

Fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration
Session II: Implementing the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Thursday, 16 February 2017, 10:00-13:00

Remarks as Moderator

William Lacy Swing
Director General
International Organization for Migration

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Introduction

It is an honor and pleasure to be here today, to moderate this discussion on the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

We have all had some time now to reflect on (a) what an accomplishment the NY Declaration is for migrants and refugees; as well as (b) to reflect on the importance and enormity of the challenge that lies ahead of us in the coming 20 months.

For all of us here, a great deal of responsibility rests on our shoulders, on the elaboration of a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This is an ambitious task and also an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of migrants.

Allow me today to briefly elaborate on IOM's vision for a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

IOM's vision is for a world in which migration or human mobility is well-governed, in which migrants move (a) as a matter of real choice and not desperate necessity; and (b) in which the rights of migrants are protected throughout their migratory process; and Migration benefits all of society.

IOM's vision for a Global Compact for Migration is threefold:

1. Place migrants, their rights, needs & capacities, at the heart of our efforts. The Global Compact should offer practical solutions on how to balance the rights of migrants with the State prerogative to manage migration.

2. Address the relationship of migration -- as a quintessential cross-cutting phenomenon -- to development, humanitarian, economic, social, climate change and peace & security agendas;
3. Develop a truly comprehensive approach, ensuring the participation of the numerous stakeholders involved in such an endeavor, including migrants themselves.

It will soon have been five months since the International Organization for Migration joined the UN system. One of the first concrete tasks with which Member States entrusted us as part of the UN family, was to work jointly with the soon- to- be- appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration on the Global Compact.

Member states also called for an inclusive, transparent and state-led process -- one in which everyone has a voice.

Let me reassure you, IOM is ready to take up the role with which MS entrusted us. In an inclusive, transparent and consultative spirit, IOM has already begun preparations:

- Many IOM country offices are already in touch with their host governments on holding national multi-stakeholder consultations.
- IOM is already working with the many RCPs to support their contributions to the process, and will organize a Global RCP meeting in October in Geneva in order to collect and sum up those inputs.
- IOM is already working with several of the Regional Economic Commissions to jointly plan their regional meetings, including with other GMG agencies.
- The IOM International Dialogue on Migration will be scheduled for April in New York and July in Geneva this year and dedicated to supporting the GCM process. We are now considering what topics would be most useful to focus the dialogue on in order to support the Global Compact for Migration process.

The development and negotiations of the Global Compact for Migration is an ambitious undertaking to be accomplished in this short timeframe. To succeed we must join forces and continue strengthening our partnerships.

Let me now introduce our esteemed panelists.

Bio and background panelists

Izumi Nakamitsu

Under the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu of Japan was appointed as Special Adviser ad interim on Follow-up to the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, which was held on 19 September. Ms. Nakamitsu undertakes these duties on a part-time basis in addition to and separate from her responsibilities

as Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator for Crisis Response at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Special Adviser supports the follow-up to the 19 September Summit and coordinate the engagement of United Nations entities, in particular on the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and support Member States in fulfilling their commitments in this regard.

Ms. Nakamitsu has many years of distinguished service within and outside the United Nations system, including as Director, Asia and the Middle East Division and Director, Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Earlier in her career, she held a number of positions in the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field, including in the United Nations Reform Team of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) field operations in the former Yugoslavia, Turkey and northern Iraq.

Ms. Nakamitsu succeeds Karen AbuZayd of the United States, who completed her assignment on 31 October 2016 and will continue to take up this role until the current UN SG appoints his Special Representative for International Migration.

David Malone

On 1 January 2017, United Nations University (UNU) Rector and UN Under-Secretary-General Dr. David M. Malone assumed the role of Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG).

Prior to joining the United Nations University on 1 March 2013, Dr. David Malone served (2008–2013) as President of Canada’s International Development Research Centre, a funding agency that supports policy-relevant research in the developing world.

Dr. Malone had previously served as:

- Canada’s Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council and as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations (1990–1994);
- Director General of the Policy, International Organizations and Global Issues Bureaus within Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT, 1994–1998);
- President of the International Peace Academy (now International Peace Institute), a New York-based independent research and policy development institution (1998–2004);
- DFAIT Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Issues (2004–2006); and as Canada’s High Commissioner to India, and non-resident Ambassador to Bhutan and Nepal (2006–2008).

Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme

Mr. Götz Schmidt-Bremme, Ambassador for the 2017-2018 GFMD at the German Federal Foreign Affairs. Co-chairs with Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General at the Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs.

Colin Raja

A political refugee from Malaysia, Colin Rajah has been an activist for migrants' right for almost 25 years. He is co-founder and Coordinator of the Global Coalition on Migration; the Secretary for Migrants Rights International; the Director of the International Migrant Rights and Global Justice Program at the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; and co-founder and Co-Chair of the People's Global Action on Migration, Development & Human Rights. Rajah has authored numerous publications and delivers lectures worldwide on migration.