



PANEL SESSION

Title of the session: *Migration and Development*

Date & Time: *Wednesday, October 14th, 13:00 – 14:30*

Room: *Leonardo Room*

Organizers: *International Labour Organization (ILO)*

Contact person (name and email): *Roberto do Meglio (dimeglio@ilo.org)*

1. Summary Outline:

Labour migration continues to grow worldwide, offering significant opportunities to millions of workers and developing and developed countries alike through increased labour mobility. Most nations today are countries of origin, destination or transit for migrant populations. Nevertheless, migration raises complex policy challenges and unprecedented global mixed migration flows have given rise to an unbalanced and ill-informed public discourse that reinforces socio-economic inequalities. A fair migration approach must place migrants at its core, ensuring the protection of their fundamental rights, while offering real opportunities for decent work. Central to this approach is the establishment of robust and fair governance mechanisms that ensure a more equitable distribution of the prosperity migrants help to create and more accessible and effective avenues of social integration. These mechanisms can yield more productive jobs and better skills matching for migrant workers, while also assuring equality in wages, working conditions and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Local economic development strategies that include migrants have a critical role to play, enabling them to leverage relevant resources, markets and networks and build on them, offering durable and effective solutions that also benefit host communities. These strategies also reinforce the process of integration by bringing together the key actors in migration: local, regional and national authorities, social partners, civil society organisations, business and micro-finance institutions, international organisations and representatives of the migrant population. The voices of business, worker and migrant interests, together with those of public agencies responsible for labour migration policies and matching skills to labour market needs, can bring new perspectives to the process of change. In this context, experiences from the North and from the South complement and inform each other.

2. Concept Note of the Panel:

The panel will offer an opportunity to showcase different experiences around the world which highlight the positive impact of migration on local and national economies and the key roles and responsibilities of different actors in strengthening labour migration mechanisms to ensure durable outcomes, which are:

- Strengthening labour mobility at the local level to address rural-urban migration. The importance of building the capacities of local municipalities to improve access to employment services, improvement of working conditions and the development of the SME sector;
- A multilateral initiative, the *Joint Migration and Development Initiative*, which combines the experience and expertise of seven international agencies to harness the potential of migration for development. The initiative has found that most successful interventions are those which are anchored in local government structures in countries of origin and destination;
- The need for more efficient local government policies in supporting migrant-owned SMEs, highlighting the importance of migrant entrepreneurship as a key element in wider diversity and inclusion policies. A Council of Europe and the European Integration Fund project, *Diversity in the Economy and Local Integration*, based in 10 cities across the EU presents the case for systemic change in the economic integration of migrants;
- With over 100 million jobs provided through cooperatives worldwide, their role as employers is significant. Like other forms of enterprise, they include migrant workers in their workforces. However, migrants can create their own enterprises through cooperatives in countries of origin and destination.

3. Proposed key outcomes of the session:

To showcase case studies that illustrate the benefits of local economic development and the role of its actors in promoting access to decent work for all workers, particularly migrants; and,

To stimulate discussion, share knowledge and identify key challenges, success factors and knowledge gaps to guide further research and project activities on this topic among relevant actors, including municipal, regional and national government, social partners, civil society and international organisations.

4. List of invited speakers/moderator/(confirmed and foreseen):

Moderator: Roberto di Meglio, ENTERPRISE/ILO

Speakers:

- M. Seifallah Lasram - Mayor of Tunis;
- Monica Zanette, Coordinator, Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), ICMPD;
- Luis Castillo Marin, National Director of Employment Promotion, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina;
- Miguel Morales, General Secretary of Andalusia Acoge;
- Giacomo Negrotto (JMIDI/UNDP);
- Marie-José Tayah, MIGRANT/ILO.