

FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Towards the 2018 Migration Conference – Next Steps

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1. It is a pleasure for me to moderate this session where we have distinguished panellists to reflect on progress since the 1994 ICPD Programme of Action, from the 2016 Global Forum on Migration and Development, on the global refugee compact and on the human rights of migrants.
2. In inviting me, John Wilmoth asked me to reflect on the numerous global agendas I have engaged with in my 25 years in the United Nations with a special focus on the 2030 Agenda which is universally recognised for its vision, its precision and action orientation, the quality of the process and the outcome document, the enthusiasm of its embrace by all actors. What worked in this process? And what are the elements which need emulation in shaping the migration compact? Let me briefly reflect on these questions with candour and honesty.
3. The three things I would like to emphasise are:
 - Engagement and ownership
 - Nature and quality of the outcome document
 - Political leadership of the process
4. From the outset an effort was made to obtain multiple views. The online ‘My World Survey’ with over 7 million views, the 26 issue papers prepared by the UN System working as one, the views of mayors and local government, the outcomes of various national and regional meetings, the views of business some of which were routed through the Global Compact, the views of academia and the views of hundreds of civil society organisations found their way – in an ordered and structured way – into the final document. The need for an ordered and structured draft with some agreed elements was thus the starting point of collecting views. The migration compact, in all its phases will need to consider how to do this. I think in all the guiding documents there is enough guidance to write the chapter headings of what will become the global compact. This is the first lesson worthy of emulation.
5. On the nature and quality of the outcome document, it is no secret that the goal/target/indicator set is short on the theology of action but spells out the action that needs to be achieved mostly by 2030. Many outcome documents are long on why we should take action but drastically shorter on the actual, precisely worded, monitorable goals/targets/indicators. What should be the balance in the global migration compact

negotiations? Has enough been said on the reasons for a human migration compact? What specificity can be added to current legislation, including in the 2030 Agenda.

6. The third reason for success of 2030 Agenda was the political leadership exercised by the Ambassadors of Hungary, Kenya, and later Ireland. They were open, transparent, available to all, receptive of multiple views, ready to break with tradition (e.g. negotiating only through the interest group structure), provided negotiating drafts which were a balanced reflection of the views from the floor, and did not express any doctrinaire views. Truly good examples worth emulating.

7. Let me now turn to the panel:
 - John Wilmoth is a friend and Director of the UN Population Division. He will have a leading support role in the conceptualising of the global compact on migration. John, could you reflect on the legislative threads, going as far back as ICPD in 1994, which need to be weaved together and your own views on the three things I mentioned – engagement, nature and quality of the outcome and leadership.

 - Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque from Bangladesh is a migration guru with his years of experience in IOM and his leadership on migration issues. Foreign Secretary, you were host to the 2016 GFMD and it will be great to hear from you about recommendations from Dhaka. What must we capture in the global migration compact?

 - Ninette Kelley is from the UN's Refugee Agency. As you talk about the global refugee compact, do tell us the best way to ensure harmony and synergy between the two compacts which are independent yet need to be closely aligned.

 - Craig from OHCHR will remind us of the principles and guidelines relating to the human rights of migrants. But Craig, these are pretty well known and violated time after time. What would you like to see in the compact which operationalizes these and provides for the human treatment of migrants?