

Panel 5: International migration and protection of migrants

- How would you integrate follow-up to the chapter F Priority measure with follow-up to other relevant measures

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~~Documentation based on review of Chapter F on International Migration~~

Madam Chair, fellow panellists it is indeed a pleasure to be a part of this panel to share perspectives on the Operational Guide with specific reference to the International Migration.

Migration is well recognized as an important enabler of development. This is evident by the emergence of international migration as a major global issue and how it ranks on the international, regional and national policy agendas. The Declaration of the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development acknowledged the important contribution of migrants in realizing the MDGs and recognized further that migration is a key factor for sustainable development. In assessing Chapter F of the Montevideo Consensus on International Migration and Protection of human rights of all migrants, I would like to stress the importance of the alignment not only with the Sustainable Development Goals but also the Addis Ababa Action Agenda arising from the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), as well as the Global Forum on

Migration and Development in reflection of the priority areas of the Operational Guide.

The SDGs recognise that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance to countries and requires a coherent and comprehensive response. To ensure complementarity of all these processes, there is need for alignment across the SDGs, international and regional commitments, the FfD and the Operational Guide. The assessment in preparation for this panel discussion shows there are linkages. Ensuring alignment will minimize any contradictions, inconsistencies and avoid side-lining and duplications. It is recommended that consideration be given to aligning indicators in Chapter F with the process for the SDGs which is scheduled to be completed by the UN Statistical Commission at the 47th Session in March 2016. This will certainly ensure complementarity. The tentative indicators as presented in the Operational Guide for this area are ambitious and based on the robustness of national statistics systems from one country to the next, there may be challenges in measuring some of the priorities or targets.

The success of the implementation of the priority measures outlined in Chapter F will largely be determined by the efforts to mainstream

migration into national and regional development planning and effective migration governance at all levels. Mainstreaming migration into development planning has to be facilitated along the following lines:

- through a **comprehensive analysis** of the interlinkages between migration and human development at national and regional level
- identification of **policy objectives** for migration and development which ensure **coherence** among relevant policy areas and interventions
- Help ensure **coordination and cooperation** between different ministries (whole-of-government approach), and levels of governance (local, sub-national, national)
- institutionalization of regular consultations between government agencies, civil society and non-governmental stakeholders
- Strengthened capacity for developing, implementing and evaluating migration policies from a development perspective and development policies from a migration perspective
- Ensure **sustainability** – consistent with the sections of the Consensus which speak to Frameworks for implementation of the Regional Agenda, there is need for a mechanism which operates as the focal point to ensure coherence at the national level.

This type of framework could promote integration and synergy for the Montevideo Consensus. In reviewing Chapter F, emphasis has been placed on the role of the government in achieving these targets and indicators. However, emphasis should also be placed on working with partners who are at the forefront of migration issues, predominantly the NGOs and civil society groups.

As outlined in the presentation by Dirk Jaspers yesterday, the Caribbean Sub-region has high levels of international migration. As a result, the issue of diaspora is front and centre of our national agenda as we seek to strengthen the partnership and engagement of this group for their own development and national development. This has to be reflected in the Operational Guide as a specific migration and development issue for the Caribbean Sub-region. The issue of circular migration is also a reality within the Caribbean sub-region.

I will use the opportunity to touch very quickly on some of the issues being addressed in the priority areas:

- Priority Measure 66 –the proposed Index on Human Mobility Governance has to take into consideration that countries are at varying levels of governance on migration and development issues.

- Priority Measure 67 – The issue of regularization of migrant status within the context of the Caribbean will require serious assessment – Within the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) countries are at varying stages of implementation of the principle of free movement. At the national level and within the ad hoc working group careful consideration should be given to what is referred to in the Montevideo Consensus as “Achieve full regularity in migration processes” and how this will be measured.
- Priority Measure 68 – Specific reference is being made here with respect to remittances. Since 2013, the survival of the remittance sector has been brought into question as a result of measures being implemented by the global banking industry. International banks based in the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US) have sought to delink the remittance sector from the banking sector by closing all accounts of clients that utilize cambio services. This action is within the context of the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) legislation enacted in March 2010, where money and income earned in the United States, that is transferred into a US account will be subject to the FATCA reporting requirements . The resultant impact on the global banking regime is the increased cost accrued due to the application of more stringent monitoring mechanisms. This will have implications on SDG 10.c relating to reducing transaction cost of migrant remittances. As well as the flows

of remittances back to countries of origin Particualry the impact on diaspora.

- Priority Measure 69 – recognition is given to the importance of negotiating agreements, however, implementation remains a challenge and what mechanisms will be put in place.
- Generally, the priority measures have not yet taken account of the peculiarities of the Caribbean sub-region. The Caribbean countries will have to carefully note the amendments required for their national contexts, during the consultations in the ad hoc working group.

Within the Operational Guide, the focus on the migration and development nexus should be strengthened. The paradigm shift as reflected in the Global Forum on Migration and Development process recognizes that migration serves the development needs of countries of origin, destination and migrants themselves. The Consensus focuses on human rights of migrants, protection of rights and border management issues. The ad hoc working group in refining this section of the Operational Guide can examine the need for the region to develop comprehensive international migration and development policies to complement the issues of human rights, protection and border management issues.

In further aligning the Operational Guide with the SDGs, I would like to draw your attention to following areas for consideration in targets and indicators where migration and development can be included. These have been proposed as part of the GFMD process.

SDG	Focus on Migration
1.3 and 1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resilience to Economic, Social and Environmental Shocks - Social protection
4.3	Scholarships (Student Mobility)
5.2, 5.5 and 16.2	Trafficking in persons, with specific focus on women and girls
8.3 and 8.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment and Decent Work - Migrant Workers rights - Women migrants
10.3, 10.7 and 10c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepared and well managed migration policies - Migrant remittances

11a and 11b	Inclusion of migrants in disaster risk reduction plans
17.18	Data Disaggregation by Migration Status

Madam Chair, Fellow panellist, ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica views the operational guide as a useful tool, which is a work in progress. In that regard, we are of the view that careful analysis of the Guide and the purpose for which it is intended is needed, so we welcome the work to be done by the ad hoc working group, which needs to consider the gaps identified by our presentations.

Thank you.