

# **THE CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN SEEKING A MORE COHERENT POLICY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

**Quynh Thu TRAN, PhD Candidate  
Graduate Institute of Development Studies,  
University of Geneva**

# Introduction

- Scope of migratory phenomenon
- Why the nexus between development cooperation and migration
- **Questions:**
  - Does the development curb or encourage migration?
  - What are the relationships between migration policy and aid policy?

## Migration and poverty in South countries

- Poverty facts: some illustrations
- Poverty is not the only cause of migration. Development doesn't reduce necessarily migration.
- Migration is not only a South-North phenomenon
- But: conflict, violence, corruption and the coercion of freedom.

## Migration and poverty in South countries

- Migration is not necessarily harmful for developing countries:
  - Role of remittances
  - Transfer of technology, machines and management experiences from migrants
  - Business opportunities and the acceleration of international integration of emigration economy
  - Motivation to invest in the education of children

## The incoherent migration policy and the ambiguous dilemma of donor countries

- Speed and mass of migratory flow concerns donor countries, but:
  - On the one hand: more time and money to prevent migration from the South, by border enforcement, massive deportation
  - On the other hand: more effort in encouraging and attracting high-competent labour
- Migration as an argument to increase development aid

# The incoherent migration policy and the ambiguous dilemma of donor countries

- Reality of aid-related migration:
  - Tied aid: aid is designed to prevent migration
    - Link aid to the willingness of readmitting undocumented migrants
    - Break aid relation if not cooperate in containing immigration
  - Quantitative repartition of aid to each country is also allocated according to its migratory potentiality
    - France, Australia, Czech

## The incoherent migration policy and the ambiguous dilemma of donor countries

- Criteria and conditions imposed by donor countries on receiving countries are not efficient in obstructing migration
- Aid cannot compensate for remittances gained from migration
- Intentions behind this aid-related migration conditionality are more than clear: **to attract only high-quality grey matter from developing countries but block their borders to low qualified labour or to refugees**

# The role of migration in the development of host countries

- Context of liberalization, globalization, lack of high-competent human capital and aging population of the West economies
- Role of migrant:
  - creates cheaper commodities for consumers, increased production and real GDP
  - have advantageous returns to capital and overall welfare of developed economies



## More deregulated migration policy for low-skilled labour as a solution

- Low skilled labour is likely less permanent
- Help solve the crisis of the manual sector
- Help attack more efficiently human trafficking, smuggling and forced labour
- Help reduce the cost of migration
- Access to social and financial services

# Role of development cooperation agencies

- Negotiation position of development cooperation agencies face to developed countries
- Build a coherent international migration regime:
  - discouraging high-skilled labour flow and identifying mechanisms which permit them to deploy the best of their competencies
  - easing the living and working conditions of low-skilled migrants and claiming socio-political rights for them
  - Making possible for people from the *Third World* to have the same mobility level as people from the *First World*
  - Encouraging the use of local's intelligence in their agencies based in South
  - Forster the achievement of financial infrastructures in South countries

## Challenges of development cooperation

- Harmonization of objectives between different national policies of developed countries, but:
  - The political will on this issue is still weak
  - The institutional framework and policy process is also complex because of differently implicated interests and institutions.
  - The hostile sentiment of native citizens in developed countries of the West largely affects the policy choice

## Challenges of development cooperation

- The MDGs were silenced over migration issues.
- How to extract efficiently the benefits of migration for the pursuit of the internationally – agreed MDGs.
- Role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, in combating backward customs and disease.
- Role in internal displacement and South-South migration

## Conclusions

- Highlight the need to put into place policies to maximize the benefit of migration and minimize its curse on the development of both sending and host countries
- “Migration is not a panacea for development problems, but properly managed it can deliver major benefits in terms of development and poverty reduction”

## Conclusions

- Development cooperation agencies are best positioned to maximize good effects and minimize the bad ones of migration flow
- Small contribution to strengthen the coherence in development cooperation policy for the purpose of poverty reduction and the development of South