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Session 1 – Supporting paper

INFORMATION NEEDS FROM A POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Submitted by Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM)*

1. The GCIM is currently drafting a report on global migrations, focusing on its impact on labour markets and national incomes, while also addressing such essential issues as the social and cultural impact of migration, security, human rights and gender.
2. Throughout this process, the GCIM has been confronted with a notable lack of robust statistics and readily usable information on most of these issues. The scale and depth of those deficiencies differs widely between countries and regions.
3. Despite being a fairly recent initiative, the GCIM has witnessed a tremendous amount of growth in the quantity and quality of available migration statistics. The GCIM certainly welcomes this drive towards more transparency and completeness of migration statistics.
4. Nevertheless, this process is not yet so advanced that the needs of GCIM can be directly covered. We must therefore rely upon interpretation and intuition to indirectly assess some of the most important issues of concern.

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5. I will therefore use this opportunity to provide you with a (non-exhaustive) listing of the questions deemed to be important to the work of the GCIM at this stage.
6. The objective of this listing is not to immediately find an answer, although we would welcome all information that could be forwarded to us, but to enrich this Workshop's debate on what are the issues of interest, starting with the user's needs.
7. I would like to highlight the fact that statistical information is not neutral to migration policy. Incomplete, non-comparable or "confidential" data can be more readily mined or forged so as to highlight trends most favourable to specific political agendas.
8. At the end of the decision process, migration policies are shaped and migration channels are being carved. Migration policies are not dealing with goods or patents' rights. They are directly constraining the individual prospects for millions of peoples, it influences peoples lives, and, often, even the length of peoples' lifespans.
9. If the issue of statistical neutrality with respect to Migration Policies should be addressed, then migration data should be as unbiased, exhaustive, comparable and available as possible.
10. These aims are technically feasible thanks to the growth of data collecting and processing capacities, and thanks to communication technologies.
11. For each country, the GCIM tried to answer the following questions:
(Tentative listing of questions: Please note that the order of this listing does not reflect relative importance of individual questions.)

A: Counting "in-migrants"

- i. What are the flows and stocks of Foreign-Borns (subdivided between nationals, dual nationals and non nationals, including age and gender)
- ii. The length of their stay in the country (arrival date to the present)
- iii. The country where they were born
- iv. Their legal status (authorized or undocumented/irregular/unauthorized)
- v. Their residency status (permanent or temporary/ work contract related authorisation)
- vi. Their occupational status (work, tourism, study, health consumption)
- vii. Their family status (single or married, country of birth of spouse and/or children)

B. Counting "out-migrants"

- i. What are the flows and stocks of Country-Borns (subdivided between nationals and foreigners, and gender) abroad
- ii. The country where do they live
- iii. The length of their stay (arrival date to the present)
- iv. Their legal status (authorized or undocumented/irregular/unauthorized)
- v. Their residency status (permanent or temporary/ work contract related authorisation)
- vi. Their occupational status (work, tourism, study, health consumption)
- vii. Their family status (single or married, country of birth of spouse and/or children)

C. Counting the economic impact of "migrants"

- i. How much do Foreign-Borns contribute to GDP (their gross income)

- ii. How much do Foreign-Borns (subdivided by legal status) contribute to direct and indirect tax receipts
- iii. How much do Foreign-Borns (subdivided by legal status) receive in social services
- iv. Is there a significant and causal correlation between the rate of change of Foreign-Borns' stocks and the rate of growth of Country-Borns' income"
- v. What was the Foreign-Born income prior to migration
- vi. By how much did the Foreign-Born income change through migration
- vii. What was the Foreign-Born contribution to the tax receipt (direct and indirect) of its country of birth prior to migration
- viii. How much does the Foreign Born save from its income?
- ix. How much of its saving does the Foreign Born send as remittance
- x. How much of its saving does the Foreign Born send "in kind"
- xi. How much of its saving does the Foreign Born spend on trade, service imports and Foreign Direct Investment from/to the country of birth
- xii. How much of the country of birth's tax receipt comes from taxes raised on these flows
- xiii. Is there a significant and causal correlation between the rate of Country-Borns out-migration and the rate of growth of the home country's Gross Domestic and Gross National Incomes
- xiv. What is the global net Income change traceable to migration flows?
