

CONCEPT NOTE

High-Level Breakfast Roundtable

Innovations in Labour Migration Governance and Development Outcomes:

Making Decent Work a Reality for Migrant Workers

A Side Event co-hosted by the Government of Sweden and the ILO

Date: September 26, 8.30 – 10.00 am

Venue: New York, Delegates Dining Room, United Nations

Objective: In preparation for the U.N. General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD), the Government of Sweden and ILO are hosting a High-level breakfast roundtable discussion intended to facilitate the sharing of innovative practices related to labour migration governance, social dialogue, and migrant workers as agents of change for development that can serve as a basis for discussion in the context of the four HLD Roundtables and in development planning and programming moving forward.

Background: The U.N. High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development will identify concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications.

With over 50 per cent of the estimated 214 million international migrants in 2010 being economically active (a figure that goes up to 90 per cent if their family members are included¹), the world of work needs to be adequately reflected in and mainstreamed into debates on international development at the global, regional, and national levels. The U.N. High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, and debates within the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, present important opportunities for moving these issues forward.

Inclusive development strategies should facilitate the active engagement by the principal stakeholders engaged in the world of work – ministries of labour, employers' and workers' organizations. They should establish appropriate mechanisms and processes to make labour migration between countries and regions more equitable and effective for all those involved, in particular with an eye to creating equitable and well-structured labour migration and mobility systems. The challenge in doing so are complex and can be addressed by sharing experiences, key innovations, and best practices endorsed by the ILO as a means to strengthen the knowledge base on labour migration and development and to take a proactive stance towards implementing and expanding successful initiatives from the local and national levels to the regional and global.

¹ *International labour migration: A rights-based approach*. Geneva, International Labour Office, 2010, p. 18.

Against this background, this event will explore innovative approaches to labour migration and development that can be taken forward in the High-level Dialogue discussions, along three broad themes:

- 1) ***changing public perceptions of migrants and increasing the protection of migrant workers' rights***, for instance through specialized media trainings on reporting on migrants' issues or the provision of legal services to migrant workers in countries of origin and destination;
- 2) ***social dialogue and international migration governance*** which will cover interactions between labour and immigration ministries, trade unions, employers, and migrant workers associations, including advocating ethical recruitment practices; and
- 3) ***facilitating sustainable and inclusive development in the context of international and regional labour mobility***, in particular through the provision of social protection, decent employment and services through a variety of enterprises that improve the lives of the most vulnerable migrant populations, such as women and youth.

The ILO, with its tripartite structure (involving dialogue between governments, workers, and employers) and long-standing expertise in employment, social protection, and promoting social justice in the world of work, has implemented a number of programmes around the world that provide lessons for best practice in promoting migrant worker protection and sound development. These lessons will be shared as a basis for dialogue and discussion on how these innovations can be upscaled to improve development outcomes for migrants, countries of origin, and countries of destination.

Participants: Ministers, Ambassadors and other High-Level UN delegates, leaders of national and regional governing bodies, leaders of innovative and best practices, representatives from trade unions, business and civil society.

Draft Agenda

8.15 – 8.30	Welcome and opening <i>Mr. Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General</i> <i>H.E. Ms. Ann-Sofie Nilsson, Director-General for International Development Cooperation, Government of Sweden</i>
8.30 – 8.35	Video (5 min.) of innovative practices around the world and voices of migrant workers
8.35 – 9.00	Discussion <i>Changing perceptions of migrants and increasing the protection of migrant workers' rights</i>
9.00 – 9.25	Discussion <i>Social dialogue and international migration governance</i>
9.25 – 9.50	Discussion <i>Facilitating development through migration and labour mobility</i>
9.50 – 10.00	Closing remarks <i>Representative of the Government of the Russian Federation (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of the Government of Bangladesh (tbc)</i>