MAKING GLOBAL LABOUR MOBILITY A CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Emerging consensus on the development potential of migration:

**At the global level:**
- United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, September 2006;

**At the regional level:** Regional Consultative Processes, such as Colombo Process, building dialogue, capacity and cooperation;

**At the interagency level:** Global Migration Group - 10 agencies working together.

Now is our chance to turn raised consciousness into action.
Migration is a complex, cross-cutting issue:

- **People** ➔ livelihoods, opportunities, well-being and human rights
- **States** ➔ social, economic, political and security dimensions
- **Private sector** ➔ human resources, innovation, flexibility and diversity

Migration policies need to account for diverse interests of multiple stakeholders at national and international levels
Labour Mobility for Development: key policy elements

**Sound data and targeted research**
- Measure current and projected labour force needs and availability in countries of origin and destination and at regional and global levels;
- Map labour migration flows and trends;
- Ensure necessary disaggregation of data (e.g. by economic sector, occupation, gender, age);
- Integrate this knowledge into labour migration and human resource development policies and strategies.

**Challenges:**
- Compatibility of data collected by different national agencies and states;
- Disparities in capacities of states to collect data and undertake research;
- Mechanisms for exchange of and access to this information at national and international levels.
Labour Mobility for Development: key policy elements

**Comprehensive policies**

- Address all stages of the labour migration process;
- Allow for flexible labour migration policies;
- Ensure complementarity between labour migration, labour market and human resource development strategies;
- Ensure coherence with other related policies and regulations (e.g. recognition of qualifications, portability of social security & pensions);
- Ensure coordination between various ministries and agencies at the national level;
- Engage in active inter-state cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels;
- Engage all relevant non-governmental actors.
Partnerships with non-state stakeholders

**Why?** ➔ for effectiveness, sustainability, safety, greater equity and greater developmental impact of labour migration.

**Who** ➔ private sector, civil society & migrants themselves.

**How?** ➔
- Clearly define the role of each partner;
- Treat non-state actors as full partners to ensure ownership of the partnership;
- Build mutual trust through regular engagement in inclusive, balanced and better-informed dialogue.

**What?** ➔
- Devise incentive-based labour migration policies and projects;
- Ensure capacity & implementation of labour migration schemes;
- Direct action to address the challenges and harness the potential of labour migration for development.
Temporary and circular migration

Much international attention focused on their potential to:
• Contribute to the economic and societal development of countries of origin and destination as well as migrants and their families;
• Achieve convergence of interests among all relevant stakeholders;
• Facilitate political support and social acceptance.

But:

• temporary and circular labour migration schemes should be considered as only one, among many, tools in migration management;
• a combination of cooperative policies and incentives is needed to ensure that these types of mobility remain temporary;
• complementary policies need to be put in place to realize the developmental potential of these schemes;
• these or any other types of migration cannot substitute for government development policies.
Labour Mobility for Development: sharing experiences

- No one size fits all solution;
- Discuss and share ➔ identify what works, what does not work and why;
- Analyse the experiences ➔ identify promising policies, effective tools and successful practical schemes;
- Develop and implement innovative approaches.
Today, the international community has the opportunity to make migration work for development by:

- Developing better tools and needed capacity for effective migration management;
- Increasing inter-state cooperation on labour migration at all levels: bilateral, regional, inter-regional and potentially global;
- Promoting dialogue and cooperation with non-state actors – encouraging public-private partnerships;
- Encouraging active engagement of and partnerships among non-state actors;
- Promoting policy dialogue and closer cooperation between migration & development stakeholders – at bilateral, regional, inter-regional and global levels;
- Integrating labour migration into development planning agendas;
- Experimenting – devising and investing in new pilot projects and programmes.
Thank you!