

Civil Society Days 2016, 8-9 December, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Reporting Template for working session 3.2 Migrant and diaspora action for job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy

Session	
Name of rapporteur(s)	Gabrielle Parenteau, Scalabrini International Migration Network, Joanne Irvine, Joint Migration and Development Initiative
Session # and theme	Theme 3: Doing Inclusive Development, Session 3.2 Migrant and diaspora action for job creation, social entrepreneurship and public policy
1. Progress: inspiring practices, partnerships and tools	
Describe, as concretely as possible, <i>up to four</i> examples identified during the session where progress has been made in the past years in terms of policies, practices or state-civil society partnerships	
1.	AFFORD: Diaspora Finance and Investment which stimulates diaspora investments to create jobs and enhance the African social economy in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Nigeria. Entrepreneurs apply for a loan and have to match it with 20% with the main aim of creating 20 jobs with their businesses.
2.	Myanmar: Migrant Workers Association in Singapore have been supporting fellow migrant workers in precarious and deprived situations by providing them with support including computer literacy, craft making, English etc. which allows them to build up skills that they can combine with their savings to invest in an income-generating activity upon their eventual return. This association has faced political pressure and civil society have supported them by becoming a political shield and supporting the association to portray themselves as a 'harmless' organization.
3.	Incubation of local business both in community of origin and community of destination: (i) in country of origin – The Joint Migration and Development Initiative supports the 'Incubation of local businesses' with support from the diaspora at the local level in the regions in Morazán and La Union in El Salvador. Municipalities, together with the regional development agency, provide capital and training to potential irregular migrants for the creation of businesses. To ensure their sustainability they are provided with mentoring and continuous support. Moreover, diaspora is brought in to provide knowledge and remittance transfer, as well as the promotion of the internationalization of the products of the businesses through marketing. Linking this to municipalities is crucial to ensure that business ideas are feasible and align with local development needs, labour gaps and opportunities. (ii) In the community of destination, Salvadoran diaspora in San Francisco working in the informal food sector are being supported to upscale and formalize their businesses. This is achieved by providing training, certification and access to industrial kitchens and tools to enhance their product and service and mentoring from successful professionals.
4.	Certification of skills in Malaysia: Filipino migrants receive training and capacity building on various skills which are then certified both in Malaysia and by the Filipino embassy to ensure recognition of these skills upon return and avoid de-skilling.
2. Four recommendations, with related actions and indicators for change in policies and practices	
Recommendations: Describe, as concretely as possible, <i>up to four</i> recommendations where changes are needed in policies and practices—either national, regional or global. Also indicate at whom this recommendation is targeted (e.g., states, civil society actors, international agencies, etc.)	
Actions: for each recommendation, what does civil society need to <i>do</i> to get these recommendations heard and implemented, either at national, regional or global level?	

Indicator(s) of change or success: <u>What specific event(s), or what specific number(s), e</u> will demonstrate progress or success on this recommendation?	
Recommendation 1 and who targeted to	National and local authorities, civil society and migrant and diaspora associations should ensure follow up, consistent support, realistic business planning and mentoring when promoting entrepreneurship and investment with a view to ‘formalisation’ given the high level of failure and drop out.
Action(s) for this recommendation (up to two maximum).	(i) successful diaspora entrepreneurs can provide support to budding business women and men both in host and origin communities through temporary return or transnational mentoring and support the internationalization and marketing of business products and services for local economic growth; (ii) authorities can provide services such as financial literacy training, technical training, access to credit, human rights education and support social entrepreneurship.
Indicator(s) of change or success on this recommendation (up to two maximum)	Number of successful businesses; level of success (income); number of mentorship relations; number of loans
Recommendation 2 and who targeted to	
Action(s) for this recommendation (up to two maximum).	(same as above with a focus on low-skilled diaspora)
Indicator(s) of change or success on this recommendation (up to two maximum)	Number of low-skilled migrants sending remittances; amount of remittances received by sending countries of unskilled migrants; types of remittances expenditure in country of origin
Recommendation 3 and who targeted to	
Action(s) for this recommendation (up to two maximum).	(i) local authorities and civil society should promote the engagement of the general community in providing complementary services or products linked to the initial business. For example, Homestay businesses can be enhanced through complementary tourist services such as guides, restaurants, better infrastructure etc. (ii) Link financial literacy and business development support to both remittance sender and recipient, especially when related to investment.
Indicator(s) of change or success on this recommendation (up to two maximum)	For each business created by the diaspora, the number of subsequent complementary businesses created in the community

Recommendation 4 and who targeted to	Local authorities are key actors for diaspora engagement and should strive take up this role since diaspora tend to move from one community to the same community in the territory of destination and tend to prefer to invest in their communities of origin. They are also best placed to understand the local development needs, economic opportunities and labour market and thus can support diaspora to align their efforts to real development needs for enhanced effectiveness. Moreover, diaspora and development contexts are extremely unique at the local level and this needs to be taken into account when designing all-encompassing national policies.
Action(s) for this recommendation (up to two maximum).	(i) local authorities need to invest in knowing their diaspora, engaging with them and linking them up to the private sector, financial sector and other key actors together to support diaspora investment and entrepreneurship; (ii) this can be enhanced through twinning or decentralized cooperation dynamics across migratory channels where local authorities can provide support at both ends for a more integral and effective approach to diaspora engagement.
Indicator(s) of change or success on this recommendation (up to two maximum)	Number of laws or programmes at national level transferring competencies and budgets to local authorities; number of local laws, regulations and programmes on diaspora engagement.
3. Governance mechanisms and the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration	
Did your session suggest anything about (1) global or regional governance mechanisms that need to be improved/changed; and (2) elements that need to be included in the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration (<i>or where relevant also the Global Compact on Refugees</i>)	
1. Governance mechanisms:	There is a need to ensure the participation of diaspora and migrant associations in the development and implementation of diaspora and development policies at local and national level for enhanced development impact. Within this context, it is necessary to map and collect evidence of the contributions and the added value of the diaspora in order to promote government buy in to support diaspora engagement and develop related policies.
2. Global Compact:	<p>The potential of refugees and displaced persons in also contributing to development through remittances and investment should be considered within both Global Compacts with a view to linking the short term humanitarian respond to displacement with long-term development solutions. This is particularly important since refugees and displaced face even more difficulties than migrants to remit e.g. Syrians abroad are unable to send remittances due to bank accounts being blocked, or e.g. assign refugees to locations (urban vs rural) best suited to their skills and access to tools, market and supports services that allow them to develop their profession.</p> <p>The Compact should consider the role of the diaspora as potential advocates towards their countries of origin on migration management and diaspora engagement and related bad practices, violations of human rights, forced labour, trafficking, labour conditions.</p>
4. Implementing related targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda	
One year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, are there any lessons we can already draw from implementing its targets related to your session's theme specifically on the local/national level , and what (more) should civil society do?	

1.	
2.	
5. Recommendations and actions for women / children	
Do any of the recommendations <u>or</u> action steps of your session specifically relate to women or children and how? <i>[if you have addressed this in the recommendations itself just simply refer to the recommendation no.]</i>	
1. Women:	Women tend to earn less, remit more and invest in their children yet are faced with the challenges of ‘fractured’ migration pathways whereby businesses fail or through job precariousness and gender discrimination. Thus there is a need to provide tailored support to women to surpass these challenges.
2. Children:	
6. Priority messages to convey to governments by the CSD Chair on 10 December	
If your session could choose only two key messages to be conveyed by the civil society CSD Chair in his report to states on the 10th of December, which would these be? <i>(feel free to just refer back to any point written out above)</i>	
1.	National and local authorities, civil society and migrant and diaspora associations should ensure follow up, consistent support, realistic business planning and mentoring when promoting entrepreneurship and investment with a view to ‘formalisation’ given the high level of failure and drop out. This should be considered especially for low skilled diaspora who might remit less than the highly skilled but are more numerous at the south-south and interregional level and face considerably more challenges, yet hold great development potential.
2.	Ensure remittance and investment of diaspora has a whole of community approach to the extent possible by maximizing the community development potential of remittances and diaspora investment.
7. Inspiring quotes	
If you like, please provide one or two quotes that you heard during the session that you found inspiring. The sessions follow Chatham House rules, so please either ask for approval to name the speaker/organization <u>or</u> put “anonymous”.	
<p>“There is a need to ensure more inter-linkages between the authorities in the country of origin and country of destination in order to ensure the integration of migrants in the host society, and the best use and integration of the resources and capitals sent back the community of origin”. Stella Opuko-Owusu, AFFORD</p> <p>“There is a need to support diaspora engagement by facilitating their free movement at the transnational level between territories that allows the diaspora to stay connected and thus more willing and able to invest and remit” Anon.</p>	
8. Other information	
Provide here any other information you think relevant	
<p>Other key messages:</p> <p>Mentioned was also the need for national governments to host national and regional fairs and exchange platforms to share good practices and promote the internationalization of products and services.</p> <p>Accreditation of skills not only on what they gain when abroad, but also on what migrants bring in in the first place to avoid de-skilling and enhance their opportunities and thus their ability to become development actors.</p>	

Diaspora engagement strategies at local and national level need to be aligned to ensure coherency and enhanced impact. This should not be done from only a top down approach, but also from a bottom up approach where local authorities can carry out necessary household surveys on development needs and remittance expenditure which can then feed real needs, experience, lessons learned and opportunities into national planning that can then subsequently be mainstreamed into local planning.