

What is the Global Forum Migration and Development?

Facts, backgrounds and information on the GFMD



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beyond borders

since 1964

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is the most comprehensive global gathering on migration (and to a lesser extent on development). Despite the fact that it meets this year for its 8th edition, the meeting is little known outside expert circles.

With these information sheets on the GFMD we aim at making the deliberations of the GFMD more accessible particularly for audiences from the global South.

The 5 information sheets cover

- What is the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), why does it matter?
- Migration in Global, National and Regional Development
- Migration and Inclusive Socio-Economic Development
- Development impact of regular and irregular migration
- Empowerment for development, in particular diaspora
- Useful links for further information

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History

The GFMD was born in 2007 as an initiative of the Belgian government and a few other governments as supporters. It was initially seen as a follow up to the UN General Assembly's High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) in 2006 and the findings of the Global Commission on International Migration. While the format and subjects of the GFMD have changed over time, it characterises itself as "a voluntary, informal, non-binding and government-led process open to all states, members and observers of the United Nations, to advance understanding and cooperation on the mutually reinforcing relationship between migration and development and to foster practical and action-oriented outcome". It serves as a practical tool of exchange and partnerships building around migration and – to a lesser extent - development.

In practical terms, the GFMD is organised by a rotating chair and meets once every year, with smaller meetings organised on a thematic basis. So far Belgium (2007), the Philippines (2008), Greece (2009), Mexico (2010), Switzerland (2011) and Mauritius (2012) and Sweden (2014) have chaired the GFMD, with the current chair Turkey holding the GFMD in Istanbul in October 2015. The chair is assisted by a small support unit in organising the annual meeting and other practicalities. Political governance is exercised by a steering group of states, a broader participation ensured by the so-called "Friends of the Forum" group of states.

The focus themes of the annual forums and preparatory meetings are determined by the chair in consultation with other states.

Thematic work at the annual GFMD meetings as well as meetings in between and thematic preparations are undertaken by academia, which are drawn into the process or by representatives of participating states. The GFMD has in this way produced a considerable wealth of discussion papers and research on migration and development.

The governmental meetings of the GFMD have been complemented by meetings of civil society representatives discussing migration and development interaction prior to the governmental meetings. These usually had some interaction with the governmental part of the GFMD, e.g. in the form of various joint governmental - civil society meetings.

GFMD and UN

While the GFMD was by many seen as a deliberate attempt not to use the framework of the UN, there have been regular links between the GFMD and the UN. These were not least facilitated by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative on International Migration and Development (currently Sir Peter Sutherland) appointed in 2006, who played an active role in the creation of the GFMD and has been active in different functions at the GFMD. The link with the UN was also very visibly underlined in the preparations of the UN High level

dialogue on migration and development on 3 and 4 October 2013.

An observation by many followers of the GFMD has been that its debates have very clearly focussed on migration, whereas the development component was often of a secondary interest. A similar tendency could be observed among NGO representatives, where migration organisations largely dominated. Nevertheless, the GFMD has become a central reference point for discussions on the linkage between migration and development.

Importance

The GFMD is the only regular meeting on migration on a global level. It has thus become a central point of discussion on international migration and is a forum for bi- or multilateral agreements on migration. This is highlighted by the fact that the forum and its civil society days have been growing since their inception. However, it cannot be taken for granted that a right-based perspective is taken in its deliberations. It is therefore of prime importance to engage with the GFMD in a regular manner and to be informed about its on-going discussions. This should preferably happen in the context of a wider advocacy with UN institutions.

What is missing at the GFMD?

While development is at the heart of the GFMD, the GFMD has surprisingly enough never explicitly defined what it understands when mentioning development and if it has an underlying concept of development. From studying the GFMD discussion material, we can however deduct that development is understood in a fairly neo-liberal sense. Very little attention is given to human needs or rights-based development; mostly development is seen in a strictly business-driven sense.

The GFMD is also not asking questions about the reasons for development inequalities and the differences in power relations between different groups of migrants. Any analysis or critique of the current status quo is clearly not on the agenda.

The human and social consequences of migration are rarely taken into considerations. In its review of national policies, the GFMD often highlights policies as best practice examples (e.g. the Philippines' labour export policy) which are criticised due to their cost for those migrating and their families.

Integrating Migration into Development Strategies

Mainstreaming migration into global, national and regional development strategies emerged early on in the GFMD's history as one of its key aims. Consistently over the course of the GFMD's run the various governments, NGOs and academics on the migration side of the discussion have noted that the issue is habitually overlooked in the planning and implementation of development strategies across different governing levels. This has resulted in costly policy incoherence with various institutional actors working at cross purposes, making certain policy objectives unattainable. By synergising migration considerations with development strategies and initiatives substantial economic and security benefits can be achieved in both countries of origin and destination, while migrants themselves experience rights enhancement and community integration creating a 'triple win' for all parties involved.

Mainstreaming

For the GFMD identifying areas where migration is most relevant to the development agenda is an important step in the mainstreaming process and has been a primary concern for the Swedish meeting in 2014. Countries of destination, particularly the 'developed North', are motivated to integrate migration into their development strategies primarily for optimising the

success of their programmes, utilising every tool at their disposal. This impetus must be balanced with domestic policy concerns over migration relating to dealing with an aging workforce, combatting irregular migration and addressing gulfs between migrants and native communities as well as within the generational divides of the migrants themselves particularly in the field of education. If national and regional development strategies are carefully coordinated and composed then not only will they be balanced with these domestic concerns but they can benefit these concern areas also. The driving force for this approach comes at a supranational level with the EU Commission encouraging inclusion of migration in the development agenda of its member states. The clearest example of this has been the European Union's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM). Since 2011 it has urged policy coherence through coordinating internal and external governmental priorities. Switzerland provides an example of a migrant hosting country implementing a holistic migration and development plan. Over the last three years it has instituted a *whole-government* approach investing heavily in the idea of the interdependency of economic, political and social aspects of migration, developing a Global Programme for Migration and Development within the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Overall however mainstreaming migration into

development strategies exists in only a handful of (European, mostly Scandinavian) destination countries, and is still predominantly in its nascent stage. It is clear that a multi-layered, well researched and collaborative approach is a heavy and long-term exercise but has the enthusiastic support of the GFMD, not to mention the EU and countless migration NGOs and International Organisations.

Countries of origin are driven to centre migration in national development strategies in reaction to the economic and social shocks resulting from mass emigration. Moldova is the most prominent example of these national strategies with the setting up a Diaspora Relations Bureau in 2012. It has alleviated some of the more negative impacts of mass immigration encouraging greater mobility and visa liberalisation while harnessing its large diaspora abroad for the state's development. The country has been aided in its efforts through advice from its UN Country Team under the direction of the UNDP and IOM in its 'Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies' global project, other UN Country Teams have piloted similar projects in Jamaica, Bangladesh and Tunisia. Guided by supranational policy initiatives, national development strategies offer examples of vertical institutional integration and policy coherence between migration and development issues offsetting negative impacts of outward migration whilst

enhancing the development of countries of origin.

Regional cooperation

On a regional level the GFMD's deliberations have noted that migration has become a key part of inter-governmental economic cooperation. The ECOWAS' operationalising of its Protocol of Movement of Free Persons along with its centring of migration within its inter-regional trade protocols offers a prominent example. ECOWAS' efforts have attracted more attention in the last few sessions of the GFMD as discussions on South-South migration became more prevalent, while actual programmes and policies dealing with this topic remain relatively scarce. Overall regional migration initiatives are far more likely to include development as part of their themes and objectives than vice versa. For example the Rabat Process built between the EU and African governments reflects a global approach to migration that makes development one of its thematic areas of focus. However, it has to be noted that the agreed Action Plan of Rabat does not correspond fully with the Political Declaration, and therefore the development agenda remains weak in action.

More broadly the GFMD has considered what financial instruments work best to encourage a development impact of migration. The question of whether matching grant schemes work, by harnessing the diaspora to invest in

their origin countries' development, has received a great deal of attention especially during the Mexico 2010 and Mauritius 2012 Forums though their effectiveness remains inconclusive.

One of the difficulties in mainstreaming migration is finding areas within the broad areas of concern for development where migration is relevant. This often means either integrating migration into very broad policy conceptions seen above or tying them into specific issue schemes. The IOM's Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme is one of the largest of the latter types. Over the last decade and a half this capacity building programme has sought to mobilise graduate competences acquired by African nationals abroad for the benefit of African countries' development. It is mostly concentrated on enabling repatriation or increasingly the circular migration of healthcare professionals back to their countries' of origin and is viewed as a marked success. An overwhelming large number of the specific migration and development programmes discussed at the GFMD are concerned with activating developing countries' doctors and nurses abroad.

Despite the successful mainstreaming of migration in a small number of regional and national development initiatives migration has yet to be fully integrated into the global development agenda.

Research

The GFMD has long postulated that the expansion and consolidation of migrant research is key to creating greater inter-governmental cooperation for mainstreaming migration at various levels of the development agenda. The necessity of discerning where migration is most relevant to the development agenda has emerged as a clear objective from the GFMD's annual sessions. Beyond this coordinated and expansive research is seen as crucial to an effective integration of migration into assorted development strategies.

Since the 2009 Greece Forum the use of migration profiles has been continuously stressed. According to IOM these are country owned profiles prepared in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and not only are they important to mainstreaming migration, but also to enhancing policy coherence and evidence based policy making. As of the Manila 2012 session a Migrant Profile Repository has been set up within the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships database, making these profiles an easy access tools for inter-governmental collaboration. Extended Migration Profiles (EMPs) have been published in the different pilot countries for the UNDP's 'Mainstreaming Migration' project, just one example of where EMPs are being used in policy formation.

At the 2011 Switzerland GFMD it was suggested that migration should be

incorporated into poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs). The inclusion of migration in PRSPs provides incentive to integrate the issue into broad development considerations that poverty reduction strategies often underpin. They usually support UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) that provide guidance to many national development strategies. Migration in PRSPs thus provides avenue for migrant research into macro-policy formation at the national level.

The importance of the development and consolidation of migrant research in development strategies has been instituted into the structure of the GFMD itself. A database library collecting background research papers from International Organisations and government teams along with reports of proceedings of various levels of GFMD meetings and lists of concept themes on roundtable talks and participants. Complementary databases are being developed for their Platform for Partnerships and Civil Society Days. There is a commitment to gathering and dispensing migrant research in order to promote the mainstreaming of migration into the development agenda at global, regional and particularly national levels.

International Agreements

At each GFMD annual session the question of what kind of international agreements best facilitate the integration of migration and development strategies was discussed. Bilateral, informal agreements are most frequently discussed types of these arrangements. As agreements that can be tailor made for the specific transnational migration situation with the flexibility to adapt and develop these kinds of agreements fit better with the GFMDs frequent conclusion the migration development schemes need to be bespoke and accommodating. One of the primary reasons why Athens 2009 urged migration profiles was for the better facilitation of bilateral agreements. In Berne 2011 many of the studies brought forward supported these kinds of regional trade agreements over multilateral formal concords such as the GATS Mode 4 regulation, though the latter is often seen as more effective for formalised legal migration in specific labour sectors.

Under the theme of socio-economic development, a number of issues were highlighted at the GFMD. Among them were so-called “Bottom-up” approaches, so-called “social remittances” and circular migration schemes.

From Top-Down Approaches to Bottom-Up Approaches

Discussions at the GFMD centered a lot around different approaches to development: Top-down policies are in general solidly based in micro- and macro-economic theories, but often lacking the adequate flexibility and “place-awareness” to respond to local complexity. Bottom-up approaches analyse deeply the local context and respond better to diverse territorial needs. A number of issues discussed in the context of GFMD include:

Bottom-up Approach to Migration

For this approach it is important to understand both small-scale actors as well as policy-makers engaged in the fields of migration and development planning at the local level.

A small-scale approach in Migration and Development:

- Has many benefits in terms of greater participation of small-scale actors in development processes, as well as in terms of cost-benefit calculations for policy-makers who decide to support small-scale interventions in migration and development;
- Small-scale actors facilitate the channelling of migrants’ resources for homeland development and better organize themselves to achieve this goal.

The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)

The JMDI has been highlighted as a best practice example. It is implemented by the UN Development Programme in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, UN Population Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organisation and represents an important contribution to understand:

- The methodologies and strategies by which civil society actors implement migration and development actions;
- The kind of opportunities they create for their beneficiaries;
- The kind of stakeholders they involve;
- The ways in which transnational partnerships function in migration and development.

The JMDI Funding:

- 15 million EUR for a 4-year programme to support small scale organizations in their concrete efforts in linking migration to development;
- 10 million EUR to support projects involving partnerships between civil society organizations, local authorities and small-scale actors from EU Member states and 16 countries (Algeria, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mali, Moldova, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Tunisia).

Social Remittances

Social remittances have been discussed at some length at the GFMD. They are

defined as ideas, know-how, practices, skills, norms, identities and social capital and are an important piece of the migration-development nexus. They influence development-project outcomes, in origin or in settlement countries.

Circular Models of Migration

Particular attention of the GFMD was given to circular migration and its impact on inclusive socio economic development: Migrants from the developing world bring with them social remittances that are transferred into their host societies. Some migrants, for example, come from communities with strong traditions of participation, be it in religious organizations, communal land management and farming schemes, or sports clubs. It is natural for them to reorganize themselves collectively when they move, and they do so with a great deal of skill and know-how.

At the same time, “brain circulation” can have a positive impact on social development in the country of origin through the social contacts, international experience and social assets that the migrant gain when working abroad and transfers back to the country of origin.

They may affect family relations, gender roles, class and ethnic identity, as well as have a substantial impact on political, economic and religious participation. Social remittances can also challenge people's ideas about democracy and the rule of law. For example, hi-tech professionals and entrepreneurs from Pakistan and India not only send back new technology and skills but ideas about conducting business.

Ways of How Social Remittances “Circulate”:

- when migrants return to live in or visit their communities of origin;
- when non-migrants visit their friends and family in a receiving country;
- through letters, videos, e-mails, blogs, phone calls and social media.

In a number of areas social remittances may be particularly important:

Social Remittances and Health

When migrants visit or return to their country they may bring back health-improving practices; for example related to access to safe water, annual medical check-ups, awareness of sexual and reproductive health issues, use of mosquito nets.

Social remittance can have a positive impact on health and hygiene but many countries of origin struggle with their health system, weak incentives, inadequate resources and limited administrative capacity. Moreover, the emigration of health workers to high-income countries can in some countries contribute to enlarge the problems as trained medical personnel may be missing.

Social Remittances and Education

Social remittance can affect qualitative aspects of education and attitude toward it, creating awareness about its value. One example: as more young people from Boca Canasta completed high school and went on to higher education in the United States, their non-migrant peers also wanted to go to college, thus changing the perception of the local population about education.

Social Remittances and Gender Dynamics

Women who migrate from more traditional areas to more industrial societies become familiar with new norms regarding women's rights and opportunities. Many of them find jobs in sectors of caregiving occupations, often acquiring experiences and skills as nurses, physical therapists and social care workers. As breadwinners for their families, their status and self-confidence becomes stronger, e.g. when they can take decisions by themselves having access to their own bank account – which in some countries still requires consent of the husband or an other male family member.

Entrepreneurs and Diaspora Networks

Members of diaspora communities transfer social norms and make investments or promote trade based on their personal ties or insider knowledge of a particular source country.

Labour, Skills Matching and Development

Another question at GFMD discussions was how facilitated labour migration and skills-matching can positively affect development outcomes:

- It improves labour mobility opportunities by reducing research and recruitment costs through a better match between workers and employers.
- It improves mutual recognition of skills and qualifications.

Governments and specialized authorities, employers, professional associations, educational institutions and other stakeholders need to work

together in order to respond timely and accurately to current shortages, over-supply as well as labour market mismatches.

Highly skilled migrants that enter well and quickly into the labour market give a significant contribution to the development process of their country, not only by sending high remittances but also with "brain circulation". The latter increases the entrepreneurial skills and promotes an entrepreneurial mindset that helps to create small-scale businesses both in host countries and in the country of origin. To the contrary, a mismatch may hamper and slow down the development process.

Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals

GFMD discussed that for migrants who return, the recognition and reintegration in the labour market of the country of origin are important to ensure that newly acquired or reinforced skills can affect and stimulate local economic development.

In host societies migrants have often reinforced their skills and acquired new knowledge and experience, new management techniques and often new organizational and institutional practices. Often they are transmitters of values, ideas, norms and behaviours between countries and cultures.

Their temporary return can push forward socio-economic transformation and contribute towards the development of competitive, knowledge-based and open societies.

Tools to Encourage Investment and Trade Once Returned

It was highlighted in the GFMD discussions that governments could introduce tax incentives or tax exemptions to enhance development impact, for example:

- exempting customs duties and fees on the importation of household goods of returning citizens;
- temporarily reducing income tax rates for returnees;
- lowering tariffs on imported raw materials and equipment;
- tax deductions on charitable contributions.

Other tools include the organization of trade fairs or national diaspora forums bringing together senior government officials, finance and labour ministries to talk about investment opportunities.

Access to information, networks and joint ventures is important to encourage investments by migrants in their countries of origin.

Measures that Can Be Taken to Facilitate Development Impact of Migration

Following the GFMD discussions governments of both countries of origin and residence could take up the following initiatives:

- Support migrant associations' and professional networks' capacities to involve in trade and investments in countries of origin, e.g. through partnerships with financial institutions;
- Provide information, also through IT tools, on investment and trade possibilities and on accessible financial instruments;
- Give incentives, in particular review tax systems and investment conditions;
- Remove barriers of circular mobility, e.g. by allowing portability of benefits relating to pensions and medical and life insurance for temporary or permanent return period;
- Allow dual citizenship and/or permanent residency;
- Monitor and map diaspora to refine outreach policies and understand diaspora communities.

Discussion at the GFMD focused on the comparative advantages of regular versus irregular migration when it came to their respective development impact.

Definition of Regular and Irregular Migration:

Regular Migration:

Regular migration is understood as governments and inter-governmental systems regulating the management of cross-border mobility, entry, residence and work permits of foreigners within state borders; also the guarantee of protection of refugees and others in need of protection is regulated.

In the GFMD discourse, the aim of the management of immigration and emigration is regarded as ensuring maximum development results and joint actions by states for orderly cross-border flows.

Irregular Migration

Migration is irregular when movement, residence and work abroad take place outside the regulatory norms of the origin, transit and destination countries. For example, when a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document, or when s/he does not fulfill the administrative requirements for residing or working in the country.

Impact of Regular Migration on Development

The relationship between migration and development is complex but, in general, expert agencies such as World Bank, OECD, ILO, IOM indicate that regular

migration can generate “net economic benefits”.

For Host Countries: foreign workers that fill vacant jobs bring productivity gains, innovation and added skills, help to reduce inflationary pressure, support export-oriented industries and contribute in general terms to economic growth.

Some examples: in Australia the fiscal modeling reveals that new migrants provide a significant contribution to the Australian government budget. During their first four years, 1000 new migrants contribute around \$ 10 million net to the Commonwealth budget. Reports on the UK also claim that the fiscal impact of migration to the UK is positive.

For Origin Countries: Financial remittances can relieve unemployment and reduce poverty, and improve levels of education and health. In addition, skills exchange and other social remittances returned to the home country can boost national development and economic growth, for example when expatriate or diaspora communities become a source of investment, of expertise and entrepreneurship.

E.g. in Egypt, workers’ remittances constitute some 6% of the annual GDP, but for households the remittances received constitute 20% - 30% of their annual revenues. Moreover, they help families to start small projects such as raising cattle or buying a taxi, especially in poor area.

Impact of Irregular Migration on Development

GFMD discussions highlighted that many undocumented and unauthorized migrant workers are not able to use their skills fully, or to earn and remit as they could with regular status. Even when they earn sufficiently to send financial remittances, in irregular status they do not acquire portable rights for long-term benefits.

In addition, in irregular status and therefore with limited legislative protection, many face the risk that large parts of their earnings flow into the pockets of recruiters, smugglers or traffickers rather than into their families' bank accounts, education, health. Thus it is considered to give less of a real contribution to general improved wellbeing.

High Risks, Costs and Losses Incurred by Irregular Migration

The GFMD raised examples of inestimable public health and welfare costs of irregular migration - to both country of origin and host country:

- Migrants who live and work in crowded and unsanitary conditions and without access to information are at high risk of ill health;
- Trafficking can often be linked to irregular migration: Persons trafficked for sexual exploitation, begging or delinquency are vulnerable to physical and psychological problems and even risk to die;
- Trafficking of women contribute to family breakdown and reinforce the illiteracy and poverty cycle;

- When migrants are unable to repay their fees they are often threatened and pressured by smugglers;
- The often lower wages of irregular migrant workers can jeopardize minimum wage structures and affect social cohesion and stability.

In conclusion, clandestine and irregular migration discredits the human capital potential that a regular migration could provide in terms of socio-economic benefits. As regular visits are often impossible for irregular migrants, families suffer and can disintegrate. Therefore, irregular migration leads to higher social and economic costs. Besides, it can fuel anti-migration sentiments which often lead to further restrictions on migration.

What Approach Should Governments Take in Addressing Irregular Migration?

The GFMD suggested that there is not a unique solution that fits for every country. Governments need to analyse their own national situation and elaborate a specific and efficient national plan, which should include:

- Incorporation of international law into national legislation;
- A better management of the migration/ employment nexus;
- Stronger control and deterrence of illicit practices by employers, traffickers, smugglers;
- Effective victim protection with special regard to women, children and those who flee persecution;
- Cooperation schemes at the public-private and regional levels.

A “Comprehensive Approach” to Migration

According to the GFMD discourse, a comprehensive approach to migration should take into account economic, development and humanitarian objectives, and, at the same time, ensure integrity of borders. For that aim, irregular migration requires a mix of regional, national and international responses and cooperation:

1. The regulation of migration brings higher returns for economic growth and longer term development - for migrants, origin and host country than irregular forms of migration. In this context is relevant to act against those that profit from irregular forms of migration.
2. Inadequate or non-existent policies place the lives and well-being of migrants and their families at risk. Migrants can fall prey to unscrupulous agents and employers, thus limiting the recourse to legal aid, medical care and financial services to take out loans, remit and invest.

Diversified Admission Programmes

In view of GFMD discussions, it is important to observe that enforcement alone has failed to prevent or solve irregular forms of migration. Currently a new “comprehensive approach” tends to support the enforcement with more diversified admission programmes; more effective visa and residence and work permit systems, capacity building and cooperation with partner countries. Some argue that this can be observed in the Philippines where a comprehensive, large-scale programme includes specific regulations and protection on mobility

and work abroad, resulting in relatively lower incidences of trafficking compared to other places with less well-managed programmes.

Research, Data Gathering and Analysis Tools to Better Understand and Respond to the Economic Dynamics of Smuggling and Trafficking

In order to efficiently prepare a plan of action against irregular forms of migration the GFMD discourse finds it necessary to better analyse and collect data on migration at a local and national level. But irregular migration is difficult to measure because most country databases are inadequate to actually capture trends and levels. Many governments do not collect statistics because of lack of capacity or resources, or because they do not have interest in doing that.

Moreover, irregular migration in reality does not consist exclusively of the poorest people but also of asylum seekers and displaced persons who require different policy analysis and responses.

Case studies can help to develop creative and specific strategies for the implementation of action plans aimed to contrast irregular migration and guarantee a managed migration.

Diaspora as Powerful Development Actor

From the first GFMD meeting in Belgium 2007, migrant diasporas in host countries have been recognised as fundamental and powerful actors for development. Diaspora engagement was seen as a largely underutilised mechanism for development. Mobilising (successful) migrants to invest and contribute to the development of their countries' of origin is not only functional, cost effective and efficient; it offers a model for integrating migration into development strategies.

It has been one of the principal priorities at each gathering of the GFMD to facilitate and encourage diaspora engagement in development. In their discussions they have employed several definitions of diaspora, allowing a flexible and informal approach to this large issue area. A definition was adopted at the first session in Brussels: *individuals originating from one country, living outside this country, irrespective of citizenship or nationality, who individually or collectively, are or could be willing to contribute to the development of this country. Descendants of these individuals are also included in this definition.*¹

Diasporas offer a deep well of resources for development that can be categorised into three main types: investment,

knowledge and (social) remittances.² Investment refers to monetary contributions that can be made to countries of origin ranging from individual financial transfers 'home' to small scale investment in community projects to strategic philanthropy for long term sustainable development. Knowledge signifies the transmission and use of intellect and skills, usually developed abroad, to aid infrastructure development and capacity building. Healthcare and business entrepreneurship are the two most highly sought after skill types as for example in IOM's MIDA programme which helps first generation African doctors to support their home countries by providing medical services and building up a healthcare infrastructure. Social remittances have become progressively more prominent in GFMD discussions, denoting migrants as transmitters of values, ideas, norms and behaviours between home and host countries. This represents a more transnational conception of migration and development than the collaborative GFMD espouses.

Engaging Diasporas in Development Effectively

The material and intellectual contributions that migrant Diasporas can offer make it essential to provide these powerful development actors

¹ 'Roundtable 2: Remittances and other diaspora resources' in Report of the First Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, (Brussels, 2008), p.103

² IOM, *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries*, (Geneva, 2012), pp.25-7

agency and ownership in the planning and implementation of development progress. Fostering partnerships between governments and diaspora associations has been a principal priority of the GFMD since its first session. The first stage in cultivating these partnerships is seen as identifying which groups and individuals might have interest in development, such as organisations with a strong commitment to helping their home nations. The Co-Development Plan, *le FSP Codéveloppement Mali*, in operation since 2002 offers a good example of this action in practice as it is a partnership that allows the Foreign Affairs and Finance Ministries to facilitate individual and Malian Diaspora associations in France to invest in local community development projects and enterprise creation in Mali.

The merit in targeting business and social entrepreneurs along with networks of expatriate professionals has consistently been viewed with merit at GFMD meetings on diaspora engagement. One example is a group of expatriate Australian professionals which in 2002 established Advance, a non-profit public-private global network of over 20,000 Australians in over 90 countries that leverages the strong relationships in the Australian diaspora with business, government and academia. In 2010 they hosted a conference in New Delhi fostering links between India and Australia aiming to help address issues of environment, urbanisation and education. One of the

network's chief supporters is the Australian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The GFMD has expanded its discussions of partnership creation into general environment enabling. In the Swedish Forum 2014 the necessity of legal and institutional frameworks has been underlined that can facilitate and support private frameworks for development. Host countries are encouraged to institute dialogue or consultation platforms with diaspora, a point of contact that allows for cohesive action and enhancement of policy implementation. In earlier forums, like the Philippines in 2008 leveraging of financial remittances as voluntary contributions to development has been advocated with the setting up of remittances 'corridors' as priority.

The importance of home countries governments creating and fortifying diaspora institutions has increasingly emerged as one of the mechanisms for enhancing migrant engagement with development. The Philippines with its Commission for Filipinos Overseas (CFO) along with work undertaken by its Departments for Labour and Employment and Foreign Affairs is regarded as the preeminent example of countries of origin mobilising their diaspora. The CFO established in 1980 primarily acts to facilitate the funnelling of financial remittances back into the Philippines from the large overseas labour force of Filipinos, many of whom have taken up nationality or full citizenship in their host countries. The

success of the CFO has been connected to its long time establishment and the goodwill built-up between government institutions and departing Filipino workers. The Philippines' government protects the welfare of its emigrants through regulatory measures in the monitoring and licensing of recruitment agents as well as through support services in the form of a three stage preparation for migrant workers including language and cultural courses in both the Philippines and later the country of destination. The relations with its diaspora has facilitated the implantation of its Diaspora for Development programme, harnessing successful Filipino workers overseas to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development, acting as catalysts for economic growth. Other diaspora institution pursue agendas suited to their home countries' needs. E.g. India's Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs established a decade ago has focused on networking with its scientific and entrepreneurial diaspora targeting areas like in the US Silicon Valley where many successful Indian ex-pats reside. Other countries like Morocco and Korea, have created foundations to indirectly manage their overseas diasporas so that the diasporas can be engaged. Diaspora Councils bring together community leaders and government officials and create spaces where not only funds and skills can be exchanged but also policy planning and implementation can be arranged. One of the earliest examples of this is the High Council of Malians Living Abroad.

There are many ways that diaspora can be effectively engaged in development, going through the GFMD's materials it becomes clear that home countries rather than host countries are so far better equipped to set up infrastructures that enhance this engagement.

Rights Empowerment and Leveraging Goodwill

The GFMD has concluded over successive forums that the best way to encourage diaspora engagement with development is enhancing the rights of migrants in host, and in some cases home, countries. Through empowerment governments and other interested parties can leverage goodwill established through this empowerment and mobilise diaspora for development causes. The International Organisation for Migration's Handbook for Engaging Diaspora for Development is one of the referred documents advocating this approach which is supported across numerous roundtables and discussions in the GFMD.

As preconditions for empowerment legal aid, reasonable costs and good information have been established. Access to rights and integration into host communities are seen to form the basis of migrants rights engagement. Education is a nexus point for all these issues and there are many programmes already in operation at regional, national and local level in this field. Language courses for migrants are becoming more prevalent in host countries like Greece. Ecuador offers a system of grants and bourses for migrants that cover 100% of

the cost of their education to be paid off by work in public office. Mexico offers literacy training, skills acquisition and distance learning courses for many of its citizens and diaspora members living in the United States. Home countries are putting more programmes in place to ensure the children of its migrants abroad receive adequate education; e.g. Pakistan has set up educational intuitions that offer preferred admission and fee concession to children of its unskilled labourers in the Gulf States. All of these programmes not only enrich the lives of migrants but place them on better terms with various governments of both origin and destination with whom they can then partner with for the development strategies.

The gendered aspect of rights empowerment was an important point on the Brussels 2007 agenda. International organisations like ILO and UNDP have been particularly vocal in

mainstreaming gender rights into migrant rights enhancement. This is important for diaspora engagement as women represent essential stakeholders in migration and development processes and are often at a disadvantage within a diaspora which are sometimes viewed as skewering towards a conservative position. Since the Mexico 2010 forum there has been a move to enhance migrant family rights primarily through shifting the perspective from individual migrants to migrant families as the unit of concern. Besides the educational programmes mentioned above there are few schemes that address migrant families, and even less women. Ultimately for governments and other important institutions one can conclude that the emphasis on the welfare of migrants through access to rights and integration is regarded to be a development goal in its own right.

There are many sources of information; however, related to the GFMD the following links may be useful:

Global Forum Migration and Development

www.gfmd.org

GFMD civil society days

<http://gfmdcivilsociety.org/>

UN Sustainable Development Goals

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics>

Churches Witnessing With Migrants

<http://nccphilippines.org/our-programs/faith-witness-and-service/church-witnessing-with-migrants/>

CCME

www.ccme.eu

UNDP

www.undp.org

ICMC (coordinator Civil Society Days)

www.icmc.net