



GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2011

THEMATIC MEETING

“From Evidence to Action – Facilitating South-South Labour Migration for Development”

AGENDA (Draft)

SUNDAY – October 16th

Arrival of Participants in Abuja

MONDAY – October 17th

9am – 10am Registration of participants

10am – 10:45am Opening Session

Welcoming Remarks:

- H.E. Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria

Introductory Remarks:

- H.E. Ambassador Eduard Gnesa, Chairman-in-Office GFMD 2011

Goodwill Message

- H.E. Ambassador James Victor Gbeho, President ECOWAS Commission (tbc)

Declaring the conference open:

- H.E. Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, The Honourable Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (tbc)

10:45am – 11am Coffee Break

11am – 11:30am Key Note address

- Professor Aderanti Adepaju, Coordinator NOMRA

11:30am – 1pm 1. Session: Opportunities and challenges of south-south labour migration

Focus of this session:

This initial session will set the stage for the conference by introducing the complex and multifaceted nature of south-south labour migration. The panel will shed light on both challenges and opportunities of labour migration within selected regions of the world. It will also formulate some characteristics of south-south migration with respect to other inter-regional migration movements – notably south-north.

Guiding questions for this session:

- What do we consider to be south – south labour migration and what specific characteristics does it have notably with regard to south-north migration?
- What are the major challenges and opportunities of south-south labour migration and are they similar in all regions of the Global South?
- What is the development impact of south-south labour migration and how can it be enhanced?

1pm – 2pm **Lunch**

2pm – 3:30pm **2. Session: Facilitating south-south labour migration – the role of sending countries**

Focus of this session:

Aware that most countries in the Global South are often at the same time sending, transit and destination countries, this session will focus specifically on practices from a pre-departure perspective. Several countries have engaged in bilateral projects facilitating south-north labour migration. The panel will discuss how experiences from such programs can be used to enhance the capacities to foster south-south labour migration. It will furthermore give examples on how to build labour matching procedures and/or information exchange platforms, on how to strategically run human resources capacity building programs and harmonize the recognition of university degrees as well as other certificates. The panel will also shed light on how to best prepare migrants before their journey, on how to ensure their protection throughout the migration process and on how to enhance the development impact through remittances, investment facilities, knowledge transfer etc.

Guiding questions for this session:

- What national policy and bi- or multilateral frameworks can be set up to facilitate south-south labour migration from the perspective of sending country?
- How can the individual migration process be facilitated (pre-departure orientation and counselling) and how can the rights of migrants workers be ensured throughout the process?
- What can be done to enhance the development impact in the country of origin of south-south labour migration?

3:30pm – 4pm **Coffee break**

4pm – 5:30pm **3. Session: Facilitating legal labour migration – the role of destination countries**

Focus of this session:

South-south labour migration from the perspective of the country of destination can be an opportunity – notably when migrant workers fill existing needs on the labour market – but it is also a responsibility in particular with regard to ensuring the rights of migrants and their families. The panel will discuss both sides. It will analyze how strengthening the labour market system will enhance the accessibility for of migrant workers and thereby enhancing their development impact. It will also discuss the role of governments, employers and private employment agencies in ensuring the rights of migrant workers and notably present practices on how to prevent exploitation and illegal employment.

Guiding questions for this session:

- How can the labour market system be strengthened and coordinated with an immigration policy regulating admissions and recruitments of migrant workers?

- How can a monitoring system be set up to ensure accurate labour market needs assessments and trends?
- How can irregular and exploitative employment be prevented and the rights of migrant workers and their families protected?

7:30pm – 9:30pm **Official Dinner hosted by the Government of Nigeria**

TUESDAY – October 18th

10am – 10:15am **Review of first day**

- **Co-Chairs of Conference**

10:15am – 11:45am **4. Session: Using Migration Profiles and other existing tools to ensure evidence-based and coherent policy development**

Focus of this session:

Migration Profiles are generally endorsed as comprehensive data and information tool for evidence-based policy development. This session will take Migration Profiles as a starting point to highlight the need of evidence-based and coherent labour migration policy development. The panel will illustrate several mechanisms and tools – in addition to the Profiles also the recently published handbook “Mainstreaming migration into development planning” by the Global Migration Group or the added value of inter-ministerial working groups – to substantiate to policy development process.

Guiding questions for this session:

- What is the added value of using migration profiles during the policy development process and how can the profiles be kept updated?
- How can coherence and coordination during the development and implementation process of a labour migration policy be ensured?
- What role can an inter-ministerial working or coordination group play and what are key-factors to be considered when creating such a group?

11:45am – 12am **Coffee break**

12am – 1:30pm **5. Session: Two case studies of labour migration policies – Nigeria and Sri Lanka**

Focus of this session:

This session will present two cases of recently formulated labour migration policies. The presentations will focus on procedural matters – steps which led to the policy, timeframe used, lessons learnt etc. – as well as discuss to what extent south-south labour migration is specifically reflected in the policy and if not why. The comparison between the two experiences and the discussion during this meeting will allow the participants to critically analyze procedures and draw conclusions on best practices.

Guiding questions for this session:

- What are best practices and lessons learnt in the two presented cases?
- How well is south-south labour migration reflected in the policies and would there have been room for improvement?

1:30pm – 2:30pm **Lunch**

2:30pm – 4pm **6. Session: Identifying national, regional and international stakeholders and discuss their specific roles**

Focus of this session:

Throughout the previous sessions several stakeholders will have been identified and to some extent also their role discussed. Given the complexity of the topic as well as the variety of actors at various levels, this session is proposed to properly identify them and attribute specific tasks and roles. These stakeholders include inter alia Ministries, Agencies and Departments of Governments, Regional and International Organisations, Civil Society, Academia, Unions etc.

Guiding questions for this session:

- What are the relevant stakeholders to facilitate south-south labour migration and what role do they have?
- What are best-practices to ensure a proactive and functioning network of stakeholders?

4pm – 4:30pm **Introduction of ECOWAS paper on institutionalizing a regional dialogue process**

- **ECOWAS Commission**

4:30pm – 5pm **Concluding remarks by Conference Co-Chairs:**

- **H.E. Ambassador Eduard Gnesa**, Chairman-in-Office GFMD 2011
- **H.E. Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi**, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria