

**Presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/73/286)**

**Item 22: Globalization and interdependence  
(sub-item b: International migration and development)  
Second Committee, General Assembly, 73rd session  
19 October 2018, CR 2, 10.00 a.m.**

**John Wilmoth, Director  
Population Division**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/73/286). The report, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/237, comes at a time that the issue of migration has risen to the top of the agenda.

In less than two months, the General Assembly is set to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the first ever UN framework to address migration in all its dimensions, in Marrakesh, Morocco. The conference will be held 24 years after the General Assembly first considered to convene a United Nations conference on international migration and development.

Allow me to highlight five key messages from the report.

First, the number of international migrants is growing faster than the global population. Between 2000 and 2017, the estimated number of international migrants increased by almost 50 per cent, reaching 258 million in 2017. The share of the foreign-born in the world's population increased from 2.8 per cent in 2000 to 3.4 per cent in 2017.

Second, international migration impacts countries very differently. While migrants account for nearly 12 per cent of the population in the more developed regions, their share in the less developed regions is below 2 per cent.

Third, the role of migration as a driver of population change is projected to increase in the next few decades as fertility declines in a growing number of countries. While migration can postpone some of the effects of population ageing, it will not halt or reverse the population from declining in absolute terms.

Fourth, the UN system has undertaken many activities to enhance the contribution of migration to development and to address migration challenges since the adoption of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants in 2016. UN entities have made significant progress in measuring SDG indicators related to migration.

Fifth, the SGs report offers concrete suggestions for a global programme to strengthen migration data, as called for in Objective one of the Global Compact. We hope that these suggestions will be helpful in guiding the implementation of the Compact following its adoption.

Ladies and gentlemen,

International migration contributes much to development in countries of origin and destination and lifts millions of migrants and their families out of poverty.

In proclaiming 16 June as the International Day of Family Remittances, the General Assembly recognized the transformative impact of remittances on reducing poverty, accessing basic services and supporting long-term development strategies.

By deliberating the linkages between international migration and development since 1994 and by deciding to hold high-level dialogues in 2006 and 2013, the Second Committee has played a pivotal role in integrating migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in preparing the ground for the Global Compact.

Dear colleagues,

In 2019, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will address the theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness

and equality”. This will include a review of SDG 10, which contains the only SDG target exclusively dedicated to migration. Moreover, in September, the HLPF will review the entire 2030 Agenda.

The Global Compact transformed the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development into the International Migration Review Forum. The Forum, the first of which will be held in 2022, will be the main intergovernmental platform to review the implementation of the Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda.

One of the key issues for this Committee is to consider is how Member States can best contribute to the HLPF in 2019.

Dear colleagues,

In closing let me echo the words of USG Liu in opening this Committee last Monday. DESA, in collaboration with relevant partners, remains fully committed to support Member States in the follow-up and review of all intergovernmental processes related to migration.

I wish you all the best in your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.

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