

GLOBAL HEARING on Refugees and Migration

4-5 June 2012

The Hague,

The Netherlands

REPORT



The Hague Process
on Refugees and Migration





Participants of the Global Hearing, The Peace Palace, The Hague

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Working group session on theme 5, *The Impact of Environmental Degradation*, The Peace Palace, The Hague

PREAMBLE

On 4 and 5 June 2012 over 200 people came together at The Hague Process Global Hearing on Refugees and Migration in The Hague, The Netherlands, to discuss pressing issues in refugee and migration policy. They came from over 60 different states and from all continents.

National, regional and local government, business, the private sector, trade unions, cities, international organizations, NGOs, civil society,

faith groups, academia, and the media were all represented. In plenary sessions and working groups, the participants identified challenges, discussed innovative solutions, and considered the full range of relevant actors and perspectives, focusing on five key themes: the impact of future demographic changes related to labour migration and refugees; political and social changes; the impact of the global economy; the urbanization of displaced people; and the impact of environmental and climate change on human mobility. The discussions

encompassed internal and international migration and included asylum seekers, refugees, and internally displaced persons.

Participants confirmed the belief that among a proliferation of seminars, conferences, and events on migration and related issues, The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration maintained and reinforced its unique value at this meeting. It engaged stakeholders who rarely speak directly to one another; it deliberately went beyond traditional boundaries in considering the full range of people on the move around the world; it included voices from the North and South and provided a unique forum for honest and frank exchange which gives The Hague Process the legitimacy to propose an updated agenda on migration and refugees.

What follows is a report of the Global Hearing 2012. The first part of the report consists of a preamble and summary of the Matrix. This is followed by the Matrix itself which consists of five tables corresponding to the five themes of the Hearing with the respective action points identified by the participants. The third part of the report contains a narrative of the ten key issues raised during the Hearing with added commentaries and a final conclusion.

“We need to find ways to step up our efforts to build understanding and alliances so we can find fair and sustainable solutions to the challenge and opportunities of migration and refugees. Your work and The Hague Process continues to be central to our hopes of achieving this goal.”

*Message to the
Global Hearing from
former UN Secretary
General, Kofi Annan*

SUMMARY OF THE MATRIX

During the course of the Global Hearing, various working groups held discussions on the five themes outlined below. Throughout the discussions, there was a marked emphasis on the need to change negative attitudes present in the wider public towards migrants and refugees. It also became apparent that there is a need for further research in specific subject areas in order to better inform the development of legislation and policies related to migration and refugee issues. The following summary represents a selection of what was discussed and is intended to serve as a general overview of action points which necessarily require further elaboration.

1

Demographic changes related to labour migration and refugees: the discussion focused primarily on mechanisms for matching labour needs to migrants' skills. Participants expressed their hope to facilitate the organization of forums for dialogue between migrants, refugees and governments in order to distinguish each stakeholder's needs. Furthermore, participants called for governments to set up pilot projects to gain experience and expertise in labour migration by bringing together representatives of business and cities. Participants also noted a need to create an adequate labour force information system on labour demand.

2

Political and social changes: participants noted the need to improve the responsiveness of countries in implementing migration policies. Some suggestions to achieve this goal include replicating effective best practices in relation to the prevention of human trafficking and the prostitution of young migrants and advocating for the effective implementation of the right of child migrants to enjoy a family life. Additionally, there was a call to engage with governments and regional organizations to ensure that they take into account the migrant and refugee agenda by introducing the subject of migration to the agendas of G8 and G20.

3

The impact of the global economy: participants stressed that there is a need to devise ways of improving the legal framework for migrant labour management such as selecting and promoting best practices in various regions related to migrant's rights, and examining gaps in national laws to propose standardized rights for short-term cross-border labour transfers. In order to engage the private sector in creating opportunities for migrants and refugees, participants proposed identifying sectors which rely on migrant workers, examining case studies of successful training and employment for refugees and setting up micro-entrepreneurship programs.

4

The urbanization of displaced people: the discussion centred on identifying best practices in mentoring refugees and migrants within an urban context. Participants suggested reviewing and comparing manuals on city services available to migrants and refugees and developing mechanisms to ensure that they participate in the policy making process. Furthermore, it was noted that there is a need for raising funds for services aimed at migrants and refugees. Participants expressed their conviction in wanting to support cities to gain further autonomy in developing legislation in areas that affect refugees and migrants.

5

The impact of environmental degradation and climate change on human mobility: participants called for an improvement of the protection mechanisms for persons displaced as a result of climate change by filling gaps in legislation. Furthermore, the need for new frameworks for dialogue on climate change and migration was highlighted. Participants suggested introducing courses on the subject of climate change at various educational institutions with a view to raising awareness and knowledge on the subject.

Theme 1: Impact of Future Demographic Changes Related to Labour Migration and Refugees

Priorities	Actors	Actions
A. Address the general negative public perception/opinion of refugees and migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media channels Education Ministries Civil society Schools /Institutes Leaders of migrant & refugee communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use documentaries/blogs/social media to showcase the contribution of migrants and refugees to the welfare of society Increase levels of socialization with migrants such as sporting and cultural events Offer local language classes to migrants and refugees Allow greater participation of migrants and refugees in political and public debates
B. Re-think migration patterns: the rise of South-South migration and North-South migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy makers Civil society Private sector Migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask governments to set up pilot projects to gain expertise in (temporary) labour migration by bringing together representatives of business and civil society Push for more openness and flexibility in labour migration by taking inspiration from good practices (e.g. UK MAC, Chile's immigration law, Canadian point system) Organize forums for dialogue between migrants, refugees and governments in order to clearly distinguish between different needs of migrants
C. Improve coordination between business, government and civil society, to link the demand and supply for labour migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruiters Researchers Private sector Employer organizations Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create economic opportunities for migrants and refugees in areas that are in need of further economic development Use existing research on policy to create adequate labour force information systems on labour demand Establish collaborations between local authorities and businesses to provide training and sponsorship for migrants and refugees
D. Increase the social and economic mobility of migrants and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Civil society Media channels Private sector Health sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce transaction costs for remittances Collaborate with media channels to deliver more factual information on challenges and opportunities for refugees and migrants Construct indicators for monitoring the compliance of governments with commitments to social and economic rights of migrants and refugees Encourage governments to provide affordable and efficient ways for people to cross borders as a legal and safe alternative to smugglers Facilitate access to basic services for migrants and refugees, especially healthcare
E. Mobilize further political support and implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR Government IOM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a new worldwide cooperation of individual countries and the UNHCR to accelerate the process of granting refugee status Develop an international responsibility-sharing system for distributing recognized refugees across accepting countries

Theme 2: Political and Social Changes

2

Priorities	Actors	Actions
A. Improve the responsiveness of countries in implementing migration policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Law-enforcement bodies • Youth organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the enforcement of international laws and hold countries accountable for any harmful actions and policies towards migrants and refugees • Increase pressure on countries of asylum and countries of origin to respect refugee rights, including rights to nationality • Replicating effective best practices in relation to the prevention of human trafficking and the prostitution of young migrants • Advocate for the effective implementation of the right of child migrants to enjoy a family life
B. Increase the involvement of governments and regional organizations in implementing practical tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Relevant UN bodies • Regional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize international solidarity for refugees in protracted refugee situations, including the effective implementation of all forms of durable solutions • Support countries that receive a mass influx of refugees by increased financial burden-sharing and increased third-country resettlement • Collaborate with national Human Rights commissions to ensure their work takes into account the migrant and refugee agenda
C. Emend the discourse on migration and change negative perceptions on migrants and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Human Rights institutions • Media channels • Youth organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for refugees and migrants in order to counter-act negative perceptions through (social) media channels • Introduce the subject of migration on the agendas of G8 and G20 • Target human rights organizations, youth and media to engage directly with migrants and refugees in order to expose them to the realities of migration
D. Modernize attitudes and behaviours towards migrants and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Local authorities • Migrant and refugee communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the sense of inclusive citizenship through political participation and a contribution to the welfare system • Conduct outreach programs in areas with a high concentration of refugees and migrants (language training, provide information on housing and health-care services) • Facilitate the self-organization of events/programs for migrants and refugees to support each other in the community in pursuing economic and social opportunities

Theme 3: The Impact of the Global Economy

Priorities	Actors	Actions
A. Improve the legal framework for migrant labour management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Researchers • Private sector • Multilateral organizations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regarding bilateral agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and compare existing agreements between countries related to labour migration • Select best practices in various regions related to migrants rights in order to promote these models • Propose standardized rights and model agreement between countries 2. Regarding short-term cross-border labour transfers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine gaps in national laws and propose standardized rights • Introduce model agreements
B. Engage the private sector in creating opportunities for migrants and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International organizations (e.g.: WEF, ICC, World Bank, ILO, IOM) • Academics • Researchers • Private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine case studies of successful training and employment of refugees • Implement a sectoral approach to create professional opportunities for refugees and migrants • Create (formal) alliances between the private sector and civil society organizations to foster closer collaboration in providing opportunities for migrants and refugees, including setting up clear communications/PR structures • Set up micro-entrepreneurship programs for refugees and migrants
C. Improve the mechanisms to identify and match demand for skills between sectors in countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Maritime Organization (IMO) • Civil society • Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an international database with information on migrants' skills and background, as well as demand in each sector and country • Identify sectors such as IT, maritime, health, hospitality, fisheries which benefit from and rely on migrant workers² • Examine the applicability of the maritime sector's model to other sectors where the acquisition of new skills in the host country can be transferred for the benefit of the sending country (e.g.: IT, nursing, hospitality) • Develop a system that allows for students to stay in the country where they obtained their qualifications

² Such as India/Denmark and South Africa/UK

Theme 4: The Urbanization of Displaced People: Rural-Urban Contexts

4

Priorities	Actors	Actions
A. Enable cities in their role as the centre of gravity for migrants and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant cities the ability to raise funds for services aimed at migrants and refugees • Foster growth of medium sized cities to ease the stress and tension of mega cities; make smaller cities more attractive to migrants and refugees
B. Coordinate legislation and services at regional, national and local levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • Legislators • Local authorities • Researchers • Regional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and compare manuals on city services for migrants and refugees • Review legislation to ensure laws are more conducive to action at the local level • Create visible "one-stop" shopping points for services catering for migrants and refugees • Consult all stakeholders and develop legislation in cooperation with local governments
C. Deepen the integration and participation of migrants and refugees in society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers • Human Rights bodies • Media channels • Local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify best practices in mentoring of refugees and migrants within an urban context • Use social media to share inspiring experiences of migrants and refugees to help improve public perceptions • Help Human Rights bodies to advocate for migrant and refugee communities and their rights • Develop mechanisms to ensure that migrant groups participate in policy making in cities alongside other city dwellers

Theme 5: The Impact of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change on Human Mobility

Priorities	Actors	Actions
A. Improve the protection mechanisms for displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government • UNHCR • Researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen protection structures to include people displaced by environmental disasters • Explore the social impact of environmental degradation and the gaps in coping mechanisms for people displaced by such events • Make an inventory of existing legal provisions so as to propose new legislation to cover gaps in protection for persons displaced as a result of climate change
B. Anticipate and manage effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media channels • National and local governments • Civil society • Regional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonize the process of developing domestic legislation on natural disasters and climate change displacement • Search for solutions for vulnerable communities in risk situations such as water shortage, flooding, coastal settings • Plan information campaigns to promote early warning systems • Create a radio/social networking tool for immediate responses to the sudden onset of disaster
C. Set-up new frameworks for dialogue on climate change and migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional organizations • Private sector • Local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a forum of cities at threat of climate change • Integrate climate change related migration into the economic integration agenda of regional organizations
D. Emend the discourse on migration and climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media channels • Universities • Academics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize language to describe climate change-related migration • Use all existing media channels to inform decision makers about the relationship between climate change, environmental degradation, migration and refugees • Introduce the subject of climate change in courses on refugee law and migration at universities and other education channels



Panel discussion during a plenary session of the Global Hearing, The Peace Palace, The Hague.

From left to right:

Markus Jaeger (Deputy to the Director, Office for the Commissioner, Council of Europe),

Bandana Pattanaik (Director, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women)

Jeff Crisp (Head Policy Development and Evaluation Service, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, representing Antonio Guterres, UNHCR)

Stefano Manservigi (Director General, European Commission for Home Affairs)

Robert Guest (Business Editor, The Economist)

Doris Magsaysay Ho (President and Chief Executive Officer, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation)

David Arkless (President of Global Corporate and Government Affairs, Manpower Group)

Ian Goldin (Director, Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford)

NARRATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Since 2002, the context in which migration takes place has altered substantially. In spite of a global financial crisis, economic downturn and rising unemployment in many developed countries, migration has continued to grow. It is estimated that there are now some 214 million migrants in the world, of whom 104.4 million are economically active (Source: *The International Organization for Migration*). Meanwhile, the UNHCR calculates that there are more than 27 million IDP's and over 15 million refugees (Source: *The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*). Furthermore, environmental changes, armed conflict, and structural differences between countries are expected to increase population movements further in the next decades.

Beyond marking the 10th anniversary of the 'Declaration of The Hague', a number of reasons were identified as to why the meeting was timely, and why a new roadmap on migration and refugees was now required. Participants felt that while significant progress had been made since the first Hearing held in 2002 to prepare the 'Declaration of The Hague', many of the problems that were identified ten years ago are still present and new challenges certainly lie ahead. Further factors that have emerged in the last decade contributed to the need for a second Global Hearing at this present time in order to address the new face of the challenges ahead:

1. The growth of an interdependent global system of mobility

lead to the sense that the time was right, indeed that there was real urgency, to mainstream and prioritise mobility issues to the highest levels of governance and to provide a global framework for organising migration movements and sustainable solutions for refugees and IDP's. New stakeholders, in particular business and cities, are becoming more assertive in the debate. Governments are beginning to consult more widely with non-state actors on migration and refugee issues.

2. The growing complexity of migration and displacement flows

over the last decade has meant that the number and global reach of international migrants has expanded and now includes significant new patterns of migration. South-South migration is increasing in scale; North-South migration is growing, particularly from Europe as well as migration to China and Latin America. Although African migration is at present largely intra-African, Sub-Saharan Africa is likely to be the principle source of new outward migration in the years to come.

3. The scale of migration seems set to increase significantly in the near future in response to steepening demographic gradients, persistent economic and social disparities, conflict and poor governance (A recent study from Gallup found that 700 million adults world-wide stated that they would like to move permanently to another country). There is a broad consensus that more people will also be impelled to leave their homes as a result of the effects of environmental and climate change. More migrants will also be needed, as one way to respond to the demographic crisis in many industrialized countries, to fill labour market gaps and to promote economic growth.

4. The policy and public mood towards migration is often more negative than it was ten years ago, despite our best efforts. An anti-immigration sentiment is at large across Europe; often stoked by extreme political parties, security concerns related to the prevention of terrorism and inconsistent media coverage. In response, policy makers have given priority and substantial resources towards attempts to reduce migration flows via stronger border controls and restrictive immigration policies. Despite the fact that migration through history has overwhelmingly been a positive force, the perception today is negative, and many times perceptions can be as powerful as realities. One of our challenges is to address how to correct these perceptions.

TEN KEY AREAS AND ADDED COMMENTARY

The many proposals identified during the two days of the Hearing and in the papers prepared in advance have been condensed into a strategy for action with practical solutions in 10 key areas. In presenting these proposals, an attempt has been made to steer a course between too high a level of abstraction, and not becoming too distracted by detailed policy recommendations. The commentary that accompanies each of the 10 key areas in this report contains many of the lessons learned and recommendations identified during our discussions.



CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Again and again we have heard that perceptions of migrants and refugees tend to be negative – especially in Europe but increasingly in other regions too. Perceptions vary across regions, between social classes, and between different layers of government. Often migrants are seen as a threat to be overcome or a problem to be solved, rather than as exceptional people who can be entrepreneurs and innovators. We need to understand why these different perceptions exist, and how to respond to them. Among the proposals to address these misperceptions, we have heard about the importance of youth advocacy, information campaigns, public education, and more responsible media coverage, as well as tools to balance different interests.

COMMENTARY

We have seen with much regret the growth in recent years of more negative attitudes towards migrants in all categories across many destination countries throughout the world. While ‘skilled’ migrants are generally more welcomed than ‘unskilled’ migrants, these categories are not clearly defined. Migration should today rather be considered as simply one aspect of an increasingly mobile world rather than as a static and independent phenomenon. We believe strongly that it is the responsibility of all governments and national authorities to promote positive, honest and factual discourse on migration and refugee issues and to strengthen and develop national and local dialogue initiatives so as to create a more serene climate of public opinion. Civic education, inter-community activities, factual reviews of various aspects of migration can all be helpful. It is also time for the corporate sector to take a more active role. There is considerable potential in the use of social networking media which at present is underused in this regard. Responsible media coverage is of course essential and the possibilities of new technology can be more thoroughly exploited.

PROMOTING OBJECTIVE DEBATE

Numerous speakers at this meeting have lamented the shrinking space for objective debate on migration and refugee issues. Perspectives on migration appear to be increasingly polarized, between those who advocate for migrants' rights and those who pose migration as a threat. Without objective debate on the pros and cons as well as benefits and costs of migration, it will be difficult to change perceptions or influence sensible policy. What is needed is more evidence, education and training, greater tolerance for opposing views, and forums that allow these views to be aired, tested, and debated.

COMMENTARY

We see migration as a process to manage not a problem to be solved but we recognize that managing migration depends on good data and analysis, objective debates that include business and cities, and sensitivity to the fact that migration can, but does not always, help countries. The issue needs to be discussed at the national, regional and global forums and also in terms of sectors across high, middle and low levels not only with a view to finding appropriate solutions but also to ensure that the issues can be examined on a basis of fact and not misconception. It should be made easier for accurate information to be made available in each country about the state of immigration in that country. Academia has a key role to play here in providing commentary and information based on the latest research. More attention should be focused on explaining the ways in which irregular migration occurs since the majority of irregular migrants have entered a country legally but have an irregular status due to various reasons; including the complexity and rigidity of national regulations on permission to visit, to stay and to work. Social media should be used at both national and international level to influence public opinion and to develop a more positive attitude towards global migration.

MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR MIGRATION

A constant theme at this meeting has been that migrants and refugees can drive economic growth, that business and the private sector recognize this, but that all too often other stakeholders do not. Without overlooking protection and assistance needs, we need to make the case that migration has important labour market impacts, and develop policies that encourage these impacts.

COMMENTARY

We believe that there is a need for further regulation of the global labour market to ensure a better match between skills and jobs and to avoid exploitation of mobile workers. Even in the current difficult economic times, employers often report difficulties in filling positions because of lack of talent or skills. The existing global governance structure is not well implemented and needs to be re-vamped to respond more effectively to needs. In this context, business leaders need to take a more active role in the migration debate. The private sector can take a pro-active role in proposing solutions to labour shortages, ensuring that there are adequate safeguards and codes of conduct in place, using authorized recruitment agencies and developing new initiatives to improve certification and the global recognition of skills and qualifications.

Employer organizations including those representing SME's, trade unions, chambers of commerce should put migration on their agendas and provide accurate data and bring the debate to policy makers and the general public so as to explain the role of migration in meeting labour market needs. Business can also take the initiative to engage with diaspora groups, in particular to promote the development of small enterprises such as developing innovative schemes for the investment of remittances.

AN URBAN OPPORTUNITY

We have heard that the majority of migrants live in cities, that the effects of climate change are likely to accelerate urbanization, and that a significant proportion of refugees and IDPs also live in urban centres. Yet municipalities are not yet convincingly engaged in migration management or policy-making. Better coordination is needed between the national and urban levels in policy-making.

A new generation of Mayors and other urban leaders need to be familiarized with the opportunities and challenges of migration to mainstream migration and migrants into urban policies, for example around health and education. Cities also need to open doors for small scale livelihood opportunities for migrants.

COMMENTARY

At the national level the problems of big cities are often overlooked and they may lack the resources they need to develop the inclusive policies which maximize the opportunities presented by diverse and dynamic populations. Furthermore, with increasing urbanization across the globe, cities will be required to increase their efforts to integrate migrants and it is there that the success or failure of migration policies will be decided.

Governments should recognize that substantial investment is needed in education and training to ensure that cities are able to provide the skills and training that meet the needs of the local labour market. This will require efficient coordination between different levels of government. Cities should ensure that business and civic society, including representatives of migrant communities, are closely involved in the coordination and training processes, all within a framework of respect for human rights and the principles of applicable international treaties. Furthermore, 16 of the largest cities in the world are seaports and therefore vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels. Knowledge about the implications of climate change needs to be strengthened and existing legal provisions reviewed to ensure that impacts on migrants are covered.

FILLING PROTECTION GAPS

We have identified a range of situations where migrants and refugees remain in vulnerable and insecure situations, whether as IDPs, protracted refugees, female migrant workers, trafficked or irregular migrants. We have also heard about the prospects for new vulnerabilities associated with migration arising from the effects of climate change. We have heard of the need to improve the knowledge base, develop consistent terminology, apply existing human rights, refugee law and labour law more robustly, develop new national laws and policies, engage National Human Rights Institutions, develop regional frameworks for protection and strengthen national capacities.

COMMENTARY

While the refugee protection regime is robust, there are a number of long-standing conflicts which are continuing e.g. Somalia, Sudan and new ones arising e.g. Libya, Syria. Developing countries are leading the way in opening their borders to refugees in such situations but long-term solutions are needed requiring additional resources and involving additional stakeholders including the private sector. In these circumstances, a new global agreement is needed – adding to the Geneva Conventions – an international burden-sharing system implemented by the UNHCR to deal swiftly with applications for asylum wherever they arise and re-settle those given refugee status in the countries participating in the agreement. In addition, existing protection arrangements do not provide adequately for forced migration resulting from climate change. There is an urgent need to develop a specific protection regime and to establish a global governance structure to manage pending situations.

SUSTAINABILITY

We have heard that migration policy-making is often short-term and trapped in electoral cycles. Yet what is needed is long-term policy planning, especially in response to the prospects of climate change, significant demographic changes, and to ensure economic growth with social cohesion. To be sustainable, migration and refugee policy must take a comprehensive approach to ensure coordination of the various policy areas with which they interact: notably economic, political, social, development and foreign affairs. Policy-making around migration needs to be consistent and predictable in order to maintain public confidence and provide the framework for longer-term planning.

COMMENTARY

Migration must be seen as a global resource which should be managed to ensure sustainability. Furthermore, sustainability can only be achieved by long-term planning. At present, the general fear of uncontrolled migration movements prevents planning and rational discussion of their impacts. The implications of environmental and climate change need also to be mainstreamed into policy approaches at international, national and regional levels. At the same time the prevalence and spread of armed conflict, internal displacement and long-term refugee situations requires a long-term commitment by the international community at the political level to prevent the growth of such situations and finding sustainable solutions for those displaced. A long-term approach, taking into account 'green' issues and involving governments, the business sector and other stakeholders as well as cooperation between sending and receiving countries, would ensure the best use of available manpower and respect for high standards and human rights.

LEADERSHIP

Another theme that has recurred during our discussions is a lack of leadership on migration. There is still a fragmented approach within the UN even though the Global Migration Group continues its work in Geneva, the UN Secretariat is organizing a second High Level Dialogue on migration in 2013 and the IOM holds regular international dialogues.

Nevertheless, many governments use the subject of migration for short-term political gains and risk fuelling populist movements. There is no obvious representative for the business sector in discussions around migration. At all levels, we need to inspire leadership on migration and its opportunities.

COMMENTARY

One of the key things which is lacking in discussions on migration and refugee issues today is vision and coordinated leadership. Approaches to migration and refugee policies are fragmented. At the global level the UNHCR provides focus and direction for refugees and displaced persons but there is no specialized agency for migrants. In the light of rapidly changing migration patterns and impacts, we believe that it is high time that migration and refugee issues are given greater priority via a more permanent structure at the global level and in existing high level forums such as the G8 and G20 discussions and the World Economic Forum. The interaction between the global economy, political, social and climate change and migration and refugee movements is increasingly connected. This necessitates regular dialogue between world leaders, business leaders, trade unions, civic society and cities for more effective policy making.

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

We have identified a more significant role for certain stakeholders, including especially local government, city government, diaspora organizations, businesses and the private sector. The role of civil society and migrants themselves should also be enhanced. An important principle to steer our work is to provide a seat at the table and a voice in the discussion for all the relevant stakeholders. Of course different stakeholders have different priorities and constituencies. We have heard for example how businesses are often frustrated by the barriers that governments raise to labour mobility because of national security concerns. Identifying common goals while acknowledging different agendas is a critical element in promoting stakeholder dialogue. And stakeholders – including migrants themselves - need to take responsibility for better migration policies.

COMMENTARY

A large number of stakeholders need to be involved in the dialogue on migration. The voice of cities, of local and regional government and of migrants themselves are often lacking in these discussions and need to be reinforced. Half of migrants today are women and this percentage is likely to increase as the demand for health care and domestic workers increases. Many of those employed in these sectors work for private agencies and individuals and therefore need special help to put their point of view and to negotiate their conditions of work such as via umbrella organizations and NGO's. What is needed is a common working agenda in which all stakeholders can contribute. In recent years the role of the diaspora has been identified as a significant force for maximizing the impact of migration on sending countries but there is an urgent need for a more collaborative approach to governance involving the global, national and local levels.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Many of the interventions have identified the importance of young people – both as migrants, but also as opinion-formers within society. Currently, unemployment among young people is a key problem across the world. Training and education should be priorities for young people, including migrants, to enable them to fulfill their potential and to find work. Child migrants – especially unaccompanied minors - require particular protection. Equally, the energy and innovativeness of youth in society can be mobilized to change perceptions and attitudes, and adopt a longer-term and more positive approach to migration. Technology and social networking provides an important new tool for change in this regard.

COMMENTARY

Young people need to be more actively engaged in the debates on migration and development and on environmental and climate change. Since they will be most affected by long-term changes they should be mobilized and take leadership of policy developments in this area. At the same time, it is well known that most migrants are young adults, and they are particularly important in the high skilled categories. Young migrants who become unemployed are more likely to start up their own enterprises and they are also often candidates for assisted return schemes which enable them to set up businesses in their countries of origin.

Children and young people are also particularly affected by forced migration and faced with protracted refugee situations, growing time in exile and deteriorating conditions in camps. Migration is often seen as an attractive option. However, trafficking and prostitution concerns young people in particular and continues to be a scourge on society. Efforts to prevent and to provide solutions for trafficked young migrants need to be strengthened.

SOLIDARITY

The theme of solidarity has recurred. It has been mentioned in respect of support for governments in the Global South or other affected regions that often bear the brunt of new refugee flows and IDPs. Civil society provides an important focus for solidarity, for example in combating xenophobia and discrimination. Local communities often assist with supporting new migrants, for example with housing and finding work, and even at the individual level the notion of solidarity can make a difference to migrants in need.

COMMENTARY

We strongly believe that there is a need to mobilize international solidarity to deal with protracted refugee situations, including the development of new forms of durable solutions. Sustainable livelihood strategies are needed that promote self reliance among refugees and IDPs and which also benefit the communities which are hosting them. Opportunities for work and residence in third countries are essential, together with greater possibilities for naturalization and citizenship. There is a need for more consistency and coherence in burden sharing and for migrant and refugee reception states to review, update and improve their policies, especially with respect to the protection and status of those concerned. New solutions to existing problems and challenges must be sought and they must be consistent with existing humanitarian provision.

CONCLUSION

This document builds on the original 'Declaration of The Hague' from 2002. We would like this report to promote dialogue by reinforcing existing connections between states and non-state actors and by encouraging new voices in the debate, especially from the private sector and in urban areas. Furthermore, different academic disciplines need to communicate, and business and cities need to

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understand each other's priorities and maintain a closer dialogue. Attitudes need to change in every sector mentioned in this document. Academia need to tackle some of the more difficult issues relating to migration and refugees and not be restricted by political correctness. Governments need to lead by example, and not be led by the media and popular opinion. The media needs to be more responsible in its coverage of migration. Businesses and cities need to factor migration into their strategic

visions. Crucially, we must never forget migrant and refugee voices in this debate.

The Hague Process is working on making specific recommendations to point out shortcomings, contradictions, and inconsistencies in an effort to highlight opportunities and to stimulate change in the field of refugees and migration. We hope this report will inform forthcoming debates and processes at the Global Forum on Migration and Development, during the UN High-Level Dialogue in 2013, at meetings of the G8, G20 and the World Economic Forum as well as at various regional forums. Finally, we would like this report to be a catalyst for creating dialogue that leads to results. We are convinced that action is required, and it is required now. We need to inject a spirit of urgency into the policy debate and to see constructive solutions developed to deal with the new and future challenges.



The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration

The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration (THP Foundation) is an independent global network with the expertise and reach to bring about positive change in the field of migration policy.

Postal address

P.O. Box 13 074
2501 EB The Hague
The Netherlands

Visiting address

Laan van Meerdervoort 70
2517 AN The Hague
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)70 711 89 84 / 87 / 89
Fax: +31 (0)70 711 89 90
Email: info@thehagueprocess.org
www.thehagueprocess.org

Photos

Newton da Costa

Graphic Design

Zinster Web and Graphic Design

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