

Thematic Workshop on Migration – Connectivity – Business
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Brazil

- Since 2011, following the earthquake that struck Haiti, the Brazilian government created a special permanent humanitarian visa scheme for Haitian migrants. This kind of visa allows these migrants to live and work in Brazil.
- In a similar manner, in 2013, the Brazilian government established new regulations on refugees and entrants into its territory that apply to people displaced by the conflict in Syria and Iraq. Since then, Brazil has issued more than 9,000 humanitarian visas, especially for Syrians.

Dominican Republic

- The Dominican Republic, as a member of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), has recognized that migratory flows into and out from the region are to be set up in a way that people's rights are protected to fight illicit human trafficking for example in humans. The Fourth CELAC Congress of the Heads of States / Governments recognized that socio-economic networks are facing challenges that grow greater overtime and that the protection of rights of everyone including migrant workers is extremely important. CELAC Leaders urged the destination countries to stop giving selective treatment to migrants.

Ecuador

- Regarding human mobility, the country has an agreement on residency between countries of Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela and Uruguay) and other associated countries (Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Colombia). The agreement seeks to facilitate migration and the establishment of domicile, permanent or temporary, for people among the different member states.
- Ecuador has also signed other migration-related agreements to ensure orderly and regular migration with Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. These are permanent bilateral mechanisms to facilitate movement of citizens. The scope of application relates to entry, circulation and the outflow of citizens between these different countries.

Equatorial Guinea

- During the 12th Summit of the Heads of State of ECOWAS, Equatorial Guinea set up an initiative to promote growth and to foster regional integration. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure free circulation of persons by eliminating visa requirements for six Member States of the Central African community, (i.e. Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo).
- The '2063 Agenda for Africa' drawn up by the Heads of States of the African Union sets forth several objectives e.g. objectives 2, 6 and 7 pertain to the engagement of the African diaspora.

France

- France is currently developing a “development and solidarity” platform to enable countries in the North African region to engage with their diaspora in Europe in order to facilitate diaspora investment across both regions.

Guatemala

- The Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture has set up a strategy to create a platform to encourage investment, create productive labour, workers remittances being used to foster sustainable enterprises, and a 'virtual' fair aimed at building bridges with the Guatemalan diaspora living in California. Other strategic efforts within the Triángulo Norte countries (*El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala*) include the promotion of strategic sectors e.g. electricity, investment promotion, expansion of infrastructure, and the creation of logistical corridors.

India

- India has several physical connectivity projects in railroad, border crossing, waterways, coastal shipping, and energy cooperation in order to ensure better connectivity in the South East Asian countries. One example is the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project that will connect a number of seaports in the Indian eastern region with Myanmar.

Mexico

- Mexico has approximately 45 bilateral commercial agreements, but very few of these provide for the labour component. Hence, the country's next step is to include a chapter on labour mobility in all of its trade agreements.

Philippines

- Philippines has a long history of engagement with its diaspora. The country established its first contact centre in 1992, and its first call centre was set up in 1997. Additionally, the Philippine government is setting 9% of GDP as a target for the Business process outsourcing (BPO) sector in 2016, generating 1.3 million new jobs. Philippines' BPO revenue in 2013 was almost 16 billion USD employing about 1 million Filipinos on a full time basis.

Sri Lanka

- With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Sri Lanka was able to introduce a reintegration policy, which forms part of the national labour migration policy.

Sweden

- Sweden has conducted two studies on the nexus between trade and mobility. One is called "Making trade happen: business perspectives on cross-border movement of persons" and the other is called "Trade costs of visas and work permits".
- Together with 22 other WTO Member States, Sweden is part of the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), which is currently being negotiated, and is looking into a possible additional protocol on movement of natural persons for business purposes.

Switzerland

- In 2014, multilevel integration programs were launched that comprised access to information, counselling, protection from discrimination, employment services, language teaching, intercultural trainings, interpretation services and social integration programmes.
- Switzerland has worked closely with the ECOWAS Commission to facilitate mobility in West Africa as a key factor for migration and development in the region. The ECOWAS commission, in order to facilitate mobility, is developing the free movement follow-up mechanism of road transporters with the support of Switzerland and the European Union. This mechanism facilitates fluidity of movement and connectivity between main urban centers of the region through a network of bus companies.
- Regarding trade, the free movement follow-up mechanism of road transporters is currently being developed with the support of the Swiss government and the European Union. This public-private

partnership mechanism facilitates fluidity of movement and connectivity between main urban centres of the region through a network of bus companies.

Thailand

- Since June 2014, the Thai Government has implemented a nationwide Systematic Registration Scheme for migrants from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. This registration scheme allows migrants to enjoy their rights under relevant Thai laws and enables the authorities to effectively moderate their working conditions and provide appropriate protection from human traffickers and exploitative employers. In terms of healthcare, all migrant workers, including the undocumented ones, in Thailand are entitled to equal protection under Thai labour laws. They are also provided with adequate access to necessary care under Thailand's universal health coverage system. In addition, all registered migrant workers can obtain a health insurance package, which covers their families and dependents in Thailand, regardless of their employment status.
- Thailand has set up around 15 special economic zones along the Eastern Economic Corridor, the North-South Economic Corridor, Southern Economic Corridor and particularly the Greater Mekong sub-region.

Zambia

- In partnership with IOM, Zambia created a specialised government department mandated to oversee immigration and the enactment of legislation on immigration by the Zambian Parliament. IOM has also assisted the Zambian government in developing migrant-friendly policies, attending to HIV and health vulnerabilities of migrants, as well as capacity building on delivery of services to migrants. The Zambian Ministries of Finance, Labour and the President's Office have developed a Diaspora Engagement Strategy in collaboration with IOM called Institutional Capacity-Building for Diaspora Engagement in Zambia (BDMZ). This strategy provides the basic infrastructure to facilitate implementation of a broader Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) follow-up in Zambia, including the creation of the Office of Diaspora Affairs (ODA).
- Regionally, Zambia has worked closely with other countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in developing a protocol to facilitate the movement of persons within the region. In this regard, the SADC Summit approved, in 2005, a protocol on facilitating, among other things, entry into Member States by persons, without the need of a visa for a maximum period of 90 days per year for bona fide visits, and in accordance with the laws of the Member States.
- At the national level, the National Assembly of Zambia has enacted the following legislation dedicated to migration issues:
 - The Anti-Human Trafficking Act (*No. 11, 2008*): the first ever law enacted that comprehensively addresses human trafficking in Zambia. The new law gives greater authority and prosecutorial ability to police officers, immigration officers, and customs officials.
 - The Immigration and Deportation Act (2010): the Immigration and Deportation Act was revised in 2010 to bring it in line with the current business environment and to ensure that it is in harmony with other existing laws. The extensive amendment of the Act ensured that the Immigration Act provided for immigration consultants and was also harmonized with the Zambia Development Agency Act, which promotes investments.
 - The Refugees (Control) Act Cap 120 of the Laws of Zambia: the Act provides that persons who are, or prior to their entry into Zambia, were ordinarily residents outside Zambia and who have sought asylum in Zambia.
- Through Vision 2030 and the National Development Plans (5 year cycles) The Zambian Government has provided the overarching Government Policy framework on trade and investment. Currently, Zambia is implementing its revised Sixth National Development Plan, which primarily aims to improve Zambia's business environment through measures such as removing barriers to trade and business (under the Private Sector Development Reform Programme – PSDRP), and removing barriers to mobility of products and businesspersons. Examples of the latter include the establishment of One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) at Chirundu Border Post with Zimbabwe, Nakonde OSBP located at Tunduma/Nakonde Border

with Tanzania and others planned for Mchinji (with Malawi), Kasumbalesa (with the Democratic Republic of Congo) and at Kazungula between Zambia and Botswana.

- Similarly, Zambia has in place One Stop Shops for Business Registration (OSSBR) that provide both local and foreign investors with fast, efficient and business-friendly registration services and thus, reduces the cost of doing business. Other measures include the implementation of the Simplified Trade Regime programme with neighbouring countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe with the aim of formalizing small-scale cross-border trade as well as facilitating small-scale cross-border traders participating in regional trade. Finally, Zambia is actively involved in the regional processes of ensuring that reported and proven Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) are eliminated in all their forms.

BASUG, CSO

- In Netherlands, pre-consultation meetings are conducted to gain insight from diaspora communities in the country. These meetings take place right before the GFMD summit meeting every year.
- Additionally, the Remade Project of the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in the UK brought together African diaspora communities to start businesses and enterprises in Ghana. AFFORD has established a business support centre in Sierra Leone for local and diaspora entrepreneurship and investors to help them to navigating the process of establishing businesses. AFFORD has provided diaspora from Sierra Leone and Ghana with business skills, management skills and facilitated mechanisms for intellectual transfer of knowledge to countries of origin for African diaspora who do not necessarily want to return home.

Federación Zacatecana

- In the Mexican migrant community, which has been organized for over 15 years, Federación Zacatecana has developed the programme "3 for 1". In this programme, for every US dollar being invested by Mexican emigrants in their country of origin, US\$ 2 - 3 are given by the Mexican government for social projects, which are undertaken in the country. After seven years of implementation of this programme, the organisation was able to develop various other projects including "Uno por Uno", which means that the Mexican government will respond to the requests of the Mexican population. For every dollar that is put forth by a migrant, the government will provide the same amount to co-finance small enterprises. The result so far has been 25 million Mexican pesos invested in various projects, and the creation of close to 300 jobs in the Zacatecas region of Mexico.

ILO

- ILO conducted a survey in 2010 on society's public attitudes towards migrant workers in Singapore, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia. The results showed more support and openness toward labour migration for skilled workers. The other finding was that there was more support for the rights of migrant workers when the respondent has had an interaction with migrants as an employer, a friend or acquaintance.
