Policy and Institutional Coherence

Migration and Development

UNITAR Seminar
23rd March 2009
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Why is policy/institutional/programme coherence necessary?

- to avoid conflicting approaches
- to maximize the benefits of migration for development
- to assess the impacts of development on migration (how development can affect migration trends and patterns)

➤ to achieve a more effective pursuit of the objectives of both migration and development policy domains
At what levels should coherence occur?

• **National level**
  - coordination among departments/offices
  - complementarity between departments/offices
  - exchange of information

• **Regional level**
  - promotion of synergies and cross-boarder cooperation

• **International/global level**
  - exchange on challenges and opportunities
Example of international dialogue: GFMD-Manila 2008

• Continuation of debates held in Brussels in 2007

• **Background paper:**

  - How to move from rhetoric to implementing initiatives to increase policy and institutional coherence?
  - How to best assess the impact of programmes and institutional arrangements?

• Survey on policy and institutional coherence (Sweden)
Round table on policy and institutional coherence: Where is coherence needed?

• Most delegates agreed that there was an urgent need for greater policy and institutional coherence:
  - within governments
  - between governments and non state actors
  - between the different fora relating to migration and development
  - between international organizations – Global Migration Group
Round table on policy and institutional coherence: What are the priority areas?

- A number of **priority areas** for more coherence were identified both in the round table debates as well as through the reviews of PRPSs, national development plans and donor policies.

  - **Remittances:**
    - reduce costs of transactions
    - strengthen financial literacy of both senders and recipients

  - **Diasporas:**
    - keep close ties with diasporas abroad to benefit from their skills
    - keep close ties with diasporas abroad to provide them with social/legal assistance

  - **Protection of migrants** (in source and destination countries):
    - inform migrants about their rights and responsibilities
    - take into account special needs of women and children
    - addressing/fighting against trafficking

  - **Promotion of legal mechanisms for migration**
    - to reduce irregular migration
    - to offer greater policy coherence for admission of migrants
Round table on policy and institutional coherence: *What mechanisms?*

- Delegates identified *mechanisms* to promote institutional coherence within government:
  - inter-ministerial taskforces
  - national focal points in the different ministries/departments/offices
  - working groups and commissions

E.g.:
French Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National identity and Mutually Supportive Development = interesting "umbrella" Ministry
Round table on policy and institutional coherence: Recommendations

• Create a GFMD platform or working group on policy and institutional coherence

• GFMD could stimulate the assessment and evaluation of new policies and initiatives

• GFMD could stimulate the identification and dissemination of best practices

• GFMD focal points should be strengthened to enhance institutional coherence and help government adopt new inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms

• Policy and institutional coherence should remain on the agenda of GFMD meetings
How countries are addressing policy coherence?  
**The case of Switzerland**

Establishment of (A) **migration policy instruments** and (B) **institutionalized platforms**

- e.g. Interdepartmental Working Group Migration (IAM)
  - **Coordinates** the development of **migration partnerships**
    (migration related cooperation)

**Migration partnerships**

- need to approach migration in a spirit of partnership
- create a platform for exchanges and coordination among all actors involved
- stresses the link between migration and other domains, specially development
- takes into account and implements the interests in migration matters of all the partners involved
- long-term perspective with a package of flexible and adaptable measures
- comprehensive procedure based on interdepartmental coordination and cooperation
A) Migration policy instrument: migration partnerships
Example

e.g. Interdepartmental Steering Committee Return Assistance (ILR)
   ➢ Coordinates the Swiss voluntary return programs

General principles/objectives

➢ Promotion of voluntary return through reintegration assistance

➢ Prevention of irregular migration through social and structural aid and information campaigns

➢ Support to socioeconomic development in the regions
A) Migration policy instrument: migration partnerships

Example

e.g. Interdepartmental Steering Committee Return Assistance (ILR)
- Coordinates the Swiss voluntary return programs

Specific activities

- return counseling service (point of contact for information, discussing plans for the future, defining necessary assistance etc.)
- accompanied return for vulnerable people
- costs for return journey covered
- cash allowance
- cash assistance for social or reintegration project
- individual medical return assistance
- country specific return assistance programs
- dialogue with authorities of native country to ensure willingness to cooperate with readmission
- development support projects in countries of origin (e.g. infrastructure, education)
B) Institutionalized platforms: Global Programme on Migration

Based on strategic components that orient the topics addressed by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Migration:

- **Protection, Rights and Primary Health Care for Migrants**
  - find lasting solutions

- **Migration and conflict**
  - programmes in the domain of protection of civilians and displaced people

- **Synergies with Food Security, Water and Climate Change**
  - adopt an approach which appreciates the interlinkages between these domains and migration

- **Migration and Development**
  - promote adequate knowledge throughout departments/ministries/offices on the positive and potential negative linkages between Migration on Development

- **Contribution to the multilateral migration dialogue**
  - support and participation in international-multilateral consultative processes (e.g. UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, GFMD, etc.)
Policy Coherence: challenges

• Coherence takes time: decision makers are involved thus potentially prolonging the process

• Seeking coherence can also mean limiting ones actions to the smallest common denominator

• Ministries involved have different mandates: those mandates may be conflicting

• In the situation of conflicting mandates, a clear decision taking procedure needs to be in place: Who has the overall responsibility? Can one ministry overrule the others? Is the only possible solution to create a “umbrella” ministry such as the French model?