



# Interrogating the migration and development challenges and opportunities related to labour externalisation

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# UN-led developments

- **Background**

- Migration and development (M + D) challenges posted by 281 million migrants world-wide: 3% of the world's population
- 2006: UN set up a High-Level Dialogue on M + D; follow-up UN High-Level Dialogue on M + D in 2013
  - Purpose: To 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
  - Mainstreaming migration into development was one of the four themes of the 2013 Dialogue
- Institutionally, the Global Forum on Migration and Development was launched in 2017 – an all-encompassing forum bringing together governments and policy-makers on M + D

## UN-led developments

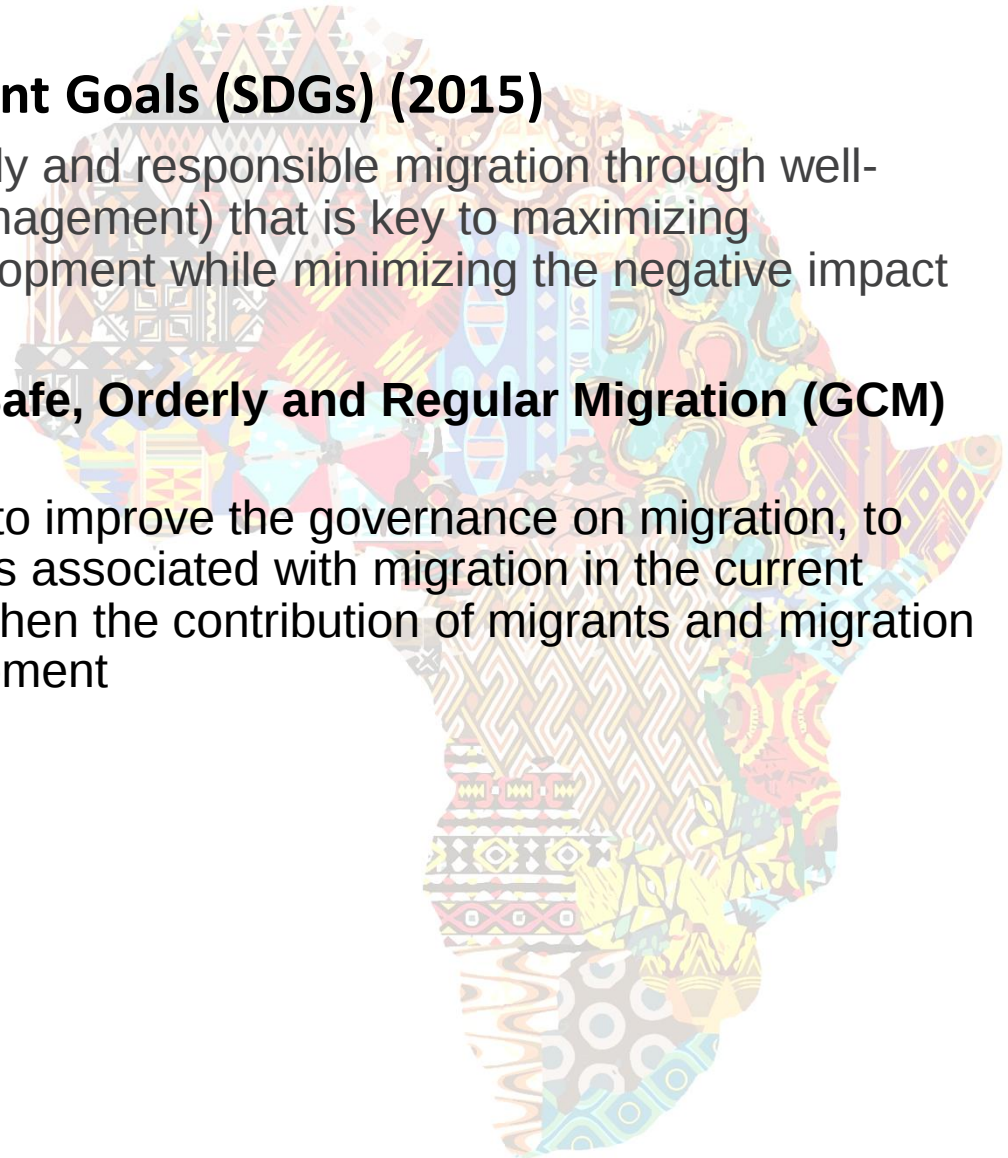
- **2009 UN Human Development Report - Nexus between Migration and Development**
  - Evidence about the **positive impacts** of migration on human development – e.g., increased household incomes and improved access to education and health services; boosting economic output; remittance income critical
  - Migration can **empower** traditionally disadvantaged groups, in particular women
  - However, at the same time, **risks** to human development are also present where migration is a reaction to threats and denial of choice, and where regular opportunities for movement are constrained –
    - Push factors (e.g., low standard of living & lack of work opportunities) and pull factors (e.g., availability of relatively well-paid work in the receiving country)
  - Barriers to mobility are especially high for **people with low skills** – fear of displacing local workers; systemic disadvantage

## UN-led developments

- **2009 UN Human Development Report - Recommendations on mainstreaming M + D in national development planning**
  - **Large gains** to human development can be achieved by lowering the barriers to movement and improving the treatment of movers: a bold vision to realise this is required
  - Positive effects on human development can be enhanced by adopting a **range of mutually enforcing and supporting measures**, within the framework of six areas of principal (policy) reforms: (a) **Opening up existing entry channels** so that more workers can emigrate regularly; (b) **Ensuring basic rights** for migrants; (c) **Lowering the transaction costs** of migration, also with a view to reduce smuggling and trafficking; (d) Finding **solutions that benefit** both destination communities and the migrants they receive; (e) Making it **easier for people to move** within their own countries, and (f) **Mainstreaming migration** into national development strategies
  - As has been noted, migration, if properly managed, can contribute to poverty alleviation and the growth and prosperity not only of individuals but also of both countries of origin and destination. Indeed, "[D]iasporas contribute to the development of their countries of origin through the promotion of foreign investment, trade, access to technology and financial inclusion."

## Other UN-led developments

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015)**
  - SDG 10.7 (safe, orderly and responsible migration through well-planned migration management) that is key to maximizing opportunities for development while minimizing the negative impact of migration
- **UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) (2018) –**
  - It provides a pathway to improve the governance on migration, to address the challenges associated with migration in the current context, and to strengthen the contribution of migrants and migration to sustainable development



## AU developments

- 2006: *AU Migration Policy Framework and the African Common Position on Migration and Development* - M + D a priority
- 2018 (revised) *AU Migration Policy Framework and its Plan of Action (2018-2030)*
  - "Mainstreaming migration in economic development planning entails assessing the **implications of migration on the goals, objectives and activities of national/regional development plans**, with a view to **improving overall development outcomes**. It requires **integrating** migration concerns at all stages of development planning, including design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This ensures that migration is viewed as an issue that affects all aspects of human development, and is entrenched in the broader development strategy and therefore fosters a coherent approach rather than piecemeal, uncoordinated actions. This process, in essence, constitutes migration and development."
- *JLMP (Joint Labour Migration Programme) (2015-)*

## Key labour migration areas to be addressed when enhancing the M + D nexus

- Migration Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework (also BLAs)
  - Labour Migration Data Management
  - Labour Migration, in particular migration from the country concerned, among others –
    - Recruitment regulation
    - Extension of welfare services to migrant workers abroad
  - Diaspora Engagement (also in relation to impartation of skills), Investment and Remittances
  - Migration linked to Trade and to Trade in Services and Investment
  - Migration and Health
  - Migration and Gender
  - Migrant Protection, Irregular Migration, Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
  - Immigration and Border Management (including Cross-Border Collaboration) *and* the impact of free movement and labour migration liberalisation regimes
  - Access to Social Security for Migrants from the country concerned (also BSAs)
  - Migration, Environment and Climate Change – country of origin obligations?
  - Return Migration and Reintegration of Returnees, also due to COVID-19
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