



*Secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global
Forum on Migration and Development*

Synthesis report from the High-level Panel Expert Policy Dialogue on Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

On 26 February 2013, an Expert Policy Dialogue on the role of migration and mobility in the post-2015 Development Agenda was hosted by Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms. Gunilla Carlsson. The meeting was called to review how migration and other related drivers of development could be integrated in the post-2015 development agenda.

The [concept note](#) and [background paper](#) made clear that migration is both transformative and one of the most powerful and immediate strategies for poverty reduction, at a global level and the individual level. Recognizing its importance in this regard, participants cited economist J.K. Galbraith, who has referred to migration as the oldest action against poverty for most of human history.¹ The background materials highlighted that as a strategy for poverty reduction, economic modelling suggests that the gains from liberalizing freedom of movement for labour would be greater than the potential gains from further liberalization of the movement of goods or capital. For individuals, leaving a poor country for a richer one and finding work in their normal occupations is likely to multiply their incomes many-fold (a 15-fold increase in income; a doubling in education enrolment rate; and a 16-fold reduction in child mortality). Similarly, without internal migration we would not be experiencing the transformative urbanization that is taking place across the world.

The meeting, which took place in Stockholm, brought together panel members and/or members of their advisory teams (Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico and Sweden), other government representatives from Bangladesh, Canada, France, Germany, Moldova, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States, senior officials and experts from UN agencies, IOM and other international organizations as well as

¹ Galbraith, J. K. (1979), *The Economics of Mass Poverty*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

academics, think tanks and other civil society members. For [a full list of participants](#) see annex 2.

On [the agenda](#) (see annex 1), there was [a key note speech](#) on migration as a driver of development delivered by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Migration and Development, Peter Sutherland as well as [an overview presentation on migration and development in the context of post-2015](#), by Director General William Lacy Swing of IOM. Other presentations included the post-2015 process and reflections on how migration fits within this, migration in development cooperation, the importance of migration for national development, a more [in-depth presentation](#) which focused on leveraging migration-driven remittances, skills and investments for development as well as a migrant perspective delivered by Father Flor Maria Rigoni from Casa del Migrante Albergue Belén, in Chiapas, Mexico. Intensive discussions drew on the expertise from the sixty-four experts that were gathered for the occasion. In the afternoon, participants broke up into groups exploring three broad topics: *migration as an enabler and partnership for development*, *internal migration and urbanization for development* and *how to think about goals, targets and indicators for the contribution of migration to development goals*.

Key messages from the meeting

The meeting established that migration is about much more than the one billion people who are migrants today (whether internally or internationally). Migration affects the family members directly and has a lot of spin-off effects on community members of those who remain – as remittances are used for local consumption or investments, as transnational networks generate trade between counties of origin and countries of destination, and as returning migrants bring back new skills and ideas to places of origin. It was also highlighted that migration is absolutely natural to the human condition. Oftentimes, migration is seen as the result of failed development. But migration has been a driver of human advancement throughout history and remains one of the most effective strategies for individuals and their families to improve their lives.

When reflecting on why the force of migration was left out of Millennium Development Agenda, it was highlighted that migration is a highly political issue, touching on national agendas, and in some cases juxtaposing state sovereignty of deciding who can enter, for how long and on what terms on the one hand and the human rights of all people to leave their countries on the other. Still, the meeting concluded that despite the political challenges, migration is a given fact that needs to be taken into consideration and that neglecting migration could render the future development agenda irrelevant.

It was suggested, therefore, that we should focus on quality, not quantity of migration. This is important both in order to find a politically viable proposal that could gain consensus and from a people-centred approach, that embraces the interests of migrants.

Options to include migration and mobility in the post-2015 development agenda included *a narrative that acknowledges the contribution of migration to the development goals, as an enabler*, and the formulation of *partnerships to this effect*. In essence, this implies a dual track approach which recognizes both the need for partnerships around migration, and the mainstreaming of migration in the efforts to achieve other development goals.

Regarding partnerships, it was also recognized that migration and mobility are global and national issues that requires cooperation within and between countries, as well as actors such as the private sector, civil society and local governments. Sketching on the building blocks of such partnerships, it was highlighted that no one should be forced to move, but people who choose to move in search for better life-chances should not be barred from doing so. Instead, those who move should be able to do so under conditions that expand their capabilities and with basic human rights guaranteed. For this to happen, Governments need to plan for handling the opportunities that migration brings and the challenges that arise. On the one hand, this means that development agencies and economic planning bodies need to adequately consider the effects of migration and mobility on development in their analysis, plans and programmes. On the other hand, it means that migration and labour ministries need to reflect on how migration can contribute to development. Finally, it was recognized that for partnerships to be meaningful, they need to be based on and support the specific goals that we set ourselves. They cannot be elaborated in the void.

Annex 1 Programme

Tuesday 26 February 2013

08.30-09.00 *Registration*

09.00-09.20 Opening Statements,
Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International
 Development Cooperation
Tobias Billström, Minister for Migration and Asylum
 Policy

Scene-setting session

Moderator: **William Swing**, Director General, IOM

09.20-09.35 Introduction to the Post-2015 process, **Shamshad Akhtar**, ASG, UN DESA

09.35-9.50 Introduction to UNDG work on the Post-2015 process, enablers and global partnerships **Sigrid Kaag**, ASG, UNDP

09.50-10.05 Migration in development cooperation, **Michel Mordasini**, Director, Directorate Global Cooperation, SDC, Switzerland

10.05-10.20 The importance of migration for national development, **Md. Shahidul Haque**, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

10.20-11.00 Q&A and reflections by moderator

11.00-11.20 *Coffee break*

11.20-11.35 Key note speaker on migration as a driver of development,
Peter Sutherland, SRSG on Migration and Development

11.45-13.00 Moderated discussion with the floor on migration as an enabler for development goals
 Moderator: **Hans Timmer**, Director, Development Prospects Group, World Bank

Presentation: Leveraging migration for development: remittances, skills and investments, **Dilip Ratha**, Manager Migration and Remittances Unit/CEO Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development

13.00-14.30 *Lunch*

Presentation: **Father Flor Maria Rigoni**, c.s. Casa del Migrante Albergue Belén, Tapachula, Chiapas - Mexico

- 14.30-14.45 Introduction to working group break-out sessions
Facilitator: **Khalid Koser**, Deputy Director and Academic Dean, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- 14.45-16.45 Working group break-out sessions (coffee available)
1. *Migration as an enabler / partnership*
Moderator: **Natalia Gherman**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Republic of Moldova
Rapporteur: **Sarah Rosengärtner**, Migration and development expert, UNDP
2. *Internal migration and urbanization for development*
Moderator: **Staffan Ingvarsson**, Deputy Mayor, City of Stockholm, Sweden
Rapporteur: **Riaz Hamidullah**, Director General Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh
3. *Goals, Targets and indicators for the contribution of migration to development goals*
Moderator: **Kathleen Newland**, Director, Migrants, Migration, and Development and Refugee Protection Programs, Migration Policy Institute
Rapporteur: **Michele Klein Solomon**, Permanent Observer to the UN, IOM
- 16.45-17.45 Report from working groups (moderator: **Gregory Maniatis**, Special Adviser to the SRSG on Migration and Development)
- 17.45-18.00 Concluding remarks, **Gunilla Carlsson**, Minister for International Development Cooperation
- 18.30- *Dinner, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Gustav Adolfs Torg 2*
Hosted by **Tobias Billström**, Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy

Annex 2 List of Participants

Name	Title	Country/Organisation
Shamshad Akhtar	Assistant Secretary-General	UNDESA
Steffen Angenendt	Senior Associate	Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Pradita Astarina	Associate Director	Indonesia
Haroon Borhat	Professor	HLP Secretariat
Tobias Billström	Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy	Sweden
John Bingham	Head of Policy	ICMC
Nathalie Bounoux	Expert	France, Agence Française de Développement
Caroline Caplan		Université Montpellier III, France
Gunilla Carlsson	Minister for International Development Cooperation	Sweden
Jette Christiansen	Capacity Building Officer	ACP Migration Observatory
Garry Conille		Liberia
Emil Druc	Ambassador of Moldova to Sweden	Moldova

Abdoulaye Dukulé	Envoy	Liberia
Patricia Espinosa	Ambassador	Mexico
Natalia Gherman	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration	Moldova
Beata Godenzi	Head of Global Program Migration and Development	Switzerland
Charlotte Petri Gornitzka	Director General	Sida, Sweden
Derek Griffiths	FCO, The Governance Advisor	United Kingdom
Iskandar Hadrianto	Minister Counsellor	Embassy of Indonesia
Riaz Hamidullah	DG for Economic Affairs	Bangladesh, MIFA
Shahidul Haque	Secretary of Foreign Affairs	Bangladesh, MIFA
Staffan Ingvarsson	Deputy Mayor	City of Stockholm
George Joseph	Director National & Migration Dept	Caritas Sweden
Sigrid Kaag	Assistant Secretary-General	UNDP
Jan O Karlsson	Special Advisor	Global Challenge
David Khoudour	Head, Migration and Skills Unit	OECD

Michele Klein-Solomon	Permanent Observer	IOM
Khalid Koser	Deputy Director and Academic Dean	GCSP
Jorge Lomónaco	Ambassador	Embassy of Mexico to Sweden
Monica Lorensen	Liasion Officer	UNDP
Hans Lundborg	Ambassador	Sweden, MFA
Lars-Johan Lönnback	Senior Policy Advisor	IOM
Justin MacDermott	Senior Policy Advisor	Sweden, GFMD-secretariat
Gregory A Maniatis	Special Advisor to SRSG	United Nations
Andrey Miyaev	Minister-Counsellor	Embassy of Russia
Michel Mordasini	Director	Switzerland, SDC
Rainer Münz	Head of Research and Development	HWWI
Peter Mörkeberg	Designated Immigration Officer	Embassy of Canada in Sweden
Kathleen Newland	Director, Migrants, Migration, Development and Refugee Protection Program	Migration Policy Institute
Joakim Palme	Professor	Uppsala University

Name	Professional Title	Global Challenge
Lisa Pelling	Programme Director, Migration	Global Challenge
Lisa Phillips	Head of Cabinet	United Kingdom
Heru Prasetyo	Secretary of National Committé	Indonesia
Dilip Ratha	Manager Migration and Remittances Unit	Worldbank
Father Flor Maria Rigoni		Casa del Migrante Albergue Belén
Sarah Rosengaertner	Migration and Development Expert	UNDP
Marielle Sander-Lindström	Senior Policy Advisor	Sweden, GFMD-secretariat
Gousal Azam Sarker	Ambassador	Embassy of Bangladesh to Sweden
Dewa Made Juniarta Sastrawan	Ambassador	Embassy of Indonesia
Fredrik Segerfeldt	Writer	MIGRO
Jesper Strömbeck	Administrative Director	Sweden, Prime Minister's Office
Peter Sutherland	SRSG on Migration and Development	United Nations
William Swing	Director General	IOM
Kristof Tamas	Senior Policy Advisor	Sweden, GFMD-secretariat

Johanna Teague	Desk Officer	Sweden, MFA
Amalia Garcia Thörn	Senior Advisor	Sweden, MFA
Hans Timmer	Director	Worldbank
Klas Waldenström	Senior Advisor	Sida, Sweden
Jonathan M. Weadon	Economic Officer	Embassy of USA to Sweden
Anton Weyler	Desk Officer	Sweden, Ministry of Justice
Anders Wiberg	Trainee	Sweden, MFA
Kerstin Åberg	Project Administrator	Sweden, GFMD-secretariat
Eva Åkerman-Börje	Ambassador	Sweden, GFMD-secretariat
Sofia Östmark	Senior Policy Advisor	Sweden, GFMD-secretariat