

Ensuring migrants' and migration's rightful place on the post-2015 development agenda

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Action theme 3: Human development, diaspora action

Excellencies,
Moderators,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the privilege to speak about migrants and migration's rightful place in the post-2015 development agenda.

1. In the past 7 years Civil Society and Governments have been deliberating about the nexus between Migration and Development. Migration is considered a development enabler, a strategy to fight poverty (certainly not the only one) and to survive climate-induced disasters, to foster trade and diversity and this all in spite of the tight control of human mobility.

Often reference is being made to remittances by migrants, more than US\$ 400 billion for developing countries in 2012, and more than in 2011, in spite of the economic crisis

But let me speak to your hearts too!

"The contribution of the self-sacrificing immigrants (...) represents the collective expression of the dignity and generosity of immigrants, of their aspirations, love for their families and, to the commitment of the good to their old and new communities"

The nexus of Migration and Development should feature prominently in the post-2015 agenda. This has been reiterated by CS since the start of this two days. It's a unique opportunity to concretise the nexus with indicators and targets.

2. CS knows the issues which should be on the table. What boils down to: Human mobility should be safe, legal, affordable and should facilitate migrants and Diaspora contributions to sending and receiving societies.
What if there would be an indicator about the portability of pensions for migrants? If there would be one on the access of migrant women to services, such as to legal and social protection.

¹ Migration and Development Brief 20, World Bank, April 2013

² Address by Most Reverend Silvano Tomasi, Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the Diaspora Ministerial Conference in Geneva, J 2013

3. There is less convergence on how migration and development should be incorporated in the Post-2015 agenda. Proposals range from a standalone goal, to mainstreaming it into the proposed goals - those developed by the High Level Panel of Experts -, or to place it as a specific issue under partnerships.

4. I would like to make a case for a "standalone goal"

"Thinking big" forces us to think deep and look at all dimensions of the migration and development nexus. It forces us to think of clear and measurable targets.

Human mobility affects and concerns more people than the current 215 million migrants. It affects families, communities and societies at large and the diaspora.

Article 2 of the UN Declaration on the right to development states: "The human person is the central subject of development and should be the participant and beneficiary of the right to development". We should not only praise the beneficial effects of human mobility, which often comes with great sacrifices, but