

Migration is Development: **Policies That Work**

The 10th plenary meeting of the Transatlantic Council on Migration

June 10-11, 2013 | NEW YORK, NY
THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS
CONFERENCE ROOM 1AB
224 WEST 57TH STREET | NEW YORK, NY 10019

AGENDA

MONDAY • JUNE 10, 2013 | WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

15:00 – 15:30

Goals of This Council Meeting

The UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), to be held in October, is likely to be a pivotal moment in defining the international migration agenda for the coming decade. In light of the HLD, as well as of the ongoing debate about the post-2015 development agenda, this Council meeting has two fundamental goals: First, to rigorously assess the evidence on which migration and development policies work best. Second, to help define priorities for international cooperation on migration and development.

15:30 – 17:30

Session I: The Future of Multilateralism & Migration

The Global Forum on Migration and Development, launched in 2007, has become a valuable knowledge-exchange mechanism and has helped foster cooperation among states and greater policy experimentation on migration and development. Cooperation also has thickened at the bilateral and regional levels as well, while civil society has developed a more ambitious agenda to protect migrant rights. What have we learned from this growing interaction among stakeholders? And what does it augur for the development of a more robust governance agenda at the global and regional levels? This session will aim to assess the state of play on migration and multilateralism and to gauge its potential.

19:30

Opening Dinner at Azalea Ristorante
Location: 224 West 51st Street

09:15 – 09:30

Goals of the Day

Tuesday's sessions will focus on the future of the migration and development agenda—what does the evidence we have amassed over the past decade tell us, and where does it lead?

09:30 – 11:45

Session II. Maximizing the Benefits of Migration & Facilitating Development—Circular Migration, Remittances & Diaspora Contributions

This session will assess the evidence on migration and development. Migrants can be a significant source of growth for the economies of their origin countries. Their remittances reduce poverty in families and communities left behind, fund investment in human capital, and support the balance of payments at the national level. In many settings, migrants and their descendants form powerful networks that promote trade links, inward investment, and the transfer of knowledge and skills. Yet many people still think of emigration as a loss to origin countries, and focus more on the costs than the benefits of migration. This session will ask three questions: What policies can maximize the benefits of migration? What are the specific actions that can reduce the costs of migration to individual migrants as well as their countries of origin? And finally, based on what we know about the relationship between migration and development, where is there momentum for cooperative action among states?

11:45 – 12:00

Break

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch and Discussion on Migration and the Post-2015 Development Strategy:

Migration's contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals are becoming more broadly acknowledged—whether in reducing poverty, advancing education, or improving health outcomes. As the international community debates the next generation of development goals, there is a unique opportunity for stakeholders to build a consensus on the future of international cooperation on migration. This session will define the parameters of what might be possible.

14:00 – 14:15

Break

14:15 – 15:45

Session III. What to Expect at the High-Level Dialogue & Beyond

The HLD and related processes, such as the GFMD, provide a framework within which governments at all points of the migration process can have meaningful conversations that build trust for future collaboration. Migration and development are likely to remain the framework under which states are brought together. But the HLD presents an opportunity for policymakers to ask how international cooperation on migration might expand beyond this framework. This session will ask what governments can expect from the HLD, and how the HLD and other processes frame a conversation about the future international migration agenda.

15:45 – 16:15

Final Reflections and Conclusions

Participants are also invited to attend the high-level conference “Evidence-Based Policymaking in Migration & Development: What Do We Really Know?” which will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the United Nations headquarters. This event is jointly convened by the Government of Sweden, Chair-in-Office of the GFMD; the Migration Policy Institute; and the Center for Migration Studies.