PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT 2017

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN A SHIFTING WORLD

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Shifting Wealth has been the defining change in the global economy

Source: Perspectives on Global Development 2010: Shifting Wealth, author’s calculations based on World Bank Data 2009

Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by this map.
People are increasingly drawn to high income countries

Share of global migration by three categories of countries
1995 vs 2015

Note: The straight arrows represent migration between country categories (e.g. SG to HI countries); the circular arrows represent migration within a category (e.g. migration from one SG country to another). The shares are computed on the bilateral database of UN (2016) and include 89% of total migration in 1995 and 87% in 2015.

Source: Authors’ calculations based on UNDESA (2015), International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2015 Revision (database), and a new three-way country classification.
Migration is here to stay and will increase.
Four possible scenarios for international migration in 2030
Scenario 1
Slower shifting wealth

“Business as usual” scenario
Global co-operation becoming more difficult
More selective migration regimes
Scenario 2
SDG success

Huge progress towards SDGs, economic convergence
Strong global co-operation
More open migration regimes, migration led by market forces
Scenario 3
Crisis with attempt for co-operation

Global financial crisis originating in EMs
Advanced economies lead cooperation effort
More selective migration regimes
Scenario 4
Rapid automation and conflict

Rapid automation in high income countries leads to economic divergence
Break-down in co-operative arrangements between nations
Very closed migration regimes
Policy implications

Different futures are possible, we need to prepare for them

What can be done to move towards the preferred scenario?

- **Structural policies** to *boost* inclusive growth & well-being
- **Openness and integration** *versus* restrictions
- **Multilateralism** *versus* nationalism/regionalisms
- **Co-ordination** *versus* unilateral policies
- **Policy coherence** *versus* lack of coherence
THANK YOU

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