

**Coordination Meeting on International Migration**  
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I would like to thank the United Nations Population Division for inviting the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration, Peter Sutherland, and for making an advance, unedited version of his report (the “Sutherland Report”) available to this meeting. The report has benefitted from the insights and advice of many experts in this room.

As many of you will know, Peter fell seriously ill last year and he unfortunately cannot be here today and will not be able to contribute to the discussions on a Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. There is no doubt that his voice will be sorely missed.

Even more than originally anticipated, then, his report is a way of inserting his voice and his ideas into the debate.

The report’s central proposition is simple: that international migration will be better handled if it is handled collectively through international cooperation. That working together, rather than detracting from states’ sovereignty, is a way of restoring that sovereignty and for states to regain agency in the face of large scale movements. In fact, the report sees three essential relationships that underpin the governance of migration: 1) between states and migrants, 2) among states, and 3) between states and other stakeholders.

The report conceives the Global Compact on migration as an opportunity to lay down a framework for international cooperation. A framework that sets out ground rules that can guide the efforts of states working together bilaterally, regionally and across regions; working, not just with one another, but also with the many actors that shape migration processes today, including civil society, business and local governments. To get there, the process of formulating the Global Compact must be inclusive and strategic. It should seek to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, including those ministries that often have the last word on migration – ministries of interior – have a stake in its success.

In some areas, the Global Compact may serve as a launching pad for coalitions of actors to come together to drive operational progress around specific issues. In others, it may serve as a starting point for developing new principles, standards and norms.

The report identifies 5 priority areas for such enhanced cooperation:

- 1) Managing crisis-related movements and protecting migrants in vulnerable situations;
- 2) Building opportunities for labour and skills mobility;
- 3) Ensuring orderly migration, including return;
- 4) Fostering migrants’ inclusion and development;
- 5) Strengthening migration governance capacities.

The report also presents 16 recommendations on how progress in those five areas could be made:

- It calls on member states to deliver on their commitment to develop global guiding principles on migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrant children and to start consultations on such guiding principles this year so that the principles could be adopted as part of the Global Compact in 2018.
- It calls for expanding consular cooperation among States and to establish a global network of transit assistance centres to help inform and protect migrants.
- It sees the need to articulate in the Global Compact shared principles for the management of labour and skills mobility, including a clear understanding of the clauses that should be included in labour contracts and migration agreements.
- It asks States to start developing guiding principles on the return and reintegration of migrants: a process that, as it currently stands too often undermines migrants' human rights and relations among states.
- It proposes the establishment of a Financing Facility to support capacity development for the implementation of the migration-related commitments in the 2030 Agenda, and the Global Compact, once agreed.
- It makes the case for an active United Nations role on migration, in particular as regards:
  - Anticipating and responding quickly to movements in a crisis
  - Speaking with one voice to deliver political messages
  - Helping States implement and monitor the SDG commitments on migration
  - Supporting “soft law” development and the formulation of common standards
  - Supporting the development of new, issue-specific treaties where member states show appetite to go in that direction.

While the report makes the case for an ambitious Global Compact, it is also clear about the fact that not everything can wait for, or requires, universal agreement. In many areas, progress can be made by willing coalitions of States, working with one another and with the UN, civil society and the private sector; taking action now and, over time, laying the foundations for broader acceptance and consensus to arise.

Thank you.