

FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF A REGULAR, ORDERLY AND SAFE MIGRATION

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After the finalization of discussions regarding the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, more has to be done to bring the issues related to legal migration back to the political agenda and, therefore, to address one of the axes mentioned not only in the Global Compact but also in the European Agenda for Migration or La Valetta: the positive impact of a well-managed migration policy.

This Conference is a great opportunity to discuss how countries can identify and implement well-managed migration policies which maximize their positive impact in both, migrants and countries of origin, transit and destination. Through the discussion of projects, experiences or even new concepts, the Conference pretends to offer a wide range of best practices and lessons learnt regarding to migration, integration, the promotion of diversity and diaspora as an agent of change. Best practices and lessons learnt which, in practice, will maximize the positive impact of a regular, orderly and safe migration.

The positive impact of a well-managed migration policy

Last June, after two years of discussions and negotiations, the final round for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was celebrated. In December, the Global Compact will be adopted.

The Compact is a milestone in the global and multilateralism management of migration phenomenon. Within other elements, the Compact recognizes that if migration is well managed, it has a positive impact for the migrant, communities and also for the country of origin and destination.

But, as the closing statement of the EU in the final round of negotiations states, quoting Nelson Mandela: *"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb"*.

At this moment, States (but also international organisations, civil society, business sector) shall start to climb the next hill. Facilitating opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration should be a real objective to be achieved. And this includes, at least, labour mobility at all skills levels, circular migration, family reunification,

education-related opportunities for migration, the development of capacities and institutional strengthening in countries of origin and transit.

The 2030 Agenda makes clear, *inter alia*, that States will facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

In the context of the European Union, the importance of legal migration has been also highlighted. On the one hand, the European Agenda for Migration states that: *“A robust fight against irregular migration, traffickers and smugglers, and securing Europe’s external borders must be paired with a strong common asylum policy as well as a new European policy on legal migration”*. A clear and well implemented framework for legal pathways to entrance in the EU and integration of migrants in the host society are crucial and contributes also to enhance security of European borders as well as safety of migratory flows.

On the other hand, the Valetta Summit recalls for the importance of legal migration. The participants to the Valetta Summits recognise the benefits of well-managed migration and mobility between and within our continents and *“acknowledge that further efforts should be made to advance legal migration and mobility possibilities, including at bilateral level, by fostering well-managed mobility between and within the continents as well as encouraging policies that promote regular channels for migration, including labour migration and the mobility of entrepreneurs, students and researchers, including at regional level”*. Pilot projects on legal migration was included as one of the commitments of the Valetta Action Plan.

And, this leads us to the current exercise of pilot projects on legal migration in which the European Commission and several EU Member States are involved.

However, the hill is not easy to climb. Resistance to migration in destination countries can appear and dealing with feelings and perceptions requires also policy makers’ actions. Besides, migration systems need to overcome a great deal of challenges and weaknesses.

In this context, this Conference pretends to open a practical dialogue on legal migration between countries, experts, international organisations and business community to make migration play an important role to contribute in a positive way to the global, regional and also local progress and development.

Panel 1: A new approach to legal migration policies

Implementing a new approach to legal migration policies is a key element. Policymakers should address current challenges by, within other important tools, enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration and mobility.

The Global Compact for Migration draws the attention to different elements such as labour mobility agreements, labour mobility cooperation, skills-matching programmes and partnerships with stakeholders (migrants' organisations, countries, employers, trade unions).

Other purposes as vocational training, researching and studying has to be taken into account to develop skills and foster exchange of knowledge.

Questions to frame the discussion:

- How the multilateralism (established in the Global Compact or in other areas like trade) can be combined with the specific needs that usually attend legal migration policies (described usually as a unilateral process)?
- Are current instruments that allow hiring of migrant flexible enough?
- How current pathways for regular migration and mobility can be fostered?
- A new model for recognition of skills, qualifications and competences can be established with the use of new technologies?
- How countries and other relevant stakeholders can move on to global skill partnerships?

The case of ANAPEC

Establishing specific migration projects (for labour migration or for studying or vocational training purposes) requires always the involvement of both countries of destination and of origin. The successful implementation of these projects counts on, within others, ministries, national agencies or employment agencies. Public bodies in the country of origin specialised on migration and labour aspects have to be enhanced.

ANAPEC, the *Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences* in Morocco has received important and useful institution-building advice and help which contributed to the better functioning of this key administrative body. ANAPEC is a success story to draw direct lessons and good practices.

Panel 2: the key role of integration to boost the positive impact of a well-managed migration

Integration is a bilateral process which involves society as a whole. There is a huge need to empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion. Identifying the best tools aimed at encouraging social interaction and promoting the benefits of diversity within organisations are key elements to foster inclusive and

cohesive societies. Besides, by doing so, the fight against discrimination, xenophobia and hate speech is strengthened.

Questions to frame the discussion:

- What kind of pre-departure measures should be developed to foster integration of migrants in host society?
- How pre-departure measures should be combined with supporting measures in the host country?
- What should be the role of migrants already residing in host society or who had participated in previous mobility projects?
- Regarding the diversity within organisation, what should be the role of business sector?

Panel 3: diaspora as an agent of change- the positive impact in the country of origin beyond the remittances

The Global Compact reaffirms that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination.

In this context, diaspora plays a key role as an agent of change. Developing new mechanisms or removing obstacles from the ones currently available could boost the positive impact of diaspora in the country of origin.

Questions to frame the discussion:

- What are the main challenges to cope with in letting diasporas be an agent of change?
- How partnerships could be built to maintain the link between diasporas and their country of origin? Who would be the main actors of these partnerships?
- What are the key lessons learnt in previous experiences regarding reintegration?