

**ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
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**THE ROAD TO THE 2013 UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:
PROVIDING EVIDENCE FOR ADEQUATE POLICYMAKING AND ANALYSIS OF
SOUTH-SOUTH MIGRATION¹**

ACP Observatory on Migration

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

BACKGROUND PAPER FOR THE 11th COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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The Road to the 2013 United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development:

Providing evidence for adequate policymaking and
analysis of South-South migration

A. South-South Migration: A new topic on the agenda?

In recent years, South-South migration (consisting for the ACP Observatory as migration between countries with less than a very-high development level according to the United Nations), has become increasingly important in international discussions on migration and development. This change is due to different factors, including the new role of emerging economies and a renewed interest on the role that migration in the South could have on development. Policy strategies, such as the European Union (EU) Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and regional mobility protocols in the South, have supported the trend. The most recent initiative in this regard was taken by the Mauritian Presidency of the 2012 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) devoting for the first time a Roundtable to South-South migration. Participants at the GFMD 2.2 roundtable recommended that the GFMD continue to develop its work on South-South migration while acknowledging the need for further analysis on the phenomenonⁱ.

Migration, and in particular South-South movements, remain a relatively new field of study in many countries and regions. Researchers and policymakers have only recently begun working on these issues outside of Asia and West Africa, and relevant capacities are still developing. When data is collected, it is often not sufficiently shared between relevant government agencies, policymakers, researchers and academia both at national and regional levels.

Various challenges hamper the procurement of reliable evidence on South-South migration. The lack or the inadequacy of migration data collection infrastructures and the limited resources to analyze and disseminate existing data sources are major constraints in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. These challenges are coupled with structural issues, whose solution would influence the success or failure of any resource or infrastructure initiative. The collection of data in most countries remains a challenge, often starting from the very initial step of recognizing and accepting the role and value of data for policymaking on migration instead than continuing with the traditional authority based process. This shift would have implications in the discretionary power of decision makers on policies on migration, thus having a direct impact also in increasing transparency and democracy.

B. Preparation of the United Nations High-level Dialogue: Which role for South-South migration?

While the rising predominance of migration within the South and between South regions is not explicitly mentioned in the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development panels, it may become a predominant cross-cutting issue given the proportion of South-South movements in international migration trends and their potential development impact in the global South. Based on the United Nations definition of the South, in 2010 about 73 million international migrants born in the South were also residing in the South, which amounts to 34 per cent of the global migrant stockⁱⁱ.

- *Roundtable 1: Leveraging diaspora contributions for development*

The focus on diaspora of the South-South migration represents an innovative approach aimed at going past the traditional emphasis on South-North movements bound towards Europe or North America. Most initiatives implemented by ACP countries have targeted diasporas residing in the developed world.

The findings of recent studies in Nigeria, Kenya, Haiti and Lesotho carried out by the ACP Observatory on Migration, aimed at assessing and promoting the contributions of diasporas

residing in the South for the development of their countries of originⁱⁱⁱ, show a clear picture on the potential role of South-South diasporas in promoting human development. Initial research findings show that Nigerian diaspora members residing in Ghana and South Africa are mostly highly-skilled, with almost 95% indicating that they are employed according to their skills, or students. These migrants have the capacity to acquire further knowledge and expertise than can be reintegrated or used for the benefit of their countries of origin^{iv}. In a similar vein, Kenyan diaspora members residing in Tanzania and South Africa are interested in participating in programmes to pass on their skills in key sectors in Kenya. These diaspora members would like to return to Kenya, but face financial constraints and limitations due to work obligations and residential status or lack thereof^v.

In the case of Lesotho, the research indicates that knowledge on diaspora members is scarce since the diaspora members are not organized in associations and thus difficult to identify^{vi}. Registering at Basotho consulates abroad could be one opportunity to enter into a dialogue with the diaspora members and to discuss initiatives that the Government of Lesotho can foster to support its diaspora members abroad. In the case of Haiti, research showed that, while there is awareness of the need to involve diasporas in development strategies, the governmental outreach has focused primarily on diaspora members in Northern America, not involving at the same level the long-standing Haitian diaspora communities in Cuba, Dominica and the Bahamas^{vii}.

- *Roundtable 2: Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights*

Labour migration remains an essential driver of South-South movements. In various ACP regions, regular migration has been promoted through labour mobility programmes or free movement protocols at regional level. Research on labour migration from and to Kenya^{viii} in the East African Community (EAC) assessing labour mobility in the region and the implementation of the 2010 EAC Common Market Protocol revealed that policies and legislation of EAC countries were enacted prior to the entering into force of the Protocol and thus their laws require harmonization with the Protocol for its implementation. In addition, Kenyan labour migrants in the EAC region are mostly highly-skilled and they take up key positions in neighboring countries, which however also leads to neighbors' resentment and fears of the actual implementation of the Protocol. Research in Papua New Guinea^{ix} has looked at the patterns of labour migration and found that workers from the South originate in Asian countries rather than from neighbouring Melanesian countries, such as Fiji and the Solomon Islands, due to low labour costs, high productivity and increasing Asian foreign investment.

Conciliating development, migration and human rights of migrants is often seen as not an easy task. Research on Senegalese migrants in West Africa, in particular in Gambia and Cote d'Ivoire, has shown that protection of their rights often lacks effective implementation, also due to the fact that these migrants usually work in the informal sectors^x. The issue of migrant rights is also at the heart of the focus of the ACP Observatory and their protection has been drawn out as a key policy recommendation in the study on Haitian diasporas residing in the Caribbean^{xi}.

- *Roundtable 3: Mainstreaming migration into the development agenda*

Migration is still perceived as the 'Cinderella' in the development process, the new and emerging issue where the clear linkages to the sustained growth of a country are not yet fully visible. However mainstreaming migration in development strategies has become a major objective in the last years given the benefits that migration can bring to the development process. Mainstreaming migration is often perceived as a time-consuming process, requiring a high degree of ownership by institutions that may not see an immediate interest in the issue, as their efforts don't seem productive enough in a short-term political basis. At the same time, while discussion on

mainstreaming migration in development is going on, still there are not specific analysis tools to evaluate the concrete impacts of migratory movements on a country's human development. In order to facilitate this assessment, the ACP Observatory has developed a set of indicators that can be used by any institution working on this field. The objective is to promote a tool allowing comparable assessments on how migration affects development in various areas (economics and assets, demography, educational, health, gender, wider social, governance and rights, environment and other transfers)^{xii}.

Most often the perspective of migrants residing in other countries within the same region in the South is overlooked, underestimating the benefits that regional migration implies in the South. The case of Lesotho, one of the major world recipients of remittances, shows that national remittances policies are scarce and inadequate to the level of flow and that most remittances are sent informally (87.4%), as a recent study by the ACP Observatory demonstrates^{xiii}.

- *Roundtable 4: Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration at all levels*

In terms of the collection and analysis of reliable data on migration, linkages between researchers and policymakers are essential to promote evidence-based policies and ensure the monitoring of the impact of the actions. In particular, the ACP Observatory experience, including consultative mechanisms with Government agencies, research institutions and civil society organizations, has confirmed the need for close cooperation between researchers and policymakers. This process is particularly relevant for South-South migration, where migration data remains particularly scarce.

In view of the preparation of the High-level Dialogue, the ACP Observatory will organize a Conference on South-South migration and development in ACP countries (Brussels, date to be determined). This conference will create an opportunity to present the findings of the research studies and migration data assessments carried out by the ACP Observatory. Discussions will be organized around different thematic panels, focused on the impact of migration on development, the role of diasporas, internal migration, labour migration and return migration, cross-cutting issues, such as migrants' rights and the relations between migration and the environment, and the role of migration data.

This event will create momentum to promote discussions on South-South migration at the ACP level. The Conference should also serve to promote the benefits of working towards the mainstreaming of South-South migration in development. The research published by the ACP Observatory will provide evidence to showcase the potential positive impact of migration on development in more aspects than just remittances.

C. The Global Forum on Migration and Development: Promoting the South-South approach

The ACP Observatory on Migration has participated at the three last editions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development since its launching in 2010 (Mexico 2010, Switzerland 2011 and Mauritius 2012). The GFMD has increasingly taken into consideration the importance of South-South migration.

In October 2011, the ACP Observatory prepared the background paper for the GFMD meeting on labour migration in Abuja (Nigeria): 'From evidence to action – Facilitating South-South labour migration for development'^{xiv}. The approach of this meeting was based on the trends and patterns of South-South labour migration. The background paper of the ACP Observatory pointed out that

“most South-South labour mobility concerns lower skilled workers and informal job markets [but...] the movement of large numbers of skilled migrants, often referred to as ‘brain drain’, also occurs towards countries in the South”.

The background paper published in the framework of the Roundtable 2.2 on South-South migration at the 2012 GFMD offers a general overview on the latest available data on the issue, focused in particular on labour migration, environmentally-led migration and the capacity-building needs of developing countries^{xv}. Participants at the Roundtable 2.2 identified during the discussions the main challenges for policymaking on this issue, including the need to adapt concepts on international migration to fit the South-South context.

The ACP Observatory on Migration will launch consultations with the Swedish Presidency of the GFMD 2013 to assess how to continue to support this process in the future. The analysis of the work of the GFMD at the United Nations High-level Dialogue will provide a clear picture of the progress made since its first edition, to pave the way for the future functioning of the Forum.

D. Exchanges on innovative activities

The lack of reliable data to provide evidence on South-South migration has pushed the ACP Observatory on Migration to focus on collection of data on migration. A series of data management gaps have been identified at the national and regional level, in particular with regards to data collection and analysis. In response to these challenges, a series of capacity-building activities have been launched since 2010 to improve data collection and sharing mechanisms in some ACP countries. In particular, three interregional workshops were organized in 2011 and a series of national trainings were held in 2012 for migration experts and practitioners. Overall, more than 370 stakeholders have been trained in this process.

Simultaneously, the ACP Observatory on Migration has launched a series of assessments of the management of data on migration in the 12 countries where its activities focus. The assessments are carried out through consultations with national institutions involved in the process. The reports from the 12 countries involved in this exercise (Angola, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Tanzania, Timor-Leste and Trinidad and Tobago) will provide a comprehensive assessment of the sources available at national level for retrieving existing migration data as well as the institutional mechanisms for their collection, analysis and sharing.

The innovative findings of the assessment show that while sources of migration data do exist in ACP countries, they are often not sufficiently exploited due to several limiting factors related to, first of all, political willingness, awareness of their role in building solid policies, their accessibility as well as resources and capacity. Recommendations included in these assessments are based on practical measures aimed at improving capacity to analyze and disseminate existing data, improving relevant systems and strengthening coordination between stakeholders. Evidence-based policies shall be promoted as a mean to improve the efficiency and rationale of development strategies and to develop the transparency of the policymaking process.

The ACP Observatory on Migration publishes freely all of its research and assessment findings as well as the outcomes of its activities on its website: www.acpmigration-obs.org. The website also includes a compendium of research on migration and development with more than 1.400 studies and other resources on the migration and development nexus.

Notes

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- ⁱ Global Forum on Migration and Development (2012). *Rapporteur's Report of Roundtable 2: Factoring Migration into Development Planning*. Accessed 11 February 2013. http://gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/gfmd_mauritius12_rapporteurs_report_rt2.pdf.
- ⁱⁱ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2012). *Migrants by origin and destination: the role of South-South migration*. Population Facts 2012/3. Accessed 11 February 2013, http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/popfacts/popfacts_2012-3_South-South_migration.pdf.
- ⁱⁱⁱ While the terms “transnational community” or “expatriate community” are preferred by the UN DESA Editorial Guidelines, this paper uses the term “diaspora” as defined in the ACP Observatory Research guide: ACP Observatory on Migration (2011). *Migration Research Guide: South-South Migration and Development*. Accessed 11 February 2013. <http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/node/1058>.
- ^{iv} Olatuyi, A, Y. Awoyinka, A. Adeniyi (Forthcoming). *Engaging Nigerian diasporas in the South in participating in and promoting development in Nigeria*. ACP Observatory on Migration.
- ^v Kinuthia, B.K. (Forthcoming). *Engaging Kenyan diasporas in the South in participating in and promoting development in Kenya*. ACP Observatory on Migration.
- ^{vi} Nalane, L.F., A. Chikanda and J. Crush (2012). *The remittances framework in Lesotho: Assessment of policies and programmes promoting the multiplier effect*. ACP Observatory on Migration. Accessed 12 February 2013, <http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/node/1586>.
- ^{vii} Marcelino, P. (Coord.) (Forthcoming), *Engager les diasporas haïtiennes dans la participation et promotion du développement en Haïti*. ACP Observatory on Migration.
- ^{viii} Oucho, J., L.A. Oucho and A. O. Ong'ayo (Forthcoming). *The biggest fish in the sea? Dynamic Kenyan labour migration in the East African Community*. ACP Observatory on Migration.
- ^{ix} Anglo-Pacific Research (Forthcoming). *South-South labour migration needs in Papua New Guinea*. ACP Observatory on Migration.
- ^x Coulibaly, O.K., A. Dioh, A.A. Samb and S.M. Tall (Forthcoming). *Protection et respect des droits des migrants sénégalais à l'étranger*. ACP Observatory on Migration.
- ^{xi} Courbage, Y., F. Fortunat, P. Guedj and T. Jaulin (Forthcoming). *Quelles solutions après le séisme en Haïti ? Une enquête auprès des déplacés internes (avril 2012)* and Marcelino, P. (Coord.) (Forthcoming). ACP Observatory on Migration..
- ^{xii} Melde, S. (2012). *Indicators on the impact of migration on development and vice versa*. ACP Observatory on Migration. Accessed 11 February 2013. <http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/EN-Indicators.pdf>.
- ^{xiii} Nalane, L.F., A. Chikanda and J. Crush (2012). *Idem*.
- ^{xiv} Melde, S. (2011). *Opportunities and challenges of South-South labour migration*. ACP Observatory on Migration. Accessed 11 February 2013. http://www.acpmigration-obs.org/sites/default/files/gfmd_swiss11_abuja_background_paper.pdf.
- ^{xv} Global Forum on Migration and Development (2012). *Background Paper for Roundtable 2.2*. Accessed 11 February 2013, http://gfmd.org/documents/mauritius/gfmd12_mauritius12_rt_2-2-background_paper_en.pdf.