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Human migrations happen at all times and in all places. Moreover, at the present time, we are witnessing a phenomenon, that of globalization, characterized by transnational movements of capital, goods, services and people and the mobility of businesses. In addition, in a world where more than one billion people are unemployed, international migrations are one of the reflexions of globalization. Finally, an old phenomenon, international migrations, in addition to their current intensification, offer the double novelty of an increase in the number of refugees and of the development of South-South flows added to the traditional North-South movement.

Today some 200 million migrants offer their labor to the global economy and annually transfer some 235 billion dollars to their countries of origin, which represents more than twice the official development assistance. A significant example is given by Cape Verde in which half of the population works abroad and sends home money amounting to 15% of GNP. Admittedly, the distribution of transfers between countries of origin is very heterogeneous, but these movements are steadily increasing and are still very high for countries of departure such as the Philippines, Thailand, Mexico, or Morocco, the latter receiving a stream of about 9% of its GDP.

Thus we see the importance of the stakes of international migration as much for both countries of origin and host countries as for the entire world economy. The movement of labor is par excellence an international phenomenon, calling for cooperation and coordination between States and a comprehensive dialogue in inter-state organizations. Due to its importance, the issue of immigration should be addressed as part of the joint efforts of humanity to achieve full employment, if possible in solidarity, in the world.

It must be noted however, that despite all its impact, positive or negative, migration largely has so far escaped the influence of international institutions capable of regulating it.

But we are still far from a comprehensive migration policy defining the precise level of protection of the migrant, the regulation of their working conditions, their right to organize, their fair share in the profits, or redefining the relationship labor-capital while ensuring the economic security of the company ...

The supreme power of the state exists and persists in the area of migration. However, it is increasingly difficult today for each nation to make sovereign choices in ignorance of its partners and of countries of origin themselves. It is becoming increasingly necessary to participate in global governance. However, is it the sign of the erosion of state sovereignty?

Whether country of origin, transit or destination, all must recognize and assume their part of responsibility. Host countries have a special one as they receive a work force not offered by any machine, but by a human being. Humans, to remain such, must treat men as humans.

Finally, and for its part, the Global Commission on International Migration has outlined six principles for action that would be as many points of discussion at the Evian Conference.

In any event, given their importance for the global economy and their socio-political impact, international migration should be part of future agendas for both countries of North and South.