



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

SIDE EVENT DURING 5<sup>TH</sup> GCM ROUND OF  
NEGOTIATIONS



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



## *INTEGRATING A SKILLS DIMENSION INTO REGULAR LABOUR MOBILITY PATHWAYS*

NY UNHQ, 5 June 2018  
13:15 – 14:30 Room F

### CONCEPT NOTE

Skill demand in destination countries and skill supply in origin countries have been important determinants when developing regular labour mobility corridors in different parts of the world. Yet, the availability of options for cross-border skills and labour matching falls far behind the ever-growing demand for skills and structural imbalances in destination countries, notably at the lower end of the skills distribution. This fuels proliferation of irregular forms of employment for foreign workers, illegal employment practices, rights abuses, deskilling and even such dire human rights violations as smuggling and trafficking of migrants.

One way to address the apparent mismatch between cross-border labour market demand and supply is by reinforcing the skills development component of regular labour migration channels. Or, in other words, to apply a “skills mobility partnership” (SMP) approach to the area of labour migration management. SMPs take various forms, from schemes designed to facilitate the international mobility of students to employer-driven initiatives to fill in specific sectors (health, maritime) or to very specific projects developed with the support of development aid. SMPs have received considerable attention among policy makers and academics in recent years and have been advocated for as a “triple-win” solution, notably in the context of the Global Compact for Migration. Yet the understanding of SMPs and their advantage over a traditional labour migration approach require further discussion and consolidation.

#### **What would make Skills Mobility Partnerships work? Is there a place or need for a Global SMP?**

Despite decades of experiments, attempts to link migration and education sector responses have remained in the pilot phase or matured into niche initiatives. Even among the successful examples, no single model has emerged as universal or most effective. Let’s face it: these models have not conquered the world. In other words, there are no “Global” SMPs yet, nor a common understanding of the SMPs and their potential.

This side event draws attention to the importance of the skills dimension of labour migration by discussing the SMP model from the perspectives of governments of origin and destination countries, the private sector and key international expert institutions – IOM, OECD and ILO. Organized in a Davos style, the interactive discussion addresses the following overall questions: What are the main models of existing SMPs? What has been holding them back from becoming the dominant or preferred model for legal migration channels? What would be required not only to bring the idea into practice but to make it sufficiently widespread to really have an impact in global migration processes?

**Organizers: The Republic of the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

**Chair:** Jonathan Prentice, Chief of Office at Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration

### **Speakers**

- Jonathan Chaloff, Senior migration expert, OECD
- Amuerfina R. Reyes, Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippines
- Antonio Parenti, Head of Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations
- Hessa Muneer Al Ateibi, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the UN.
- Carlos Busquets, Director of Public Policy, Responsible Business Alliance
- Gregory Maniatis, Senior Adviser to former UN Special Representative for Migration, Peter Sutherland
- Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Special Representative to the UN and Director, ILO
- Michele Klein Solomon, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director General, IOM

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