

ACTIVITIES ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)

A. BACKGROUND

1. A note on ICMC

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is a network of members in nearly every country of the world with its own operations and staff which serves and protects refugees, migrants, especially vulnerable migrant workers, victims of human trafficking, fragile families and unaccompanied minors, and internally displaced persons, regardless of their faith, race, ethnicity or national origin.

Active both in operations and advocacy, ICMC works directly and through its members on programmes and policy development related to migration. Working in partnership with States, international and civil society organizations, the ICMC network is committed to better elaborations and collaborations on international migration and development.

2. ICMC engagement on international migration and development

At the policy level, ICMC's Strategic Plan explicitly targets migration and development as one of the organization's top priorities for the coming years.

At the international policy level, ICMC has participated in all of the processes related to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The organization has participated in the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 and in its capacity as a civil society delegate, a member of formal advisory committees, a session rapporteur, and a member of a writing team of each of the reports of the civil society days, in the first two Global Forum meetings in 2007 and 2008. For the 2008 Global Forum, ICMC wrote a background paper and spoke on regional consultative processes as part of session 3.3 of the civil society programme. In addition, ICMC participated in the 2007 Global Forum's online consultation and in the editing of a number of background papers prepared for both the civil society days and the Government meeting. Parallel to the civil society programme, ICMC was involved in the planning and organization of parallel civil society events held in Brussels, Belgium, and Manila, the Philippines.

ICMC established a civil society website on migration and development.¹ Although the Global Forum and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) websites host considerable libraries of official documentation and quality research and material on migration and development, the new website provides added value by approaching the issue from a civil society perspective, centred on the individual in the context of migration and development, and the need to highlight practical, rights-based solutions that already exist as well as possibilities for the future. Complementing existing websites, the new site:

- (a) Identifies and makes accessible quality writing and other materials on migration and development that are not fully presented on other websites or in other forums, giving

particular priority to non-governmental organizations, faith-based and labour organizations;

- (b) Promotes the sharing of concrete research and data, including experience, evaluations, lessons learned and best practices, with an emphasis on programming that serves poor and vulnerable people affected by migration and development;
- (c) Increases awareness and preparation regarding migration and development events and processes at bilateral, regional and international levels.

At regional and national policy levels, ICMC has since mid-2008 organized and provided modest funding for multiple initiatives linked to the Global Forum, including in particular:

- (a) A two-day regional conference held in Manila, the Philippines, from 28 to 29 August 2008 bringing together church leaders and other migration actors to discuss regional migration issues and identify important gaps as input to the Global Forum meeting in Manila, the Philippines; a summary of the recommendations from this meeting were presented in ICMC's publication *Dignity across borders. Gaps and recommendations regarding migrants and their families in an age of mobility*;
- (b) A series of national consultations and reports in 15 countries throughout Asia to survey and consider experience and issues of migration within as well as across national borders in the region, and promote a regional approach to problems, perspectives and solutions, with analyses and recommendations also brought to the Global Forum.

With respect to operations, a number of ICMC programmes in the world address important aspects of the intersection between migration and development, including:

- (a) Peacebuilding, community building and voluntary return programmes for displaced minorities, small villages, individuals and families in both post-conflict and post-disaster situations;
- (b) Counter-trafficking, rescue, legal services and assisted return of victims of human trafficking and exploited migrant domestic workers;
- (c) Counselling, livelihoods training and micro-credit programming;
- (d) Refugee processing for resettlement in third countries, including pre-departure cultural orientation for integration purposes.

By design, most of these programmes involve capacity-building of the local community or technical cooperation with Government institutions. Taken together with other partners and ICMC members, this activity represents concrete engagement at the intersections of migration and development.

3. Publications and conferences related to migration and development

Because rights are a key not only to better migration but to better development, ICMC co-authored a new guide on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families with other international partner organizations, including representatives of the Office for the High Commissioner for Human

Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO),² IOM, the December 18 non-governmental organization and the World Council of Churches. The report was launched in April 2009.

In addition, ICMC made presentations addressing migration and development matters at conferences in Asia, Africa, Europe and Northern America, many involving representatives of States and regional entities, including the European Union. Among related papers³ published this past year by ICMC are:

- (a) Promoting integration and inclusion of value to development through the protection of migrants' human rights;
- (b) Forced migration and development: framing our reflection;
- (c) Unmixing migration to fill gaps in protection and bring order to mixed migration flows;
- (d) Protection, mobility and livelihood challenges of displaced Iraqis in urban settings in Jordan;

B. ICMC'S INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION

Acting on the conviction that the worldwide discussion of international migration needs to address the question, dynamics and possible mechanisms of global governance of migration and sensing that various actors may be ready to pick up the subject for the first time since the report of the Global Commission on International Migration in 2005, and cognizant that neither the Global Forum, the Global Migration Group, nor the regional consultative processes have been designed to do so, ICMC has launched conversations on the global governance of migration. This initiative intends to convene States, civil society, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders for an informal exchange and brainstorming on whether it is time, or possible, to move the consideration of governance to a next stage.

In this regard, ICMC sees its role as one interested and engaged migration actor that wishes, in cooperation with many others, to make a constructive contribution towards advancing and increasing public attention to this challenge of contemporary international migration. ICMC does not underestimate the sensitivity that can be evoked at even the mention of a global governance of migration; Governments and international agencies already face a charged and difficult international agenda.

With this in mind and to organize the conversations, ICMC has tasked Ambassador Sergio Marchi of Canada to become the Special Advisor to the Secretary General of ICMC. Having formerly served as Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, as well as Minister of International Trade and Environment, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, and Commissioner on the Global Commission on International Migration, Mr. Marchi brings high-level and multidisciplinary experience to the task of facilitating the conversations.

1. Objectives of the conversations on the global governance of migration

The diversity of actors, interests and perspectives that will be engaged in the conversations on the global governance of migration (GGM) are expected to make it a valuable

process of outreach, reflection, discussion, and ideally option-building. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), IOM and ILO continue to demonstrate leadership in strengthening understanding and capacity in the field of migration through the implementation of their respective mandates, regarding different but intersecting aspects of contemporary migration. Similarly, Governments, together with international organizations and civil society, have also been increasingly active on inter-regional, regional and bilateral migration fronts, including especially the growing number of regional consultative processes. For many of these actors and experts, it is not a question of whether a discussion of global governance of migration goes forward but rather when and how.

2. *Methodology*

The GGM will coordinate and facilitate a process of dialogue, engaging as broad and diverse a set of leading migration actors and experts as is possible, within a first phase that will culminate at the end of December 2009.

The conversations will be conducted through a series of meetings and roundtables, principally in Geneva, co-partnered with different organizations, such as the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and Webster University, and assume an open, free flowing and non-negotiating approach. The brainstorming and solution-seeking conversations will be informal, candid and substantive, conducted according to Chatham House rules.

At the conclusion of the conversations, ICMC will organize the collective output, thereafter drafting and publishing, without attribution, critical elements and perspectives regarding the global governance of migration.

3. *Outcomes*

ICMC hopes this process and dissemination will further stimulate the public discourse on the global governance of migration, make recommendations and commitments for additional meetings and events, develop a number of relevant benchmarks, and encourage decision makers to take up its cause with appropriate urgency.

NOTES

¹ For the website, see www.migrationanddevelopment.net (accessed 21 July 2010).

² For the guide, see http://icmc.net/system/files/publication/cmw_ratification_guide_pdf_92204.pdf (accessed 21 July 2010).

³ Many of these papers are available on ICMC's website at www.icmc.net (accessed 21 July 2010).

REFERENCES

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