

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Secretariat  
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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.

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in policy-relevant research on pressing global issues, specialised postgraduate training and capacity building, and the dissemination of knowledge. UNU functions as a think tank for the United Nations system. It operates as a global network of institutes and programmes, coordinated by UNU Centre in Tokyo.

UNU works with leading universities and research institutes in UN Member States, functioning as a bridge between the international academic community and the United Nations system. In migration-related research and capacity building, UNU draws from the expertise of an internal Migration Network (<http://migration.unu.edu>), a research platform across UNU entities.

As a collaborative initiative, the mission of the UNU Migration Network is to support the sharing of knowledge and research practices. As a forum for spreading cutting edge research, it further acts as a vehicle for showcasing good practices and initiatives, contributing to UNU's role as a policy-influencing body and to its input into Agenda 2030 implementation.

#### A. ACTIVITIES IN 2016-17 SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030 AGENDA

A number of UNU research projects on-going in 2016-17 support the role of the UN in the implementation of migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda. A few major research projects are outlined below that are relevant to cross-cutting commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but in particular:

- Strengthening the role of civil society in migration policy making and implementation (Goal 17 - strengthening partnerships and means of SDGs implementation, and specifically target 17.7 encouraging civil society partnerships);
- National capacity building to harness the development potential of migration (Goal 10 - reducing inequality within and among countries, and specifically, Target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration); and
- Exploring the linkages between climate change on migration (Goal 13 - combatting climate change, and specifically, Targets 13.1 and 13.2 supporting national and local capacities to prepare for and respond to climate change impacts).

1. UNU's institutes are deeply engaged in developing *the role of civil society in migration governance*, in particular, through the channel provided by the states-led Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD). UNU provides analytical support and inputs.

UNU's Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM) commissioned a policy report entitled "Global Migration Governance after a Decade of Change: Some Thoughts on the Role of Civil Society" (UNU-GCM 2017). This report, which follows on a previous report published in 2014<sup>2</sup>, explores the current and historical role of civil society in the international migration policymaking. In particular, it traces civil society activities in the migration and development policy-making space since the 1990's,

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<sup>2</sup> Tendayi Bloom (2014) 'Global migration governance: A decade of change?', UNU-GCM Policy Report 02/07.

using key international agreements and convenings as landmarks in the policy landscape. The report gives special attention to the 2006 and 2013 High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development, as well as the forum for civil society inputs in GFMD processes. It looks to developments in the coming years – in particular, the process towards the adoption of Global Compacts on migration and refugees and the implementation of migrant-related commitments in the 2030 agenda – and offers concrete suggestions for how civil society can continue to engage with these processes and the work that will follow. For example, it suggests that migration policy implementation must be accompanied by productive dialogue that is backed up by multi-level, cross-sectoral engagement and support.

In parallel, the Migration and Development Research Cluster at the United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology ([UNU-MERIT](#)) is co-developing the second edition of the [MADE Movement Report](#) developing indicators to measure progress on civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action for the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) commissioned by the International Catholic Migration Commission (2016-2017). This action plan contributes directly to civil society coordination on inputs to the GFMD.

2. To add to UNU's extensive body of work in migration and development research from across UNU institutes,<sup>1</sup> the team at UNU-MERIT also regularly delivers *capacity building projects and training for policy makers to address the linkages between migration and sustainable development*. These projects include: the Migration Management Diploma Programme ([MMDP](#)) which has trained 75 migration professionals, of whom 71 were from a developing country and 20 were female, since its foundation in 2013; the 'Strengthening Migration Management Authorities in Kosovo' ([MIMAK](#)) project (2016-2018), designed to improve migration management and respond to irregular migration by strengthening the capacities of the relevant authorities in Kosovo; and the 'Support to Implementation of the Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan' ([MOBILAZE](#)) project, implemented with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), which focuses on strengthening the capacity of the government of Azerbaijan to develop and implement its national migration policy.

Through capacity building efforts and supporting research products, UNU provides technical expertise to regional, national, and local approaches - promoting comprehensive and coherent policymaking.

3. On the contributions of environmental factors to migration in the context of climate change, UNU's Institute for Environment and Human Security ([UNU-EHS](#)) is particularly engaged in research and policy processes on environment-related migration and disaster displacement. UNU-EHS regularly contributes to meetings of UNFCCC bodies and serves on the Advisory Committee of the states-led [Platform on Disaster Displacement](#) (PDD).

UNU-EHS has recently published a series of reports and articles from two main projects: the IOM-led 'Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) and the (PCCM)<sup>ii</sup> project. The goal of the PCCM project, for example, is to increase the protection of Pacific Islanders who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change displacement. The purpose of the project is to improve the capacity of Pacific Island countries to better plan and manage the impacts of climate change on migration. In the 'target countries' of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru the PCCM Project will have national actions aimed at institutional strengthening through developing migration indicators and sharing of information on labour migration; gathering data on community attitudes to climate change induced migration; assisting with the development of climate change responses and national action strategies to mitigate the risk of

displacement; and enhancing national capacity to effectively participate in regional, bilateral and global schemes on labour migration.

## B. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

In 2017, UNU Rector and UN Under-Secretary-General Dr. David M. Malone serves as the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), the UN interagency group which coordinates approaches to international migration. Rector Malone will present a summary of the outcomes of the annual strategic retreat of the GMG at the annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration on 17 February 2017. UNU is committed to supporting the intergovernmental process towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. UNU will engage, in particular, by providing evidence and good practices, facilitating contributions by civil society and academia, creating opportunities for exchange of experiences among academic and different stakeholders, and providing technical expertise offered by the UNU Migration Network. UNU will continue to bridge its academic networks into the follow-up process to the 19 September Summit, in particular, through joint products and practical guidance developed by the Working Groups and Task Forces of the GMG.

The UNU Office in New York (UNU-ONY), with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), will collaborate with the UNU Migration network to host series of four academic seminars in 2017. These seminars will cover issues such as: environment and climate change, countering xenophobia and marginalization of migrants, fostering inclusion of migrants and refugees in urban areas; and innovations in migration and development research.

These academic seminars will serve to provide critical perspectives, best practices and key research findings for Member State delegations in New York. Furthermore, the series will help establish strong partnerships between researchers and civil society, UN agencies and private sector partners.

In addition, UNU's Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM), based in Barcelona, will commission a baseline report on 'Addressing Xenophobia: Representations of Migrants in the Media' in Spring 2017. A working draft of this report will be tabled at an international conference to be held at the Bellagio Rockefeller Centre in October 2017. The conference will serve to refine the findings of the report, which will be published in early 2018. This report will bolster the goals of the Together campaign and will support work underway to further the implementation of a key focus area of the New York Declaration.

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### ANNEX 1: Select UNU Publications and activities, 2016-17

<sup>i</sup> Select examples, Migration and Development:

- van Houte, Marieke, Melissa Siegel & Tine Davids, 2016, Deconstructing the meanings of and motivations for return: an Afghan case study, *Comparative Migration Studies*, 4: 21. [More information](#)
- Kuschminder, Katherine, 2016, Strong ties, weak ties: Exploring the role of networks in domestic worker migration from Ethiopia to the Middle East, *Asian Pacific and Migration Journal*, 25(4): 401-421, [More information](#)
- Constant, Amelie & Klaus F. Zimmermann, 2016, Diaspora Economics: New Perspectives, *International Journal of Manpower*, Vol. 37, No. 7, pp. 1110-1135
- H2020 research consortium exploring "The Role of European Mobility and its Impacts in Narratives, Debates and EU Reforms" (REMINDER) (2017-2019) [More information](#).

- Irregular Migrants' Decision Making Factors in Transit (2015-2016) for the Collaborative Research Programme of the Australian National University and the Australian Department of Immigration and Border and Protection's Irregular Migration Research Programme. [More information.](#)
- Preparation of the Movement Report assessing progress on civil society's 5-year 8-point Plan of Action for the Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE) commissioned by the International Catholic Migration Commission (2015-2016). [More information.](#)
- A dashboard of indicators to measure Policy Coherence for Migration and Development (2014-2017). [More information.](#)
- Integration policies: Who benefits? The development and use of indicators in integration debates (part of MIPEX) [More information.](#)

Select examples, globalization, culture and mobility:

- Gebrewold, Belachew and Bloom, Tendayi (eds) (2016) *Understanding Migrant Decisions: From Sub-Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean Region*. London: Ashgate.
- Tonkiss, Katherine and Bloom, Tendayi, eds., (2016). 'Theorising noncitizenship'. Special Issue in *Citizenship Studies*, 19(8), 837-965
- Amrith, Megha 'Migration and Urbanization in Contemporary Asia: Addressing Inequalities, Promoting Sustainability', in Caprotti, F. and Li, Y. (eds) *Sustainable Cities in Asia*, Routledge
- Bello, Valeria (2016) "The securitisation of migration in the EU: Debates since 9/11" *Global Affairs*, Online First 17th May 2016.
- Bello, Valeria (2016) 'How to Walk the Talk to End Forced Migration'. *Global Policy*
- Bloom, Tendayi, (2016). The business of noncitizenship. *Citizenship Studies*, 19(8), 892-906
- Tonkiss, Katherine and Bloom, Tendayi, (2016). Theorising noncitizenship: concepts, debates and challenges. *Citizenship Studies*, 19(8), 837-852
- Amrith, Megha and Amrith, Sunil 'Migration, Health and Inequality in Asia', *Development and Change*, Forum July 2016, 47 (4), pp. 840-860.
- Amrith, Megha (2016) 'Tentative friendships among low-income migrants in São Paulo's commercial districts', *Urban Studies*, Online First, 23rd February 2016

<sup>ii</sup> Select examples, environment and climate change:

- Milan, Andrea, Oakes, Robert and Campbell, Jillian (2016). Tuvalu: Climate Change and Migration: Relationships Between Household Vulnerability, Human Mobility and Climate Change. UNU-EHS. <https://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:5856>
- Campbell, Jillian, Oakes, Robert and Milan, Andrea (2016). Nauru: Climate Change and Migration - Relationships Between Household Vulnerability, Human Mobility and Climate Change. UNU-EHS. <https://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:5902>
- Oakes, Robert, Milan, Andrea and Campbell, Jillian (2016). Kiribati: Climate Change and Migration - Relationships Between Household Vulnerability, Human Mobility and Climate Change. UNU-EHS. <https://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:5903>
- Gemenne, Francois, Blocher, Julia (2016). How Can Migration Support Adaptation? Different Options to Test the Nexus. Migration, Environmental and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) Working Paper Series 1/2016. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/migration-environment-and-climate-change-working-paper-series-no-12016>
- Milan, Andrea, Melde, Susanne, Cascone, Noemi, Schindler, Markus and Warner, Koko (2015). When do household benefit from migration? Insights from vulnerable environments in Haiti. Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (MECLEP): Policy Brief Series. International Organization for Migration. [Available through IOM.](#)
- Corendea, Cosmin, Bello, Valeria and Bryar, Timothy (2015). Pacific research project: Promoting human security and minimizing conflict associated with forced migration in the Pacific region. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNU-GCM, UNU-EHS. <https://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:3171>
- Corendea, Cosmin, *Legal Protection of the Sinking Islands Refugees*, (Lake Mary: Vandeplass Publishing, 2016).
- Migration, Risk Management and Climate Change: Evidence and Policy Responses, ed. Milan, Andrea, Schraven, Benjamin, Warner, Koko and Cascone, Noemi (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2016). [www.springer.com/us/book/9783319429205](http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319429205)

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- DiGregorio, Michael, Phong, Tran Van Giai, Garschagen, Matthias and Tyler, Stephen, A political economy of urbanisation and climate risk in Vietnam, (London: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 2016). [www.pubs.iied.org/10790IIED.html](http://www.pubs.iied.org/10790IIED.html)