

GENESIS OF THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO MIGRATION

&

THE NEW GENERATION OF BILATERAL MIGRATION AGREEMENTS FROM THE FRENCH PERSPECTIVE

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Overview

- Definition of partnership
- Partnerships for Development
- The Migration & Development discourse and the comprehensive approach
- Partnerships for migration management
- The paradigm shift
- Brief presentation of the French new bilateral agreements on migration

Definition of Partnerships

- Partnership → *buzzword* in different contexts
 - at national, regional, and international level
 - by governments, IOs, private sector and civil society
- Common language → a rather positive connotation: “*a desirable, voluntary, inherently positive form of cooperation among equals, pursuing common goals based on mutual respect*”. (Kunz, 2011).
- Initially used in different fields of international cooperation: peace, development, economics, aid, security.
- Since 2005 entered the field of international migration policy.

Partnerships for Development

- In the field of development, *partnership* increasingly used to describe new forms of North-South and aid relations (Kunz 2011).
- Since the mid-70s, securing support to ex-colonies in the context of the Cold War rivalry → ACP countries entrusted with a role in the management of development (e.g. Lomé Conventions 1975-2000 → “culture of partnership and dialogue”) (Laakso 2007).
- Since the mid-90s, Post-Washington Consensus → move from conditionality towards a partnership approach (e.g. OECD, DfID, the World Bank) // good governance.

The Migration & Development discourse and the comprehensive approach

- In the field of migration, the partnership approach coincides with the M&D dialogue that was formalised in the political discourse since 2004-2005 (IAMM, GCIM, EU Global Approach to Migration, UN-HLD, IOM, GFMD).
- Idea: new challenges → new solutions → call for “a planned, balanced, and comprehensive approach” for migration management (IAMM 2004).
- EU **Global** Approach to Migration (GAM) (2005) → encompasses the different aspects of the migration phenomenon: regular migration (labour), the fight against irregular migration, and migration & development synergies.

Partnerships in Managing Migration

- “**Migration management** is an area for **partnerships** between interested **stake-holders** and for consideration of **responsibility sharing** between **States** involved in or affected by particular migratory movements. Continued exploration is required to identify additional ways by which **governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other private sector and civil society organizations** [including migrant themselves and the media] can work together to develop greater **confidence** and effective and joint **management tools, technical cooperation, cost and other responsibility sharing**”. (IAMM 2004)
- “[...] the need for a balanced, global and coherent approach, covering policies to **combat illegal immigration** and, in cooperation with third countries, **harnessing the benefits of legal migration** [...] The EU will strengthen its **dialogue and cooperation** with [a broad range of third countries] on migration issues, including return management, in a **spirit of partnership** and having regard to the circumstances of each country concerned. [...] [The EU’s] commitment to support the **development** efforts of countries of origin and transit is part of a long-term process to respond to the opportunities and challenges of migration” (European Council 2005). “The approach taken shows tangible, active solidarity, hinged on **responsibility-sharing** between **Member States** and with **third countries**” (COM 2006).

The paradigm shift

- New partnership approach of migration management based on:
 - **Comprehensive dialogue and cooperation**
 - **“Shared advantages”**
 - **“Shared responsibility”**.
- **Implications** of the partnership approach:
 - **“Technicalisation”** of migration management → ***depolitization*** (in the sense of politics, not policy!)
 - Migration management → integral component of **good governance**

Bilateral Migration Agreements (BMAs)

- Comprehensive approach elaborated and propagated at international and regional level.
- States are encouraged to adopt **complementary** actions at **bilateral** level → new generation of BMAs.
- E.g. France (and Spain) following the EU GAM → **Agreements on joint management of migration flows and solidarity development.**

New generation of French BMAs

- Signed since 2006, mainly with **West-African (& Eastern-European)** countries
- **Trilateral design** reflecting the EU GAM:
 - Regular migration (**labour & students**)
 - Fight against **irregular** migration
 - Solidarity **development**
- **Partners:**
 - Governments
 - Private sector (labour & trade unions, banking institutions)
 - Diaspora

Thank you very much for your attention.

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Suggested reading: Kunz, Rahel, Lavenex, Sandra and Panizzon, Marion (eds.), *Multilayered Migration Governance: The promise of partnership*, Routledge Advances in International Relations and Global Politics, London and New York, 2011.