

## **A Global Greencard? Putting Migration Back into the Development Agenda**

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The last two decades of globalisation and trade liberalisation have unleashed a dramatic rise in the free movement of goods, services and finance capital. The same cannot be said for the free movement of peoples. Despite European countries, amongst others, benefiting from massive migratory outflows during the industrialisation and urbanisation period, their response to other countries undergoing similar process is parsimonious. While developed and middle-to-upper countries (including those in East Asia and the Middle East) do receive migrants, they predominantly cherry-pick skilled labour from developing countries or selectively take guest workers with restrictive residential rights. Most asylum programmes account for a small proportion of migrants and many are being tightened.

This binary division between capital and labour was encapsulated in the global partnership for development, the last chapter of the Millennium Development Goals. While free trade was set as a (qualitative) target no mention was made of migration. In the context of hinking about a post-2015 development agenda, this paper asks the question whether a target for accepting migrants on a random or lottery basis like the US Greencard (the Diversity Immigration Visa) would be one way forward. While full free movement of persons, as the EU has achieved, is not political feasible at a global level (at least for now), the United States has developed a model (albeit a modest one) which is not based on its economic needs or the vagaries of political persecution or war. The paper examines (i) the possible justifications for a global greencard – both philosophical, historical and legal (ii) the practical ways a target and programme could be developed and (iii) the objections to the proposal, including the current backlash against multiculturalism in some countries.