



The Goal of the Berne Initiative

The Berne Initiative is a States-owned consultative process with the **goal** of obtaining better management of migration at the regional and global level through co-operation between States. As a process, the Berne Initiative enables governments from all world regions to share their different policy priorities and identify their longer-term interests in migration, and offers the opportunity of developing a common orientation to migration management, based on notions of co-operation, partnership, comprehensiveness, balance and predictability.

The most important outcome of the Berne Initiative process would be a broad policy framework aimed at facilitating co-operation between States in planning and managing the movement of people in a humane and orderly way. This inter-governmental framework will, first, map out a set of common understandings based on interests and concerns common to Governments from all regions of the world and facing all migratory circumstances, taking account of existing elements of international law. Secondly, it will offer a set of effective policies and practices for a planned and coherent approach to migration management.

The starting point for the Berne Initiative is the recognition that international migration is an established feature of contemporary social, political and economic life. It is, by definition, a trans-national phenomenon that today presents major policy and management challenges for governments, international organizations and other concerned actors.

However, while there are numerous bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and treaties dealing with migration-related issues, particularly in the human rights and humanitarian field, there exists no comprehensive and harmonised system on the basis of which States would manage international migration through enhanced international co-operation. The general tendency among governments has been to develop ad-hoc strategies to suit their particular needs and to protect their particular interests. Consequently, they often work at cross-purposes. As a result, different or even contradictory national migration policies and practices have been developed and put into practice.

The Berne Initiative offers an alternative by identifying effective co-operative modes of action leading to the development of a comprehensive framework on international migration management. Such a framework will reaffirm the positive contributions that migration and migrants can make to societies, and address the negative consequences of irregular migration.

The Berne Initiative process engages governments and other stakeholders in an open dialogue on these crucial issues, and responds to the imperative need for effective and strengthened co-operation among countries of origin, transit and destination in the field of migration.