



Forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development

United Nations, New York, 13 – 17 April 2015

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The World Bank is pleased to address the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development on behalf of the 18-member Global Migration Group, in its capacity as this year's Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG).

As the reports of the Secretary-General for this Commission correctly point out, much has been achieved since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Yet, assessing progress on international migration, the picture is rather bleak: although global migration has increased in scope, complexity and impact since 1994, many objectives on international migration in the Cairo Programme of Action remain unfulfilled.

Let me give some examples:

- Few countries have established programmes for well-managed, fair, orderly and safe migration in line with human rights standards;
- Concrete measures to facilitate mobility have yet to be implemented by many countries;
- Irregular migration, including trafficking and smuggling is widespread
- Economic and social integration of migrants is inadequate;
- Discrimination, abuse and xenophobia against migrants is rampant;
- Durable solutions remain out of reach for millions of refugees; and the
- Underlying causes of migration, such as poverty, food insecurity, conflict, inequality, lack of decent work, human rights violations and environmental degradation, continue to result in the movement and displacement of millions of people, both internally and across borders. Today, the number of forcibly displaced persons is highest since the second World War

Distinguished delegates,

While many objectives of the Cairo Programme of Action were integrated in the Millennium Development Goals, and have seen major progress, international migration was not included.

2015 promises to be a key year to correct this omission and to adequately address migration and development, not least because the post-2015 development agenda

is expected to be adopted by Member States in late September and the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in July this year.

The GMG is encouraged by the inclusion of migration related targets in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

Last year, the GMG developed a joint communiqué, “Realizing the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 development agenda”, endorsed by the 18 Principals of the GMG and conveyed to the UN Secretary-General as a contribution to his Synthesis Report on post-2015 (copies are available in the room).

The GMG proposes the following three-track approach.

First, we need to develop indicators for global monitoring. By way of illustration, and here I am speaking on behalf of the data and research working group of the GMG, we could think of the following five indicators: (1) the transfer costs of remittances, (2) the conviction rate of human traffickers, (3) recruitment costs, (4) the percentage of refugees and displaced persons benefiting from durable solutions and (5) one or more indicators to measure safe, orderly and regular migration. In addition, work is being undertaken by GMG agencies to develop indicators, focusing on portability of social security rights, mutual recognition of skills and qualifications, the human and labor rights of migrants, migrant wages, and financial inclusion.

Second, the GMG proposes to disaggregate targets that are relevant for the well-being and integration of migrants, displaced persons, refugees, and stateless persons, including those on health, education, productive employment and decent work, and legal identity.

Third, we need a dedicated capacity building initiative to strengthen the collection, analysis and use of migration data from multiple data sources. Such initiative could also explore the potential role of “big data” in bridging data gaps.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Without the means to implement, the post-2015 development agenda will remain a dead letter. The Addis Conference must therefore take account of the contributions made by migrants and how a more mobile world has an impact on development.

First, migrants are filling critical labor market gaps and shortages, and contribute to the economies as well as to the social, political and cultural life of both the host and home countries. By doing so, the incomes and life chances of migrant workers and their families are greatly improved. To harness the transformative potential of migration to development, the expansion of legal avenues for labor mobility, including through a facilitated recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as more regular avenues for family reunification should be explored.

Second, migrant remittances constitute a significant source of private capital. We should thus make the transfer of remittances cheaper, faster and safer by creating competitive and transparent markets. Financial literacy programmes and financial products such as microinsurance will allow migrant families to enhance the productive use of their remittances.

Third, diaspora communities play an important role in facilitating trade, promoting investment, and the transfer of technologies and know-how. By including remittance flows in credit ratings and mobilizing diaspora savings through diaspora bonds, countries can access capital more cheaply.

In closing, the Global Migration Group looks forward to working with all stakeholders to integrate migration in the post-2015 development agenda, to strengthen the capacities of Member States and other stakeholders in this field, and to assume its role in the emerging accountability framework as regards migration.

Thank you very much.