

From Cairo to Addis: Migration, labour mobility and the renewed global partnership for sustainable development

Convened by

The Troika of the Global Forum on Migration and Development
in partnership with the Global Migration Group and the Office of the Special Representative of
the Secretary-General for International Migration

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1.15pm – 2.45pm, Conference room 7

The International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, recognized the contribution of international migration to economic and social development in both countries of origin and destination as well as for migrants and their families.¹ Despite this recognition, the Millennium Development Goals did not take into account migration and mobility and as a driver of human development. Following the recommendation of the General Assembly to include human mobility in the post-2015 development agenda,² the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals proposed several targets related to migration, migrants and mobility.³

At the seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Stockholm, May 2014), participants agreed that migration must be included in the post-2015 development agenda in order to protect the human rights of migrants and enhance the positive effects of this enabler for global sustainable development. Specifically, the Global Forum recommended that migrants and migration-related issues should be integrated in the post-2015 development agenda in the following ways: (1) in the declaration of the post-2015 development agenda; (2) as a means to implement the new development goals; (3) within the context of poverty eradication, education, health, decent work, and equality, and (4) through disaggregated reporting of the development outcomes by migratory status.

While the global community has thus made important strides in recognizing the contribution of international migration for human and sustainable development, limited recognition of the transformative nature of migration and its contribution to development has been given in the intergovernmental negotiations on the means of implementation and the financing for development.

This side-event will explore how migration, including expanded avenues for regular labour mobility, reduction in related costs, portability of earned social security benefits and recognition of skills, can generate substantial additional resources for development and boost disposable incomes.

The outcome of the side event will inform the intergovernmental negotiations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July) and the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (New York, September).

¹ Chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

² Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/68/4)

³ Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970)