



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY WHITE PAPER ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the process of developing the Australian Foreign Policy White Paper. From the areas of focus identified in the Terms of Reference, our submission is primarily relevant to the question of “how we can promote prosperity and stability through our aid programme with a focus on the Indo-Pacific.”

IOM takes this opportunity to highlight the importance of good migration governance as a key part of promoting prosperity and stability through the aid programme focusing on the Pacific region.

About the International Organization for Migration

Established in 1951, the IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement. IOM has 166 Member States, and its footprint in the Pacific is expanding, with 11 Member States in this region: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Of these, IOM has offices in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. IOM offices in these countries are coordinated by the IOM office in Canberra, which also covers Australia and New Zealand.

IOM’s work in the Pacific falls under several areas of migration governance, and includes projects in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and human rights. Projects implemented include technical assistance to strengthen border management and prevent and respond to trafficking in persons (TIP), support to strengthen migration policy frameworks, and working with national, subnational and community partners to strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation processes.

Migration in the Sustainable Development Goals

As noted by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Sustainable Development Goals are well-aligned with Australia’s foreign, security and trade interests particularly in promoting regional stability, security and economic prosperity.¹

IOM commends Australia for its active participation in international discussions to design the SDGs, and highlights that migration is included for the first time in the global development framework,

¹ <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/global-development-agenda/Pages/global-development-agenda.aspx>



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recognizing well-managed migration's integral role in and immense contribution to sustainable development.

Migration is included under *SDG Goal 10: reduced inequality within and among countries*, through Target 10.7: to Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.²

It is our view that good migration governance requires:

- Adhering to international standards and protecting all migrants' human rights
- Comprehensive evidence-based policies that promote the development potential of migration
- Mitigating risks linked to migration including reducing forced migration drivers & ensuring access to regular migration.

IOM would like to highlight three specific areas of good migration governance that are particularly relevant to the Pacific region.

Well-Managed Labour Migration as a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Facilitating labour migration in the Pacific is a priority for both sustainable human development and climate change adaptation. A number of Pacific Island Countries have significant unemployment and limited domestic labour market opportunities. As the impact of climate change increasingly leads to livelihoods stress, affected communities are more likely to seek migration opportunities in urban areas in their home countries or abroad. Labour migration will be a critical migration pathway in the context of climate change in the Pacific. It is important in this context that the process is orderly and well-managed, and migrants are given the opportunity to "migrate with dignity".

To make this happen, investment is needed in skills development programmes to leverage the impact of promising labour mobility schemes that have already been put in place by the Australian Government. This includes investment in skills development in countries of origin to meet skills shortages in countries of destination, recognition/harmonization of qualifications throughout the region, and investment in tools to manage the process, including labour market information systems, and labour monitoring systems in countries of destination.

Migration Mainstreaming in Gender Programming

IOM commends DFAT for its demonstrated commitment to promoting gender equality in the region and its support for women's economic empowerment and leadership, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and ending violence against women and girls (VAWG). IOM would like to highlight that there is an intersection between migration dynamics, VAWG, and SRH, and consequently recommends the incorporation of migration-sensitive gender programming into the aid programme.

A salient example of this is in the Solomon Islands, where migration-affected communities such as logging camps face higher rates of sexual exploitation of women, a trend that has been highlighted by

² Migration is also specifically referenced under Goal 4: quality education (student mobility), Goal 5: gender equality (trafficking, focus on women and girls), Goal 8: decent work and economic growth (trafficking and migrant workers' rights), and Goal 16: Peace and Justice (trafficking).



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UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.³ Challenges in addressing this are compounded by the lack of data on SRH and VAWG in migration affected communities in the Pacific, particularly those impacted by extractive industries, which are often very isolated. IOM would like to recommend that gender programming is sensitive to migration dynamics. A key first step in this area will be addressing the data gaps relating to the mobility dimensions of SRH and VAWG.

Counter-Trafficking

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a growing concern in the Pacific region, which is a source, transit and destination point for human trafficking. TIP in the Pacific is undertaken for the purposes of labour and sexual exploitation. A number of incidents have been reported of persons from countries in Asia including China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, in addition to workers from Pacific Island Countries and Territories, being exploited on fishing vessels in the Pacific region through deceptive recruitment processes. There are also cases of internal trafficking.

Addressing TIP is a vital component of combatting transnational crime, protecting women and girls, supporting ethical regional trade and commercial interests, and promoting prosperity and stability. Collecting data and supporting Counter-Trafficking initiatives that build the capacity of governments and local law enforcement to identify and support victims of trafficking and prosecute perpetrators are activities which align with Australian interests, and IOM would like to recommend these areas be considered as a focus for Australian aid programming.

Conclusion

This brief overview aims to provide an introduction to some key areas of migration governance that are relevant to the Pacific. IOM's high-level perspective is that good migration governance is integral to promoting sustainable development and human security in the region. We would be pleased to discuss the submission above or any other parts of the Foreign Policy White Paper development process.

Yours faithfully

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³ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41575#.WLPBgm99670>