

**TENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 9-10 February 2012

**MANAGING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN TODAY'S COMMONWEALTH.
THE RAMPHAL COMMISSION ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2009-2011¹**

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¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. RAMPHAL VISION

The Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development highlights the lack of coherence between migration and wider economic development and poverty reduction policies in the international community. It emphatically endorses the sovereignty of individual nations but believes that migration can be beneficial, provided there are effective, equitable and fair migration management policies, practices and programmes in place. The Commission shifts the balance of public debate and policy responses from the *risks* of migration to its *opportunities*. It targets the many more opportunities than risks offered by international migration, focusing on the facilitation of ‘brain circulation’.

The Commonwealth is uniquely placed to shift the balance of discourse on migration away from an overwhelming concentration on policing and security issues towards full inclusion of issues of management of migration. The Commonwealth can bring its institutions, experience and cooperative ethos to help make international migration, especially that between low income and high income countries, more ‘development friendly’. The Commonwealth, with its experience of migration, could be a laboratory for best practice on the equitable management of migration.

The Commission recognises the complexities of important influences on migration; in particular: climate change, the unique characteristics governing the migration management of small states, the growth of informal labour markets and structural inequalities in global trade relations. The Ramphal model therefore challenges the neoclassical development paradigm, in which methodological individualism motivates responses to poverty reduction. Recognition of a migrant’s right not to move is imperative in context of devising policies which respond to migration as an adaptive livelihood strategy. Rights based approaches to migrant labour standards are therefore critical, and the particular ratifica

organisations and business and Ramphal Commissioners. The conference highlighted three key policy areas that are necessary for encouraging Diaspora contributions to countries of origin; mitigating risk and increasing trust in business environments; developing networks; and facilitating investment and development through the Diaspora. The conclusions of this consultation were used to underpin the recommendations of the Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development. The consultation concluded that the responsibility to produce attractive environments and build the profile of the diaspora must be assumed by Governments

- Develop more coherence between remittances and development policies, by encouraging circular migration through schemes such as dual nationality, portable pensions and promoting best practice, such as the example of a Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.
- Scale up efforts to mitigate environmental risk to better manage climate change induced migration. This includes the establishment of monitoring and early warning systems at the national or regional levels, along with the establishment of appropriate response systems so as to reduce the impact of predictable hazards.
- Create incentives for diaspora communities to invest their financial, social and human capital in the development of communities of origin. Work towards reducing the cost of international remittances and foster greater collaboration with the private sector to encourage diaspora entrepreneurialism and bonds. Improved synergy in intergovernmental spaces can help facilitate enabling environments, in which current information deficits and a chronic lack of trust are better responded to, thereby improving investment prospects in many developing countries.
- Factor the importance of international migration into national strategies for agricultural modernisation, food security and nutrition. The outcomes of the research on migration, rural development, poverty and food security confirms the importance of channelling investment into rural areas through national bonds and other incentives. It highlights three further domains which can improve this nexusⁱⁱ:

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