**SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**
Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 15-16 February 2018

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS PROJECT TO THE GLOBAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT[1]

United Nations University

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[1] The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

This document is a contribution to the next Coordination meeting on migration organized by UN DESA on February 15th and 16th and highlights key recent data initiatives and research findings of the United Nations University Migration Network relevant to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants as well as activities to support migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations University Migration Network (UNU-MN) is a research platform across Institutes of UNU that shares expertise on Migration. It has been formed from the premise that migration is a major phenomenon of the twenty-first century, with impact at local and global levels. The UNU Migration Network includes all those UNU Institutes working on the topic of migration with the aim of examining in depth the needs of people who find themselves in the particular situation of migrants from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Migration can enrich societies, but it can also give rise to challenges for both individuals involved in the migration process and governments and non-governmental organizations with stakes in the process. The UNU Migration Network analyses and informs on all these aspects.

As a collaborative initiative, the mission of the UNU Migration Network is to support the sharing of knowledge and research practices; to find links between supposedly different approaches to the study of migration, such as those between environmental causes for migration and economic consequences; to inform policy on matters related to human security; to promote comparative regional perspectives on migration; to consider patterns of internal migration; to jointly influence governments or regions; It also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals and to UNU's role as a policy-influencing body. It further acts as a vehicle for good initiatives and local practice to be discussed more widely. It offers a forum for the development of new synergies between UNU's Institutes in order to both create and spread cutting edge research.

Chairmanship of the GMG

UNU was honoured to chair the UN interagency Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2017 which worked throughout the year in support of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and the intergovernmental consultations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The UNU Office at the UN in New York and the UNU Migration Network jointly convened the 'UNU Panel Series on Academic Thinking on Migration', a series of five panels which brought together leading researchers in the field of migration from around the world to discuss current scholarly thinking on several topics. The summary report is available here. Additionally, UNU is currently preparing a report on "Addressing Xenophobia: Representations of Migration and the Role of the Media".

UNU-MERIT

The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) would like to highlight the following two projects, which are only two examples of our work relevant to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants:

1) **Connecting Diaspora for Development (CD4D)** (commissioned by IOM)

UNU-MERIT and its School of Governance are implementing an impact evaluation of CD4D, a programme operated by the International Organization for Migration Netherlands. As a continuation of IOM's Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) project, the programme links diaspora members with Dutch residency to institutions in their countries of origin. This is done via physical and online assignments with organisations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Sierra Leone and Somalia. The project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The impact evaluation takes place over 3.5 years and aims to identify why diaspora members and host institutions choose to participate in CD4D, what the expectations of diaspora members and host institutions are for the CD4D programme as well as the experiences of host institutions, colleagues, and participants during the programme. The evaluation furthermore focuses on analysing the form and frequency of knowledge transfer and identifying potential barriers. This allows to determine the impact of the CD4D programme on host institutions, colleagues, and participants and to assess the sustainability of the impacts. For this assessment, our research team collects quantitative and qualitative data on three levels (participants, colleagues and host institutions) at three different points in time (before the assignments, directly afterwards and one year later). This involves fieldwork in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

2) **The Economic Impacts of Congolese Refugees in Rwanda: Labour Markets, Social Infrastructure and Aid Effectiveness** (commissioned by IOM)

This research project, uses a mixed-methods approach to study the lives of Congolese refugees in Rwanda and how their protracted presence affects the economic lives of Rwandan citizens. The objective of this research is to add to our understanding of the long-term, economic consequences of the presence of refugee populations on host communities and to create concrete policy advice on how to mitigate the potential negative effects of refugee presence on the economic lives of host. Looking across host communities more and less exposed to three of the largest Congolese refugee camps based on distance, our analysis finds that living nearby a camp (<10km vs >20km) leads to a higher likelihood of an individual being engaged in wage employment compared to subsistence-based agriculture, as well as evidence of greater self-employment in small scale business activities. Likewise, those households nearby the camps had higher measures of asset ownership. In addition, we found no evidence that the refugee camps resulted in worse social cohesion among host communities, reflecting the broad socio-economic integration of the refugees in society and peaceful relations between the two groups.

3) **Capacity Building**

UNU-MERIT delivers various capacity building programmes mainly targeting those working in the field of migration to upgrade their knowledge. First, UNU-MERIT organizes the Migration Management Diploma Programme in Maastricht, the Netherlands, which is a three-month course designed for practitioners and civil servants from developing countries working in the field of migration and/or asylum. Second, UNU-MERIT has been commissioned by the Swiss Development

Cooperation to carry out the Strengthening Migration Management Authorities in Kosovo (MIMAK) project, which aims to improve migration management and discourage irregular migration by strengthening the capacities of the migration management authorities in Kosovo. Third, UNU-MERIT contributes to various capacity-building projects implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) including the ENIGMMA Projects in Georgia and the MOBILAZE Project in Azerbaijan, both aiming at enhancing the respective government's capacities in migration management and policy. UNU-MERIT's main role is in teaching summer and autumn schools targeting students, graduates and young professionals working in state institutions on migration-related issues, in civil society organisations or research institutions.

UNU-WIDER

The United Nations University World – Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) would like to highlight four projects that are of relevance:

1) **WIDER Development Conference on 'Migration and Mobility: New Frontiers for Research and Policy', jointly organized with the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), Accra, Ghana, 5-6 October 2017.**

The conference explored the relationships between migration, mobility, and development, with a focus on South-South movements and the African region. It aimed to bring together new and innovative research from economics and other disciplines to inform broader policy-relevant debate and action, bringing together 221 participants. In organizing the conference, we sought inter alia to provide a forum for international engagement, including with work by 'Southern' researchers in Southern institutions, as well as female and early career scholars. This is reflected in the programme and participation. For further information, including the papers and presentations, see here. For an informal summary, see here.

2) *Migration Governance and Policy in the Global South*, a special section of *International Migration,* edited by Rachel M. Gisselquist and Finn Tarp.

This collection of studies brings together new research dealing with migration governance and policy in the Global South. It focuses on national and sub-national level governance and policy, including consideration both of the impact of diverse governance structures and policies on the well-being of migrants and host communities, and of the policy-making process itself, including the factors influencing that process. In other words, it speaks to policy formulation, implementation, impact, and evaluation. In so doing, it provides insight into diverse governance institutions and domestic policy arrangements, drawing on focused analysis of specific immigration and emigration policies, social programmes, and fiscal policy instruments. Selected papers also explore irregular migration and the role of non-state actors, including study of undocumented migrants and of the provision of social services for migrants by non-governmental organisations. Drawing on collective findings, Gisselquist and Tarp consider implications for ongoing discussions on what constitutes 'well-managed migration policies', including the range of options and criteria for evaluation. In so doing, they explore several key frameworks for consideration of policy options and evaluation, including IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) and the approach of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)'s report on International Migration Policies: Government Views and Priorities. The eight studies included in this collection bring together diverse perspectives drawing on focused consideration of cases from Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Rwanda, Singapore, South

Africa, Syria, and Turkey. It has its origins in a selected subset of papers presented at the UNU-WIDER and ARUA Development Conference on 'Migration and Mobility'. *International Migration* has accepted our proposal for a special section on this topic and individual articles will be published subject to a standard peer review process. All papers are released or forthcoming as WIDER working papers.

3) *Migration and Those Left Behind*, edited collection (proposal under review), edited by Gisselquist and Tarp.

This collection of studies considers the impact of migration in the Global South on those who do not migrate: children, partners, and families left behind; sending communities; and national economies. In so doing, it speaks to continuing research and policy discussions on the 'migration-development nexus' and the role of migrants and migrant networks as development agents. While South-South migration today exceeds South-North migration, much of the related literature has dealt with the latter. In focusing on migration within the Global South, including movements within as well as between countries, the collection offers new targeted consideration of Southern migration in these processes. It also addresses ongoing policy discussion on migration and development, including in relation to SDG Target 10.7. As South-South migration flows grow in comparison to South-North flows, understanding the potential implications of this trend for those left behind is important for migration and development policy at the global and national levels. The seven studies included in this collection draw on consideration of experiences in Ghana, South Africa, Ethiopia, Morocco, Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia. It has its origins in a selected subset of papers presented at the UNU-WIDER and ARUA Development Conference on 'Migration and Mobility'. A proposal for a special issue is currently under review. All papers are released or forthcoming as WIDER working papers.

4) *Forced Migration and Inequality: National- and Local-level Factors Influencing Integration*, special issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, edited by Gisselquist.

Migration has been the subject of increasing political polarization in Western countries. This collaborative project speaks to one of a number of core challenges spotlighted by recent world events: how best to support the integration of forced migrants into culturally-distinct host country economies, societies, and polities. Part of a broader UNU-WIDER research initiative on group-based inequality, this collection overall is structured around focused comparative consideration of the experience of two contemporary refugee populations – Vietnamese and Afghan – and their integration in four Western countries – Canada, Germany, the UK, and the US. Each article in turn focuses on understanding variations in integration across local areas in each country. By thus employing multiple sets of comparisons, and drawing on diverse disciplinary perspectives, the collection aims to gain new leverage on the country- and local-level factors influencing refugee integration.

This collection includes eight case studies, plus an analytical introductory piece. A contributors' workshop was held on 4 October 2017. The *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* accepted our proposal for a special issue submitted via its 2017 call for proposals and publication is forthcoming subject to a standard review process. All papers are released or forthcoming as WIDER working papers.

UNU-GCM

The United Nations University Institute – Globalization, Culture and Mobility ([UNU-GCM)](#) would like to draw attention on the following important research and data recently produced:

Innovative Important Data on Migration and Crises

UNU-GCM has recently developed some important research on "Migration and crises" that has appeared in a special section edited by Valeria Bello and Tendayi Bloom for the journal *International Migration* (Issue 52, April 2017), which has completely reversed previous ideas about the interrelation between economic crisis and migration. An extended statistical multilevel analysis has shown that previous assumptions about the worsening effect of negative economic conjuncture on the perception of migration in receiving societies does not hold true for those countries where people hold intercultural and inclusive values. This means that people do not become more prejudiced towards migrants when there is an economic crisis if they hold intercultural values. In addition, the special section also includes several other interesting research about Inter-culturalism and migration in times of crisis, which can provide several ideas on how to include migrants more positively in their new places.

An Overarching Book on "*International Migration and International Security. Why Prejudice is a Global Security Threat*" (Routledge 2017).

In April 2017, UNU-GCM has published a book that considers some important overlapping aspects through which energy policies, conflicts and socio-economic policies affects migration and the reception of migrants. In particular, through a glance at the past 25 years, the book analyses how specific policies and narratives inherently construct migration as a security threat. This situation as a consequence contributes to both further securitizing the phenomenon of migration and exacerbating certain dynamics of exclusion. Therefore, the book shows how in a vicious cycle both the securitization of migration and the consequent rise of prejudice and other disgraceful exclusionary phenomena, like xenophobia and racism, contribute to making the fortune of different forms of extremism, reason for which the author claims that prejudice, and not migration, is a global security threat. The book make several recommendation on how to reconsider several policies and improve intercultural dialogue in order to govern the phenomenon of migration in more positive and successful ways.