



GMG Chair Remarks by Mr. Dilip Ratha

GFMD 2014-2015 Fourth Meeting of the Friends of the Forum
Session: Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Tuesday, April 28th 2015, 15:00 pm-18:00 pm

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen – good afternoon to you all

Opening

- I am pleased to address this session of the Fourth Meeting of the Friends of the Forum on behalf of the World Bank, in its capacity as this year's Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG).
- Following up on our discussions on how to better coordinate the activities of the GFMD and the GMG, as well as with the office of the UN Secretary General, we are glad to report that we organized a side event to the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development on April 16, 2015.
- The side-event was co-convened by the Troika of the GFMD in partnership with the Global Migration Group (GMG) and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration (SRSG). The event was attended by some 70 delegates from governments, international organizations and civil society attending the negotiations on the outcome document for the Third Conference on Financing for Development as well as the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development.
- The objective of the event was to draw specific attention to the importance of retaining the proposed migration-related targets with people-centered, inclusive, human rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches to sustainable development. Participants at the event discussed the role of migration in generating resources for development and the value of facilitating labor mobility for development, including by expanding regular channels of migration and addressing its root causes.

GMG's work on Migration and Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Last year, the GMG developed a joint communiqué, *Realizing the Inclusion of Migrants and Migration in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda*, endorsed by the 18 Principals of the GMG and conveyed it to the UN Secretary-General as a contribution to his Synthesis Report (copies available in the room). A longer discussion paper building on the communiqué is being prepared by agencies and will be hopefully made available at the next GFMD preparatory meetings.
- The GMG welcomes the progress made towards the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda as proposed in the Report of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) delivered in July 2014. It also welcomes the inclusion of remittances and migration in the Zero Draft of the outcome document of the Third Financing for Development Conference to be held in Addis Ababa in July of this year.

- The GMG will continue working on developing the indicators for the post-2015 development agenda as well as on including migration and remittances in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. We are also raising awareness of the importance of labor migration costs, job creation, productive employment and decent work in all countries as an important element of the “financing for development” discussions. While countries are responsible for their own development, the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda will require partnerships amongst a broad range of relevant stakeholders, leveraging their resources and unique skills and advantages.
- The GMG proposes the following three-track approach.
 - First, we need to develop indicators for global monitoring of the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda. 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 (as a subset of labor migration costs), (4) the percentage of refugees and displaced persons benefiting from durable solutions and (5) an indicator to gauge well-managed migration. In addition, work is being undertaken by GMG agencies to develop indicators focusing on the reduction of other labor migration costs relating to the portability of social security rights, the mutual recognition of skills and qualifications, and migrants’ wages, as well as on the human and labor rights of migrants, 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 relating to health, education, productive employment and decent work for all, 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 an initiative could also explore the potential role of “big data” in bridging data gaps.
- The GMG made an intervention at the Forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development last April.
- To continue influencing the discussions, the GMG is organizing the following:
 - International Conference on Harnessing Migration, Remittances and Diaspora Contributions for Financing Sustainable Development on May 26-27, 2015
 - GMG/GFMD/G20 Conference on Leveraging Migration, Remittances and Diaspora for Development Financing on June 3, 2015.
 - Side event at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, July 2015)
- Lastly, let me reiterate that the GMG stands ready to support Member States, and the broader international community to take action in response to the needs and interests identified over the course of 2015.

WORLD BANK

- Now, wearing my hat of the World Bank, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the WB just released the latest Migration and Development Brief 24 (copies are available in the room).
- Using newly available census data, the stock of international migrants is estimated at 247 million in 2013, significantly larger than the previous estimate of 232 million, and is expected to surpass 250 million in 2015.
- Migrants' remittances to developing countries are estimated to have reached \$436 billion in 2014, a 4.4 percent increase over the 2013 level. All developing regions recorded positive growth except Europe and Central Asia (ECA), where remittance flows contracted due to the deterioration of the Russian economy and the depreciation of the ruble.
- In 2015, however, the growth of remittance flows to developing countries is expected to moderate sharply to 0.9 percent to \$440 billion, led by a 12.7 percent decline in ECA and slowdown in East Asia and the Pacific, Middle-East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The positive impact on flows of a robust recovery in the US will be partially offset by continued weakness in Europe, the impact of lower oil prices on the Russian economy, the strengthening of the US dollar, and tighter immigration controls in many source countries for remittances. Remittance flows are expected to recover in 2016 to reach \$479 billion by 2017, in line with the more positive global economic outlook.
- The global average cost for sending money remained broadly at 8 percent in Q4 2014, with the highest average cost (about 12 percent) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Concerns over money laundering are keeping costs high by increasing compliance costs for commercial banks and money transfer operators, and delaying the entry of new players and the use of mobile technology.
- In the context of the global deliberations on financing the implementation of post-2015 development goals, migration and remittances can be leveraged to raise development financing via reducing remittance costs, lowering recruitment costs for low-skilled migrant workers, and mobilizing diaspora savings and diaspora philanthropic contributions. Remittances can also be used as collateral, through future-flow securitization, to facilitate international borrowings with possibly lower costs and longer maturities. And they can facilitate access to international capital markets by improving sovereign ratings and debt sustainability of recipient countries.