



Report¹ of the European Commission Roundtable on

'Integrating Migration into Development Strategies and into the Post-2015 Agenda'

Organised by the European Commission's DG for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid,
in cooperation with B&S Europe, Brussels, July 1-2 2014

In order to inform its future work on migration and development, the European Commission's DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid organised an expert consultation on '**integrating migration into development strategies and into the post-2015 agenda**' on 1 and 2 July in Brussels. The meeting had two complementary objectives:

- 1) Consider possible migration-related targets and indicators for **inclusion in the post-2015 agenda**, with a focus on selected priority areas, namely employment and decent work, inclusive growth, environment and climate change, and access to basic social services (notably health and education). The roundtable offered an opportunity for the Commission to receive feedback from participants on proposals made on migration and post-2015 in its Communication 'A decent life for all: from vision to collective action'²;
- 2) Inform the Commission's ongoing efforts to '**mainstream migration and forced displacement in EU external cooperation**', in particular in light of the Communication on 'Maximising the Development Impact of Migration'³, by discussing how to harness the potential of migration as a development enabler in initiatives focused on the development sectors mentioned above.

The **human rights of migrants** and the links between **refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** and development were addressed as cross-cutting issues. In addition, a separate session was held on the specific challenges of integrating refugees and IDPs into development cooperation.

The roundtable gathered over fifty selected representatives from international organisations, academia, think tanks, civil society, diaspora, Member States and non-EU partner countries. The agenda of the meeting and a list of participants are attached as Annex to this report.

Key suggestions and recommendations from participants are summarised below while the remainder of the report provides a more detailed account of discussions held during the various sessions. The meeting results will assist continued internal reflection within the European Commission on migration and post-2015 as well as on operational approaches to maximising the development impact of migration.

¹This report is a general summary of the discussions that took place in the roundtable. The contents are the sole responsibility of the B&S project team and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

² COM (2014) 335 final

³ COM(2013) 292 final

Key Suggestions and Recommendations

On Post-2015

- Participants welcomed the significant momentum in the discussions on migration and post-2015 following the UN High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development of October 2013, the strong signal of support for the issue sent by the Global Forum on Migration and Development in May 2014, and the attention which migration issues are receiving in discussions of the OWG.
- Targets on reducing the costs of migration could have a significant impact on improving migration governance and driving development. This type of target can apply to both remittance transfer costs, where calls were made to go beyond the current agreed G20 target of reducing these to 5% (why not 1%?), and to other costs related to migration and mobility, such as recruitment costs, visa fees, fees for recognition of diplomas etc.
- Broad support was expressed for addressing other aspects of labour migration governance in post-2015, in particular by including targets or indicators on protection of the rights of migrant workers and on facilitation of safe, orderly and regular migration.
- Participants underlined the potential added value of including a specific target or indicator on reducing refugee numbers in strengthening attention for displaced persons from development actors.
- Several proposals were made as to where migration should feature in the post-2015 framework, notably i) including migration-related targets under specific focus areas (inequality, poverty eradication etc.); ii) including a cluster of migration-related targets as part of a future Global Partnership, and; iii) disaggregating migrants as vulnerable groups under other post-2015 targets in areas like health, education etc. Widespread support was expressed for giving migration visibility in the Global Partnership, potentially by clustering together different issues.
- Participants stressed the importance of addressing obstacles to disaggregation represented by weaknesses in the actual availability of data on migrant access to decent work, healthcare, education etc. especially in developing destination countries.

On Mainstreaming Migration into Development Strategies

- Further analytical work on the migration-development nexus is required to inform efforts to more systematically consider migration in development interventions in the various focus sectors discussed.
- As regards *employment* issues, discussions confirmed that the challenges presented by globalisation to implementation of the decent work agenda are closely linked to migration. Migrants are often disproportionately represented in 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous, and demeaning) and affected by unfair employment practices which undermine labour rights, e.g. care work, construction. Informal or irregular migrant labour is also frequently used to undercut national workforces, including in developing countries. Migrants and migration governance therefore should receive strong consideration as part of efforts to promote decent work and ensure productive employment for all.
- Discussions on migration and *inclusive economic growth* focused strongly on remittances and diaspora. Significant efforts are still required to reduce remittance transfer costs, in particular for sub-Saharan Africa and South-South corridors. These should include a

variety of measures including better regulation (e.g. PCD on anti-money laundering legislation), reducing remittance taxes, promoting competition, promoting use of technologies etc. Furthermore, the potential of tapping migrant savings for development was underlined e.g. through diaspora bonds, though lack of trust from migrants in bonds issued by governments is a potential obstacle to the latter. More attention should be given to integrating remittance and diaspora contributions in sectoral priorities and building links with the private sector.

- *Climate change* is already impacting on migration in numerous ways and this issue requires policy attention. In the Sahel and other parts of Africa, water scarcity as a driver of conflict and displacement is a key concern. The large majority of flows will be internal or intra-regional (South-South). Greater attention is needed for addressing displacement in work on DRR, resilience and climate change adaptation. The potential of migration to positively contribute to adaptation is increasingly recognised, including in the context of climate discussions on loss and damage.
- The meeting confirmed the numerous links between migration issues and *access to social services*, focusing strongly on health and education. Migrants and returnees must be included in planning for service provision. The importance of the local structural dimension was highlighted. Local authorities frequently lack resources and experience on migration but are at the frontline in provision of services to migrants and returnees, and are often also best placed to partner with diaspora on e.g. health initiatives.
- Lively exchanges were held on the challenges of *integrating refugees and IDPs into development cooperation*. Despite growing evidence of the significant negative and positive development impacts of refugee crises, increasing urbanisation of refugee situations, and the prevalence of protracted displacement around the world, the overwhelming perception amongst donors and governments is still that displacement is a humanitarian issue. Political leadership and strong advocacy are required to promote recognition of refugees as potential contributors to development. It was recognised that refugees and IDPs are often economically active, irrespective of the host government resistance or assistance. Partnerships should be built with host governments through political dialogue, in order to build a common understanding of the impacts of refugee situations and the need for long-term, inclusive strategies. Further efforts are required from donors and international organisations to avoid silo approaches between humanitarian and development actors, including by implementing more flexible means of financing and better co-ordination between engaged institutions.

Summary Report

SESSION 1: INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS

Hélène Bourgade, Head of Unit for Employment, Social Inclusion and Migration, DG DEVCO, introduced the roundtable, explaining its objectives and its relevance for the EU's work on migration and development. She underlined that the EU has taken ambitious commitments on addressing the links between migration and economic, social and environmental development in its external cooperation. The meeting aims to assist the European Commission in taking steps to

implement this strong political mandate, including by developing and delivering innovative ways of mainstreaming migration into development cooperation. The four sectors of focus of the roundtable (decent work, inclusive growth, climate change and environment and access to basic social services) were selected due to the high relevance of their links with migration. Furthermore, the meeting served to inform the Commission's continuing work to promote the inclusion of migration and migration indicators into the post-2015 agenda. In this area, progress in recent months has been striking, with broad consensus on the relevance of migration for post-2015 expressed by states in a number of different forums, including the UN High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development of October 2013 and the GFMD summit of May 2014. There is now a need to consider next steps for discussions on migration and post-2015 and identify migration targets and indicators most likely to produce significant development outcomes and improvements in migration governance.

Ronald Skeldon, Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sussex, made introductory remarks on 'bringing migration into the post-2015 agenda'. He underlined that current debates on how migration has impacted on the MDGs have focused too much on a narrow set of topics (remittances, brain drain, diaspora). There is a need to bring other types of migration into the debate (notably internal migration and short-term mobility) and consider how development processes impacts on migration. Due in part to the 'toxicity' of migration, the inclusion of goals in post-2015 on volumes of mobility is unlikely. However, agreement on a limited number of specific post-2015 targets on issues such as the transaction costs of remittances should be pursued. Care should be taken to ensure that the post-2015 framework is understandable and concise, and therefore only a limited number of transformative issues should be addressed, including for migration. In implementing post-2015, it will be important to bear in mind that whilst migration is not a development strategy in itself, it is an integral part of development processes. Development considerations (e.g. inequality, governance) therefore require more attention as part of migration debates. Conversely, greater efforts are needed to incorporate migration issues as a component of development programmes e.g. migration impact statements should be done for new development initiatives. Professor Skeldon also questioned the feasibility of achieving a post-2015 global partnership, and argued that in the multi-polar world of the 21st century meaningful agreements on migration and development may be more likely at regional rather than global levels.

Roger Zetter, Emeritus Professor at the Refugees Studies Centre, University of Oxford, made introductory remarks on 'refugees and development'. The dominant humanitarian approach to protecting refugees aims at securing lives, dignity and protection, and is therefore essential. However, Professor Zetter underlined that this approach ignores the human capital of refugees and IDPs and fails to tackle the burden on international donors and hosts and the fiscal stress of displacement situations, disempowers the dispossessed and in the end yields little progress toward interim or durable solutions. Short-term approaches to refugees also risk ignoring the strains which refugees can place on infrastructure and public services of host communities, and the long-term socio-economic impacts of the presence of refugees, who frequently work in informal sectors. More data on the development-refugee nexus is required, but available field evidence provides several examples of refugee groups that in the long-run have become self-reliant actors, contributing to host communities by expanding markets, importing new skills, creating transnational linkages (e.g. Burundians in Western Tanzania; Ethiopians and Eritreans in Sudan; Mozambicans in Malawi etc.) Longer-term, systematic responses to displacement are therefore required to mitigate negative impacts and make use of the human capital of refugees. Efforts to bridge the humanitarian-development divide should be redoubled and displaced persons should be mainstreamed into development programmes. Professor Zetter argued that a

development-led approach to displacement has the potential to maximise the socio-economic benefits of displacement situations for host populations; enhance human rights, dignity, security and protection; expand productive capacity and GDP; contribute to public sector revenue streams; diminish tensions between host communities and the displaced; reduce the risk of extremism by improving the quality of displaced persons' lives; ease pressures for secondary movements and create resources for possible return.

Mr. Bela Hovy, from UN DESA made a presentation on discussions on migration in the OWG on SDGs. Mr Hovy introduced his intervention by recalling that, globally, 7 out of every 10 international migrant originate in developing countries. Of these, half have moved between countries in the South. While experiencing significant migratory movements, the countries in the global South are often least equipped to leverage migration for development or to address migration concerns, both from a country of origin and a country of destination perspective. As regards multilateral discussions on migration and development, despite the toxicity of migration the 2013 UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the adoption of a political declaration by consensus demonstrated that substantial common ground now exists between Member States. Convergence was also evident between states and the agenda of the UN and civil society. Mr Hovy provided an overview of migration-related targets and indicators in the draft OWG outcome document of 30 June, noting that a number of the European Commission's proposals made in its latest Communication on post-2015 corresponded to targets in the OWG paper. He argued that clustering all migration-related targets in the OWG paper under the global partnership for sustainable development could have several benefits, including strengthening the visibility of migration issues in post-2015.

SESSION 2: MIGRATION AND DECENT WORK

The session was opened by **Natalia Popova of the Labour Migration Branch of ILO**, who provided an introduction to the concept of Decent Work as defined by ILO as well as to the main activities of the agency on migration. Deficits to decent work in countries of origin are key drivers of migration, and migrants are often disproportionately affected by labour abuses. ILO therefore works to implement a fair migration agenda, which includes recognition of migrant vulnerabilities and their contribution to development and decent work in countries of origin and destination. Regarding the protection of migrant workers, Ms Popova underlined the importance of ratification and implementation of relevant conventions (including Convention 189 on Domestic workers), the need for inclusive dialogue involving social partners, and the importance of addressing the issue of recruitment. She also highlighted the need for progress on international skills recognition and matching as a means of reducing brain waste, and the need to strengthen coherence between policies on migration, employment and skills development, including for migrants active in the informal sector.

Shabari Nair of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation underlined that the Swiss development policy attaches strong priority to maximising the links between migration and development, and to integrating migration into the post-2015 framework. Recalling the strong links between decent work and human rights, Mr Nair argued that post-2015 should not only address the economic contributions of migrants to development, but also recognise that migrants are part of social development processes and holders of political, social and cultural human rights. The complex realities of global migration (including South-South migration and

refugee flows) are highly relevant to implementation of the decent work agenda. Migrants should be included under a post-2015 goal on full and productive employment and related targets, including for example on non-discrimination at the workplace. Post-2015 must implement the 'leave no one behind' principle by focusing on access to rights, avoiding disparities and promoting actions targeting vulnerable groups, which should be explicitly defined to include migrants. In terms of addressing the links between migration and decent work through development cooperation, Mr Nair underlined the importance of facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue (including between countries of origin and destination) to support implementation of existing frameworks and promote institutional reform.

Discussions confirmed the numerous links between migration and the decent work agenda, as well as the severe challenges currently faced with implementation of this agenda by globalisation. The **precariousness of work** has increased in both North and South with the global economic crisis, with migrants disproportionately affected in 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and demeaning), and migrant work practices (e.g. employment of irregular migrants) often associated with undercutting the decent work agenda. Furthermore, **jobless growth** is set to be a challenge in numerous developing countries, which is likely to impact on internal and international mobility. Promoting productive employment is therefore an essential priority of the post-2015 framework, and migrants and migration governance should receive **strong consideration** as part of efforts to achieve related targets.

Several participants referred to the results of the **Global Experts Meeting on Migration and Post-2015** held in Dhaka on 28-29 April, which included a set of recommendations related to migration and post-2015, including on decent work. In order to ensure a people-centered approach, there is a need to specify who is referred to under 'vulnerable groups' in post-2015, and to explain that disaggregation is done to avoid discrimination and ensure respect of human rights and other international commitments for the targeted groups. For the monitoring of post-2015 implementation, it will be essential to develop **measurable data on access of migrants and other vulnerable groups to decent work**.

As decent work is closely related to improved **social protection**, participants suggested that current systems must be re-assessed from the perspective of migrants, whilst bearing in mind that in many developing countries migrant workers are particularly active outside the formal sector.

Greater attention was also called for on improving **skills recognition** between countries and including migrants in skills development measures, something which is also related to the more general potential of **regional dialogue processes** and regional free movement regimes to facilitate well-governed labour mobility. There is also a need to improve education and skills for second generation migrants, who frequently suffer from poorer job opportunities as a result of weaker skills vis-à-vis non-migrant families.

SESSION 3: MIGRATION AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The session was introduced by the **World Bank's Dilip Ratha**, who addressed the links between migration and inclusive economic growth from a variety of perspectives, including remittances,

diaspora, and the need to reduce the costs of labour migration. Mr Ratha recalled that official remittance flows totaled \$404 billion in 2013, meaning they are currently four times higher than official development aid. Average global transfer costs have reduced from over 12% to 8.4%, but are still over 12% for transfers to Africa. South-South transfers such as those between African states are often incredibly costly (e.g. 30%) or impossible, pushing flows into illegality. Given that 67% of African migration is intra-regional, Mr Ratha underlined that this situation has substantial development impacts. A variety of measures are required to further reduce costs including better regulation, reducing remittance taxes, promoting competition etc. The impact of anti-money laundering legislation on remittance transfers is particularly damaging. Significant potential remains in investing in new technologies. Advances in mobile transfers combined with other measures could see costs go down to 1% or less by 2030, therefore a high level of ambition is required in post-2015 targets on remittances.

Mr Ratha noted that whilst approximately 70% of remittance transfers are used for consumption, this can drive growth by fuelling consumer demand and creating multiplier effects. Remittances also promote financial inclusion by providing an incentive for receivers to join the formal banking sector. More could be done to leverage remittances and diaspora investment for productive investment. Banks should be encouraged to promote migrant financing tools, for example by considering remittance receipts in assessing credit worthiness. There is also unexplored potential for banks and government to leverage remittances to improve credit ratings and facilitate bond financing, in particular in fragile states where remittances represent one of the only sources of foreign income. Mr Ratha also encouraged greater use of diaspora bonds, pointing out that total savings of migrants from developing countries are estimated at USD 511 billion and suggesting that Sub-Saharan African countries could raise 5-10 billion USD a year by using them.

Mr Ratha pleaded strongly for attention to migrant recruitment as a transformative issue for maximising the development impact of labour migration. Recruitment costs often remain exorbitantly high for low-skilled workers (an example was given of an average 14 month wages for Bangladeshi construction workers in the Gulf). Reducing these costs could therefore positively impact on the condition of migrants by reducing vulnerability, producing benefits for employers by targeting middle-men operating in the migration industry, and allowing additional migrant resources flowing to development.

During **discussions**, participants agreed on the need for more ambition on reducing remittance transfer costs, including by going **beyond the current 5% G20** target in a possible post-2015 target in this area. Lively exchanges took place on the potential of measures to leverage remittances and diaspora savings for productive investment. Difficulties include the need to respect the **private nature** of the transfers and to base initiatives on a good understanding of motivations for investing. There is a continued need for innovative thinking and partnership with the private sector e.g. by encouraging money transfer agencies to offer migrants the possibility to donate part of their remittance transfers to local development initiatives. Questions were raised on the likelihood of migrants purchasing **diaspora bonds** issued by governments that enjoy limited trust internationally.

More attention should be given to **integrating remittance and diaspora contributions in sectoral priorities** (e.g. on private sector development), and sensitising developing countries to the need to encourage and facilitate migrant contributions to development. Remittances also require greater attention in multilateral discussions on financing for development.

The role of **diasporas** in ‘driving the drivers’ of development by creating international linkages (e.g. in terms of investment flows or between institutions such as schools or hospitals) which produce benefits at local level was highlighted. Whilst more partnership between governments and diaspora was called for, the challenge is to address the isolation of diaspora organisations who are generally small-scale actors, and identify promising diaspora initiatives which are worthy of scaling up.

Support was expressed for action to reduce **migrant recruitment costs**. There is a need for pilot initiatives focusing on migration corridors with implication of partner countries and other relevant private sector stakeholders. The potential of ethical recruitment initiatives such as IOM’s ‘International Recruitment Integrity System’ were also referred to.

SESSION 4: MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

During her introductory remarks, **Dina Ionesco, Climate Change Officer at IOM**, highlighted the complexity and multi-causality of the links between climate change and migration. Migration brings the human impacts of climate change to the heart of climate discussions, and can act as a barometer of resilience and vulnerability at community level.

Policy-level recognition of the issue is growing and the evidence base has significantly improved in recent years. Comprehensive approaches to addressing the links between climate change, migration and development are needed, focusing on different perspectives ranging from prevention of climate-induced displacement, to assistance of displaced populations, to the promotion of migration as an adaptation strategy. There is a need to build on existing experience in specific sub-sectors to inform future policy development and develop more comprehensive operational approaches (e.g. linking remittance transfers to adaptation initiatives such as land rehabilitation). At policy level, greater attention is required for the climate change-migration nexus as a standalone issue, but at the same time different entry points should be explored, including in the context of post-2015 preparations. On the one hand, climate issues require more consideration in migration policy discussions and dialogues. In addition, migration should be mainstreamed into climate discussions, including in the UNFCCC. Migrants should be considered under people-centred post-2015 environmental targets and indicators (e.g. on land, access to water or disaster risk reduction).

Nahida Sobhan of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Geneva suggested that the issue of human rights provides a valuable framework through which to consider several aspects of the climate change-migration nexus. For example, the UN Human Rights Council has called for attention to minimise the impacts of climate change on the human rights of vulnerable populations, which highlights the need to promote adaptation as a means *inter alia* of reducing displacement. Efforts to explore the links between climate change, human rights and displacement are currently underway as part of the Nansen Initiative, which is currently holding regional consultations. Ms Sobhan underlined that efforts are also required to harness the potential of migration as an adaptation strategy. This requires pursuing policy coherence and the mainstreaming of migration issues into national policies and adaptation strategies, as well as

addressing migration issues in frameworks such as the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Warsaw Loss and Damage mechanism.

Discussions demonstrated that numerous specific cases can already be identified where climate change is already impacting on migration. For example, in the Sahel and other parts of Africa, water scarcity as a driver of conflict and displacement is already a key concern, and Mali has already taken the links between environment and migration into account in its migration policy. Nevertheless, the role of climate factors in migration decisions is difficult to isolate, especially for individual cases. In developing policy approaches it is therefore preferable to focus in broader terms on **'migration in the context of climate change'**. Evidence suggests that the large majority of migration flows linked to climate changes will be internal or intra-regional (South-South), therefore regional approaches to environmentally-induced migration and displacement will be essential.

Several participants underlined the need for greater commitment in **addressing displacement within ongoing work on Disaster Risk Reduction, resilience and climate change adaptation**. Strategies to address vulnerabilities should be developed using a participatory, people-centred and human-rights based approach, in particular where consideration is given to relocation of populations. Long-term strategies to manage risks and resource pressures that can be aggravated by climate change are needed to avoid resource-based conflicts which could drive displacement. More effective policymaking will require stronger links between expert communities on migration and development with climate change and disaster risk reduction experts.

The increasing recognition of the potential of **migration to positively contribute to adaptation** was welcomed. However, the links between migration and adaptation are highly context-specific and depend on factors such as the access of climate-vulnerable communities to legal migration channels and/or diaspora networks. Issues such as remittances, labour mobility and diaspora engagement should be factored into adaptation strategies and other policies, and post-2015 can provide positive impetus for this. Particular attention is required for remittances, which are often the first form of aid to arrive to disaster-affected regions.

SESSION 5: MIGRATION AND ACCESS TO BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Franck Laczko, Head of the Migration Research Division at IOM, introduced the session by recalling that the numerous positive and negative interactions between migration and social development are already well documented. Nevertheless, there is a need for more interaction between social policy experts and migration experts. From the perspective of post-2015, three aspects of the links between migration and goals in the area of health and education should be captured; i) the specific vulnerabilities of migrants, and the need to promote access of migrants to social services through relevant targets and indicators; ii) portability of social security rights, which should be addressed through a future Global Partnership; iii) the potential of migrants to contribute to social development goals, which should be promoted through measurable indicators.

On the issue of migration mainstreaming, Mr Laczko called for more evaluation of previous initiatives in the area of migration and development, including of instruments such as Migration Profiles, which aim to build data for strengthening policy coherence. There is a need to assess whether the many existing capacity building tools on migration and development (e.g. a diaspora handbook developed by IOM with the Migration Policy Institute) are being sufficiently used, and to make them more accessible to development policymakers. Efforts to build data on the links between migration and development and verify the applicability of indicators should be strengthened.

William Gois of the NGO Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) underlined the need for urgent action to address the multiple rights violations and vulnerabilities faced by migrants on a daily basis, in particular as regards access to health, education and other basic services. Mr Gois recalled that civil society organisations had adopted an 8-point, 5-year agenda on migration and development in view of the UN High-level Dialogue last October which makes several proposals in this area. In promoting access of migrants to social services, attention should be given to strengthening migrant participation in policymaking processes and in trade unions. Effective implementation of non-discrimination principles is also required and should be prioritised in post-2015. Measures are also required to secure access to justice, as migrants frequently fail to benefit from provisions in national legislation as they cannot understand and navigate legal systems.

Finally, Mr Gois criticised the fact that irregular migrants are often absent from debates on migration and development and recommended that a study be conducted on how irregular migration impacts on development in countries of origin and destination in both positive and negative terms.

During **discussions**, participants confirmed the numerous links between migration issues and access to social services, focusing strongly on health and education. A unifying theme of interventions was the need for a **more practical approach** to be taken in order to promote the mainstreaming of migration into social policies at various levels, in particular at local and municipal level.

In **countries of destination**, greater attention on migrants is required in **planning** for provision of services in health and education, not least so as to ensure respect of fundamental rights. Challenges differ significantly according to the status and profile of migrants and are most severe for **irregular migrants**. However, civil society participants highlighted that good practices regarding irregular migrants and healthcare exist in certain EU MS and recommended that the EU promote this internationally. Several participants pointed to the strains which mass influxes of migrants and refugees can place on public health and education systems (e.g. Lebanon, Syria), and the need to involve colleagues from education / health sectors.

For **countries of origin**, participants highlighted that **mass returns** from countries in crisis can also place strains on health and education systems (e.g. Mali and returning children from CAR). On the other hand, health and education were identified as priority areas for **diaspora** in their efforts to drive development back home. A call was made for the EU to assist governments in establishing institutions and frameworks for more effective partnership with diaspora in order to

ensure that ad hoc diaspora initiatives in health and education are more effectively linked to local, national and regional development priorities.

For both perspectives, the importance of the **local dimension was highlighted**. Local authorities frequently lack resources and experience on migration but are at the frontline in provision of services to migrants and returnees, and are often also best placed to partner with diaspora on e.g. health initiatives. International exchanges of experience should be promoted between cities and local authorities. Participants also noted that local authorities and front line practitioners were increasingly being asked to police immigration policies. Firewalls should be introduced to avoid service providers such as doctors from being forced to report irregular migrants to migration authorities.

Participants also addressed some of the negative rhetoric that persists around migrants and diseases, calling for greater attention from states to reducing the cost of pre-departure health checks.

SESSION 6: MAINSTREAMING REFUGEES AND IDPS INTO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

In his opening intervention, **Tom Delrue of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at UNDP** underlined that there is a need to mainstream development approaches into work on refugees and IDPs. Numerous examples exist where donors address long-term displacement situations by continuously renewing short-term humanitarian financing for relief interventions, which prevents the development of long-term approaches and risks turning protracted displacement into protracted dependency. Efforts are required from the donor community to ensure that the right type of assistance activities are being implemented at the right stage of displacement. Current trends towards increasingly introducing development elements into humanitarian interventions should continue. On the development side, donors should consider how to modify financing mechanisms to allow earlier long-term engagement into crisis situations and further strengthen cooperation with humanitarian actors.

Mr Delrue highlighted the importance of following a context-specific approach to implementing development approaches to refugees as the challenges, risks and opportunities are highly variable. Key points to consider include the nature of the crisis (on-going crisis, early recovery etc.), the profile of displaced communities, the socio-economic situation of host communities and the level of interaction with the displaced, the functionality of the host government, the length of displacement etc. Area-based approaches to development should be adopted in refugee hosting regions to avoid exclusion of displaced communities. A number of positive examples do exist which should be learnt from e.g. the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees.

Thomas Thomsen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, argued that in recent decades there has been a collective failure of governments and the broader international community to achieve durable solutions which can in part be explained by a prevailing view of refugees as 'externalities' that are not part of development constituencies in host societies and who should therefore be assisted only by humanitarians. Prominent examples also exist of countries of origin which have failed to give due attention to refugee returnees in post-crisis development strategies (e.g. Afghanistan). Mr Thomsen referred to the Transitional Solutions Initiative, which

aims to convert displacement and refugee situations into durable and lasting solutions by promoting development approaches. He also mentioned the recently launched EU Regional Development and Protection Programme for the Middle East (implemented by Denmark with funding from the EU and several EU Member States) as an example of a new development-oriented initiative focusing on Syrian refugees which includes activities to strengthen the evidence base on how displacement and development interact.

During **discussions**, the majority of interventions voiced strong support for including refugees and IDPs in development strategies and programmes. The relevance of this approach is reinforced by the increasing number of refugees interspersed within local, urban communities, as opposed to the diminishing numbers in camps. There is a need to harness refugees' human capital for development. Development approaches can produce **wider societal benefits** as local education and health care systems are improved through joined-up working e.g. schools in Lebanon providing access to Syrian and Lebanese children. Conversely, following silo approaches may harm both the displaced and host communities. Calls were made to look not only at solutions for existing situations of protracted displacement but also into ways to **prevent displacement from becoming protracted**.

However, there is a **clear need to involve host countries in discussions on development approaches to refugees**. One participating partner country expressed strong scepticism regarding the possibility that its development allocations be used for assistance to refugees. Building partnerships with host country governments appears to be an essential element of success and should be pursued through political dialogue, in order to build a common understanding of the impacts of refugee situations and the need for long-term, inclusive strategies. There is also a need to further build the evidence base to support the case for a development approach. Global level initiatives such as the Solutions Alliance Initiative must fully engage with the local stakeholders. Previous cases where refugees have been included in broader development initiatives have built on the priorities of host country governments and local authorities. Consideration is also required on a case-by-case basis for whether development funding for refugees will be drawn from national allocations of the host country, the country of origin (as has been done by the EU for Somali refugees in Kenya), or from regional allocations.

Exchanges were held on the importance of **terminology and legal definitions**. Both IDPs and returnees qualify as citizens meaning that states have an obligation to include them in development planning. Refugees as defined by the 1951 Geneva Convention enjoy a right to protection, but for many (e.g. Syrians in Jordan or Lebanon) refugee status in practice provides a right only to short-term humanitarian assistance without the prospect of a durable solution. Long-term developmental responses to displacement may provide viable win-win solutions.