

Draft Concept Note on Migration prepared by Mexico, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe

I. Context

- Migration is not a new phenomenon. It has been the human experience since the beginning of civilization. Some moved voluntarily, others were coerced to move and yet others drifted to new lands looking for a better life.
- Migration has become a megatrend of the 21st Century. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), approximately 1 billion persons are in a migrant situation, either internationally (215 million) or internally (740 million), which means that at least one in seven people on the planet are on the move.
- Migration drivers include the search for better living and working conditions, food insecurity, unemployment, poverty, conflicts, natural disasters, education, among others,
- Migration is a very broad and cross-cutting issue. It is interlinked, both in positive and negative ways with:
 - Human Rights – Migrants’ rights, human trafficking, discrimination, exploitation, forced migration, displacements;
 - Labour – skilled and non-skilled migration, exploitation, labour laws not covering migrants (especially women), decent work, empowerment of women and youth, social protection;
 - Health – medical services for migrants;
 - Economy – financial inclusion, remittance transfers, financial education, diaspora associations, foreign investments by the diaspora;
 - Education – opportunity to study abroad, brain-drain;
 - Intellectual Property – inventions developed by migrants which get IP protection, technology transfer.
- International Migration can benefit home country development while at the same time contributing to the development of the host country.
- Migration is a key issue for G-15 member countries, due to the fact that population growth will be driven by developing countries, while developed countries’ population will remain almost the same.

II. Key challenges

- Mobility will continue to be a key factor for reducing poverty, fostering inclusive social and economic development, and enabling the growing number of young people in the world to access education and employment opportunities, especially when migrants' rights are protected.
- Even though remittances make up a significant share of GDP, support national income and represent a large source of foreign currency earnings for some countries, especially developing ones, there is still much to do to fully harness their development potential, such as reducing transfer remittance costs, as well as the implementation of financial inclusion and financial literacy programs for migrants, in addition to creating investment opportunities for the diaspora. It is of utmost importance to highlight that remittances are not a replacement or substitution to Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows.
- Skilled migration (brain-drain) is a major trend among current migration patterns, being fuelled by the development of knowledge economies and by the emergence of a global labour market for skilled professionals. National policies and mobility agreements around the world tend to give preference to the movement of students and skilled people. A partnership on labour mobility should include a concerted effort to expand education and skills development opportunities in developing countries, and to ensure the recognition of skills and qualifications.
- Labour market shortages for highly and low-skilled workers in ageing societies are expected to exacerbate. The sustainability of social security, health and care systems is already reliant on migrant labour. Regular migration channels should be more in tune with labour market needs.

III. Recommendations

- To produce a set of best practices for sharing and cooperation among G-15 member states. For example:
 - **MEXICO Financial Education Week** – Event to disseminate the advantages posed by the US and Canadian financial system for Mexican migrants. In one week, and with the collaboration of 50 Mexican Consulates in the US and Canada, and 482 local partners, more than 58,000 mexican migrants received guidance through more than 1,500 workshops and seminars.
 - **MEXICO “3x1 for Migrants”** – Program than channels remittances towards the creation of jobs in the receiving zones. Other programs for rural development, housing and SME's creation support this program. For each dollar invested by migrants, both the Federal and Municipal governments provide for the same amount.
 - **MEXICO “Mexican talents’ network abroad”** – Network with 18 regional chapters that link high-skilled diaspora with it's counterparts in Mexico to generate high value added projects on business development, education and innovation.

- **SRI LANKA Scholarships to children of Migrant Workers** – Project conducted on behalf of the children of migrant workers. One of the nation’s premier scholarships awarding campaigns that has seen many students being granted scholarships so far.
 - **SRI LANKA Providing housing loans and loans for self-employment** – Housing loans and loans for self-employment are granted at low interest. More than 70% of the interest on these loans will be borne by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.
 - **SRI LANKA Special unit to provide for the needs of the children of migrant workers** – 24-hour service coordinates and provides for the protection and welfare of the children of migrant worker parents.
- To consider engaging and liaising with relevant organizations, actors and appropriate fora such as ILO, IOM, Human Rights Council, UNCTAD, Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and members of the Global Migration Group to address the identified key challenges.
 - To work with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which seeks to address the multidimensional aspects, opportunities and challenges related to international migration; seeks a holistic approach of migration, taking into account shared responsibilities and benefits; and to operationalize mainstreaming of migration in development policy and integrating migration in the post-2015 development agenda.
 - To consider presenting a joint-statement at the 103rd IOM Council in November 2013.
 - To participate in the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development 2013 in New York (October 3-4, 2013) and to seek a political outcome to set a strategy for the near future.