



**Launch Seminar on the Mediterranean edition of the
Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies**

SESSION 7: Labour migration, employment and development

**“Regional Consultative Processes: potential to contribute to
labour migration policies and development”**

Rabat, 12-13 December 2007



"The development of fair and sustainable labour migration policies and practices requires dialogue amongst governments at all levels"

OSCE-IOM-ILO: Handbook on Labour Migration



What Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) are?

Less formal and non-binding fora bringing together migration officials of countries of origin and destination to discuss migration-related issues in cooperative way.

RCPs are in the capacity to:

- Address needs identified by States for greater inter-state dialogue and cooperation on migration issues
- Recognize limitations and propose ad-hoc bilateral/multilateral, regional approaches to managing international migration
- **Contribute to enhance positive impacts of organized labour migration within the development agenda**



Examples of RCPs

- Inter-Governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies (IGC) (**1985**)
- Budapest Process (**1991**)
- Regional Conference on Migration (RCM or “Puebla Process”) (**1996**)
- South American Conference on Migration (SACM) (**1999**)
- Söderköping Process (**2001**)
- Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and for South Africa (MIDSA)
- Regional Ministerial Conference on Migration in the Western Mediterranean (5 + 5 Dialogue) (**2002**)
- **Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia (“Colombo Process”) (2003)**



Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) / “Puebla Process”

Focus:

- Migration policy and management
- Human rights
- **Migration and development**

Migration and Development:

International Workshop on “**Migration, Regional Development and the Potential of Remittances**” (Guadalajara, 14-15 Feb/02)

Main needs identified:

- **Reduce the cost of sending remittances**
- **Benefit further the development impacts of remittances**
- **Improve knowledge about the link between migration and development**
- **Relate remittances to investment initiatives**
- **Further involve gov. offices in charge of social development planning**

5 + 5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean

Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania,
Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia

Focus:

- Migration trends;
- Irregular migration and trafficking;
- **Development (the role of diaspora);**
- Migrants' rights and obligations;
- Integration on migrants abroad;
- Regular migration and flow management;
- **Labour migration and vocational training;**
- Migration and health;
- Gender equality;
- Information exchange; public awareness campaigns





5 + 5 Dialogue on Migration in the Western Mediterranean

5+5 Dialogue (Tunis and Rabat Declarations 2002-2003)

- Migration management and fight against trafficking;
- Migrants' rights and obligations and integration process;
- **Migration and co-development**

Current Priorities

- 1) Enhance cooperation between destination, origin and transit countries
- 2) Reception and integration of migrants in countries of destination;
- 3) Recognition and promotion of the economic and social advantages of migration for countries of origin.

Recommended actions

- **Labour markets' needs (origin and destination countries)**
- **Pre-departure professional training, language and cultural orientation**
- **Basic, secondary and adult education**
- **Remittances and transfer of skills, technologies and other benefits**
- **Small-business development / self-employment opportunities**

Colombo Process

Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia.

Aims:

- Share experiences, lessons, and best practices on overseas employment policies and practices
- Practical solutions for the well-being of overseas workers
- Enhance dialogue with host countries
- Optimize development benefits





Beneficiaries: Overseas workers
11 Member States in Asia
11 destination Observer Countries

Duration:
Established in Colombo, 2003 – on going.
Next meeting: Abu Dhabi, UAE, January 2008

Three main themes:

1. Protection and services to overseas workers,
2. Optimizing benefits of organized labour migration,
3. Capacity-building, data collection, inter-state cooperation on labour mobility

Optimizing Benefits of Organized Labour Migration

Recommendations to improve remittances' services and development impacts





Colombo Process main outcomes (2003 –2007)

Capacity building, Data Collection and Inter-State Cooperation (through EU funding)

- Training of government officials
- Enhanced Market Research Units
- Curriculum and training materials on pre-departure orientation
- Website (www.colomboprocess.org)
- Involvement of private recruitment agencies
- Mechanism for regional dialogue and cooperation on management of labour migration, including actions on illegal labour migration identified between EU States and Asia
- Information dissemination



Conclusions

The Handbook on labour migration can contribute to RCPs by:

- Facilitating further dialogue and cooperation on labour migration issues among countries of origin and destination,
- Stimulating the exchange of data and documentation on labour migration policies and good practices among States,
- Assisting countries of origin and destination in their efforts to develop new policy solutions and approaches for better management of labour migration flows,
- Enhancing knowledge and mutual understanding on labour migration challenges and opportunities among governments, migrant workers, social partners and civil society