



Final Edited Draft

Proceedings Report

Second Meeting of the IGAD Regional Consultative Process on Migration

Migration and Development

Addis Ababa, 7th and 8th February 2012

Background

The IGAD Regional consultative Process (RCP) on migration was established in 2010 with a core function of promoting the common position of the IGAD Member States on migration and facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation on migration policy issues amongst them.

This is being done by fostering greater understanding and policy coherence in migration as well as strengthening regional institutional and technical capacities to implement the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and other AU and IGAD policies on migration.

In specific terms, the IGAD RCP aims to:

- Establish a mechanism for continuous dialogue and cooperation among IGAD member states on migration and related issues, enhancing their capacity to manage migration within a regional context, consistent with the Migration Policy Framework for Africa;
- Enhance knowledge and foster a common understanding by policy makers, officials and stakeholders of the causes, dimensions, patterns, trends and impact of migration in the IGAD region;
- Help develop and strengthen regional institutional and governmental capacities to address the challenges of migration management in a cooperative and knowledge based manner;
- Focus on priority areas identified by IGAD member States namely, technical cooperation and capacity building, information collection, dissemination and sharing and progress toward formulation and harmonization at the national and IGAD level of legislation;
- Provide technical assistance and training programs to help build capacity in multifaceted aspects of migration management; and
- Develop and enhance dialogue and cooperation between the IGAD member states and countries members of other regions as regards the different dimensions of migrations and migrants into and out of IGAD countries.

Now in its second year, the theme of this year's meeting was Migration and Development. For a long time now, people have taken to moving from their places of domicile to other countries in search of better opportunities, jobs, education and family reunification. Once settled in these countries, they contribute to the development of their host countries while at the same time supporting their countries of origin through remittances, skills and technology transfer amongst other ways.

In the era of regionalism, regional organizations and member states should formulate ways of tapping into the benefits of migration to enhance the development of their countries and regions. Vulnerabilities that induce economically motivated migration should be addressed through strengthening of livelihood options. This however requires proper management of migration for the benefit of host and countries of origin. Today, almost half of the world's migration population is female, it is therefore crucial to mainstream gender in migration programs and interventions.

Executive Summary

Rethinking return options for displaced populations or for those who have migrated voluntarily is a key aspect of the migration and development nexus. There are migrants who may want to return home for short periods and bring back expertise in various fields while there are also those who may be looking into settling back home permanently after long periods abroad. Integrating them back does not only benefit them as individuals but also the communities they go back to as they have often gained new insights, skills and knowledge.

These are some of the issues that the 2nd RCP meeting focused on to ensure the region remains engaged in harnessing the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants, to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. The meeting took place on 7th and 8th February 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Objectives:

The Second RCP Meeting was organized in order to:

- Exchange national and regional experiences and best practices on how to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of host and countries of origin;
- Discuss the possibility of a regional action plan for Diaspora engagement in development; and
- Facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation between countries of origin and destination especially in regard to labor migration.

Expected Outcomes:

- A deeper knowledge and understanding of the linkage between migration and development
- Identified potential initiatives for strengthening the IGAD Diaspora engagement in development
- Identified actions for collaboration between sending and destination countries especially in labor migration
- Identified actions for mainstreaming migration in member states and regional poverty reduction and development plans.

Working Methodology:

The meeting adopted a mix of presentations and plenary discussions. See the Adopted Agenda for the Meeting as Annex I.

Scope of the workshop

Day 1 started with the registration of participants and delegates. After settling down, introductory remarks and statements were made and a background to the IGAD RCP given. This was immediately followed by a brief plenary discussion.

The rest of the day was occupied by presentations made by resource persons from the region with expertise in the various sub topics related to migration and development. Each presentation was followed by a plenary discussion.

Day 2 saw the continuation of presentations and plenary discussions. Later, experiences on some of the initiatives at the national, region and continental level were shared and discussed. Finally, draft recommendations on how best to harness the potential of migration for development in the region were discussed and adopted.

At the end of the day, a brief closing ceremony was conducted that included a vote of thanks a representative of the participants and statements from representatives of IGAD, IOM and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Participation

Besides government officials from IGAD member states (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Uganda), representatives of the AUC and IOM attended the meeting. Others included representatives of development partners and the UN Agencies. See the full List of Participants in Annex II.

Introductory Remarks

Commissioner for Social Affairs, AUC

A statement from the Commissioner, Adv. Bience Gawanas was read by the Director of Social Affairs, Ms. Mariama Cisse. It was stated that migration remains a priority issue at the Commission since more than 30 million Africans live outside their native states and remit more than 30 billion US Dollars every year to the continent.

The Commissioner further pointed out that the contribution made by African migrants abroad to economic and social development of the continent was commendable. She however decried lack of national legislations to support and encourage more contribution. This is despite the existence of continental and regional policy frameworks that could be used as guidelines.

The Commissioner informed the meeting that in partnership with the African Development Bank, the World Bank, IOM and the European Union, the Commission is in the process of establishing the African Institute for Remittance (AIR) to build the capacity of AU Member States, remittance senders and recipients and other stakeholders to develop and implement concrete strategies and operational instruments to use remittances as development tools for poverty reduction.

She also noted that the Commission is also working very closely with Diaspora groups- with the latter being referred to as the sixth region of the continental body.

Head of Mission, IOM Addis Ababa

In the sixty years of its existence, IOM continues to facilitate dialogue and uses the RCP platforms to address sensitive issues around migration.

Lauding the partnership between IGAD and IOM, Mr. Josiah Ogina revealed that the IGAD RCP that was first held in 2010 has been described as an innovative one and showcased at the Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of RCPs held in October 2011 in Botswana. He added that the IGAD RCP was unique because it is being run by a regional economic community of the AU.

The Head of IOM Mission further stated that the second RCP meeting being held in Addis Ababa was timely and focusing on the pertinent issue of migration and development. He called on the participants to exchange ideas and views openly in order to address the major migration challenges in the region and tap on regional resources at their disposal.

Chair, IGAD Partners' Forum

The Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia, who is also the envoy designate to IGAD, H.E. Renzo Rosso reiterated the importance of migration and said the issue had become massive and a great phenomenon that has to be addressed collectively. He pointed out that migration means different things to migrants and hosting countries.

The Chairman of the IGAD Partners' Forum appealed for the creation of a mechanism that would ensure benefits to both the migrants and their countries of origin. This can be done through deliberate and systematic tapping of Diaspora resources and expertise. He stated that there were many good practices, lessons and experiences in Latin America and within Africa that can be used.

Amb. Rosso acknowledged value adding importance of the global processes and urged IGAD to continue tackling the real problematic challenges, such as displacement due to conflicts and escalating numbers of refugees in the region.

He concluded his remarks by stating that he looked forward to the recommendations from the meeting.

Secretary General, IGAD Inter Parliamentary Union

A speech of the IGAD IPU Secretary General, Hon. Bourhan Daoud Ahmed was read on his behalf by the Director of Administration and Finance at the Union's Secretariat, Ato Tadesse Asnake.

The Secretary General described migration and development as one of the most important and dynamic issues in global, continental and regional political agendas. He recalled that during the 4th Conference of Speakers from the region held in Djibouti in January 2012, the distinguished delegates reflected on migration as a multi-faceted phenomenon revealing economic, social, demographic and democratic unevenness across countries. The Conference thus recommended that migration must be seen and addressed within the overall development context.

Similar to most of the developing regions, majority of migrants within and from the IGAD region have escaped from political instability, general insecurity, poverty, economic inequalities, conflicts, food shortages, seasonal drought and natural catastrophic incidences. Hon. Daoud cited human capital flight or brain drain in key social sectors like education as serious bottlenecks to sustainable development in the region, even though this has been beneficial to countries receiving migrants.

Finally, the Secretary General promised that the IGAD IPU would continue to engage the national parliaments to create transparent, acceptable and harmonized policies for effective migration management regimes; foster interstate dialogue and intra-regional cooperation to achieve policy coherence between states in the region.

Executive Secretary, IGAD

The Program Manager in charge of Health and Social Affairs at the IGAD Secretariat, Ms Fathia Alwan read a statement of the IGAD Executive Secretary, Eng. Mahboub Maalim. He expressed his gratitude for the partnership with IOM, the IPF and AUC.

Citing the RCP as one of the several initiatives undertaken jointly with development partners, Eng. Mahboub pointed out that the IGAD RCP is a regional dialogue that will continue to shape up the global migration agenda. He called for more collaboration with the Member States, regional and international organizations in future.

He informed the participants that the Summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government had recently adopted the Minimum Integration Plan (MIP) that, among others, will encourage free movement of people, good, services and labour in the region. The Executive Secretary appealed to the delegates to come up with efficient mechanism to harness remittances, skills and other resources through proper migration management for the benefit of countries of origin and destination.

Background to the IGAD RCP

The Project Manager responsible for the Regional Political Integration & Human Security Support Program at the IGAD Secretariat, Ms. Caroline Njuki explained what RCPs are outlining their rationale and historical background.

She pointed out that the IGAD RCP was established in 2009 through a decision of the Council of Ministers holding its first meeting in 2010. The overall aim of the consultative process remains to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on migration amongst the IGAD Member States.

Among its many goals included to establish a mechanism for continuous dialogue and co-operation among IGAD Member States on migration and related issues, enhancing their capacity to manage migration within a regional context as well as enhancing knowledge and foster a common understanding by policy-makers, other officials and stakeholders of the causes, dimensions, patterns, trends and impacts of migration in the IGAD region.

According to Ms. Njuki, the IGAD - RCP has been able to promote a continuous migration dialogue for the region which brings together IGAD Member States and other stakeholders including countries of transit and destination and information as well as build capacity and facilitate implementation of various national, regional and continental initiatives on migration.

In addition, the process has, among many other things, encouraged and assisted Member States to integrate migration issues into their national development plans and also encouraged potential donors including the IGAD Partners Forum as well as relevant international organizations and institutions to provide the necessary financial support and technical assistance to implement regional and national migration management programs.

The Project Manager stated that the priority areas of the IGAD – RCP are as outlined in the AU migration policy framework and further elaborated in the proposed IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework. The IGAD Secretariat has served as the secretariat of the RCP since its establishment. During the roll out meeting in 2010, it was recommended that a Regional Migration Coordination Committee (RMCC) be established where “sensitive” migration matters can be discussed. This was launched in March 2011 and is waiting adoption by Council.

Through this structure, the IGAD RCP has kept the Member States and other stakeholders engaged on migration management in the region, and created a platform through which information is exchanged, best practices shared and solutions to common challenges pursued in a non binding and informal manner. Together with a sectoral committee comprising of agencies and departments with migration roles, it is hoped that the RMCC will help bring to the fore migration management concerns of the region into other international mechanism, e.g. feeding into the GFMD and the UN High Level Delegation on Migration. It has furthermore seen to the concrete programmatic actions undertaken on migration management, such as the development of the RMPF, capacity building for immigration, and the first ever engagement of the IGAD Diaspora.

In conclusion, Ms. Njuki challenged the participants to come up with proposals and recommendations that would influence the African agenda of the 2012 GFMD to be chaired by Mauritius and feed into the 2013 Meeting of the UN High Level Delegation on Migration.

Day One: Presentations and Plenary Discussions

Presentation 1: Citizenship & Trans Nationalism

By Prof. Eugene Campbell, University of Botswana

In his introduction, the professor stated that though trans-nationalism has been topical for over five decades, several developments within the globalization process have opened up new areas in which to discuss it. One of these areas is international migration and development.

He added that previous focus on trans-nationalism minimized the role of migration between spatially different areas, saying that culture was emphasized while human population was treated as an exogenous variable. Prof. Campbell also pointed out that trans-nationalism has brought into focus issues of the Diaspora and dual citizenship. Furthermore, it also links with brain drain, brain circulation, remittance, human rights and trafficking and development of destination and source countries.

Sharing some statistics, he said international migrants had increased from 9 million in 1960 to 16 million in 1990 and 23 million in 2010 globally. Africa had almost 9 % of the total global stock of migrants in 2010. There are about 30 million African international migrants (voluntary and forced –) in and outside the continent. Putting things in even better perspective, the professor said that the Sub Saharan Africa stock of emigrants add up to 22 million. Another important aspect to be appreciated is that south-south migration exceeds south-north migration and outside the continent, Europe is the primary destination for Africans.

He listed the top 10 emigration African countries to be Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa. Xenophobia as a growing phenomenon on the continent and worldwide was raised as a major concern that needs to be addressed individually and collectively through education and better communication about migration.

Stating that labour market has become global, Prof. Campbell introduced the idea of brain drain touching on the human rights of citizens. In addition, he explained the concepts of classic and modern Diaspora giving examples how African migrants are trying to fit in the diasporic societies abroad while maintaining contacts with their respective homelands. Nigeria and Ghana have done well to encourage brain circulation and returnees to come back home.

The African Union and the Member States are cooperating with the World Bank to strategize on collaborative activities with the African Diaspora. The professor cited some of the activities being undertaken to include enhancing capacity for the delivery of improved services in strategic public sectors and institutions as well as improving quality of design and implementation of Diaspora-led investment initiatives in participating countries partly through facilitating business and investment promotion networks between Diaspora and home country partners to access development funds. The partnership is also improving communication and working relationship between African governments, donor agencies and Diaspora professionals.

He however warned that the Diaspora was not a homogenous group and should therefore not be treated as such.

Talking about international migration, Prof. Campbell said the issue has become highly controversial for countries of origin, transit and destination, especially when policy commitments are barely honored and progress in the understanding of migration has not yet been translated into coherence and coordination among national authorities working in the area of migration and those working in development planning and international relations. Furthermore, lack of coherence in national migration policies is detrimental to bilateral cooperation, and to multilateral and regional cooperation among countries. Despite all these and many other challenges, he stated that the importance of international migration is likely to be sustained over the coming decades.

He added that bilateral agreement on international migration remains the dominant mechanism for cooperation between countries as there is a notable upsurge since 1990, but most of them are between neighboring countries coming in different forms, such as agreements, protocols, and memoranda of understanding. The other predominant bilateral cooperation is in the form of establishment of border posts and border committees to manage the flow of people and trade, and to address issues such as smuggling and human trafficking.

Another key challenge that he cited was relating to data needs. For example, credible data and research on international migration are needed for the formulation and implementation of policies, for effective management of complex migration flows, and for monitoring and evaluating their impacts. Data and research are also important for capacity development and training on the various aspects of migration, including human rights and security.

Plenary Discussion 1:

- Terminology of Diaspora as it is being used in the Africa context needs to be clarified to avoid its misinterpretation. At the same time, there is also need for hybridization when defining citizenship in the contemporary sense.
- Human rights are increasingly becoming important in the area of migration and recognized from a humanitarian point of view. Migrants, whether legal or illegal, are human beings with all rights and should be treated with the dignity they deserve.
- The principle of equal treatment as stipulated by ILO should be promoted alongside the integration agenda. Countries are therefore urged to ratify regional, continental and international conventions and treaties relating to migration.
- Issues and challenges of migration should be addressed from a legislative and executive angle. Good laws should be passed and best practices promoted in other countries through dialogue platforms, such as the RCP.
- Stories of both successful and not very successful African migrants should be captured and documented through dialogue exchanges with the Diaspora. There is also need to integrate acquired cultures with local ones as culture is dynamic.
- The Diaspora should be engaged without necessarily pushing them to return home, but instead facilitate efficient remittances that support government efforts by going into both economic investment and social well being of the people.
- AUC and Member States should invest resources to Diaspora surveys through their foreign diplomatic missions to generate more reliable data and increase knowledge. The African Diaspora should also be used as a lobby for their respective countries and the continent.
- Xenophobia is a cultural issue that can only be addressed through education and integration. Creation of a regional enabling environment for labour transfer and exchange would also be useful to address this issue.

Presentation 2: Gender, Migration and Development

By Mr. Mumo Mbole, IOM Nairobi

The presenter defined international migration as the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. He gave the seasonal movements of migrant farm laborers and pastoralists as an example of "semi-permanent residence".

Mr. Mbole added that people either choose to move ("voluntary migration") or are forced to move ("involuntary migration"). He pointed out that the 21st century has been referred to as the age of mobility because more people are moving today than at any other point in the history of humanity.

Migration is the fastest growing human development activity and the IOM estimates that in the year 2010, more than 214 million people, were living outside their places of birth, representing 3.1% of the global population. Accordingly, one out of every thirty-three persons in the world is a migrant and this trend is unlikely to be reversed in the foreseeable future.

The presenter further reiterated that international migration is increasing becoming an established feature of our contemporary social, security and economic life. He said we are a people on the move and also a world of borders with people crossing borders for a wide range of reasons i.e. for work, visit, family unification, education, medical, to escape from social, gender and economic discrimination, as refugees; either voluntary or involuntary. However, Mr. Mbole stated that migration patterns are changing and migrant women are playing an increasing important role as family providers and development agents in Africa.

The proportion of females among international migrants in Africa has increased steadily and faster than the world level. In 2005, female migrants in Africa accounted for 47% of the 16 million migrants in Africa. Unfortunately, women also make up majority of trafficking in persons and IDPs cases, yet they are not invited to peace negotiating tables.

Of the 214 million international migrant stock, Mr. Mbole pointed out that about half these are women despite the common misconception that men are the main migrants. According to the ILO, women comprised 49% of international migrants in 1990 and this percentage is still on the increase. The presenter added that this figure may not have changed much, but lately the pattern of women migrants has changed significantly and have become extremely complex. However, few national and international migration policies and practices are linked to gender equality.

On a separate but related note, the presenter asserted that remittances and Diaspora investment is providing the much needed economic support, employment opportunities and contributing towards alleviation of poverty. He gave an example of the Philippines, which is the largest exporter of women migrant labour in the world. It is estimated that 11% of the total population were emigrants with a remittance of US\$ 21.3 billion in 2011.

In many African countries, remittances constitute more than 10% of GNP and are overtaking Official Development Assistance (ODA). Remittances lead to increased investments in health, education and small businesses. It is also important to understand the socio-economic and security implications of migration on states as countries of origin, transit and final destination. Consequently, migration is

taking centre-stage in global and national economic development and the security arrangement of many states.

Mr. Mbole pointed out that employment opportunities in foreign countries and security have been the key drivers of migration in the IGAD Member States. According to a World Bank report for 2010, 1.5 % of the total population of Djibouti has emigrated, Sudan 1.73%, Kenya 2.02%, Uganda 1.93%, and Ethiopia 0.66%. It is also a fact that the Diaspora regularly sends remittances to their families and invests in their countries of origin. Financial remittances provide a lifeline to many African poor and are a reliable source of stable income to many families.

In 2011, the World Bank reported that the Kenyan Diaspora remitted US\$ 0.9b, Ugandans US\$ 0.8b million, Ethiopia US\$ 1.48 billion, Sudan US\$ 3.2 billion, Djibouti US\$ 28 million and Somalia (estimated) US\$ 1.3-2.0 billion. In addition, the Diasporas are playing an important role in the transfer of technology back home and are investing in real estate, manufacturing and hospitality industry; thus creating the much needed jobs and introducing new products in the local consumer market.

In spite of the growing number of female migrants, the presenter stated that there is insufficient gender analysis in the field of migration. However, taking gender migration into account does not necessarily require creating a new set of movement variables. It simply means considering several well established general migration determinants through a gender lens.

He added that female migrants continue to be vulnerable to gender based discrimination and the problems they face are compounded by their being both migrants and women. This is partly because gender theories have not been factored in international migration literature in the past and as a result, there is little information and streamlining of gender issues in migration management.

Recent research shows that women, although they earn less, tend to remit more of their incomes than male migrants. There is also evidence that migration of women builds confidence, self esteem and social status. Furthermore, it assists women in developing their own information and social support networks.

However experience has shown that woman migrants are discriminated and confined to lower paying jobs in the hospitality industry, entertainment and domestic services/house helps as well as health services and care for the elderly.

In conclusion, Mr. Mbole revealed that experience has shown that migration can provide new opportunities to improve women's life and change oppressive gender relations. He reaffirmed that migration provides vital source of income to migrant women and their families, earns them greater autonomy, economic freedom, self confidence and social status. Though, feminization of migration is one of the most significant migratory patterns in Africa, it is creating new opportunities for women and challenges for public policy.

Plenary Discussion 2:

- There were arguments that most migrants from Africa come from either the middle class or well to do families and that their remittances therefore do not really reduce the poverty gap. This might not necessarily be factual, and therefore a comprehensive study is needed.

- African countries should adopt lessons from the Philippines on the protection of their migrant workers' rights abroad through bilateral agreements. At the same time, abuse of middle level migrant workers should closely be monitored.
- Lack of local experience for professional migrant workers puts them at a disadvantaged position and into stiff competition with locals. There is need to harmonize academic qualifications to make migrant workers more competitive.
- The IGAD Women Parliamentary Forum can be used to push for legislations that protect women migrants. In addition, recent liberalization of travel documents as experienced in several countries is emancipating women migrants and facilitating their easy travel.
- There is need for a review of recommendations made during the last RCP meeting. Where there is been no much progress, the second RCP meeting should come up with new recommendations and better strategies.
- While commending the collaboration between IGAD, ILO and IOM, there is need for a neutral, independent body to police the rights and safety of migrant workers. IGAD Member States are urged to ratify Convention 89 of ILO on the protection of domestic workers.

Presentation 3: Establishment of the African Institute for Remittances

By Mr. Phillip Bob Jusu, AUC

With the increase of African Diaspora population worldwide, the presenter stated that there has also been an increase in remittances. He hastened to add that impact was mostly felt at household level and not at national level as it is desirable.

Mr. Jusu went on to outline the purpose and objectives of establishing the African Institute for Remittances and what has so far been done in its preparatory phase.

Plenary Discussion 3:

- It is very important to study the dynamism and impact of remittances in the context of migration and development. The study should also capture and encourage remittances within Africa and not just concentrate on those coming from the 'first world'.
- There is urgent need to improve on the financial and other development infrastructure to facilitate remittances and money transfer. Innovative incentives to encourage remittances such as those in Brazil should be adopted.
- A regional policy framework that protects the rights of irregular migrant workers and gives them confidence to remit to their countries of origin without victimization should be developed.
- Ways and means to reduce the exorbitant transaction fees should be explored and promoted widely. A case study on the utilization of the widespread postal service and the non-conventional 'Hawala' systems should be conducted.

Day Two: Presentations and Plenary Discussions

Presentation 4: Diaspora Remittances

By Mr. George Odipo, University of Nairobi

The presenter conceptualized and contextualized migration in the IGAD region as well as explored Diaspora remittances and their link to development in the IGAD Member States.

He stated that migration is at the top of political, economic and social agenda across Africa and in the world. This has widely been acknowledged through the inclusion of migration issues in the processes of development planning by policy makers. The issue of migration-development nexus has also been high on the global policy agenda in recent years as demonstrated in the UN Secretary-General's Report for the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development 2006. The report, in part, states: *"There is a need to build capacity and promote research to evaluate policy interventions in both countries of origin and destination and to facilitate the mainstreaming of migration considerations into strategic development frameworks."*

At regional level, migration-development nexus has become important in different Regional Economic Communities, e.g. EAC, COMESA, SADC, IGAD, etc. Mr. Odipo however called for more research to inform policy and appealed for the promotion of best practices that are scattered worldwide. With the right policies, he added that migration can make a positive contribution to development of both the recipient and sending countries.

He further made reference to Principle 2 in the six Principles for Action of the Global Commission on International Migration that states: *"The role that migrants play in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin, as well as the contribution they make towards the prosperity of destination countries, should be recognized and reinforced. International migration should become an integral part of national, regional and global strategies for economic growth, in both the developing and developed world."*

On its part, the African Union Strategic Policy Framework on Migration in Africa encourages Member States to integrate Migration and Development policies particularly Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in their National Development Plans.

The presenter challenged the participants to widen their definition of migrants to include both transients (nomads, gatherers, wanderers, migratory labourers) and sojourners (circular migrants, seasonal migrants, compensatory migrants, life-cycle stage migrants, commuters). He also appealed to them to consider both monetary and social remittances including technology transfer to be equally important to household, community and national development.

As a way of contextualizing migration, Mr. Odipo pointed out that since the beginning of the 21st Century, the topic has been the 'pivotal issue' for study on human rights, development, globalization and so many other cross-cutting issues. He added that migration is also a multi-disciplinary issue that needs to be understood broadly including the dynamics of population and other development issues that are virtually impossible to penetrate.

According to figures released by the United Nations' Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), East Africa received more than two billion US Dollars in remittances in 2010. Unfortunately, most of it

was directed to consumption, rather than investment. Mr. Odipo recalled a statement made by Mr. Antonio Pedro, the Director of the UNECA sub-regional office that alluded that the remittances could surpass the two billion US Dollar mark over the years, if regional peace and stability was assured.

More than 215 million people live outside their countries of birth, and over 700 million migrate within their countries. This is according to a World Bank Report issued in 2010 that further stated that remittances sent home by migrants accounted for 2 percent of GDP for all developing countries in 2008, but 6 percent of GDP for low-income countries in particular. In several small low-income countries, remittances exceed a fifth of GDP and provide the largest source of foreign exchange. In addition, the report points out that the remittances sent home by migrants to developing countries are three times the size of official development assistance and represent a lifeline for the poor.

Mr. Odipo further stated that remittances reduce the level and severity of poverty, frequently lead to higher human capital accumulation as well as higher health and education expenditures. In addition, he said that studies have shown that remittances have enabled many households to access information and communication technologies, get involved in private enterprise, reduce child labor and help them be better prepared for natural disasters. Governments should however treat remittances like private transactions and not as a substitute for debt or aid flows.

It is recommended that IGAD should harness the 'Regional Diaspora' by engaging with the nationalist Diaspora organizations. In collaboration with Member States and development partners, IGAD could also undertake research, identify migration schedules, explore the profile (characteristics) of individuals and households with emigrants versus those without and establish the differentials in the propensity to remit. Furthermore, the regional organization could establish the nature of remittance patterns and their utilization and advocate for policy harmonization in the region.

In conclusion, remittances alone are unlikely to lift people out of poverty; rather it is their interplay with other economic, social and cultural factors which determine the scale and type of impact remittances can have on poverty reduction (Chimhowu et al. 2003, cited in Oucho, 2008).

Plenary Discussion 4:

- Adoption of the IGAD Minimum Integration Plan is a step in the right direction and will encourage movement of people, goods and services in the region. Migration should play a central role in the MIP.
- It is important to consider establishment of a regional bank and cross listing of securities to support regional development including infrastructure interconnectivity. This should be done after examining the advantages and disadvantages of regional financial institutions.
- Remittances remain largely an individual personal issue. Studies should be undertaken to determine the driving forces that could transform them into a macro national policy issue. Increased accessibility through MFIs, cooperatives and the widespread postal system should be explored to reduce the monopoly of MTOs.
- The *Hawala* system should be improved, informality reduced and made more secure. Other innovative mechanisms, such as electronic and mobile banking can also be explored for remittance transfer.
- Member States should continue to create an enabling environment to support effective transfer and use of remittances. This could be in form of improved infrastructure, legal and institutional frameworks that encourage remittances and market business opportunities.

- Importance of peace and security in the region to facilitate remittances cannot be over emphasized. Member States should therefore do everything possible to ensure political stability and good governance as well as move from control (regulate) to facilitation.
- Remittances are not only financial. They are also in form of equipment, technology, fashion and culture, food and direct private investments. All of them should be encouraged for economic development of the countries and the region.
- Efforts should also be made to examine negative impacts associated with remittances, such as piracy, money laundering, terrorism, etc. Local mobile money transfer systems should be strengthened through closer collaboration with MTOs and Central Banks.

Presentation 5: Brain Gain, Brain Drain and Brain Circulation

By Prof. John Oucho, African Migration and Development Policy Centre

This presentation was made on behalf of the professor by Mr. George Odipo. According to the author of the presentation, a number of brain-based concepts have dominated literature on skilled international migration. These include brain drain, brain circulation, brain waste and brain gain. Usage of these concepts is riddled with confusion and misinterpretation.

The presenter added that researchers and policymakers have discordant interpretation of the concepts as they are doing rounds in African countries at national and regional levels. He therefore took time to define the concepts one by one.

Brain drain can be defined as emigration of highly educated, professionals often from less developed to more developed regions/countries. It normally includes emigrants and never returning overseas students. Initially, it was considered a curse to countries of origin in the 1960s as those educated and trained emigrated to serve countries that never developed their skills. Today, it is considered beneficiary to countries of origin even if costs also exist.

Prof. Oucho states that 'African Diaspora' is a misnomer as the emigrants are more committed to their countries of origin; though some of them have lost touch with home countries. He argues that 'African Diaspora' amounts to 'nationalist Diaspora', such as Djiboutians in Canada, Kenyans in the UK, Nigerians in the US, Congolese in France, etc.

Furthermore, the presenter challenges AU's recognition of the African Diaspora for not gone far enough beyond rhetoric, conferences and involvement of experts on the subject. He calls the continental body to draw from best practices gathered by empirical work in Israel, China, Jamaica, India and Australia.

The professor defined brain circulation as an instance of movement back and forth from country of origin to a country/countries of destination, often shorter term and cyclic. This has been fuelled by more restrictive immigration controls in destination countries, especially in the developed North and buoyant Southern African economies (South Africa, Botswana and Namibia). The concept tends to give rise to trans-nationalism: movement to several locations for business and other engagements.

Brain waste was defined as instance of immigrants doing work and getting remuneration far below/inconsistent with their education/ qualifications. For example, a PhD holder turns into a taxi driver or a qualified teacher taking up a security guard job to survive in a foreign country.

This is confounded by the notion in countries of origin that brain drained persons are often successful wherever they end up. In the long run, this is indeed a loss to countries of origin as returned brain wasted citizens are deskilled and incapacitated when they choose to return.

Lastly, the professor defined brain gain as instance of returned brain drain coming back better educated or skilled to develop countries of origin. He however cautions that the gain may not be realised if the returnees are not deployed in productive sectors of the economy and further points out that tensions between the returning brain drain and non-emigrant citizens undermines brain gain.

In addition, Prof. Oucho dismisses the popular assumption that brain drain and brain circulation ultimately begets brain gain on returning home. He however says acquisition of new skills at destinations results in brain gain on returning to origins, adding that students trained overseas can be brain gain back home, only if when they are deployed in relevant careers on returning.

The presenter said that brain waste is an unknown phenomenon because in many African countries, brain drain is to an 'El Dorado' in a developed country. He argues that brain waste occurs because most African emigrants move as individuals without knowledge/ interest of countries of origin. According to Prof. Oucho, the situation persists because most African countries do not know where their emigrants moved to, what they do and their conditions in general. He says there are no monitoring and evaluation of emigrants' welfare by countries of origin.

As a way of conclusion, the professor points out that most African countries train and equip their citizens only to lose them to developed countries without any follow up. He cites lack of emigration policies to safeguard these occurrences in international migration and calls for bench-marking of successful brain drain/ brain circulation and brain gain stories elsewhere in the world. This is an area in which IGAD, other RECs and individual African countries should commission research for appropriate policymaking.

Plenary Discussion 5:

- It was observed that these brain-related concepts should be critically examined and widely understood to avoid misconceptions. With clear understanding and sufficient research, appropriate policies can be enacted to promote brain gain and avoid brain drain.
- As part of promoting the integration agenda, the Diaspora should be engaged proactively and positively. Migrants within the region should also be encouraged to invest in the host countries, for example Somalis in Djibouti.
- More intellectual and constitutional definition of Diaspora should be sought instead of the sentimental one that does not add value to the debates. This can be an intellectual project of the AU and RECs to ensure objectivity to support regional integration.
- Research studies should be undertaken to assert the cost/benefit analysis of brain gain and brain drain. There is also need to be proactive and aggressive in the protection of property and intellectual rights to avoid brain waste.
- At the moment, there is lack of concrete data on the extent of brain drain and brain waste. Member States should however redouble their efforts to repatriate the professionals to directly contribute to national development of their countries.

Presentation 6: Experience of the Uganda Diaspora Desk

By Ms. Bati Kawooya, Diaspora Desk

According to the presenter, the political turmoil experienced by Uganda in the 1970s during the dictatorial regime of Field Marshal Idi Amin Dada caused many citizens to flee the country for security and safety reasons. In later years, they left mostly to seek better professional opportunities abroad and for economic motives.

Besides remittances for development purposes, there is evidence that the Diaspora has also contributed to clandestine activities in the country, such as funding rebellions. The Government has therefore over the recent times taken proactive measures to engage the Diaspora with a purpose to informing them about development opportunities back home and dispelling propaganda.

The engagements organized by the country's foreign missions in collaboration with Diaspora group include political dialogues and conventions. During these events, debates and cultural activities take place. Lessons of native languages are also given to children of migrants who have had a chance to visit their parents' homeland. Through the special desk handling Diaspora matters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, feedback and follow up on issues raised is assured.

Presentation 7: Engaging Ethiopia's Diaspora for Development

By Mr. Asmellash Bruk, IOM Ethiopia

The presenter elaborated a partnership between the Government of Ethiopia and IOM. Through a four-year program supported by the latter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with other ministries has been able to develop schemes to repatriate skills and resources from the Diaspora.

The Government has also made several proclamations, declarations and directives aimed at improving relationship with the Diaspora as well as creating an enabling environment for cooperation with academic, research and health institutions to support local initiatives. One such innovative initiative is undertaken by the Bank of Ethiopia to facilitate financing of infrastructure projects, such as construction and equipping hospitals and schools.

In addition, dialogue sessions including seminars and video conferences have been organized with the Diaspora in Europe and North America. A study has been proposed to look into enhanced knowledge and skills transfer.

It is hope that the study and the whole partnership program can be replicated in the region.

Plenary Discussion 6 and 7:

- There is need for a comprehensive database on the Diaspora. This can be enhanced by an effective registration of returnees and an analysis of their skills. Specific visits should be organized to rectify 'illegal' migrants in the region.
- Dual citizenship should be encouraged and lessons shared in the region. Strategic passport centres can also be established in different parts of the world to encourage the Diaspora to register them and seek other consular services.
- Through organized dialogue, Diaspora should continuously be engaged and involved in social, political and economic activities of their countries of origin. Diaspora associations can also be encouraged to undertake collective development projects.

- Mechanisms should be put in place to enable the Diaspora to invest in development infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals through special bonds. A regional centre of excellence in the treatment and management of cancer is being developed in collaboration with the Ethiopian North America Health Providers Association.
- Besides issues of remittances, human rights of the Diaspora and migrants should also be focussed on and discussed at all levels. Both bilateral and multilateral efforts should be undertaken to address these issues.
- The consumerism/dependency culture brought about by remittances should be transformed into a savings/investment culture. Governments should create enabling environments and encourage the Diaspora to donate equipment and their professional skills.

Presentation 8: The IGAD Regional HIV Program: Links with Migration and Development

By Dr. Ahmed Hassan Ahmed, IRAPP

[I have asked him to send the power point presentation and the notes that Lillian took]

Plenary Discussion 8:

[I guess if the notes are not forthcoming, we might be forced to do without these two last sections]

Summary of Recommendations

In order to harness the potential of migration for development, the following recommendations were made, summarized and clustered in several broad areas. These include:

- **On Policy and Legislative Framework**
 - ✓ Using the RCP platform, regional and continental policy frameworks, Member States should develop their own policies and legislations
 - ✓ The national policies and legislations should be in tandem with current migration trends and concepts based on credible research and reliable data

- **On Research and Data Collection – Studies and Surveys**
 - ✓ Member States should commission research studies and surveys to collect data to inform policy development bearing in mind unique and specific migration trends and topics [such as pastoralism, *inter alia*] within the region
 - ✓ Diaspora mapping should be undertaken to generate useful information about the Diaspora
 - ✓ Manpower surveys should be commissioned to assess human resources needs of the countries and the region

- **On Knowledge and Experience Sharing**
 - ✓ The RCP and other regional as well as bilateral forums including exchange programmes and study tours should be utilized to share knowledge and experiences
 - ✓ IGAD and Member States should strengthen their relationships with other development partners and stakeholders in migration including IOM
 - ✓ Best practices and innovations on migration and development within the continent and outside should be documented and shared among Member States

- **On Engagement with the Diaspora groups**
 - ✓ Member States should be arranged regular meetings with the Diaspora to gather their views to feed into policies and legislation development
 - ✓ Tapping on the knowledge and experience of other countries on Diaspora remittances, Member States should create an enabling environment to facilitate increase transfer of resources, skills and technology

- **On Implementation of the IGAD Minimum Integration Plan (MIP)**
 - ✓ Member States should be encouraged to adopt strategies that would cascade the provisions of the IGAD MIP to lower levels of government and the citizenry for an eventual rolling out of the regional plan and the broader African Integration Program with specific reference to migration and development in the region

- **On Migration and Human Rights**
 - ✓ Recognizing that migrants are human beings with all the rights, IGAD and ILO should collaborate on the issue of migrant domestic workers in line with the new ILO instruments, Convention 189
 - ✓ Member States should know where their Diaspora are and follow up with host countries to ensure the safety and rights of the migrant workers
 - ✓ Education and awareness creation should be used to allay fear and dispel xenophobic tendencies

- **On Good Governance and Investment Environment**

- ✓ Member States should strengthen their democratic and governance structures to ensure an enabling environment for the Diaspora to repatriate and invest in their countries of origin
- ✓ Member States should adopt policies that create an enabling environment for Diaspora and other investors
- ✓ Member States should tap on lessons and experiences of other countries and regions to attract Diaspora and other investor interest

Closing Remarks

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Milton Turyasiima of Uganda moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. He described the meeting as extremely successful and applauded the organizers for a job well done.

The delegate also praised the RCP as a useful platform to discuss and push migration issues forward in the region. He further expressed gratitude to the host government and the people of Ethiopia for their hospitality.

On behalf of his fellow participants, he promised that they would do their best to implement all the decisions and recommendations of the meeting.

IGAD

Ms. Alwan commended all the participants and delegates for making time to attend the second RCP meeting and assured them of the commitment of the IGAD Secretariat. She appealed to them to continue being the champions of migration issues in their respective countries.

Speaking on behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary, the Program Manager in charge of Health and Social Affairs at the Secretariat called on the Member States to enact legislations and policies that would facilitate free movement of people, goods and services in the region.

IOM

Mr. Ogina expressed his appreciation of all presentations and discussions including the personal experiences shared. He commended the governments in the region for taking issues of migration very seriously by pushing for regional integration and economic cooperation.

The Head of IOM Mission in Ethiopia also thanked the governments and development partners for recognizing the challenges and opportunities of migration in the region. He assured them of continued support and collaboration from IOM.

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

An official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Walle Yehuala showed gratitude to the organizers for choosing his country to once again host the RCP meeting, a second in the row. He pointed out that his government remains committed to issues of migration and will continue to support national as well as regional initiatives in the right direction.

The Economic Policy Integration and Infrastructure Interconnector called on IGAD Member States and development partners to support infrastructure development programs, such as the multi-million dollar mega hydroelectric projects in Ethiopia.