

**OIM, IDEP AND TRUSTAFRICA WORKSHOP ON MIGRATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA:
*Summary Conclusions with Recommendations***

by
Aloysius Ajab AMIN (IDEP)
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Objective of the workshop

The overall objective of this workshop is to support African countries in the formulation of their national migration policies and in particular to integrate migration into their national development strategies.

This workshop therefore also addressed the following main issues:

- Identifying tools and methodology to develop appropriate regional and sectorial approaches in migration conducive to economic growth and development.
- Supporting regional and national efforts to integrating migration in development plans (MDGs, PRSP).
- Including population mobility and climate change in migration policies.
- Reinforcing the contribution of Diasporas to the development of their communities and countries of origin.
- Building coherence in migration strategies/policies.
- Coordinating migration policies amongst different stakeholders at regional and national levels.

From the deliberations of the three days workshop, the following conclusions with recommendations are highlighted:

Much is being done on migration, yet not much consultation or sharing of information or coordination of activities is being done. There is also weak reporting. Hence there is a need to build and strengthen of partnership to addressing the issue of migration. The partnership at all levels:

- National level with Civil Society, Private sector and Public sector
- Regional level among the RECs and country level consultation

Migration as a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral issue needs better coherence and coordination, coherence within governments, amongst different ministries, and between donors and international organisations; between countries at sub regional levels.

Policy makers need informed policy choices that can enhance the positive impact of migration. Despite the recent growing interest for migration related policy issues, there still is a gap between recommendations/policies and implementation. There is a great challenge to bridge this gap and above all for countries to be able to have ownership of the process.

There is also a need to create both the human and institutional capacity for data collection and analysis. There is a greater need to build the necessary infrastructure for data collection and analysis. Once again there is a need for coherence and better coordination among all

sectors – Health, Education, Agriculture and private sector – to contribute to economic development

National and regional bodies should make efforts to develop a comprehensive approach. This approach can be based on the rich experiences from countries like Mali, Ghana, Senegal, and Cap Verde on the issue of migration management. Presentations of the various countries illustrate the diverse approaches, the different institutional structures established on the ground and the varied responses to address the migration challenges.

Some key elements that have been highlighted in the three working groups are:

- Countries in conflict or countries emerging out of conflicts should include migration in their national and regional development strategies.
- There is an urgent need to refocus on the Internal and intra-African migration since they continue to be a dominant form of mobility than international migration whether due to conflicts, natural disasters or on a regular basis;
- Sharing of information and dialogue among various stakeholders is crucial to better informed policies. Thus the necessity for democratising information.
- The impact of climate change on migration has been highlighted but further research is needed to assess the real implication of these ecological phenomena on human mobility. And taking note of deforestation, desertification, carbon emission and their impacts on development is also crucial.
- There should be more effort to discuss these issues concerning carbon emission/green house effects and find ways of addressing this great challenge with the developed countries.
- Countries should be able to formulate and implement the right economic policies for employment and economic growth with development.

Gender and women issues are not well addressed in migration analysis. There are many differences in men and women migrants, with women facing special challenges and also making special contributions towards migration and economic development either as migrants or non migrants. Thus in modelling and analysing migration issues in African countries' development plans or PRSP and implementing development policies the equality, equity and differences between men and women must be taken into consideration.

There are great differences between regional strategies and bilateral agreements. Hence there is greater need now more than ever to coordinate and harmonize these strategies and agreements taking into consideration the long run implications as demographic shifts will become very important in future (especially looking at Europe and Africa).

Diaspora contributions are not limited to remittances (money and goods), they also include social remittances (ideas, skills, services).On the other hand the welfare of the migrants must

be taken into consideration. Thus the Diasporas must be seen in its entirety. Also it must be noted that Diasporas have various resources and are varied and organized differently. Thus to be able to work together for national development, government must understand the profiles of their Diasporas.

The workshop highlighted the complexities of migration issues and their integration into range of domestic and regional socio-economic environmental relation. To this effect, the Threshold 21 Model was presented by Millennium Institute as a tool for modelling migration issues and mainstreaming migration into PRSP while incorporating the MDGs into PRSP framework. Modeling of migration will require from countries to provide information on their policies and problems regarding the issue. However social, gender, and cultural dimensions should be added to make the model more in tune with the complex realities of migration.

Migration and development have very complex linkages with both negative and positive outcomes. Methods should be found to increase the positive effects and reduce the negative effects particularly in the countries of origin. There should be a constant and continuous dialogue among all the stakeholders at all levels –national, regional and continental, knowing that addressing these challenges should also look at the long run impact.