



**THE WORLD BANK**



## **Europe Launch and Signing of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD)**

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### **Statement of:**

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The World Bank Group is proud to join government counterparts, development partners, civil society organizations, representatives of the private sector, and other members of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in the launch of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD). The partnership aims to create and synthesize knowledge, generate a menu of policy options, and provide technical assistance and capacity building to sending and receiving countries. The World Bank Group continues to deepen its engagement on this rich agenda because of the close links between migration and development.

Worldwide, there are more than 215 million migrants living outside their countries of birth. Many of these migrants are from developing countries, and sent about US\$400 billion in officially recorded remittances to developing countries in 2012. These flows represent a lifeline to the poor and are a powerful driver of development progress. Mounting evidence shows migration and remittances are contributing meaningfully to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Numerous studies highlight that households receiving remittances are better able to avoid malnutrition, mitigate the adverse impacts of crop failure, access health care, and enroll their children in school.

While the development impact of migration and remittances is unmistakable, several challenges remain that are increasingly recognized in international forums. Ongoing discussions on migration and the Post-2015 Framework for Development, which will culminate in the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in early October 2013, are featuring

key issues like lowering recruitment costs, protecting the rights and safety of migrants, and mobilizing additional sources of financing for development. The G20 Leaders Declaration of Saint Petersburg (September 6, 2013) reaffirms commitments made in 2009 to the “5x5 objective” of lowering remittance prices from an average of 10 percent to below 5 percent by 2014, and connects this objective with efforts to strengthen financial inclusion. Meeting these commitments would translate into substantial additional financial flows to developing countries and significantly improved access to finance for the unbanked. More needs to be done, however, especially in boosting transparency and competition among remittance service providers, and enhancing consumer protections and financial literacy for the poor.

The World Bank Group is contributing on migration and remittances in numerous ways. Data and monitoring efforts include the bilateral remittance matrix, the Migration and Remittances Factbook, the Migration and Development Brief, and the Remittance Prices Worldwide database, which is used by the G20 to benchmark progress towards the 5x5 objective. We are providing technical assistance to clients aimed at improving regulatory frameworks, and working with the Financial Action Task Force on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terror regulations to ensure that these do not unduly affect legitimate remittance flows. We are examining ways to link remittances to saving and investment products for households, and move forward on new financing instruments for governments, like diaspora bonds. We are hosting the Secretariat for the Global Remittances Working Group, and are engaged in numerous policy forums. The World Bank Group is also continuing to mainstream migration and remittances into our operations and country strategies. We believe that continued progress on the migration and development agenda has tremendous scope for helping meet the World Bank Group goals of ending extreme poverty within a generation and boosting shared prosperity.

The launch of the KNOMAD is a further step towards enhancing partnerships that will be essential to ensuring that migration and remittances support the achievement of development goals as much as possible. The initiative is supported by a multi-donor trust fund, to date generously financed by the Swiss and the German governments. Following the launch of the KNOMAD today here in Geneva, we look forward to implementation and a stream of outputs that will help deepen our understanding of the migration phenomenon and promote the shared goals of poverty reduction and accelerated development around the world.