

**SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**  
Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
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**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

## RECENT DATA INITIATIVES AND RESEARCH FINDINGS RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) is a New York-based educational institute devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities, and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants. CMS makes substantive contributions to the migration and development dialogue through its programmatic work and research in four principal areas. First, the Center publishes the *International Migration Review (IMR)*, the *Journal on Migration and Human Security (JMHS)*, and various reports which provide research and policy-related analysis on international migration, including on migration and development. Second, CMS sponsors conferences, meetings, briefings, and seminars on migration-related issues and policies. Third, CMS has actively participated in international dialogues and consultative processes on migration, development and refugee protection. Fourth, the global dimension of CMS is reinforced through its affiliation with the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a faith-based network which links 270 programs for migrants worldwide.

In the past year, CMS expanded its programmatic work on refugee protection by completing an ambitious project that analyzes and seeks to strengthen the global system of refugee protection. This project has proposed a series of reforms so that states and international institutions are better able to anticipate, prevent and mitigate the effects of crises that lead to displacement; engage in broad responsibility-sharing; honor non-traditional refugee claims; and extend protection to non-refugees in desperate circumstances. Under the project, CMS commissioned over 20 peer-reviewed papers designed to lift up existing and new research, create a strong evidence base for reform, and present new and promising ideas related to a re-conceptualized a system of refugee protection. These papers, as well as expert author interviews, are now available on CMS's website at <http://cmsny.org/cms-research/refugeeproject/>. CMS plans to hold an event surrounding the release of the full collection in print in mid-2018.

CMS also examined the issues that states – as well as civil society and other stakeholders – should consider for inclusion in the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees. The *JMHS* paper, “Strengthening the Global Refugee Protection System: Recommendations for the Global Compact on Refugees” (available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/jmhs-strengthening-global-refugee-protection/>) draws on the above-mentioned special collection on refugee protection, outlines broad themes and specific recommendations that the Global Compact on Refugees should adopt. The recommendations fall into five areas: (1) responsibility sharing for the protection of refugees; (2) filling in protection gaps, such as the use of temporary protection measures for populations fleeing natural disaster; (3) balancing and replacing deterrence strategies with protection solutions, such as the adoption of model processes that ensure safe and voluntary return; (4) refugee resettlement, including the goal of resettling 10 percent of the global refugee population each year; and (5) building refugee self-sufficiency.

“Proposals for the Negotiation Process on the United Nations Global Compact for Migration,” a paper also published in *JMHS* (available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/genina-migration-compact-proposals/>) examines the main elements of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It argues that participants in the compact's negotiation process should aim to balance the concerns of states with the needs and rights of migrants. The paper also analyzes documents by the Special Representative for the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants that should inform the compact. Lastly, the paper makes recommendations on the content of the compact. It recommends that the compact should define state protection responsibilities related to mixed migrant flows; embrace the role of civil society, the private sector, and academic institutions; outline an institutional framework for implementation; and establish a mechanism to fund migration policies for states without the resources to carry them out.

CMS also published the essay, “The Global Compact on Migration: Issues at Play,” (available at <http://cmsny.org/global-compact-migration-issues-play/>), which examines the major issues Member States will have to resolve in crafting and negotiating the Compact, including balancing sovereignty and enforcement with protection; filling gaps in protection for vulnerable migrants; immigrant integration/regularization; the complementarity of the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees; implementation/targets; and next steps.

Following a fact-finding mission to Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Greece, CMS published a report offering findings and recommendations based on the delegation’s conversations with actors in the region, including refugees and displaced persons, care providers, representatives of the Catholic Church, their aid agencies, and United Nations officials. The resulting report (available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/2017-middle-east-report/>) examined the plight of Syrian refugees in the Middle East. CMS also initiated a bi-weekly series of “dispatches from the global crisis in refugee protection,” which can be found at <http://cmsny.org/publications/al-muqdad-120717/> and <http://cmsny.org/publications/al-muqdad-010318/>,

In addition, CMS led other Scalabrini migration study centers in releasing an inaugural annual report (available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/scalabrini-policy-report-2017/>) examining responsibility-sharing for large-scale refugee and migrant populations in need. The report consists of chapters that describe the situation of refugee and migrant populations in select regions around the world and analyzes the responses of states, regional bodies and the international community.

Finally, CMS and Cristosal (a human rights organization in El Salvador) released a report (available at <http://cmsny.org/publications/cms-cristosal-report/>) detailing ten cases from the Northern Triangle of Central America—four from El Salvador and three each from Guatemala and from Honduras—which chronicle the journeys of refugees in search of protection, how formal systems failed to protect them, and what they face upon return to their home countries. The report concludes that Central American asylum-seekers are being returned to danger in violation of the principle of *non-refoulement*. Overall, 18 cases were interviewed and analyzed for the study. The report includes several policy recommendations for the governments to consider.

#### RECENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS OF THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2017, CMS engaged in several activities to support the implementation of the migration and refugee-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals. Committed to supporting and realizing the 2030 Agenda – in particular Goal 29 – CMS continued to produce research and facilitate discussion that sought to bolster international cooperation “to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons.”

CMS participated in several of the UN thematic sessions to inform the Global Compact on Migration. In particular, CMS staff provided statements at the thematic sessions on portability of benefits, the use of remittances and the human rights of migrants, and at the stocktaking meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in December 2017. Prior to the commencement of the thematic sessions, CMS also participated in a session on the Global Compact on Migration hosted by the International Organization on Migration.

At the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Berlin in July 2017, CMS participated in the civil society sessions and spoke at a large breakout session during the “common space” sessions with member states. In February 2017, CMS joined SIMN for SIMN’s annual conference on migration and peace in Rome, Italy, which included government officials from Europe, scholars from

around the world, and a pre-event audience with Pope Francis. CMS also testified before the “Friends of Migration” working group at the United Nations.

CMS also regularly hosts events to serve as platforms for dissemination of research, policy analysis, information, data, and policy ideas among a broad range of stakeholders on international migration issues. In June 2017, CMS organized a forum in Washington DC with advocates, scholars, government officials, and Capitol Hill staffers on the changing refugee policies under US President Donald Trump. The agency also organized a major conference in Houston, Texas on community approaches to due process protections of immigrants and refugees.

In October 2017, CMS convened scholars and practitioners for its annual academic and policy symposium to discuss emerging and cutting-edge migration issues. The event included a panel discussion on the development of the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees in which speakers identified common issues between the two compacts and opportunities for influencing the substance of the documents.

CMS also interviewed the co-facilitators leading the development of the Global Compact on Migration – Ambassador Juan Jose Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations – for its podcast, CMSOnAir. The recording is available at <http://cmsny.org/multimedia/cmsonair-global-compact-migration/>.

As mentioned above, CMS continued to disseminate research and analysis on international migration. The agency also continued to publish cutting-edge scholarship through *IMR*, its signature publication and the leading social science journal covering the field of international migration.

In 2018, CMS endeavors to produce much-needed research and analysis to aid in the successful implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the two global compacts. The aforementioned papers on global refugee protection and the 2018 event around the release of the full print edition are expected to be influential in the deliberations on the Global Compact on Refugees, and will augment and expand upon the principles agreed to in the New York Declaration.

On 21 February 2018, CMS will join the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, the International Catholic Migration Commission, and Caritas Internationalis in hosting an event, “Ending the Detention of Migrant and Refugee Children: Best Interest Determination and Alternatives to Detention,” at UN headquarters in New York. The event will highlight successful practices by States and civil society in receiving and welcoming migrant and refugee children.

CMS and other Scalabrini study centers will also be releasing a second global policy report which looks in-depth at the issues involved in the Global Compact on Migration, including the issue of return, temporary labor programs, and the treatment of child migrants. The report is expected to be available in March 2018.

CMS will also continue to examine the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations in order to aid in developing guidelines to assist, in particular, the care of women and children on the move. The Center has recently addressed the implications of orders issued by the new US president on undocumented youth and recipients of Temporary Protected Status, as well as the skill-level of foreign-born US residents compared to US-born citizens. Moreover, the agency is releasing forward-looking research on US immigration laws and policies. The project looks beyond current immigration debates to offer analysis, ideas and proposals from both a domestic and foreign policy perspective that, among other things, address the range of

conditions driving international migration into the foreseeable future and consider the impact of proposed policies on immigrants and on receiving and sending communities.

CMS will participate, where possible, in the deliberations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees, consistent with the modalities resolutions. All of the Center's work is featured on its website at [cmsny.org](http://cmsny.org).