International Dialogue on Migration 2014

South-South Migration: Partnering Strategically for Development

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• Overarching theme: “Human mobility and development: emerging trends and new opportunities for partnerships”

• 1st Workshop (24-25 March) “South-South migration: partnering strategically for development”

• 2nd Workshop (7-8 October) “Migration and Families”
Emerging trends

Migration still driven by economic, demographic, and other disparities…

… but new growth poles are emerging in different regions and demand for migrant workers is becoming global

= new & evolving migration routes and patterns, new challenges and opportunities for partnerships
Emerging trends

Four migration pathways, Gallup estimate of first generation adult migrant stock

North / South

- Shorthands for complex realities
- Different definitions by World Bank, UNDP, UNDESA

Source: IOM World Migration Report 2013
Why focus on South-South migration?

1. Scale & Complexity

More than half of the top 20 migration corridors worldwide are along the South–South axis

South-South migration: intra-regional and extra-regional

(IOM WMR, 2013, based on 2010 data by UNDESA, WB classification)
Why focus on South-South migration?

2 Development potential

• Long-standing poverty reduction and livelihood strategy
• Economic growth in countries of the South → demand for labour at all skills levels
• Significant financial remittances flows, but high transfer costs
• Important social remittances and diaspora contributions
• Mobility as an adaptation mechanism for environmental fluctuations
Why focus on South-South migration?

3 Gaps and Challenges

- Well-being of South-South migrants measurably poorer than for other migrants (WMR, 2013)
- High levels of irregular migration; high risk of human rights violations, exploitation, unethical recruitment
- Integration and reintegration
- High proportion of forced migrants in the South
- South most affected by climate change / environmental degradation as potential driver of migration
- Lack of data and research
- Lack of capacity or awareness
Faces of South-South migration

Aleida from Nicaragua in Costa Rica

Carlos, from Peru, working as a doctor in Angola

Mustariya from Ethiopia, stranded in Somalia

Zimbabwean women traders in Zambia
Opportunities for partnerships

Extensive South-South regional cooperation

- Regional economic communities
- Regional consultative processes on migration

Various degrees of facilitation of migration:

From visa-free travel for certain categories to generalized free movement

How to strengthen capacity and implementation?
Policy considerations

• Build data and research on dynamics of South-South migration – esp. migrant well-being, diasporas, remittance behaviour, development impacts of South-South migration

• Reduce cost of remittance transfer and expand financial inclusion

• Address labour migration issues in a South-South context, incl. ethical recruitment, decent work, skills development

• Build capacities at local, national, regional levels

• Strengthen regional and inter-regional cooperation – esp. through RCPs and RECs

• Integrate South-South migration into national and regional development strategies in the South
Conclusion: Thinking and acting in partnership

• Deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of human mobility and their potential impact on development in a South-South context
• Development plans need to include dynamics human mobility trends
• Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, migrants and diaspora associations have a role to play
• Enhancing capacities and strengthening cooperation at the regional and interregional levels
Thank you!

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