

Rapporteur: Ambassador Evan P. Garcia - Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Roundtable Session 1.2

“Migrants’ engagement with public services: from basic access to coproduction”

Thank you Chair.

I wish to inform this gathering of the proceedings of Roundtable Session 1.2. Entitled **“Migrants engagement with public services: from basic access to co-production”**. The roundtable was co-chaired by Ambassador Negash Batora Kebret, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN in Geneva, and H. E. Mr. José Luis Pardo, Ambassador for Migratory Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation of Spain.

The panel was composed of Ms. Asako OKAI, Assistant Secretary General, and Director, Crisis Bureau, UNDP, Ms. Jessica López Mejia, Protection and Integration Policy Director at the Migration Policy Unit, Ministry of Interior of Mexico, H.E. Sek Wannamethee, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN in Geneva, and Ms. Lariza Dugan Cuadra, Executive Director, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) of Northern California.

The paper presented for discussion, prepared by UNDP in consultation with the co-chairs, explored:

- The rights-based approach anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international rights conventions;
- The scope of public services and welfare, such as education, health, social security and employment, and its relationship to harnessing development potential of migrants, and of growth within host community;
- Current global trends, such as uncontrolled urbanization, and social tensions in resource-challenged communities.
- The need to change the negative narrative into positive “urban citizenship” where migrants are seen as contributors to development,.

- And realizing that Sustainability is key to facilitating protection, integration, and inclusion, under Objective 15, among others, of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

During the panel discussion, several good practices were presented.

On the need to build resources and capacities, Ethiopia shared the positive outcomes of their Diaspora Trust Fund where their communities abroad have the opportunity to contribute towards the provision of services for marginalized communities.

On policy formulation, Spain shared their four Principles of Migration: 1) that it is a fact that needs to be managed well; 2) that actions should be considered in the short and long term; 3) that migration is a complex issue that we must tackle in a multi-dimensional way; and 4) that we must apply a human rights approach, with inclusion and integration as objectives. The representative of Mexico also shared that for their government, migrants rights are rooted in the constitution.

On the program design and policy implementation, there was an across the board agreement on the need for consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders, national, local, municipal levels of government, private sector, civil society organizations, sectoral commissions, trade unions, as the case may be, and the migrant communities themselves, to make implementation efficient and effective.

On the need to have accurate data to formulate policy and implement programs, Mexico and Thailand shared that they are registering the population, regardless of status, to provide access to all services. Thailand, in particular, is reaching out to assure irregular migrants that documentation will not result in penalties.

San Francisco provides an example of how effective civil society organizations can be through advocacy. She shared how the city is providing protections as a “Sanctuary City” by crafting legal frameworks that embody its intention to be “a city of inclusion”.

On the topic of integration, an official from Morocco’s Ministry of Religious Affairs described the positive impact of providing Islamic guides where the Moroccan diaspora live, to facilitate integration into their new communities. This program may also be considered by other faith-based organizations.

The platform provided by the GFMD and the UN Migration network, among others, in facilitating the global and multi-dimensional discourse and the work towards national implementation was identified as an asset.

The implementation of the GCM has to take into account local specifics. This must include consultation and involvement with local communities.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals and with the Global Compact, we must remain mindful that central to the success of the implementation of our ambitious objectives is the involvement of migrant communities at the center of public policy for migrants.

Let me end with a quote from one of our participants at the forum yesterday on the importance of engagement with migrant communities in this process: “what you do for me, without me, you do against me.”

Thank you Chair.