



SOUTHERN AFRICAN MIGRATION
PROJECT

M I D S A

Migration Dialogue for Southern
Africa



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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR MIGRATION

Conclusions and Recommendations of the MIDSA workshop on “Managing Migration for Development in Southern Africa: Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All” Cape Town, South Africa, 21-23 September 2009

The MIDSA Workshop on “Managing Migration for Development in Southern Africa: Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All” was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 21-23 September, 2009. The Governments of Botswana, The Comoros, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were represented by senior officials from the Ministries of Finance/Economic Planning, Home Affairs and Labour.

Presenters and Observers included IOM, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank, the Southern Africa Migration Project (SAMP), the University of The Witwatersrand’s Forced Migration Studies Program (FMSP), the Colombo Process and the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) (Netherlands). Observers included the International Labour Organization (ILO), The Development Bank for Southern Africa (DBSA), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), OSISA (Open Society Initiative Southern Africa), the Embassy of the United States of America in South Africa, and USAID (United States Agency for International Development). The MIDSA workshop was made possible with the generous support of the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States Department of State and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The African Union (AU), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Angola were unable to attend.

The participants of the workshop agreed to the following conclusions and recommendations:

Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1) Participants proposed that barriers to mobility within and between countries in the SADC sub-region be reduced to allow for mutually beneficial skills flows between countries in the sub-region.
- 2) In particular, participants suggested the development of social and financial remittances policies through the implementation of the AU strategies on migration in the sub-region.

- 3) Participants encouraged the development of sound health policies that incorporate key elements of human resource development and the creation of incentives for the attraction and retention, and where possible the return of health care professionals to ensure accessible and affordable health care for all.
- 4) Participants called on SADC member states to ratify relevant protocols and conventions, such as the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, and relevant ILO standards and Conventions.
- 5) Participants encouraged SADC member states to take into account good practices from other regions, including the one covered by The Colombo Process, with regard to migrant integration that uphold human rights of migrants, social cohesion and create an enabling environment for migrant contributions to the host society.
- 6) Participants identified the need to engage with stakeholders such as rural and urban communities, the private sector, civil society, diaspora organizations, academia and international organizations and noted that it is especially important to create links to diasporas for inclusion and consultation, grounded on incentives that allow for participation in political and development processes, including *inter alia* the right of citizens in the diaspora to vote, investment opportunities, the reduction of the costs of remittances, and the provision of social services.
- 7) Participants underlined the need for SADC member states to conduct further research and data collection as a basis for the development of appropriate policies, strategies and interventions that respond to the needs of individual member states and the SADC sub-region as a whole. IOM and SAMP could be asked to assist member states to undertake such data collection.
- 8) Participants noted that in addition to international migration, internal migration and its impacts in SADC member states require special programmatic responses with international support.
- 9) The identification and analysis of specific skills gaps within SADC States should be made, which would allow for the development of mutually beneficial skills exchange programs.
- 10) The effects of the global economic crisis and the consequent decline in government expenditure and foreign direct investments, and declines in work opportunities and remittances were of concern. Participants noted that responses to this crisis must be solution-oriented and not merely focused on limiting development strategies to the exclusion and detriment of countries and migrants.
- 11) Participants recognized the potential benefits of migration to the development needs of SADC member states and again stressed the importance of integrating migration into national development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP).
- 12) SADC member states were called upon to allocate appropriate financial resources to the development and implementation of effective policies to

manage migration flows and to maximize its positive impact on development and ensuring that the anticipated impact of migration is appropriately budgeted for.

- 13) Participants called for greater cooperation and consolidation of common interests on migration issues at the SADC sub-regional level to raise the profile of development needs of member states.
- 14) Subject to available resources, MIDSA should meet at the ministerial level to better identify, harmonize and realize common interests and approaches to tackle issues of mutual concern at the political level.
- 15) Participants were cognizant of the crucial importance of national, regional and intercontinental collaborative efforts. National coordination efforts on migration and development such as within the governments in Zimbabwe and DRC were noted as good examples. Concerning bilateral and multilateral agreements, participants noted the progress with the Mauritius bilateral circular migration projects and recommended that other Governments should endeavour to replicate them where possible.
- 16) Participants stressed that three of the most crucial Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are significant to member states in the SADC sub-region, and that are affected by 'brain drain' and that could be advanced by improved migration policies, are the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; maternal health and related HIV and AIDS, TB, malaria and child mortality; and global partnerships for development.
- 17) Participants emphasized the need to better harness the skills of both diasporas and returned migrants in the SADC sub-region to directly impact the strategies to address the development needs in SADC. Member states should formulate comprehensive policies specific to diaspora engagement, return and reintegration, foreign employment, skills shortages, human development and the removal of investment barriers for diasporas within SADC member states.
- 18) SADC member states were encouraged to develop policies to regularize the status of irregular migrants to better harness their contributions to development.
- 19) Participating States noted that the AU had called for active participation of Member States at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and requested that the MIDSA conveners forward this concluding document to the organizers of the 3rd GFMD to take place in Athens in November 2009, as well as to the AU Commission and the SADC Secretariat for their records and consideration.