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 "How can we understand how our world is changing and the consequences of such change without meaningful information on population movements?" is the question raised by Australian demographer James Raymer.

Demography holds tools to describe populations and to reveal root and proximate causes of displacement, mobility and migration. . Estimation of the unauthorized migrant populations is one illustration of the contributions of demographic analysis. But our empirical foundation for global analysis is porous. Demographers in the journal, *Science* have written, "The lack of knowledge creates systemic risks and uncertainties and frustrates public debate and the formation of effective policies" (Willekens, Massey, Raymer and Beauchemin 2016: 897).

Results from projects to estimate European migration show: reported data are inconsistent and incomplete; information exchange is warranted; and missing data can be estimated through modelling.   Shared responsibilities regarding refugees and migrants also require indicators of population vulnerabilities, resilience and capacities, placed within the context of current and future population change.

We urge the consideration of several steps, at least four, to strengthen the empirical foundation for the study of migration and displacement:

1. Standardization of data on population stocks and flows in collaboration with the UN Population Division will yield measures of progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and the necessary disaggregation of data by age, gender, migratory status and geography.

2. An international migration survey will provide an understanding of the diverse motivations for movement and can reveal new and emerging patterns.

3. A migration data estimation system will serve as a common resource for policy and research, data validation, information exchange, and as a data source for countries with inadequate statistics.

4. Investment in demographic training programmes throughout the world will build analytic capacity.

Please call upon population scientists to contribute to and participate in this historic moment in the international collaboration concerning migrants and refugees.

Thank you.