

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
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**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. SUMMARIZE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2016 TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) is a New York-based educational institute devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants. CMS makes substantive contributions to the migration and development dialogue through its programmatic work in four principal areas. First, the Center publishes the International Migration Review (IMR) and the Journal on Migration and Human Security (JMHS), which provide research and policy-related articles on international migration, including on migration and development. Second, CMS sponsors conferences, meetings, briefings, and seminars on migration-related issues and policies. Third, CMS has actively participated in international dialogues and consultative processes on migration, development and refugee protection. Fourth, the global dimension of CMS is reinforced through its affiliation with the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a faith-based network which links 270 programs for migrants worldwide.

In 2016, CMS engaged in several activities to support the implementation of the migration and refugee-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals. Committed to supporting and realizing the 2030 Agenda – in particular Goal 29 – CMS continued to produce research and facilitate discussion that sought to bolster international cooperation “to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons.”

In March 2016, CMS hosted a listening session between refugees and the office of the UN Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. The refugees provided valuable insight to Special Adviser Karen Abuzayd, and their input helped to inform the Secretary-General report, “In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants.”

CMS also expanded its programmatic work on the US refugee protection system and initiated an ambitious project on reform of the global system of refugee protection. This project has proposed a series of reforms so that states and international institutions are better able to anticipate, prevent and mitigate the effects of crises that lead to displacement, engage in broad responsibility-sharing, honor non-traditional refugees claims, and extend protection to non-refugees in desperate circumstances. Under the project, CMS has commissioned over 20 peer-reviewed scholarly/research papers designed to lift up existing and new research, create a strong evidence base for reform, and present new and promising ideas related to a re-conceptualized a system of protection that will be influential for years to come. The authors – leading international migration scholars and experts – presented their papers on July 5, 2016. Several papers from this collection and author interviews are now available from CMS through JMHS and on its website. UNHCR’s Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Türk contributed, for example, a paper (and interview) on “Prospects for Responsibility Sharing in the Refugee Context”. Additional published papers in the series include: “New Models of International Agreement for Refugee Protection” by Susan Martin; “How Robust Refugee Protection Policies can Strengthen Human and National Security” by Donald Kerwin; “Safe and Voluntary Refugee Repatriation: From Principle to Practice” by Jeff Crisp and Katy Long; and “The Impact of Externalization of Migration Controls on the Rights of Asylum Seekers and Other Migrants” by Bill Frelick, Ian M. Kysel, and Jennifer Podkul. Series papers continue to be published, and the full collection will be available at <http://cmsny.org/cms-research/refugeeproject/> in mid-2017.

Following the July 5th paper presentations, CMS convened government officials, scholars, experts and civil society leaders for a two-day conference in New York City from July 6-7, 2016. The event provided a forum for important and creative policy ideas to undergird a strengthened refugee protection system.

CMS also joined other civil society leaders in preparations for the September 19th Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, and the September 20th Leaders' Summit. CMS addressed urgent migration issues with the governments of "The Friends of Migration" and joined in various UN-led discussions leading up to the summits, including providing statements to the September 19th co-facilitators and member states regarding the substance of the New York Declaration on the Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. CMS also sponsored a refugee from Honduras to serve as a speaker in the session headed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. In addition, CMS hosted a September 20th shadow summit to focus attention on the US response to Central American refugees.

At the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held from December 8 to 9 in Bangladesh, CMS participated on two panels in the civil society sessions, organized a workshop on migrants in transit, and attended the "common space" sessions with member states. CMS staff also examined the plight of the Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar into Bangladesh at the time of the GFMD (see "As the World Fiddles, Myanmar's Rakhine State Burns and Rohingya Flee to Bangladesh to Escape Ethnic Cleansing," available at <http://cmsny.org/rakhine-state-burns-rohingya-flee/>).

In December 2016, CMS offered a statement on the modalities for the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration to the co-facilitators of the modality process and to member states. The statement called for full civil society participation in the process, including the participation of all non-governmental organizations and migrants themselves, particularly those in transit; the need for regional conferences to discuss relevant issues; and transparency and coherence throughout the process. CMS also highlighted substantive issues which should be addressed in the Global Compact (see "The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration: Issues to Consider," available at <http://cmsny.org/global-compact-issues-to-consider/>).

CMS regularly hosts events to serve as platforms for dissemination of research, policy analysis, information, and ideas among a broad range of stakeholders on international migration issues. In May 2016, CMS organized a forum in Washington DC with advocates, scholars, government officials, and Capitol Hill staffers on the US response to the Syrian refugee crisis. In October 2016, CMS convened scholars and practitioners for its annual academic and policy symposium to discuss emerging and cutting-edge migration issues with a focus around migration and development. This year's conference featured Prof. Nancy Foner of the City University of New York (CUNY) on the integration of Muslim migrants in the United States and Western Europe. In addition, Michael Doyle of Columbia University, Fei Guo of Macquarie University, John Harbeson of CUNY, and Sonia Plaza of The World Bank joined CMS's Donald Kerwin for a discussion on US immigration policy from a global perspective. CMS also organized a November 1, 2016 event in Miami on the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, which highlighted inequities between how Cubans and other vulnerable populations have been received by the United States.

In August 2016, CMS staff joined SIMN on a fact-finding trip to migrant shelters and detention centers in Central America to analyze the factors leading Central Americans to migrate and to observe the situation firsthand. The agencies' findings were published in a joint report, "The Central American Humanitarian Crisis and US Policy Responses," available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/the-central-american-humanitarian-crisis-and-us-policy-response/>.

Finally, CMS continued to disseminate research and analysis on international migration through IMR, its signature publication and the leading social science journal covering the field of international migration. In 2016, CMS published many IMR articles on migration and development literature, including on how the social identities of Indian immigrants to the United States shape development ideas in India (see “Divine Development: Transnational Indian Religious Organizations in the United States and India” by Rina Agarwala, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.12188/full>); and how immigration policies compare across nine countries (see “Comparing Immigration Policies: An Overview from the IMPALA Database, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imre.12169/full>).

**B. PRESENT INITIATIVES THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN DURING 2017 TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

In 2017, CMS endeavors to produce much-needed research and analysis to aid in the successful implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. As mentioned, papers on the global refugee protection are being published on a rolling basis, and the full collection will be available at <http://cmsny.org/cms-research/refugeeproject/> by mid-2017. These papers should be influential in the deliberations on a Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees, and will augment and expand upon the principles agreed to in the New York Declaration. CMS will also hold a briefing surrounding the collection in Washington DC to summarize the project for policymakers.

CMS and other Scalabrini study centers will also be releasing a global policy report that will lift up particularly urgent issues in each of the regions served by the centers. The report will be launched in conjunction with SIMN’s migration and peace forum scheduled from February 21-22 in Rome, Italy. The forum will focus, in part, upon efforts to inform and influence the compacts on migration and on refugees.

CMS will also continue to examine the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations in order to aid in the developing of guidelines to assist, in particular, the care of women and children on the move. The Center has recently addressed the implications of the immigrant and refugee executive orders issued by the new US president (see “President Trump’s Executive Orders on Immigration and Refugees,” available at <http://cmsny.org/trumps-executive-orders-immigration-refugees/>) and has issued findings on the social and economic impact of mass deportations (see “Mass Deportations Would Impoverish US Families and Create Immense Social Costs,” available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/mass-deportations-impoverish-us-families-create-immense-costs/>). CMS will also soon issue a second report on the situation of Central American migrants, focusing upon the fate of those deported back to the region.

Moreover, the agency is releasing forward-looking research on US immigration laws and policies. The project looks beyond current immigration debates to offer analysis, ideas and proposals from both a domestic and foreign policy perspective that, among other things, address the range of conditions driving international migration into the foreseeable future and consider the impact of proposed policies on immigrants and on receiving and sending communities. This collection will be published on a rolling basis beginning in February 2017 at [www.cmsny.org](http://www.cmsny.org).

CMS will participate, where possible, in the deliberations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees, consistent with the modalities resolutions.