



**International Workshop**  
**on the Economic and Social Impact**  
**of Migration, Remittances, and Diaspora**

**Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic,  
Moldova, Russia, and Tajikistan**

**June 24-25, 2010**  
**Congress Hotel**  
**Yerevan, Armenia**



## Concept Note

**Context:** Migration (and the associated financial remittances) is an important phenomenon for a large number of developing countries in the world. It is an important source of foreign exchange earnings, financial intermediation, and economic growth in many developing countries, including Armenia. In some regions (e.g., Latin America), remittances amount to about 70 percent of foreign direct investment and are almost 8 times larger than official development assistance. In addition to these macroeconomic aspects, migration has also social consequences – positive and negative—as the associated financial flows supplement (partially or fully) household level earnings from domestic sources and are often the base for key investments such as housing. At the same time, families are disrupted and children of migrant parents are often put at disadvantage in school and other performance. In addition, migration is a key source of significant shifts in the local labor markets (in both upturns and downturns in the business cycle of labor recipient countries). From a much longer time-horizon perspective, diasporas can contribute to growth as they are potentially an important resource for countries to leverage further its development, either by using them as a vehicle for R&D transmission (e.g., a la Israel), for export and investment promotion (in recipient markets where Diaspora leaves), and even as a source of private flows.

**Objectives:** Against the above context the purpose of the conference is:

- (i) To share knowledge and practice on how various countries in the region has deal with the economic and social impact of migration (positive and negative; i.e. during upturns and downturns in business cycles),
- (ii) To facilitate a discussion on the role migration, remittances and Diasporas on development.

**Targeted Audience:** The list of participants includes policy practitioners (at the macro and micro levels) from Armenia, Russia, Moldova, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, as well as academics and think tanks, working in these areas.

**Date:** The International Workshop will take place in Yerevan on June 24 and 25, 2010.

# AGENDA

## Day 1: Thursday, June 24, 2010

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic/Speaker</b>	<b>Key Issues for Discussion</b>
9:00-9:15 am	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Mr. Aristomene Varoudakis, WB Country Manager</i></li><li>• <i>Mr. Nerses Yeritsyan, Minister of Economy of Armenia</i></li></ul>	
9:15-9:40 am	<b>Key Note Speaker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Mr. Luca Barbone, WB, ECA PREM Director (20 min.)</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Context setting of the four broad topics for the Workshop</li></ul>
<b>Introduction to Migration and Remittance Peer-Assisted Learning (MIRPAL) Network Activities</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Ms. Irina Davtyan, Deputy Head of State Migration Service of Ministry of Territorial Administration of Armenia</i></li></ul>	
<b>Session I: Macroeconomic Management Challenges</b>		
9:40-11:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Panel 1: Remittances, Crisis and Fiscal Policies</b></li><li>• <b>Chair:</b> <i>Mr. Nerses Yeritsyan, Minister of Economy of Armenia</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>International experience (20 min.):</b> <i>Mr. Sudharshan Canagarajah, WB Lead Economist</i></li></ul></li><li>• <b>Q&amp;A, and responses by each country (50 min.)</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Migration, remittances and economic growth</li><li>• Appropriate external and fiscal policies</li></ul>

11:00-11:10 am      **Coffee Break**

11:10-13:00

- **Panel 2: Remittances, Real Exchange Rate Appreciation and Monetary Policy**
- **Chair:** *Mr. Alexei Kireyev, IMF*  
(20 min.)
  - **Armenian experience (20min):**  
*Mr. Vache Gabrielyan, Deputy-Chairman of Central Bank of Armenia*
  - **Comments from FSU experience (10 min.):**  
*Moldova*
- **Q&A & responses from each country (60 min.)**
- Remittances and real exchange rate appreciation

13:00-14:00      **Lunch**

## **Session II: Diaspora, Migration and Development**

14:00—15:00

- **Chair:** *Mr. Vahram Nercissiantz, Chief Economic Advisor to the President of Armenia*
- **Panel:**
  - **Presentation on International Experience (20 min.):**  
*Piyasiri Wickramasekara, Former Senior Migration Specialist, ILO, Geneva*
  - **From brain drain to brain circulation? How countries can draw on their talent abroad? (20 min.):**  
*Mr. Yevgeny N. Kuznetsov, WB Senior Economist*
  - **Comments from FSU experience (10 min.):**  
Russia
- Leveraging Diaspora for growth
- Diaspora, trade, foreign direct investments, transfer of knowledge and technology

15:00-15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30-17:00

- **Comments from Armenian Diaspora (20 min.):**  
*Mr. Pegor Papazian, CEO, National Competitiveness Foundation*
- **Q&A & responses from each country delegation (60 min.)**

### **Day 2: Friday, June 25, 2010**

#### **Session III: Social and Poverty Impact of Migration and Remittances**

9:00-10:00

- **Chair:** *Mr. Vardan Marashlyan, Deputy Minister of Diaspora of Armenia*
- **Panel:**
  - **Remittances, income inequality and poverty in Armenia (20 min.):**  
*Mr. Gagik Torosyan, Economic Development and Research Center*
  - **Implications of global financial crisis for poverty in Armenia (20 min.):**  
*Mr. Lire Ersado, WB Senior Economist*  
  
*Mr. Artem Asatryan, Deputy Minister of Social and Labor Issues of Armenia*
  - **Comments from FSU experience (10 min.):**  
Kazakhstan
- Remittances, income inequality and poverty
- Remittances and household behavior

10:00-10:30

**Coffee Break**

10:30-13:00

- **Comments from FSU Experience (10 min.):**  
*Kyrgyz Republic*

- **Q&A & responses from country delegations (80 min.)**

13:00-14:00

**Lunch**

#### **Session IV: Conclusions**

14:00-15:00

- **Chair:** *Mr. Pedro Rodriguez, WB Lead Economist*
- **Panel:**
  - **Country Representatives (60 min.)**

- Lessons learned
- Policy recommendations/ road map on how to improve the impact of migration and remittances on the economic growth and poverty reduction
- Potential contribution by the WB and other international institutions

15:00-15:30

**Coffee Break**

15:30-16:45

- **Representatives of International Donor Organizations (60 min.):** *IOM, OSCE, ILO, GTZ, USAID*

16:45-17:00

- **Closing Remarks:**
  - *Shoghik Hovhannisyan, WB*
  - *Mushegh Tumasyan, Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia*