Migration: Key factor for sustainable development worldwide

Gearing up for the post-2015 agenda: Roundtable involves diaspora in international debates on migration.

Frankfurt am Main: Only another two years are left for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations (UN), which includes such targets as halving extreme poverty and hunger, providing universal primary education for everyone and improving maternal health by 2015.

When 189 heads of states met for the Millennium Summit in 2000 to decide on the Millennium Development Goals, little consideration was given to migration issues. Now, 13 years after the conclusion of the Millennium Declaration, migration has moved to the forefront of policy debates as there is heightened awareness on the links between the achievement of the 8 Millennium Development Goals and migration. Remittances, for example, are estimated to be twice the size of official development assistance, and therefore have a direct impact on poverty reduction. Knowledge transfer from the diaspora can contribute to improved health and education. "Although migration is a driving force for poverty eradication and for sustainable development, their contributions still remain largely unnoticed", emphasizes Peter Bonin from the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM). "And yet, diaspora are the essential driving force in social, economic and political processes – in the host countries as well as the countries of origin."

In October 2013 the second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development takes place - at a time of elevated awareness and willingness by UN member states to take migration into account for development. Ahead of this crucial event that will contribute to setting the post 2015 development agenda, stakeholders, including representatives of diaspora associations, are coming together in Germany for a roundtable upon invitation of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM). "We want to give a voice to those who are directly affected," explains Lukas Gehrke from ICMPD. The knowledge and experience that migrants have should not be disregarded when it comes to generating recommendations about how the role of migrants for development can be further strengthened and embedded into the post-2015 development agenda.
“Today every seventh person is a migrant – which means about 214 million people worldwide”, Peter Bonin underlines, “and we are far from reaching the threshold”. Now is the time to call on a framework that will minimize the risk factors for migrants and that will harness the positive impacts emigration and immigration can bring along when the right development policies, and global policies, are put in place.

**Diaspora & Development Roundtable**  
**27-28 June 2013**  
**Venue:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (GIZ) GmbH, Eschborn

**Attention Editors:**  
At the event, following persons will be available for interviews:  
- Lukas Gehrke, Director of the Southern Dimension, ICMPD  
- Peter Bonin, Head of Sector Project Migration and Development, CIM  
- Santo L. Deng, President of the Dutch Migrant Association „Diaspora Forum for Development, D4D“  
- Ronald Lucardie, President of the European Network on Migrations and Development (EUNOMAD)  
- Stefan Rother, Arnold Bergstraesser Institute  
- Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Director *Up!-Africa Limited*

Contact: E-Mail: oeffentlichkeitsarbeit@cimonline.de, tel. +49 (0)69 719121-709

*The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) is the competence centre for global labour mobility in the international cooperation activities of the German Government. CIM taps the potential that global migration offers for sustainable development. We place technical experts and managers with employers worldwide and provide our partners with support on migration issues. Our goal is to find solutions that bring equal benefits to all stakeholders – employers, experts, the cooperation countries and Germany. CIM is jointly run by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the German Federal Employment Agency, bringing together over 30 years of expertise in development and labour market policy.*