Compendium of agreed language on international migration

DOCUMENTATION
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

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DOCUMENTATION
The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the international community with timely and accessible population data and analysis of population trends and development outcomes for all countries and areas of the world. To this end, the Division undertakes regular studies of population size and characteristics and of all three components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration). Founded in 1946, the Population Division provides substantive support on population and development issues to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. It also leads or participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system. The work of the Division also contributes to strengthening the capacity of Member States to monitor population trends and to address current and emerging population issues.

This compendium was prepared by Barbara Kobler and Marilou Vicente, under the supervision of Bela Hovy.

Note

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This publication has been issued without formal editing.

Suggested citation:


Official symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with numbers, as illustrated in the above citation.
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On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. In the Declaration, Member States called for the adoption of two global compacts in 2018. The global compact on refugees, to be developed by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in close consultation with relevant States, will seek to share the burden and the responsibility of hosting refugees and of funding refugee programmes more equitably. The global compact on refugees will be presented by UNHCR to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-third session in 2018. The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which will be negotiated by the General Assembly, will seek to strengthen international cooperation on international migration. The global migration compact, which will deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration, will be presented to the General Assembly for adoption at an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 10 to 11 December 2018.

With a view to supporting the process of intergovernmental negotiations for the global migration compact, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has developed this compendium, which brings together conventions, declarations and resolutions related to international migration that have been adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. This accumulated body of United Nations legislation aims to provide negotiators, policy-makers and the Secretariat with a user-friendly tool to access previously negotiated and agreed upon language (“agreed language”) on international migration and related topics. While, as general rule, the resolutions contained in this compendium have been adopted since 2000, the declarations, conventions and outcomes from international conferences and summits on population and other social and economic issues may have been adopted before. The 24 elements listed in Annex II of the New York Declaration (A/71/1) have guided the selection of relevant materials. Currently, the compendium contains over 200 texts. To ensure that the latest internationally agreed texts are included, this compendium will be updated on a continuous basis.

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPLEMENT

This section provides an overview of the content of the compendium. A more detailed list of documents can be found in Annex 1.

1. Declarations and conventions

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains several provisions that touch upon migration issues. Further, seven conventions and protocols of the United Nations are of direct relevance to international migration. Moreover, the nine core international human rights instruments of the United Nations include provisions that are relevant for international migrants.

2. The General Assembly and its subsidiary organs

The issue of international migration has been addressed in the outcome documents of numerous United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic field. Formal adoption of these outcomes generally takes place in the General Assembly without reference to a Main Committee.

The Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) contains one of the most comprehensive negotiated texts on international migration to date. While earlier international population conferences also considered migration-related issues, international migration and its relation to development has steadily risen in importance on the agenda of the United
Nations since the 1994 ICPD. Subsequent United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic field affirmed the contribution of international migration to development.

After years of deliberating the question of convening an intergovernmental conference on international migration, the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. This marked the first high-level event of the General Assembly dedicated exclusively to this topic. At the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in October 2013, the General Assembly adopted a landmark declaration. The agreement not only acknowledged the contribution of migration in realising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but also recognised that human mobility was a key factor for sustainable development, which would need to be adequately considered in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that would succeed the MDGs. Consequently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015, include one migration-specific target and several migration-related targets. Furthermore, the SDGs call on countries to disaggregate relevant targets by migratory status. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which spells out the means to implement the SDGs, contains several practical proposals to reduce the costs of migration and to strengthen its development outcomes. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is the latest example of the importance the General Assembly attaches to issues pertaining to international migration.

The Second Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with economic and financial issues, considers the issue of international migration and development on a regular basis. The Third Committee of the General Assembly, which focuses on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, reviews topics such as the protection of migrants, violence against women migrant workers, human trafficking and refugees. The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly is the primary forum for the consideration of legal issues. The outcomes of the deliberations from these Committees are adopted as resolutions by the General Assembly, based on a report of the respective Committee.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted various resolutions relating to the human rights of migrants.

3. The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions

The main task of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. In reviewing the implementation of Chapter X of ICPD, which deals with international migration, the CPD has adopted several resolutions on migration.

4. Specialized agencies

In addition to the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, several specialized agencies whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC have addressed migration-related topics. The International Labour Conference, the governing body of the International Labour Office (ILO), adopted three legally-binding instruments that are of direct relevance for the protection of migrant workers, while several other ILO conventions touch upon the topic of migration. The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has adopted several regional conventions regarding the recognition of qualifications in higher education, some of which are currently being revised. In consultation with its Member States, UNESCO is currently in the process of drafting a

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1 In resolution 65/234, the General Assembly extended the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014.
global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications. The World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO) has adopted a resolution on the health of refugees and migrants as well as a global code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel. Lastly, in 2015, the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) adopted a resolution proclaiming 16 June as the international day of family remittances.

**TABLE 1. SCHEMATIC OVERVIEW OF SYMBOLS USED TO IDENTIFY TEXTS IN THE COMPENDIUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol starting with:</th>
<th>Text adopted by / the governing board of:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/CN</td>
<td>Commission on Population and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCCC</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties (COP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHA</td>
<td>World Health Assembly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. USER GUIDE

This section provides an overview of different sorting and searching options which enable users to find agreed language on specific topics:

**Sorting by date, symbol or title**

A drop-down menu (“Sort by”) enables the user to sort the documents by adoption date (down for descending or up for ascending), by symbol (A-Z or Z-A) or by title (A-Z or Z-A). The default setting sorts all documents by date, starting with the newest document. Sorting by date, symbol or title can be combined with a search by symbol or a search by title.

**Making a selection**

*Option 1: By symbol*
By typing the relevant symbol, or part thereof, in the relevant space, the system will display all documents that meet the criterion. For instance:

- to select a particular text, type the exact symbol (e.g. “A/RES/71/1”),
- to select all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, type “A/RES”,
- to select all resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, type “A/HRC/RES”,
- to select all resolutions adopted during a particular session, add the relevant session (e.g. “A/RES/71”),
- to select all agreed texts adopted by a specialized agency, add the relevant symbol (e.g. “WHA”).

Option 2: By title

Typing in a keyword will return all documents with the search word in the title (e.g. “convention”).
Option 3: By custom search

Typing in a keyword will search the full text of all documents, displaying a list of documents including the location where the keyword is first mentioned. Sorting of the results is possible by relevance or date. Searching for multiple words will render documents containing all searched words in no particular order (e.g. the search words “human” and “trafficking” will select all documents which include the words “human” and the word “trafficking”). To limit the search to documents containing the exact word order of the search, use quotation marks (e.g. “human trafficking” will select only those documents which include references to “human trafficking”). The google search function is limited to 100 search results per query.
If 100 results are shown, it is suggested to sort by relevance, to refine the search further or to use one of the alternative search options.

**Searching a document**

Once a document is opened, it is searchable by typing Ctrl+F. When searching for two or more words in the exact word order (e.g. human trafficking), quotation marks are not necessary.

For further questions or comments, please contact migrationp@un.org.
Annex 1: Body of negotiated and agreed language on international migration

1. Declarations and conventions

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- Legal instruments related to international migration:
    - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2000)
  - Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961)
  - Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954)
  - Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
    - Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)

- Core international human rights instruments:
  - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families (1990)
  - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
  - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
  - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
  - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
  - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)

2. The General Assembly and its subsidiary organs

- Outcome documents of the United Nations population conferences:
  - Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development (1984)
  - Recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (1984)

- Outcome documents of major United Nations conferences in the social and economic field and General Assembly resolutions without reference to a Main Committee:
  - Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2017)
  - Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (2017)
  - Oceans and the law of the sea (since 2002)
  - New Urban Agenda (2016)
  - New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016)
  - Paris Agreement (2015)
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)
The future we want (2012)
Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (2010)
2005 World Summit Outcome (2005)
Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002)
Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance (2001)
Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995)
Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)

General Assembly resolutions of the Second Committee:
  - International migration and development (since 2000)
  - Women in development (since 2000)
  - Facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances (2005)

General Assembly resolutions of the Third Committee:
  - Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (since 2000)
  - Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (since 2006)
  - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (since 2000)
  - Protection of migrants (since 2000)
  - Rights of the child (since 2000)
  - Trafficking in women and girls (since 2002)
  - Violence against women migrant workers (since 2000)
  - Migrant children and adolescents (2014)
  - Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2003 – 2013)
  - Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families (2012)
  - Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (2000-2008)
  - Proclamation of 18 December as International Migrants Day (2000)

General Assembly resolutions of the Sixth Committee:
  - Expulsion of aliens (2014)
- Resolutions of the United Nations Human Rights Council:
  - Protection of the human rights of migrants (since 2015)
  - Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights (since 2015)
  - Human rights of migrants (since 2009)
  - Promotion of the right of migrants to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (2014)
  - Migrants and asylum-seekers fleeing recent events in North Africa (2011)

3. The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions

- Resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development:
  - International migration and development (2006)

4. Specialized agencies / governing bodies

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):
  - Proclamation of an International Day of Family Remittances (2015)

- International Labour Organization (ILO):
  - Domestic Workers Convention (2011)
  - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999)
  - Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention (1988)
  - Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention (1975)
  - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958)
  - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957)
  - Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) (1949)
  - Forced Labour Convention (1930)

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):
  - Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (2014)
  - Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab States (1978)
  - Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean (1976)
  - Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (1974)

- World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO):
  - Promoting the health of refugees and migrants (2017)