

United Nations General Assembly
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Joint consideration of

Item 16: Information and communications technologies for sustainable development

Item 22: Globalization and interdependence

Presentation of the report of the Secretary-General
on international migration and development (A/75/292)

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to present the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (document A/75/292). The advance unedited version was distributed on the 2nd of October and the final edited version is now available online in all six languages.

The report presents information about the latest migration levels and trends, and it highlights the efforts being made to integrate migration into national development plans.

The report also reviews progress in measuring the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda and provides an overview of the status of ratification of relevant international legal instruments.

The report recalls briefly the decades-long road towards convening an international conference on international migration, which culminated in the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech in December of 2018.

And the report presents examples of activities and interventions by UN entities aimed at mitigating the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and migration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Migration is the most unpredictable component of demographic change.

Since 1947, the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has projected future global trends in fertility and mortality with a high degree of accuracy. Migration trends, however, are much less predictable given their susceptibility to

changes in the economic or political situation or in government policies. For this reason, demographers have typically refrained from projecting future migration levels far into the future. And the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated, once again, the volatility of migration flows.

Globally, the total number of persons living outside their country of birth, or outside their country of citizenship, reached an estimated 272 million in 2019. Nearly 56 per cent of all international migrants live in the more developed regions. Further, the share of international migrants in 2019 accounted for 3.5 per cent of the world's population, compared to 2.9 per cent in 1990. This indicates that the number of international migrants worldwide has grown faster than the global population.

Between 2010 and 2020, 81 countries or areas experienced a net inflow of migrants, whereas 118 countries or areas recorded a net outflow. As fertility levels continue to fall across the world, international migration takes on a larger role in determining the size and composition of national populations. In countries of destination, immigration tends to increase the relative size of the working-age population and thus slows down the long-term process of population ageing. Conversely, in countries of origin, emigration slows the rate of population growth and may contribute to population decline in countries with very low birth rates.

Distinguished delegates,

Judging from the voluntary national reviews presented in recent years at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, there has been a notable increase in the attention given to migration in the context of national development planning. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration has contributed to an increased understanding of the opportunities and challenges that migration presents and of the migration-related policies that can assist in achieving the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report reviews the progress made in measuring the SDG targets related to international migration.

For instance, for target 10.7 on well-managed migration policies, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank have developed a methodology for calculating the recruitment costs owed by migrants, while the International Organization for Migration and the Population Division of UN DESA have started to measure the number of countries that have migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. Furthermore, the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators has approved two new indicators to measure well-managed migration policies: (a) the number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration, and (b) the proportion of the population who live abroad as refugees.

In closing, let me underline the close connections between the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

As one of its 10 guiding principles, the Global Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This principle is not merely rhetorical.

The International Migration Review Forum, the first of which will be held in 2022, is tasked with discussing and sharing progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact. This includes, and here I quote, “as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.¹

That is why the Secretary-General, in his report, has recommended aligning the follow-up and review processes for the Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels.

For example, when Member States prepare for the regional reviews of the Global Compact, they can draw on the indicators and methodologies that have been developed for the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As highlighted in Objective 1 of the Global Compact, strengthening the evidence base on migration is crucial for developing and implementing sound migration policies, for dispelling myths, and for countering negative narratives about migrants and migration.

I look forward to your questions and comments on the report.

Thank you.

¹ A/RES/73/195, paragraph 49(b)