

**GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION:
THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Check Against Delivery

Panel 1: Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development: the linkages between migration and development

The Global Compact is an important opportunity to advance work on strengthening the linkages between migration and development. Through this process we can consolidate past efforts and build on the significant work of the 2030 Agenda, the UN High Level Dialogues on Migration and Development and the GFMD, as well as compelling academic research and recommendations.

Canada has three recommendations for consideration for the Compact:

1) Base State commitments on a coherent policy agenda.

The OECD Development Centre has done significant work to map interrelations between public policy, migration and development at the national level in the global south. Research shows that the impact of migration on development depends on migration and non-migration policies. Canada would like to see the Compact result in national action plans that build these policy linkages, with specific initiatives that recognize and facilitate migrant contributions to sustainable development.

Monitoring, evaluation and building an evidence base are needed; how can we develop a better culture for this in the field of migration and development?

2) Prioritize gender equality and empower women and girls.

We strongly encourage applying a gender lens to all aspects of the Global Compact. Paying close attention to women's experiences throughout the migration continuum can yield important insights to inform program and policy responses. Better disaggregation of data and inter-agency data sharing could improve our understanding of women's experiences and thus our response to all migrants.

The United Nations University's June panel, "Addressing Women's Rights in a Global Compact on Migration," generated many practical suggestions. For example, study visas and state-funded international scholarship programs for migrant women support women to transfer skills back to their host and home communities¹ and help women from developing countries strengthen leadership skills, innovate and bring change to their organizations and communities.

The Compact should also promote migrant women's economic rights and access to decent work, building on ILO's multi-stakeholder Fair Recruitment Initiative².

¹ The Canadian Government funds the Coady Institute's International Centre for Women's Leadership.

² http://www.ilo.ch/global/topics/fair-recruitment/WCMS_320405/lang--en/index.htm

3) Establish a global multi-stakeholder information platform on skills and labour mobility.

This Sutherland Report recommendation³ would support governments, employers, recruiters, trade unions, education institutions, and other relevant actors to better manage labour mobility, generate new policy options, and make it easier to negotiate and implement bilateral agreements on labour mobility, and skill recognition and development in countries of origin. The World Bank notes that labour agreements can make labour supplies more predictable and regular, and facilitate circular migration and “brain circulation”⁴. We would like to hear more about what this platform could look like and how it would work.

(Possible response to panelists: Based on suggestions for more opportunities for women to contribute to discussions, Canada will explore how we can include the participation of a women-led organization as part of our delegation for upcoming thematic consultations.)

³ This recommendation is also supported by IOM. See Global Compact Thematic Paper on Labour mobility channels. https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOMThematicPaper-ExpandingLabourMobilityChannels.pdf

⁴ World Bank (2016). “Migration and Development: A Role for the World Bank”. <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/468881473870347506/Migration-and-Development-Report-Sept2016.pdf>

Panel 2: Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: enabling frameworks for contributions

In less than 20 years, it is estimated that one out of two Canadians will be an immigrant or the child of an immigrant⁵. We know that diaspora communities have a long history of contributing significantly to the social and economic development of their country. With increased global interconnectedness and interdependence, we see greater opportunities for innovation and growth that leverage diaspora contributions to sustainable development in countries of origin.

We have three suggestions for consideration:

1) Improve support for diasporas through business development and by facilitating trade opportunities.

Origin and destination countries could commit to: funding and capacity building for diaspora professional and business networks; organizing regular trade fairs and business summits, and training programmes on trade regulations and procedures for diaspora-owned businesses in countries of origin offered by consular officials⁶.

Some international business development tools designed for SMEs are well suited for diaspora businesses⁷, particularly those that provide matching contributions toward export development costs (travel to target markets, participation at trade fairs and on trade missions, adaptation of marketing tools for a new market)⁸, provide export market advice and guidance, and identify business opportunities for firms, including those owned by diaspora members.⁹

2) Explore mechanisms to leverage the skills and abilities of diaspora communities.

State commitments under the Compact could include the development or expansion of mechanisms that facilitate skills transfer. One example is direct volunteering through non-governmental organizations in which states fund NGOs to engage diaspora volunteers and communities in developing countries. This encourages '*transnational opportunities*' and helps diasporas access and share these opportunities, resources and networks with their countries of origin¹⁰.

3) The Global Compact could support the development of social remittance indicators

⁵ <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/170125/dq170125b-eng.htm>

⁶ These echo recommendations made by IOM in its Global Compact Thematic Paper on Transnational Communities and Diasporas. https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Harnessing-the-contributions-of-transnational-com.pdf

⁷ Including fintech platforms such as Kiva.

⁸ For example, CANEXPORT <http://international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/funding-financement/canexport/index.aspx?lang=eng>

⁹ For example, Canada's Trade Commission Services <http://tradecommissioner.gc.ca/index.aspx>

¹⁰ The Government of Canada provides funding to CUSO International for their Diasporas for Development program. This program builds on over a decade of work to engage diaspora volunteers and communities in Canada and the US.

Discussion at this year's GFMD Dialogue highlighted the challenge for many countries to develop indicators or targets on social remittances (the ideas, behaviors, identities, and social capital exported by migrants to their communities of origin). The Compact could call on actors such as the World Bank, IOM and ILO to develop such indicators, as well as to support countries to set up monitoring and evaluation systems.

Panel 3: Remittances and portability of earned benefits

We need to better link remittances to sustainable development and to support the social as well as economic aspects of the migration-development nexus, especially for women. This includes reducing the cost of remittances to the SDG target of less than 3 percent¹¹ and balancing national financial considerations with social protection through portability of benefits. With respect to the latter, Canada agrees with the need to explore this issue further and looks forward to learning from others.

We propose three ideas for how the Compact could help move us forward on these issues:

1) Develop and expand financial literacy programs in sending and receiving countries.

Financial literacy programming for migrants in host and destination countries can equip migrants to save, budget, establish a business, or send money home, whether they plan to return or remain part of the diaspora. Gender-sensitive financial advisory services and training are especially important because, as the Issue Brief notes, women often remit higher proportions of their income more frequently and allocate more resources to benefit their children. States should also sensitize remittance service-providers to gender and migration dynamics¹².

During thematic 3, several states highlighted the financial literacy programs they offer for returning nationals. Canada is also interested in exchanging best practices on financial literacy and inclusion in pre-departure and integration programs for new migrants. In Canada, we have seen positive collaboration between governments and financial institutions¹³ and would encourage states to explore implementing these types of public-private initiatives.

2) Initiatives that leverage remittances and migrant savings in countries of origin

The International Fund for Agricultural Development's recent report "*Sending Money Home*", stresses the need to provide better opportunities to remittance families. Building on financial literacy programs, states could commit to help improve financial inclusion, education and opportunities for asset building. For example, we understand that Ethiopia has taken various steps to increase savings, including saving lotteries and diaspora bonds. IFAD, the World Bank, UN DESA and IOM would be well-placed to share and promote best practices on financial services for remittance families.

3) Establish better channels for remittance use in humanitarian contexts.

Remittances and diaspora contributions can help meet urgent needs and support livelihoods in humanitarian crises. Destination countries could better link remittance flows with humanitarian

¹¹ In Canada, it stands at 7.8%. Domestically, we have focused recent efforts in this area on: improving transparency and consumer protection for Canadian remitters; developing a price comparison website for remittances, and working to better understand remittances providers' needs through a national survey.

¹² As recommended in the recent IFAD Report, *Sending Money Home* <https://www.ifad.org/documents/36783902/4a5640d9-e944-4a8c-8007-a1bc461416e6>

¹³ (<http://prospercanada.org/Our-Work/Centre-for-Financial-Literacy/Newcomers.aspx>)

efforts through tax incentives, reducing costs and bureaucratic hurdles¹⁴, or waiving financial institutions' remittance fees in crisis contexts,¹⁵ while incorporating measures that protect against uses related to armed violence. The EU-funded *Diaspora Emergency Aid and Coordination*, provides examples for improving coordination between diaspora responses and the humanitarian system.¹⁶

¹⁴ The Canadian government often supports matching funds for Canadians who support disaster relief efforts, such as those that followed the 2010 Haiti earthquake or the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

¹⁵ Following Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, several Canadian financial institutions, including the Royal Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal, and Western Union, even temporarily agreed to waive or lower the cost of remittance fees in hopes of assisting with humanitarian efforts.

¹⁶ <http://www.demac.org/about-demac/presentation>