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New ICMPD working paper explores how effective border management can enable sustainable development

VIENNA, 11 March 2015 – The working paper, titled ‘Integrated Border Management and Development’, explores the link between border management and development by putting it in the context of the global debate on development goals and examining the approaches to border management that could contribute to development.

According to the authors, the absence of comprehensive and functioning border management does not mean facilitated movement of people, goods and services across state borders. It means the opposite: delays, harassment, violation of rights and corruption. Its absence hampers development. On the contrary, comprehensive and functioning border management encompasses both aspects of security and of facilitation. Therefore, argue the authors, both aspects should not contradict but complement each other.

The paper also demonstrates the various benefits that result from effective border management. For example, efficient borders improve the recognition of rights of the persons crossing a border, the regulation and inspection of passengers and the management of migration. Such borders also improve the flow of goods and the collection of revenues, reduce the threat of crime and terrorism and improve law enforcement. All of this leads to improved respect for human rights, enhanced mobility of people, trade facilitation, more competitive private sectors, increased revenues for the state, and improved public safety and national security. Moreover, the national, regional and global impacts are very much in line with the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Developments Goals of the United Nations.

The working paper can be downloaded here.

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The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), established in 1993 by Austria and Switzerland, is an international organisation that works in migration-related fields. Although ICMPD has a European basis, it carries out its activities throughout the world, including in Europe, Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Through its six Competence Centres, ICMPD provides its 15 Member States and numerous partners with in-depth knowledge and expertise in dealing with the phenomena of migration. It does so through using a holistic 3-pillar approach: research, capacity building and migration dialogues.

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