

IOM FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE FIRST AND PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

International Organization for Migration

Last year in addressing the Fifth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had underlined the need to implement the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). In that context and in the Second Committee debate, IOM emphasized that while the High-level Dialogue had represented a landmark in building international consensus on the links between migration and development, the time had come to develop mechanisms to consider how migration policies could be more closely related to national development planning processes, including when appropriate, to poverty reduction strategies, and how the tools of the development cooperation could be better utilized in this regard.

IOM had called for “Stepped up measures to make migration work for development”, believing that among the many different innovative ways to implement concrete measures to make migration work for development, two were most prominent: first, mainstreaming migration into development planning agendas and second, building capacities to deal more effectively with the global labour market.

This approach has found its way into the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an important platform which has helped the development of practical, evidence-based migration initiatives. The GFMD and related activities such as the Marketplace for International Migration and Development Services have offered a new framework and an additional venue for bilateral and multilateral cooperation, facilitating the continuing evolution of the migration and development discourse, and the practical development of new ideas and concepts.

The GFMD has thus become one of the main drivers stimulating a global and a more coherent cooperation on migration and development. It is important to also recall other forums and mechanisms that have been contributing to this effort in 2007 and have been directly or indirectly complementing the GFMD. These could include:

- The Global Migration Group (GMG), which is in a process of expanding its membership and of developing more interactive modalities of cooperating with the GFMD. During the IOM chairmanship of the GMG in 2007, IOM organized a briefing for Member States in New York on the GMG work plan, including cooperation with the GFMD. It would be helpful if United Nations Member States continue to acknowledge the work of the GMG and encourage its further strengthening. IOM remains convinced that this coordination mechanism can play a crucial role in enhancing policy coherence and optimizing programming complementarities to support the beneficial aspects of migration.
- The Spanish-supported Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund (MDG-F), particularly its thematic window on “youth, employment and migration” has offered an important opportunity to many agencies of concerned United Nations country teams to work together on migration and development programming in a coherent and integrated inter-agency manner.
- Lastly, another important political initiative was the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC), which highlighted the relevance of “education, youth, migration and the media” as key and interconnected priorities facilitating integration, reducing tensions, and promoting tolerance and

dialogue among cultures, communities and individuals, thus echoing many migrant issues that were singled out among the cross-cutting themes in Brussels.

Coming to the specific issues related to the follow-up to Brussels and the preparation for Manila, IOM would like to highlight the following:

- IOM is pleased with the themes that have been proposed by the Government of the Philippines for the agenda of the next meeting of the GFMD. Pending the approval of the GFMD governing bodies concerning the final programme, IOM has offered its full support and cooperation to the host country both as member of and in conjunction with the GMG, and in its individual capacity to facilitate concrete follow-up to the outcomes of the GFMD meetings and help prepare the Manila meeting.

Concerning the substantive areas of work that have been prioritized by IOM in conjunction with the follow-up to the Brussels round tables and with the Manila agenda, IOM would like to underline the following:

- In relation with the theme on the “Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships” (round table 3), IOM has developed a Migration and Development Handbook project, whose principal objective is to assist states, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to develop new policy approaches and solutions for better management of migration for development. Although the question of mainstreaming migration into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and other development agendas has been raised regularly, it appears that the tools which would assist Governments implementing this approach have not been fully developed. The Handbook is composed of two volumes:
 - The first volume will provide practical tools for policymakers and practitioners to integrate migration in their national development planning and poverty reduction strategies. This volume will start from a development perspective and explain the interrelationships between poverty, migration, and poverty reduction and development strategies. This exercise is being carried out in cooperation with GMG partners, more specifically with UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank.
 - The second volume will focus on development-friendly migration policies and practices drawing upon innovative examples from selected origin and destination countries.

The combined set is intended to support the goals of round table 3 on promoting better policy coherence between migration and development.

- In addition, as specific follow-up to round table 3.4 on the contribution of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) to migration and development, organized at the first Global Forum, IOM is in the process of organizing a two-day consultation among the Secretariats and chairing Governments of major RCPs to share experiences and practices on migration and development, and to promote policy coherence and capacity-building. The goals of this initiative would be to establish a network of RCP focal points to help facilitate a two-way flow of information between RCPs and the Global Forum, and to promote the various recommendations made in Brussels.
- IOM has been working with the concerned Governments that had been partners in the Marketplace initiative in Brussels.

- All of the above require funding, resources and a work plan. IOM recognizes that there is currently a gap in the implementation of the outcomes of the GFMD, although many participants have stressed that the GFMD is not an operational entity. The need for a follow-up mechanism has been discussed within the GMG, and a proposal has been conveyed to the host country of the GFMD for further deliberations by the Steering Group of the GFMD. To this end, GMG has proposed an International Partnership on Migration and Development (IPMD) to serve as a mechanism for concrete follow-up and funding for the action outcomes of GFMD meetings. The main goal of the IPMD is to support follow-up to the recommendations of the GFMD so as to ensure continuity at the operational level. A multi-donor trust fund is proposed to serve as a funding and coordination mechanism for key institutions working in the migration and development area.
- At the request of the Government of the Philippines, IOM has seconded a senior migration expert to the task force established by the host country, continuing an arrangement initiated by the previous Belgian host.
- IOM and the Center for Migration Studies organized a Conference on International Migration and Development in January 2008 for academics, practitioners and Government representatives to review the outcomes, implications and achievements of recent events, including the GFMD.

The above is not an exhaustive list, but gives an idea of the broad range of initiatives in which IOM has been engaged in conjunction with the GFMD. Some initiatives are well on their way; others are at the level of a proposal waiting for validation and feedback of other stakeholders. All these follow-up activities to the first and preparatory activities for the second GFMD represent only some of the work on international migration conducted by IOM.