



« Identifying and mobilizing migrants' skills for development »

5 October 2012

OECD Conference Centre

2 Rue André Pascal, Paris, 16th district

Objectives of the Conference

This conference fits into the framework of the preparations for the upcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which will be held in Mauritius in November 2012, and more particularly into the framework of round table 1.2 on "Supporting Migrants and Diaspora as Agents of Socioeconomic Change", which is co-chaired by France.

The conference aims to present the conclusions of two studies undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with France's support on the profiles of migrant populations residing in OECD countries and on policies to mobilize migrant skills for development. This presentation will be followed by a debate centred on two round tables, in which representatives of institutions from countries of origin and destination, of migrant associations, of non-governmental organizations and international organizations involved in these matters will participate.

The conference is organized on the basis of the observation that immigrant populations are increasingly qualified but that their diverse skills are not necessarily known, used or mobilized to their full potential.

A first challenge stems from the difficulty of identifying and locating the skills of migrants who could contribute to the development of both their country of destination and their country of origin. The gap in between supply and demand in terms of qualifications also limits migrants' contribution. Mobilizing and exploiting the skills of migrants and diaspora for development thus requires first the establishment of a detailed profile of their skills but also the identification of channels through which they can allocate productive potential or promote the transfer of standards, knowledge and expertise to countries of destination and origin.

Many institutional and non-governmental actors are active in these fields and a great deal of experience has been built up in various regions of the world. One of the main goals of this conference is to discuss the basis of these experiences and study means to enhance coordination between the different actors in order to better utilize the skills of migrants to benefit their countries of origin and destination as well as the migrants themselves.

Expected outcomes

- ✓ Sharing of knowledge and experiences on the potential for mobilizing migrant and diaspora skills to support development in countries of destination and origin.
- ✓ Raising the awareness of actors involved in the "migrants and development" theme and mobilizing them ahead of the next major steps of global migration governance.
- ✓ Identifying new initiatives to promote the mobilization of migrant and diaspora skills for development.
- ✓ L'identification de nouvelles initiatives pour favoriser la mobilisation des compétences des migrants et des diasporas pour le développement.



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Programme

- 13:00 **Welcoming of participants**
- 13:30 **Opening addresses**
- M. Angel Gurría**, Secretary General of the OECD, *tbc*
- M. Pascal Canfin**, State Secretary for Development, France, *tbc*
- 14:00 **Identifying and mobilising the potential of diaspora: a comprehensive approach**
- This session will present the findings of two studies directed by the OECD on migrant skills and will serve as a basis for the discussions of the afternoon.
- M. Jean-Christophe Dumont**, Head of the International Migration Division of the OECD
- 14:20 **Round table 1: Mobilize and exploiting the diverse skills of migrants in countries of destination and of origin**
- This session will present various initiatives in countries of origin and destination, aimed at optimizing the economic, social and cultural diaspora contributions to development. Themes will include the balance between supply and demand for skills, circularity and diversity of skills, different forms of return and reintegration.
- Chairperson: M. Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre
- M. Papa Birama Thiam**, Director of Technical Assistance, Secretariat General of the Presidency, Republic of Senegal
- Ms Imelda M. Nicolas**, Secretary, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Philippines
- M. Rolands Lappuke**, Ambassador at Large in the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia
- Ms Beata Godenzi**, Head, Global Programme Migration, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland
- 15:00 General discussion

- 15:30 **Coffee break**
- 15:45 **Rond Table 1 (Continue) :**
- Chairperson : tbc**
- M. Mohammed Bernoussi**, Secretary General, Ministry in charge of Moroccans Abroad, Kingdom of Morocco
- Dr. Sergio Restrepo**, Minister Plenipotentiary, Colombian Embassy in France, Colombia
- M. Peter Bonin**, Head of Migration and Diaspora unit, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- M. Rodrigo Ballester**, Policy Officer, DG Home Affairs, European Commission
- 16:30 General discussion
- 17:00 **Round table 2: For better coordination of actors to support skills mobility**
- This session will discuss the role of the different actors involved in mobilizing migrant and diaspora skills to support development, from local to international level. The issue of coordination of these initiatives will also be discussed.
- Chairperson : M. Rémi Genevey**, Strategy Director, French Development Agency, France
- M. Thomas Lacroix**, Researcher, National Center for Scientific Research, Migrinter
- M. Jean-Charles Ahomadegbe**, President, Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM)
- Ms Stéphanie Berthomeau**, Head of International Affairs, Regional Council of Ile de France
- M. Franck Laczko**, Head, Migration Research Division, Department for International Cooperation and Partnerships, International Organization for Migration
- 17:45 General discussion

18: 15

Closing addresses

M. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul, Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius in Belgium, Representing the President of the Global Forum on Migration and Development

M. Jean-Baptiste Mattéi, Director General of Globalization, Economic Development and Partnerships, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

M. John Martin, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

18 :45-20 :00 **Cocktail**

For more information on the organisation of the conference please contact Pierre Robion, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (pierre.robion@diplomatie.gouv.fr) and Nathalie Bougnoux, French Development Agency (bougnouxn@afd.fr)