



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION
INTERSESSIONAL WORKSHOP

**ENHANCING THE ROLE OF RETURN MIGRATION IN FOSTERING
DEVELOPMENT**

7 – 8 July 2008

AGENDA

7 July 2008 DAY I	
09:00 – 10:00	<i>Registration</i>
10:00 – 10:15	WELCOME REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brunson McKinley, Director General, IOM
10:15 – 11:00	SETTING THE SCENE <p><i>It is now widely recognized that the return of migrants with different skill levels can contribute substantially to home-country development, including through brain gain, technology transfer, investment, trade links and joint human resource development, regardless of whether the return is permanent, temporary, circular or virtual in nature. Several enabling factors both at origin and destination do enhance the development potential of return migration and policy-makers are increasingly aware of their relevance for shaping development-friendly return migration policies. These factors include not only the characteristics of individual migrants, but also the policies in place in the country of destination as well as the socio-economic and institutional environment that migrants find themselves in upon their return. Furthermore, the impact of return migration on development can be maximized by ensuring coherence between migration and other related policy domains such as trade, health, education and development itself. This session aims at identifying and conceptualizing how return migration can work for development and will pave the way for the two-day workshop on this theme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michele Klein Solomon, Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communications, IOM General Discussion
11:00 – 13:00	<u>Session I</u>: Exploring the Return-Development Nexus - Case Studies
	<i>Most returns have some development potential but the nature and scope of this potential vary widely. In addition, whether this potential is actually realized depends on enabling social, political and economic conditions in countries of origin and destination as well as migration management policies and mechanisms. This session</i>

	<p><i>will draw on case studies to provide evidence of the many different types of return migration and the ways in which they can positively impact on various aspects of development. The session will also stress the importance of tailoring return programmes and return assistance to the human capital and other personal characteristics of the target groups of returnees.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jean-Christophe Dumont, Principal Administrator, Non-Member Economies and International Migration, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michel Sho-Sawyer, Director, Office of Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President, Sierra Leone • Han-Maurits Schaapveld, Director, Migration and Aliens Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands • Fernando Alzate Donoso, Director of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia <p>The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the social and economic impacts of return migration and what relevance do they have for development? What are the factors that make return a positive and gainful experience both for returnees as well as for the home and host societies? • Do the impacts on development differ according to the skill level, age and gender of the returnees? • To what extent does the impact of return migration on development depend on the duration and nature of return? How can the positive impact on development of different types of return migration (permanent, temporary or circular; actual or virtual; spontaneous or assisted) be maximized? • What are the main enabling factors in countries of origin and destination that enhance the developmental impact of return migration? What are the conditions and policies that countries could put in place to maximize gains from return migration? • How does knowledge-transfer to origin countries foster development? How can brain gain benefits be enhanced? What is the role of return migration in human resource development in both countries of origin and destination? Which labour market sectors may require particular attention in this context? <p>General Discussion</p>
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Afternoon Break</i>
15:00 – 18:00	<u>Session II: Tools and Measures for Return</u>
	<p><i>Whether return takes place, and whether it is permanent or temporary, actual or virtual, depends inter alia on the policies put in place both by countries of origin and of destination to stimulate and facilitate return of persons and resources. Ensuring return is essential for the success of temporary and circular labour migration</i></p>

schemes. In today's world, these schemes are often perceived and presented as an effective and innovative means of addressing skills and labour shortages in destination countries as well as providing opportunities for personal and community development in countries of origin. This session will explore various tools and mechanisms that facilitate and encourage return migration including special visas, travel, tax and investment measures. The session will also look at the implications of dual nationality, multiple entry/work/residence systems and social security portability. The need to recognize the diversity of potential returnees and to tailor measures for facilitating the return of distinct groups of migrants to their different needs and interests will be underlined. The main benefits that States reap and the challenges they encounter in implementing these measures will be discussed based on the experiences and roles of countries of origin, transit and destination in this process.

Moderator: Meera Sethi, Regional Adviser Sub-Sahara Africa, IOM

Speakers:

- **Rafael Álvarez**, Director General for Migration and External Affairs, General Office of Migration and External Affairs , Ministry of Security, El Salvador
- **Devi Chand Rye Seewooruthun**, Principal Assistant Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Mauritius
- **Jacqueline Owens**, Immigration Manager for Europe, Africa, and the Americas, Department of Labour, New Zealand
- **Mohammed Bassam Al-Nasiri**, Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI)/IOM Project Coordinator, IOM Baghdad

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion:

- What are the principal migration management as well as the accompanying mechanisms that can effectively facilitate and provide social and economic incentives for return migration?
- How are these mechanisms applied in countries of origin and destination? What are the main challenges that countries encounter in implementing them?
- What relevance do these mechanisms have for socio-economic development in countries of origin, transit and destination as well as for the well-being of migrants and their families?
- What are some innovative tools that can be applied to encourage different types of return, including virtual return? What is the role of diaspora mapping and engagement in devising effective tools for facilitating return migration?
- What is the role of interstate partnerships at the bilateral, regional and international levels in devising and using tools and mechanisms to facilitate and encourage return migration? Who are the key non-governmental stakeholders involved and what is their role?
- At the multilateral level, what are the lessons learnt from the GATS Mode 4 experience with reference to return migration and development?

General Discussion

End of Day One

8 July 2008 DAY II

10:00 – 10:30

MIGRANT'S VOICE: Return – Integration Reintegration

- **Abdou Mbengue Sene**, Architect, RIBA London, Dakar, Senegal

General Discussion

10:30 – 13:00

Session III: Enhancing the Development Potential of Return Migration – Practical Approaches

While the developmental impact of return migration depends on a variety of factors, including the characteristics of returnees, the nature and duration of return, the social, economic and political environment in the countries of origin and destination, there are specific policy and programmatic measures that can enhance the benefits of return, whether permanent, temporary or virtual, as well as its sustainability. These include both migration management measures, including pre-departure orientation, integration and reintegration assistance, as well as policies in other domains, in particular social, fiscal, employment, education and trade to name just a few. Such a broad range of policies that can influence the development outcomes of return migration underlines the need for comprehensive approaches and coherence between migration and other policy domains. This session seeks to identify policies and mechanisms at the national, bilateral, regional and global levels that help to realize the potential of the human capital and financial resources of returnees.

Moderator: Carlos Eladio Segura Vicente, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Speakers:

- **Sergiu Sainciuc**, Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade, Moldova / **Ghenadie Cretu**, Labour Migration Programme Coordinator, IOM Chisinau
- **Álvaro Apolo da Luz Pereira**, President, Institute of the Communities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities, Cape Verde
- **Dinh Pham Van**, Senior Official, Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam

The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion:

- What are the key migration management and ancillary policies and approaches in countries of origin and destination for maximizing the development potential of return migration? What are the policy and practical implications for mainstreaming return management into national plans for poverty reduction and development?
- How do these policies differ according to whether the return is permanent, temporary or virtual? Should they differ for distinct groups of migrants (e.g. labour migrants of different skill levels, students, retirees)? What are some of the examples of successful policies or programmes?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can pre-departure orientation and migrant information centres help to guide migrants who might be interested in virtual or actual return? • How do integration measures in countries of destination and reintegration measures in countries of origin influence the development impact of return? • Where the descendants of migrants feel an affiliation with their ancestors' country of origin and wish to contribute to that country's development, how can their efforts be supported? • What is the link between return migration and human resource development in countries of origin and destination? How can this link be reinforced? • What is the role of interstate cooperation at the bilateral and regional levels in managing return migration for development, and in particular circular migration programmes? What aspects of bilateral and regional arrangements on return migration can help to maximize the developmental impact of return? <p>General Discussion</p>
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Afternoon Break</i>
15:00 – 17:50	Session IV: Making Return Work for Development – Multi-stakeholder Partnerships
	<p><i>While some countries opt for a unilateral approach, bilateral agreements and multilateral arrangements are chosen by many other States to manage return migration in a comprehensive and effective manner. In addition to governments, other stakeholders have significant and varied roles to play in facilitating return and maximizing its positive potential, including through providing first-hand information on migration realities, a network for interacting with migrants, strengthening the link between return migration and human resource development, integration and reintegration measures. Governments may consider forging partnerships with non-state actors at the local and national levels as well as in the context of bilateral and regional arrangements. In addition, broad-based partnerships can be envisaged within and between private sector and civil society actors. Governments have a key role to play in creating an environment conducive to the success of these partnerships. This session will look at the role of partnerships in facilitating return and realizing its development potential as well as ways to effectively engage and mobilize them. It will also explore challenges to the establishment of public-private and other multi-stakeholder partnerships and ways to address them.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Eugene Owusu, Senior Advisor for Africa, United Nations / United Nations Development Programme, Brussels</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikolai Alisov, General Director, Foundation for Development of International Relations and Social Systems, Russian Federation • Abdesslam El Ftouh, Director of Economic Promotion Department, Hassan II Foundation, Morocco • Jim Ilunga, Deputy Medical Director, Cliniques de l'Europe, Brussels • Basco Tomas A. Fernandez, Vice-President for External Affairs, Damayan Habagat Foundation, The Netherlands

	<p>The following questions are proposed to guide the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of intra- and inter-governmental partnerships in devising and implementing development-friendly return migration policies and mechanisms? • Who are the stakeholders in facilitating return migration and making it work for development in countries of origin, transit and destination? What is the particular role of diaspora associations and of the private sector respectively? What are the obstacles to and modalities for their effective engagement both in the countries of destination and origin? • How can all relevant stakeholders be engaged in the development of sound return migration and accompanying policies and their effective implementation, including at the bilateral, regional and global levels? • What are the potential obstacles to developing such partnerships and how can they be overcome? • How can mutual trust and the will to cooperate be fostered among governments, civil society and the private sector in a partnership approach to return migration issues? <p>General Discussion</p>
17:50 – 18:00	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
	<i>End of Workshop</i>