sup>20</sup> International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development* (Geneva, 2013).

communities”<sup>21</sup>, are even less explored in the South. These transfers of knowledge, good practices and behaviours acquired by the migrants during their stay abroad are assets to their home countries’ development, in addition to the transfer of financial remittances. The greater cultural proximity and similarities between countries of the same region may allow the impact of social remittances in certain countries of the South, and in certain specific contexts, to be greater than the impact of remittances coming from the North. However, awareness of the impact of such transfers on development remains low. It is very important that appropriate local and regional capacities to collect relevant data and ensure accessibility are developed. In this regard, the ACP Observatory carried out innovative research on social remittances in Senegal <sup>22</sup>and the United Republic of Tanzania<sup>23</sup> showcasing remarkable conclusions on the effects of these transfers towards local change and development.

As also revealed by discussions held among ministers at the Diaspora Ministerial Conference, many of the diaspora today are in the global South<sup>24</sup> and their contribution has high developmental impact. This is mainly due to the intraregional nature of South–South migration, with migrants tending to return home more frequently, as well to maintain close relationships with their countries of origin, which also explains their willingness to participate in skills transfer programmes. Recent studies have showcased the interest of South–South diasporas, as in the case of Nigeria’s and Kenya’s, to participate in these programmes.<sup>25</sup> An enabling environment in the home country facilitates the integration of returning migrants, as well as diaspora engagement. A new vision and new policies to promote such environments, however, still need to be implemented or adapted to the reality shaped by new dynamics.

While the overall focus of diaspora studies has been on diasporas residing in the North, especially Europe, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, much less studies have been dedicated to diaspora members residing in countries within their region of origin and those who have moved to other developing countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Asia–Pacific region.<sup>26</sup> Lack of accurate data on diasporas, including their profiles and needs, makes it difficult for governments and other stakeholders to fully acknowledge them and their potentials. As also agreed by participants at the Diaspora Ministerial Conference “understanding who and where the diasporas are, their role in society, their needs, and their potential to contribute to development

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<sup>21</sup> Levitt, P. (1998). Social Remittances: “Migration-Driven Local-Level Forms of Cultural Diffusion”, *International Migration Review*, 32(4):926–948.

<sup>22</sup> See Doudou Dièye Gueye, “Transferts Immatériels et migrations Sud-Sud : Quel impact sur le développement local en Casamance, Gambie et Guinée-Bissau?”, rapport de recherche (Brussels, ACP Observatory on Migration, International Organisation for Migration, 2014).

<sup>23</sup> See Linda Helgesson Sekei, Annette Altvater, Jacob Charles Mrema and Adelaide Kisinda, “Sending ideas back home: Exploring the potential of South–South social remittances in Tanzania”, research report ( Brussels, ACP Observatory on Migration, International Organisation for Migration , 2014).

<sup>24</sup> Please see also the Diaspora Ministerial Conference “Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States”, 18-19 June 2013, Geneva. Conference details available from <http://www.iom.int/cms/idmdmc>

<sup>25</sup> B.K. Kinuthia, “Spotlight on the young and skilled: Exploring the potential contribution of Kenya’s diasporas in the South,” report (Geneva, International Organization for Migration, 2013). Available from [www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/Kenya%20Diasporas%20Report.pdf](http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/Kenya%20Diasporas%20Report.pdf).

A. Olatuyi, A. Y. Awoyinka and A. Adeniyi, “Nigerian diasporas in the South: Harnessing the potential for national development,” report (Geneva, International Organization for Migration, 2013). Available from [www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/Nigeria-Diasporas-Report-corr.pdf](http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/Nigeria-Diasporas-Report-corr.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> Susanne Melde (forthcoming), cited in: International Organization for Migration, *Migration and Development within the South: New Evidence from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries*, IOM Migration Research Series No. 46 (Geneva, 2013).

in host and origin societies should be the first step in devising a policy to engage them”<sup>27</sup>. Improved data and collective access to such data (by all relevant stakeholders, which include ministries other than that in charge of diaspora issues, other governments and researchers) is a precondition for effective decision-making and policy planning on promoting migrants’ contribution to development.

Finally, South–South migration’s contribution to development is realized mainly through migrants’ social, economic and political remittances. Its role in development has recently been increasingly reflected and supported by partnerships for cooperation at the regional and interregional levels, engaging private as well non-governmental actors. At the interregional level, such partnerships are common between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and between Asia and Africa. Cooperation is encouraged in different sectors, such as health, labour and education, and is very often initiated and enhanced by members of diaspora associations. In this regard, it is relevant to reflect on the measure in which diasporas’ contributions to development is facilitated by existing regional and interregional partnerships. An overview of the frameworks in place for engaging migrants and harnessing their contributions to development, as well as an assessment of their role, is relevant in identifying new partnership opportunities and exchanging new approaches. What have been discussed thus far are but a few of the many opportunities presented by the new migration dynamics in the regions of the South. The factors behind the various scenarios need to be considered in adopting policies and cooperation frameworks to enhance the positive aspects for migrants, their families and the societies of all the countries involved.

### **Current and emerging challenges of South–South migration**

Migration, seen as a solution to the adverse aspects of the inequalities in global development, presents challenges brought about by its many facets. Challenges entailed by migration may be significant for all partners, and a lack of appropriate policies to address them effectively may seriously hamper migration’s potential to contribute to development. These may translate into serious implications for the economic and social development of countries of origin, destination and transit, including the safety and regularity of migration, labour markets, the management of “beyond-the-border skills,” income distribution, poverty and social protection (especially of vulnerable categories, i.e. women, children, youth and the elderly).

Migrants predominantly move to countries with higher development levels, yet among the emerging migration dynamics is the migration back to countries of origin, which often has lower development levels, as a response to the economic downturn in countries of destination. Movements in the face of severe environmental degradation or political instability and violence are another common trend and are characterized by an increase in flows, as well as the diversification of corridors and directions.

Among the challenges faced by countries affected by these new migration dynamics is the integration of newly arrived migrants or the reintegration of returnees. Most countries in the South were traditionally characterized by emigration, and are thus not accustomed to their new role as immigration countries. As such, they face specific integration difficulties, often due to their not-

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<sup>27</sup> Report of the proceedings of the Diaspora Ministerial Conference “Diasporas and Development: Bridging Societies and States”, June 2013, Geneva. Available from: [http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/idm/workshops/IDM-2013-Diaspora-Ministerial-Conference/DMC\\_Final\\_Conference\\_Report.pdf](http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/idm/workshops/IDM-2013-Diaspora-Ministerial-Conference/DMC_Final_Conference_Report.pdf)

adapted-to-reality migration policies that directly impact on the capacity of social services to respond to the needs of migrants. Countries, usually of transit, may find themselves receiving increasing numbers of migrants who, for various reasons, are stuck on the way to another destination. Thus, transit countries often become destination countries. This is an emerging intraregional migration pattern which may pose challenges to both host societies and migrants. Countries faced with the task of hosting and integrating immigrants and/or returnees often fail to ensure that migrants properly receive services, such as health and education, and thus protect their rights. This is mainly due to a lack of appropriate institutional and legal frameworks in place to respond in time to such situations, while ensuring that the rights of migrants are respected.

Irregular migration, the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking in persons are other important patterns observed in South–South migration. Such phenomena are very much driven by security reasons, poverty and oppression, and the disparities in economic development between countries in the same region. Migrants along irregular corridors are very often exposed to vulnerable situations and end up being smuggled or trafficked. This problem remains inappropriately addressed, if not at all, due to the lack of good data collection and analysis tools and capacities at the local and regional levels. Local and regional capacities to increase understanding of such a complex issue and its impacts, and how to address it accordingly, need to be established in order to avoid significant consequences for migrants and countries.

The link between environmental change and migration, as well as the necessity to address it, has been increasingly recognized over the last few decades in light of its policy implications, including in terms of migration management, development, disaster risk reduction, and conflict and security. Environmental degradation and climate change are strong factors in people’s decisions to move within and out of the region. While sudden-onset disasters often have a direct impact on displacement, in most cases environmental change influences mobility indirectly, that is, by affecting the drivers of migration (including economic, social, political and demographic drivers). Environmentally-induced migration may exacerbate other challenges to sustainable development, especially those related to urban planning and urban development, with implications for development policies (including disaster risk reduction policies) and national adaptation planning. Nonetheless, environmentally-induced migration and migrants’ contributions to their communities of origin can provide resilience against shocks such as natural disasters. Most of environmentally-induced migration is expected to be internal and intraregional, rather than long-distance, with most taking place in the regions of the South, which are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Consequently, the causes and impacts of this phenomenon will have to be tackled at the country and regional levels. In this context, strengthening South–South cooperation and regional and interregional strategic partnerships to manage development, migration and climate change is particularly crucial to effectively addressing this complex phenomenon.

While recognizing the scale and complexity of South–South migration, participants in the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2012 in Mauritius agreed that the response to these challenges “require[s] greater governance capacity and policy attention” while also admitting that



“many developing countries lack the necessary knowledge, skills and resources to manage South–South migration effectively and benefit from its development potential.”<sup>28</sup>

An important element to consider when assessing South–South migration’s impact on development is the well-being of migrants. A finding of the World Migration Report 2013 is that migrants in the South tend to be the least optimistic about their lives and don’t have a satisfactory standard of living. The reasons behind this high level of pessimism among migrants in the South may include hardships in integrating in the formal workforce, thus leading to unemployment, underemployment and health problems. Existing data tells very little about the well-being of migrants in the South and the implications of migration dynamics for human development. Thus, there is a particular need for more evidence regarding the well-being of migrants in the South, as well as the factors shaping their living conditions.<sup>29</sup>

Ways to improve the availability of migration data pertaining to South–South migration dynamics should be looked at by governments, as well as all relevant stakeholders, since a good understanding of the issues surrounding this phenomenon is key to bringing policy awareness and informing the appropriate formulation and implementation of development-oriented policy frameworks.

### **International cooperation frameworks on migration dynamics**

The new development agenda that the world is formulating will need to be informed and inclusive of the different scenarios of globalization that influences complex migratory patterns and flows. Integrating new human mobility trends into national and regional development plans is key to good management of the ensuing opportunities and challenges for migrants.

As pointed out in the preceding section, governments’ capacity to respond to the emerging challenges that impact migrants and societies, and to ensure the protection of and respect for migrants’ basic rights, such as access to health and education and the right to labour, is often limited. This may, in turn, lead to additional complex migration dynamics. New, reality-based development strategies, policies and programmes are required to successfully address migration risks and better harness the benefits and changing patterns for development.

No State acting alone can effectively manage migration challenges and unlock its human development benefits. Addressing the complex dynamics of human mobility induced by various factors requires a comprehensive strategic approach across a variety of policy areas to which migration is closely linked.

Inter-State, regional and interregional frameworks have been put in place to address mutual interests and manage emerging complex migration trends by enabling safe and regular migration while protecting and supporting migrants’ well-being. Such frameworks facilitate the creation of partnerships for cooperation on various aspects of migration, for example, border management, travel documents, labour mobility, ethical recruitment, data-sharing, protection of migrants in transit, assisted voluntary return, protection and engagement of diasporas, transnational business

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<sup>28</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development, “Enhancing the human development of migrants and their contribution to the development of communities and States,” report of the proceedings of the sixth summit meeting, Mauritius, 19–22 November 2012. Available from [www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd\\_mauritius12\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_proceedings.pdf](http://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/gfmd_mauritius12_report_of_the_proceedings.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development* (Geneva, 2013).

and facilitation of remittance transfers. The role of regional economic communities and regional consultative processes on migration is key to enhancing capacity and encouraging cooperation at the regional and interregional levels and, thus, to facilitating the implementation of free movement regimes and efficient mechanisms for the management of the benefits and challenges of migration.

Such regional and global partnerships are meant to support countries in addressing the challenges posed by the emerging migration dynamics and seize the opportunities they present. However, stakeholders may need to rethink their partnership/cooperation approaches in response to global social, economic, environmental and demographic developments that drive multifaceted migration patterns. Areas of migration, such as protection of children and families, displaced communities due to challenges such as environmental degradation, facilitation of labour mobility, ethical and fair recruitment, and diaspora engagement are demanding a new, reality-based approach and greater cooperation.

### **The Role of regional consultative processes on migration and similarly structured interregional fora dealing with migration**

Managing migration today depends, in a fundamental way, on genuine inter-State cooperation and partnership. However, while fields such as trade and finance are governed by a binding global regime, there is no such system for dealing with migration in its entirety at the global level. The absence of a binding mechanism for global cooperation on migration may be the best explanation possible for the emergence over the past two decades of mechanisms, such as regional consultative processes on migration (RCPs) and interregional fora (IRF) that aim to enhance inter-State cooperation on migration.

RCPs and IRF underpin current bottom-up efforts to enhance inter-State cooperation on migration. While the impact of RCPs to date is difficult to fully assess for many reasons, a recent study suggests that their existence helps to build trust between concerned countries; increase understanding of and promote a common approach to migration issues; build formal and informal networks between countries, and, de facto, promote policy harmonization between countries.

In the context of a discussion on South–South cooperation on migration issues, it is worth noting that of the fourteen recognized RCPs, five comprise countries of origin only – that is, countries of the South. Aside from bilateral arrangements on migration that exist between countries of the South, these five RCPs quite possibly provide the clearest illustration yet of South–South cooperation on migration at a multilateral level, and also bear witness to the fact that managing migration today is fundamentally an exercise in voluntary neighbourhood cooperation.

Despite the limitations often associated with the non-binding and informal approach of RCPs and IRF, it is increasingly recognized that they can, especially when they function optimally, contribute in appreciable ways to capacity-building, policy coherence and inter-State cooperation on migration.

As regards environmentally- induced migration, the issue has been discussed and acknowledged within several regional cooperation frameworks and organizations, including the African Union, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Economic Community of West African States, the Colombo Process, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the South American Conference on Migration. In most cases, environmental

migration has been addressed indirectly, through the lens of other policy issues (such as migration, climate change, security or human rights). As a result, approaches may lack coherence and comprehensiveness.<sup>30</sup> Most initiatives at the regional level are also relatively recent and would require more time and investment to prove their effectiveness. Nonetheless, regional cooperation frameworks provide highly relevant fora for advancing policy frameworks that address migration in the context of environmental and climate change, building on existing initiatives. The Climate Vulnerable Forum, which brings together countries in the South most affected by climate change, provides another key framework to promote partnership in this field. To best manage the challenges ensuing from such complex patterns, approaches need to be comprehensive and integrate all relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Diaspora organizations have a great role to play in facilitating cooperation and partnership creation between the countries and regions of the South, including by contributing relevant social and financial capital. All-inclusive, comprehensive and informed partnerships have shown to have a stronger impact on development, especially at the local and community levels.

### **Conclusions: Policy consideration**

In such a global context, with an unprecedented number of people on the move and with various migration routes and destinations emerging, future patterns of South–South migration, including prospects for development and related challenges, such as policy gaps and the lack of capacity-building, require closer attention from academia and policymakers.

Many of the challenges discussed in this paper result from **insufficient evidence** on emerging migration dynamics, and thus a **lack of knowledge and awareness among the relevant stakeholders**. A **right level of awareness** would allow their **translation into effective policy tools required to address challenges and harness the opportunities available**. Policymakers and all relevant stakeholders need to take into account the growing complexity of migratory patterns and flows, the factors behind them, and their implications for development, and improve the understanding of such, as well as enable the policy capacity to enhance the development outcomes of migration across the regions.

In this sense, **data and research-based evidence can be key tools for effective policymaking and planning** for responding to emerging dynamics if their results are taken into consideration during policymaking. **Available quality data** on migration flows, profiles and trends, such as those on labour shortages and skills, protection challenges for migrants and the well-being of migrants, as well as access to, understanding and the proper use of such information, can facilitate decision-making processes and strengthen cooperation on migration.

**No State acting alone can manage complex migration dynamics effectively**. Strategies for international migration management **demand the participation of a whole range of stakeholders**: governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, migrants and diaspora associations. For example, diaspora associations have proved to be important structures for government engagement that can be utilized for diaspora policies and development cooperation strategies. The effective participation of all relevant partners improves the policymaking process and creates coherence

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<sup>30</sup> K. Popp, “Regional policy perspectives,” in: *People on the Move in a Changing Climate: The Regional Impact of Environmental Change on Migration* (E. Piguet and F. Laczko, eds.) (New York, Springer, 2013).

between countries' migration policies, and promotes the formulation and implementation of common regional migration policies.

The role of regional economic communities and regional consultative processes on migration in **enhancing capacities and strengthening cooperation** at the regional and interregional levels is significant and needs to be encouraged towards a greater attention to migration and development policy.<sup>31</sup>

Discussing the multiple development implications of South–South migration is timely, in the aftermath of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and ahead of the post-2015 international development agenda. This facet of human mobility is getting increasing recognition from the international community. Deepening the understanding of its complex dynamics and their potential impact on development can be supportive of stakeholders' collective efforts aiming at improving public perception of international migration and at ensuring that migrants and migration are integrated in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

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<sup>31</sup> International Organization for Migration, "IOM activities and possible 'high road scenarios' for the four round-table themes", paper prepared by IOM for 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. Available from [www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/IOM-activities-and-possible-high-road-scenarios-for-the-four-round-table-themes.pdf](http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/IOM-activities-and-possible-high-road-scenarios-for-the-four-round-table-themes.pdf).