**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[1]**

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)

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[1] The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

A. THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY

The application of human security to migration has proven effective in facilitating and strengthening integrated, multidimensional and preventive strategies that capitalise on the comparative advantages of a network of stakeholders across the United Nations system, Governments, civil society and other partners. In doing so, it supports collaborative actions to address the cross-section of risks faced by people on the move, thereby enhancing sustainable outcomes and improving the interconnections between migration and development

Established in 1999, the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security (UNTFHS) has supported a vast array of human security programmes on migration and refugees. By combining institutional strategies with community based responses, these programmes have drawn attention to the gaps in the management of migration, and promoted preventive policy and programme actions to reduce vulnerability and build resilience of migrants, refugees and host communities. Through joint assessment, planning and implementation by multiple United Nations entities and other partners, programmes advance comprehensive and inclusive solutions that respond to the diverse and interacting opportunities and vulnerabilities that affect people in a given context. And, by focusing on addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement in a comprehensive manner, the programmes integrate migration-related issues into efforts to implement key global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and sustaining peace.

B. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The UNTFHS has extensive experience in addressing the challenges faced by refugees, migrants and host communities. Programme examples include multi-stakeholder support to refugees and host communities in Gabon, Lebanon and Liberia; reintegration of IDPs and returnees in Uganda, Colombia, Egypt, Sri Lanka, and Somalia; assistance to temporary migrants in Costa Rica, Panama and Thailand; addressing the situation of stateless people in the Dominican Republic; promoting safe and orderly transit of migrants in Mexico; and protecting victims of human trafficking in Indonesia and Moldova.

(i)   *Addressing the root causes of temporary migration in Costa Rica and Panama*

The Ngöbe and Buglé indigenous groups of western Panama face a complex and interconnected set of threats, including widespread poverty, low agricultural productivity, limited economic opportunities, lack of appropriate health care, inadequate access to essential public services, and intermittent droughts and floods. In search of seasonal employment, these migrants are driven to neighbouring Costa Rica. Undocumented and without labour protection, they often encounter poor working conditions and low wages. To develop an effective comprehensive cross-border strategy, the programme addresses the root causes of insecurity and out-migration, as well as seeks to create the institutional environment necessary to protect the human rights and dignity of these mobile indigenous populations. By bringing together the relevant United Nations entities, in partnership with local and national authorities, the programme strengthens the economic, food and health security of those most vulnerable in Panama, while simultaneously improving essential services and worker protections in Costa Rica and along the migratory route.

(ii) *Inclusive and preventive approach to bridge humanitarian response and sustainable development in northern Lebanon*

In northern Lebanon, the confluence of protracted displacement, refugee flows from the ongoing conflict in Syria and poverty have placed considerable strain on local communities and the capacity of the Government to provide essential services and manage refugee flows. Through a participatory strategy, the United Nations system in partnership with the municipal Government, refugees and host communities has developed an integrated programme to improve access to education, health and psychosocial support; enhance public safety, infrastructure and housing; expand employment opportunities and skills training; and build a culture of peace amongst refugee and host communities. By strengthening local governance, implementing mutually beneficial social and economic development activities, and providing opportunities for greater co-existence, the programme aims to ensure longer-term development in the region, while improving migration management and cultivating social cohesion which together can prevent further tensions from erupting.

(iii) *Proactively addressing the conditions that create or exacerbate human trafficking in Moldova*

In Moldova, pervasive poverty and gender discrimination have led many young women in search of a living to become entangled with sex traffickers. In response, a human security programme has helped extend a comprehensive package of legal and other essential services to curb these violations and protect women at risk. The establishment of the Centre for Protection and Prevention has institutionalized multidisciplinary assistance and coordination at the local level. Local legislation has been tightened and aligned with national statutes. Awareness campaigns reaching the most disadvantaged rural areas have empowered people with a better understanding of the issues as well as their legal and human rights. This holistic approach, combining institutional capacity building with direct service provision to victims and women at risk, has helped address some of the root causes of human trafficking in Moldova.

(iv) *Promoting social harmony and inclusivity in a situation of protracted displacement in Kenya*

Already among the poorest regions of Kenya with frequent droughts threatening food and economic security, the Turkana and Garissa regions experienced a large influx of refugees, adding additional pressure to vulnerable communities and giving rise to competition over scarce resources. The proliferation of small arms and perceived disproportional support by the international community to refugees over local communities resulted in an escalation of tensions. The UNTFHS programme played a critical role in building partnerships to empower local communities towards communal harmony and integration. Focusing on mutually beneficial endeavours – such as increasing access to clean, safe and sustainable water supply systems for households, schools and health centres; improving school enrolment rates; and strengthening food and economic security across groups – the programme resulted in reduced tensions as well as an increase in access to basic services, incomes and food production for all.

(v) *High-level initiatives towards migration-related commitments*

On 18 September 2016, the Human Security Unit (HSU) in partnership with the Human Security Network and the Aspen Ministers Forum organized a high-level roundtable on "Human Security for Refugees, Migrants and Host Communities: Tools and Approaches for Collective Action." The event, attended by current and former Foreign Ministers, Permanent and Deputy Permanent Representatives to the UN, and senior UN officials, provided a platform to exchange experiences and perspectives on ways to translate the commitments of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants into concrete actions. Participants highlighted the importance of comprehensive solutions to address the root causes of the current migration crisis through achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, countering

xenophobia and strengthening social cohesion, and promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration and predictable financing.

In December 2016, the HSU participated in the 9th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Dhaka to highlight the added value of human security to migration governance through its participation in Roundtable 2.1.

C. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN 2017

The human security approach is embedded in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (Declaration), as evidenced by the emphasis on, inter alia, the importance of prevention and addressing the root causes of large movements of people; comprehensively addressing the challenges for refugees, migrants and host communities; putting people at the center of action; strengthening collaboration and integration across humanitarian and development actors and mandates; and advancing partnerships with all relevant actors for greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

As a result, the UNTFHS is a valuable vehicle through which to translate the commitments and recommendations in the Declaration into practical actions, with specific emphasis on advancing an integrated response by the United Nations system to achieve Articles 37, 43, 80, 85 and 90. To this end, the UNTFHS is undertaking resource mobilisation for prospective programmes submitted in the September 2016 Call for Proposals that propose to address key migration-related issues in the Declaration.

(i) Prospective UNTFHS programmes to implement the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

Combatting human trafficking by strengthening the human security of the most vulnerable in Burundi
Agencies: IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UN WOMEN

Protection and empowerment strategies for social cohesion and durable solutions for IDPs and host communities in Colombia
Agencies: UNDP, UNHCR

Strengthening of institutions and civil society collaboration in Costa Rica to address complex and massive migratory flows in border areas
Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNESCO, IOM, UN WOMEN
Improving human security for refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia by creating access to and preparing for legal employment opportunities.
Agencies: UNHCR, ILO, IOM

Improving the human security of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, with emphasis on vulnerable populations along the main migratory routes in Mexico
Agencies: IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF

Protecting and empowering children and youth refugees and migrants in Morocco
Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM

Strengthening human security in Southeast Anatolia region in Turkey in the aftermath of the Syrian refugee crisis
Agencies: UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNV

Decreasing risks and vulnerabilities for migrant and domicile population resulting from irregular migration in Serbia
Agencies: IOM, UNODC, UN WOMEN, UNHCR, OHCHR

Strengthening the Capacity of Government Authorities and Civil Society to Address Xenophobia and Promote Social Cohesion in South Africa
Agencies: UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, OHCHR

Building self-reliance and resilience of South Sudanese refugees and host communities through a human security lens in Uganda
Agencies: UNDP, UNHCR. WFP, UNICEF, ILO

An integrated and comprehensive response to support children affected by migration in Viet Nam
Agencies: UNICEF, IOM

Promoting human security through sustainable resettlement in Zambia
Agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, FAO

(ii)   Activities of the Human Security Unit in 2017

As a member of the inter-agency working group on migration and an observer of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Human Security Unit (HSU) will continue to participate in policy dialogue to ensure that UNTFHS programmes contribute to a stronger United Nations response and support to international cooperation on migration and human mobility. To this end, the HSU will convene a High-Level Event on Human Security and the SDGs on the side-lines of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017, with at least one presentation on human security, migration and human mobility.