

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

International Migration: Initiatives and Goals

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SESSION IV: Urbanisation, internal and international migration

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat

New York, 1-2 November 2018

Presentation

- The role of data and research within UN initiatives for safe, orderly and regular migration
- Demographic data and research regarding international migration: Inputs and Interventions from consultations
- Intersections among international initiatives concerning population, development and migration

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UN Summit 2016 **New York Declaration**

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New York Declaration

At the UN Summit, the world came together around one plan. Member States have reached agreement by consensus on a powerful outcome document.

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants expresses the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale. At the [UN Summit on 19 September](#), we expect to hear from world leaders about how each country will implement these commitments. Refugees, migrants, those who assist them, and their host countries and communities will all benefit if these commitments are met.

View the full text of the [New York Declaration](#).

What are the commitments?

The New York Declaration contains bold commitments both to address the issues we face now and to prepare the world for future challenges. These include commitments to:

- Protect the human rights of all refugees and migrants, regardless of status. This includes the rights of women and girls and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in finding solutions.
- Ensure that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival.
- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Support those countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants.
- Work towards ending the practice of detaining children for the purposes of determining their migration status.
- Strongly condemn xenophobia against refugees and migrants and support a global campaign to counter it.
- Strengthen the positive contributions made by migrants to economic and social development in their host countries.
- Improve the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to those countries most affected, including through innovative multilateral financial solutions, with the goal of closing all funding gaps.
- Implement a comprehensive refugee response, based on a new framework that sets out the responsibility of Member States, civil society partners and the UN system, whenever there is a large movement of refugees or a protracted refugee situation.
- Find new homes for all refugees identified by UNHCR as needing resettlement; and expand the opportunities for refugees to relocate to other countries through, for example, labour mobility or education schemes.
- Strengthen the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration into the UN system.

What will happen next?

The New York Declaration also contains concrete plans for how to build on these commitments:

- Start negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018. The agreement to move toward this comprehensive framework is a momentous one. It means that migration, like other areas of international relations, will be guided by a set of common principles and approaches.
- Develop guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations. These guidelines will be particularly important for the increasing number of unaccompanied children on the move.
- Achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees by adopting a global compact on refugees in 2018.

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<https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/declaration>

SRSG Statement at Multi-Stakeholder Meeting Geneva, October 2017

“.... These discussions have greatly contributed to grounding the global debate in regional and sub-regional specificities. The analysis of context-based trends, challenges and opportunities will be critical for a proper understanding of the complexity ...” (p. 2)

“... the global compact will need to stand the test of time and therefore address migration in a comprehensive and forward-looking manner. Changes in population structures, climate change, opportunities offered by modern communications, changes in the nature of jobs and workplace, other economic factors, and human aspirations for self-fulfillment, will shape much of the future nature of migration. As a consequence, we have to expect, not only, that migration is here to stay but that it is also likely to increase in the future, at least in absolute numbers if not in relative terms.” (p. 5)

The Global Compact on Refugees

The global compact on refugees
FINAL DRAFT
(as at 26 June 2018)

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Global Compact for Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration

Final Draft

July 2018

The screenshot shows the UN website page for the Global Compact for Migration. The page features the UN logo and the title "Refugees and Migrants" at the top. A navigation bar includes links for "HOME", "COMPACT FOR MIGRATION", "COMPACT ON REFUGEES", "NEWS", "CONFERENCE 2018", and "UNGA 2018". Below the navigation bar, there are sub-links for "Special Representative", "Background", "Consultation phase", "Stocktaking phase", "Intergovernmental negotiations", "Supporting documents", and "Resources". The main content area is titled "Global compact for migration" and features a large image of a man and a woman making a heart shape with their hands. To the right of the image is the "Global Compact for Migration" logo and the hashtag "#ForMigration". Below the image, there is a video player with the title "States prepare global compa..." and a description of the compact. The text on the page explains that the compact is the first intergovernmentally negotiated agreement prepared under the auspices of the United Nations to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It also mentions that the compact was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2016 and that the intergovernmental conference to adopt the compact will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 10 to 11 December 2018. The page includes a "Migration Data Portal" section with a world map and a "Related Documents" section with a link to the final draft of the compact.

<https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>



Global Compact For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration

Final Draft

11 July 2018

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

FINAL DRAFT

11 July 2018

We, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, meeting in Morocco on 10 and 11 December 2018, reaffirming the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and determined to make an important contribution to enhanced cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, have adopted this Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration:

PREAMBLE

1. This Global Compact rests on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. It also rests on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the other core international human rights treaties¹; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Slavery Convention and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; the Paris Agreement²; the International Labour Organization conventions on promoting decent work and labour migration³; as well as on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the New Urban Agenda.
3. Discussions about international migration at the global level are not new. We recall the advances made through the United Nations High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development in 2006 and 2013. We also acknowledge the contributions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development launched in 2007. These platforms paved the way for the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, through which we committed to elaborate a Global Compact for Refugees and to adopt this Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular

¹ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

² Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

³ Migration for Employment Convention of 1949 (No.97), Migrant Workers Convention of 1975 (No.143), Equality of Treatment Convention of 1962 (No.118), Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers of 2011 (No.189).

Zero Draft

Vision:

Common Understanding

Shared Responsibilities

Unity of Purpose

Guiding Principles:

People-centred

International cooperation

National sovereignty

Rule of law and due process:

Sustainable development

Human rights

Gender-responsive

Child-sensitive

Whole-of-government approach

Whole-of-society approach

Cooperative Framework and Objectives For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration

- (1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
- (2) Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
- (3) Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration
- (4) Provide all migrants with proof of legal identity, proper identification and documentation
- (5) Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
- (6) Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
- (7) Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
- (8) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
- (9) Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
- (10) Prevent and combat trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
- (11) Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
- (12) Strengthen procedures and mechanisms for status determination
- (13) Use migration detention only as a last resort and work towards alternatives
- (14) Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
- (15) Provide access to basic social services for migrants
- (16) Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
- (17) Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote fact-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
- (18) Invest in skills development and facilitate recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
- (19) Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
- (20) Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
- (21) Cooperate in facilitating dignified and sustainable return, readmission and reintegration
- (22) Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

Cooperative Framework and Objectives For Safe, Orderly And Regular Migration

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(1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

- a) **Harmonize methodologies** on collection, analysis and dissemination of migration-related data and indicators to achieve international compatibility between national data systems, including by agreeing on a baseline statistical definition of an international migrant, by developing a set of standards to measure migrant flows and stocks, as well as to document essential characteristics of migrants, migration status, drivers, patterns and trends, and by including all major stakeholders and sources of data in the elaboration of a comprehensive data strategy on migration
- b) Develop a global programme on **national capacities** in data collection, analysis and dissemination to share data, address data gaps and assess key migration trends, that encourages collaboration between relevant actors at all levels, **provides dedicated training** for government officials, financial support and technical assistance, leverages new data sources, including big data, and is reviewed by the **United Nations Statistical Commission on a regular basis**
- c) Provide support, evidence and updated inputs to the **Global Migration Data Portal, with a view to systematically consolidate all relevant data in a transparent, comparable and standardized manner**
- d) Establish and strengthen **regional migration observatories** to collect and analyse data in line with United Nations data standards, including on best practices, the contributions of migrants, the overall economic, social and political benefits and challenges of migration in countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as drivers of migration, with a view to establishing shared strategies and maximizing the value of migration data

(1) Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

e) Improve national data collection, analysis and dissemination by **integrating migration- relevant questions in national censuses, starting in the census of the 2020 round**, including on country of birth, country of citizenship, country of residence five years prior to the census, most recent arrival date and reason for migrating, to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of results with internationally recommended disaggregation and cross- tabulation

f) **Conduct household, labour force and other post-census surveys** to collect information on the social and economic integration of migrants or add standard migration modules to existing household surveys to improve national, regional and international comparability, and disseminate collected data through public-use of microdata files

g) **Use administrative records**, such as border records, visa, resident permits and other sources, to produce migration-related statistics, while upholding the right to privacy and the protection of personal data

h) **Develop country-specific migration profiles to foster evidence-based policy development** through collecting and sharing data on all migration-relevant aspects, including on labour market needs, demand and availability of skills, the economic and social impacts of migration, remittance transfer costs, health, education, living and working conditions, wages, as well as the needs of migrants and receiving communities

k) **Cooperate with relevant stakeholders in countries of origin, transit and destination to develop research, studies and surveys on the interrelationship between migration and the three dimensions of sustainable development, the contributions and skills of migrants and diasporas, as well as their ties to the countries of origin and destination**

3.3 Data and evidence

45. Reliable, comparable, and timely data is critical for evidence-based measures to:

....promote the development of harmonized or interoperable standards for the collection, analysis, and sharing of **age, gender, disability, and diversity disaggregated data on refugees and returnees**. Upon the request of concerned States, support will be provided for the inclusion of refugees and host communities, as well as returnees and stateless persons as relevant, within national data and statistical collection processes; and **to strengthen national data collection systems on the situation of refugees and host communities, as well as returnees** (GCR, para. 46).

First report will be issued in 2019, coinciding with the first Global Refugee Forum. Subsequent reports will be provided at regular intervals, providing the basis for determining whether there has been progress towards more equitable and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing in line with para 7 (see also Part IV below).

3.3 Data and evidence

45. Reliable, comparable, and timely data is critical for evidence-based measures to: improve socio-economic conditions for refugees and host communities; assess and address the impact of large refugee populations on host countries in emergency and protracted situations; and identify and plan appropriate solutions. Relevant data protection and data privacy principles are to be applied with respect to all collection and dissemination of personal data, including the principles of necessity, proportionality, and confidentiality.

46. To support evidence-based responses, States and relevant stakeholders will, as appropriate, promote the development of harmonized or interoperable standards for the collection, analysis, and sharing of age, gender, disability, and diversity disaggregated data on refugees and returnees.¹⁸ Upon the request of concerned States, support will be provided for the inclusion of refugees and host communities, as well as returnees and stateless persons as relevant, within national data and statistical collection processes; and to strengthen national data collection systems on the situation of refugees and host communities, as well as returnees.

47. Improving data and evidence will also support efforts to achieve **solutions**. Data and evidence will assist in the development of policies, investments and programmes in support of the voluntary repatriation to and reintegration of returnees in countries of origin. In addition, States, UNHCR, and other relevant stakeholders will work to enable the systematic collection, sharing, and analysis of disaggregated data related to the availability and use of resettlement and complementary pathways for admission of those with international protection needs; and share good practices and lessons learned in this area.

48. To inform burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements, UNHCR will coordinate with concerned States and appropriate partners to assist **with measuring the impact** arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and to promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable.¹⁹ In 2018, UNHCR will convene technical expertise from international organizations and Member States, and coordinate a technical review of relevant methodologies to build broad consensus on the approach to be taken. The results will be shared and provide the opportunity for formal discussions among States in 2018-2019. The first report will be issued in 2019, coinciding with the first Global Refugee Forum. Subsequent reports will be provided at regular intervals, providing the basis for determining whether there has been progress towards more equitable and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing in line with para 7 (see also Part IV below).

Intersections among international initiatives concerning population, development and migration

k. Cooperate with relevant stakeholders in countries of origin, transit and destination to develop research, studies and surveys on the interrelationship between migration and the *three dimensions of sustainable development*, the contributions and skills of migrants and diasporas, as well as their ties to the countries of origin and destination (emphasis added).

Global Compact for Migrants

Consultative Phase (April to November 2017):

...to gather substantive input and concrete recommendations to inform the development of the global compact on migration.

Thematic sessions

Regional Consultations

Stakeholder Consultations

Six Thematic Sessions:

1. Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance

Geneva , 8-9 May 2017

2. Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution

New York, 22-23 May 2017

3. International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration

Geneva, 19-20 June 2017

4. Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits

New York, 24-25 July 2017

5. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims

Vienna, 4-5 September 2017

6. Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures

Geneva, 12-13 October 2017

United Nations Regional Commissions:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Santiago, 30-31 August 2017

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Beirut, 26-27 September 2017

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Addis Ababa, 26-27 October 2017

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Bangkok, 6-8 November 2017

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Geneva, 6 November 2017

Stakeholder Consultations:

Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Meetings

26 July, 2017 (New York)

11 October, 2017 (Geneva)

18 December 2017 (New York)

21 February 2018 (New York)

21 May 2018 (New York)

Stakeholder Consultations

Regional Civil Society Consultations

Asia

4-5 August 2017 (Bangkok, Thailand)

Migrant Forum in Asia

Middle-East and North Africa (MENA)

24-25 August 2017 (Beirut, Lebanon)

Cross-Regional Center for Refugees
and Migrants

Africa

28-29 August 2017 (Bamako, Mali)

Pan-African Network in Defense of Migrants
Rights and MADE-Afrique

North America

25-26 September 2017 (Washington DC,)

National Network for Immigrant & Refugee

Rights

Europe

2-3 October 2017 (Brussels, Belgium)

Migration and Development Civil Society
Network and Platform for the International
Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

Latin America & the Caribbean

5-6 October 2017 (Quito, Ecuador)

Latin America Block

Pacific

2-3 November 2017 (Nadi, Fiji)

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-
Governmental Organisations, Fiji Citizens
Constitutional Forum in partnership with
Sydney Asia Pacific Migration Center, the
Diplomacy Training Program, Migrant Forum
Asia

Thematic session 1: Human rights

Co-facilitators' Summary:

I. Data The primordial role of credible data for evidence-based migration policies was repeatedly affirmed and delegations noted the important link between representative and disaggregated data and the wellbeing of migrants, as human rights violations are often the result of misinformed policies. **Several participants pointed to a general lack of concrete information regarding the root causes of racism and xenophobia.** Others cautioned against narrow interpretations of related forms of intolerance. As such, it was mentioned that data is a powerful means to dispel myths about migration.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- **Improve disaggregated data collection, analysis and relevant policy making**
- **Collect data on hate speech and hate crimes at the national level**
- Use existing data, for example from National Human Rights Institutions and UN treaty bodies

Thematic session 2: Drivers of migration

Co-facilitators' Summary:

g. Data The prevailing lack and necessity of data, knowledge and evidence-based policy-making to effectively address the multi-layered drivers of migration in a holistic manner was noted as key issue to be considered in the global compact throughout all panels and discussions. Research and data collection, including **longitudinal data**, were noted as particularly relevant with view to better understanding and addressing the interrelations between migration and development, as well as migration and environmental factors, respectively. **Data disaggregation was considered of particular relevance to targeting group-specific drivers and vulnerabilities.** Furthermore, **international coordination, harmonization and interoperability of data collection and analysis** were highlighted.

Thematic session 2: Drivers of migration

Statements from the floor:

Member States:

Canada: “...Member states should provide more support for research on climate change induced migration. ... Greater research could identify complex drivers of environmental migration, identify populations that are vulnerable and develop appropriate national and regional strategies. Better data collection, through tools such as IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix, could also be useful in this regard. Research and data collection could be built into Global Compact national action plans based on the gaps. ...”

Stakeholders:

UNHCR: “Finally, there is a critical need for reliable data. Without reliable data on the causes and consequences of climate change and disaster-related movements, we will not be in a position to fashion the necessary responses. Similarly, we must base our policies on concrete and successful practices on the ground, to ensure our responses are meaningful and practical.”

Regional Consultations Recommendations:

Economic Commission for Africa

(Thematic Area 1 Human rights)

- (a) Collect and exchange evidence on migration based on data that are collected and analysed in accordance with United Nations data standards, including on the contributions of migrants in origin, transit and destination countries in Africa and other regions;
- (b) Generate evidence and present scenarios on the changing structure of African labour markets in order to enhance understanding of the future supply and demand for labour, and the protection of migrant workers;
- (d) Encourage Member States to include refugees, undocumented migrants and other non-nationals in migration statistics. Support Member States in the timely collection and dissemination of migration statistics and actively encourage them to apply United Nations standards to increase coherence and comparability of data and statistics.

(Thematic area 2 Drivers of migration)

- (a) Conduct research on the complex ways in which conflict, environmental factors and climate change may effect patterns and trends of migration, thereby increasing insight into how such factors may influence in different ways the ability of various social groups to migrant and the aspirations, ad how the effects of such factors may differ for long- and short-distance migration, and over the short, medium and long term;
- (b) Mainstream migration issues into policy development relating to environment, agriculture, urban planning, foreign investments, trade, industrialization and employment.

Regional Consultations Recommendations:

Economic Commission for Africa

(Thematic area 4 Contributions of Migrants and diaspora)

- (a) Encourage national statistical offices in collaboration with researchers, national banks and other financial institutions to undertake regular surveys to assess the trends, use and **impact of remittances, including informal remittances**;
- (b) Increase the capacity of independent academic research in order to identify the structural conditions under which migration and remittances are able to reinforce positive development trends and innovation, and the conditions under which they rather seem to sustain economic stagnation and authoritarianism.

Regional Consultations Recommendations:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

There was a consensus to improve collection and analysis of disaggregated data and information, including on age and gender, on all dimensions of international migration.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

To strengthen the role of national statistical offices and build partnerships among various actors to gather and analyse evidence and data on migration drivers, patterns and trends, disaggregated by age, gender and migration status, among others, to create scientific grounds for the formulation of effective policies on migration.

Regional Consultations Recommendations:

Economic Commission for Europe

2. At its 94th meeting, convened on 6 November 2017, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held a regional discussion to provide input to the global process. In view of UNECE's limited mandate on migration issues, and given the importance of better data and statistics for evidence-based migration policies, EXCOM decided to focus its discussion on the work of UNECE on migration statistics, in particular on how to measure migration, key measurement issues in the region, and capacity building activities in support of its member States. Representatives from the International Organization for Migration were in attendance.

3. This Chair's summary, with the annexed background document that was provided to EXCOM for information, constitute UNECE input into the intergovernmental stocktaking conference for the global compact taking place in Mexico in December 2017.

Stakeholder Consultations: New York, 26 July 2017 - Four panels:

Human rights of migrants

issues of access to health care, education and labour rights

differential access of migrants

linkages between human rights and development

[Multi-faceted] drivers of migration

many causes of migration addressed through SDGs

link GCM and SDG in review and monitoring

Cooperation and governance

national, regional as well as international response

explore “private sector to contribute to better management of migration including

data collection, ...”

importance of registration of migrants

“Lack of adequate data was as a shared concern for majority of speakers, including data on return and reintegration.”

lack of

Contributions of migrants

Review of evidence of impacts of migration at different scales

role of remittances in development

demand for labor

discrepancy between evidence and national discourse

Preliminary Summary

Data and Data Collection

- disaggregation of data by age, gender, migration status
- longitudinal data
- common statistical concepts, standardization,
- qualitative data as well as social demographic data
- common methodologies
- migration data through national data systems (censuses)
- reasons for migration
- use of administrative data; registration data
- issues of privacy in data collection and storage

Research

- causes, drivers of migration
- causes of racism, xenophobia
- relationship between irregular migration and labor needs
- relationship between economic trends and smuggling
- effects of remittances of developments; gender differences
- inter- and multidisciplinary approaches to data analysis
- sharing of evidence, and results of research

Training and Capacity

- integration of migration
- public-private partnerships

Statement by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) on Strengthening Migration Data, Research and training, in the Context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Preamble

Migration is a key dimension of the global exchange between peoples. It connects each country of the world with all the others, as every state with no exception is at the same time a receiver and a sender of international migrants.

Social science has demonstrated that, should migration stop, the world would become much more unsafe and poorer. More scientific knowledge, however, is necessary to better understand how individuals and states can best take advantage of the opportunities migration offers while addressing its challenges for societies and individuals in full respect of their human rights.

Because international migration is truly global, establishing robust evidence to inform discussions take the heat out of debates and enable sound policymaking for facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. This presupposes that states share basic concepts and agree on building compatibility between national data systems.

Because there is a growing divide in the world between those who regard international migration as beneficial for economies and a necessity for human progress and those who regard it as a threat to social cohesion, national identity and security, the scientific community should agree on a research agenda drawing on the considerable knowledge accumulated in recent decades to address priorities in both fundamental and policy-oriented research.

Recommendations for strengthening migration data

- Achieving universal consensus on the definition of an international migrant is an important objective on its own.
- Information that must be collected to define an international migrant includes the county of birth and the country of citizenship.
- Other relevant characteristics should be collected including the following:
- Duration of stay in order to differentiate migrants from simple travelers, and short-term from long-term migrants.
- Countries of birth and/or nationality of the father and the mother in order to identify sub-populations with a recent migrant background which are targets for specific policies, such as second- or third-generation migrants, diasporas, etc.
- Reason for migrating in order to identify different groups of migrants.
- The voluntary or forced nature of the move must be determined in order to differentiate between a migrant and an asylum seeker or a refugee. It must be reminded that it is as simple travelers or migrants that many persons fleeing persecution or life-threatening conditions enter the countries where they will be able to lodge an asylum claim and be treated as either refugees or migrants after a lengthy process of refugee status determination.
- Irregular migration needs to be properly addressed with a distinction between three non-exclusive situations--unauthorized entry, unauthorized stay, and unauthorized employment—all of them transient and susceptible to change in both directions.
- The notion of “mixed flows” used to describe refugees traveling alongside economic migrants with no visas does not only refer to two distinct populations being smuggled together but also to mixed motivations, as the same individual may seek both protection and a job.

Recommendations for developing research on migration

- States and academic institutions should increase efforts to research migration, its remote and proximate causes, and its short and long-term consequences in origin and destination countries as well as globally.
- Migration and development are linked in many ways and a better understanding of the complex processes at work is needed in order to recommend action to promote the positive impacts of migration and to mitigate its negative impacts, in both origin and destination countries. Remittances, models and values conveyed by migrants to families and communities left behind, and equitable opportunities for migrant women are key topics.
- Migrants often belong to two countries, where they come from and where they live, and transnational links as well as diaspora policies developed by states and non-state actors in origin countries in order to foster ties with expatriate nationals must be evaluated.
- Research must establish to what extent highly skilled migration deprives the source country of a scarce resource necessary to its development, and whether skills by gained abroad return migrants and other compensatory mechanisms can turn the brain drain into a brain gain.
- Research must assess the contribution of migration to building human capital globally, at a time when students, teachers and researchers comprise a growing share of global migrants.
- Migrants' inclusion in receiving societies, the extent to which they have rights and duties, opportunities and responsibilities comparable to those of natives, is a multifaceted process combining economic, social, cultural and legal dimensions. Academics should work at developing an individual migrant integration index that would make it possible to monitor one of the most sensitive outcomes of migration.
- Migrants can be victims of discrimination, unfair treatment, racism, xenophobia and exclusion in their host societies in relation to personal characteristics such as national origin, religion, physical appearance, name and surname, etc. Identifying such acts and measuring their frequency in order to combat discrimination and related phenomena requires specific methodologies to be developed.
- Migrants can experience abuse and exploitation at the very initial stage of migration, as they can fall victim to undue charges, illegal recruitment or trafficking in origin countries. Identifying such practices in order to combat them also requires specific methods.
- Migrants' contribution to the demography of destination countries and immigration as part of a response to population and skills ageing and unsustainable pension systems, must be established.
- Conceptual frameworks and methods for projecting migration must be developed in order design migration scenarios to be incorporated in classical population projections by age sex, as well as to forecast migration flows based on scenarios of its determinants.

Recommendations for developing research on migration, continued

- Longitudinal analyses of the effects of migration on fertility and decision-making among women and men must be developed to better understand how international migration, social mobility and demographic processes are linked in populations of origin and destination.
- Women and unaccompanied child migrants are specific and vulnerable populations. Researching how gender and age shape the reasons for migrating as well migrants' experiences, from labor opportunities to exposure to abuse and coercion, including sexual slavery, early forced marriage, and commercial sex trafficking, is a high priority.
- The international demand for care workers, which drives a growing number of women to migrate, must be researched on its own.
- Long-distance parenthood and changes in family roles and relations as a result of migration without family reunification calls for systematic, comparative research..
- Assessing linkages between international migration, mortality and morbidity is critical for a comprehensive understanding of global health issues.
- Restricted or limited pathways for legal migration have fostered transnational criminal activities—smuggling, trafficking, exploitation and abuse of migrants—which raise human rights concerns. Population scientists must critically examine dimensions of gender, age, education and health among these vulnerable groups of migrants.
- The numbers of internally displaced people, asylum seekers and refugees displaced by wars, civil conflicts and poor governance have grown rapidly in the last two decades. Addressing the causes and consequences of forced migration for both migrants and their hosts in a problem-solving perspective is a research priority.
- The risks migrants are exposed to during their journey including detention, abuse, disappearance or death during land and sea travels, as well as other dangers faced by migrants during their move, must be systematically identified and measured in order to be combated.
- Environmental changes are expected to become a key determinant of future migration and mobility. Research must anticipate how global warming and related changes in sea level, land subsidence, violent storms, droughts, floods, salt water intrusions, ocean acidity, atmospheric chemical composition, soil leaching, etc. might affect people's propensity to migrate internally and internationally.
- Evidence has to be accumulated on migration policies' impact on actual numbers, characteristics and strategies of migrants.
- Population scientists must engage in the effective communication of research results to a wide array of stakeholders, including fellow scientists, media partners, policy makers and the public at international, national and local levels.

IUSSP Panel on International Migration: Strengthening the Knowledge Base for Policy

Encourage innovation demographic analysis for:

1. descriptive and comparative analysis;
2. longitudinal analysis;
3. estimation of incomplete data;
4. modelling and future population scenarios;
5. evaluation of data and data collection systems; and
6. development of research designs for qualitative data collection.

Intersections among international initiatives concerning population, development and migration

International Programme of Action

Human rights

Diversity of migration processes

Heterogeneity of migration flows; emerging characteristics

Migration and development

Demographic analysis:

- disaggregation of population groups of inquiry by age and gender;
- specification of historical, spatial and temporal frames;
- drivers of migration and displacement within the context of population dynamics;
- effects of migration and population displacement in place and over time;
- comparative and longitudinal analysis;
- coordination, cooperation and comparability in population and migration data, concepts and analysis.

Intersections among international initiatives concerning population, development and migration

Sustainable Development Goals

Human rights

Benefits of migration (long-term and short-term) for economic and social capital in both sending and receiving societies and communities;

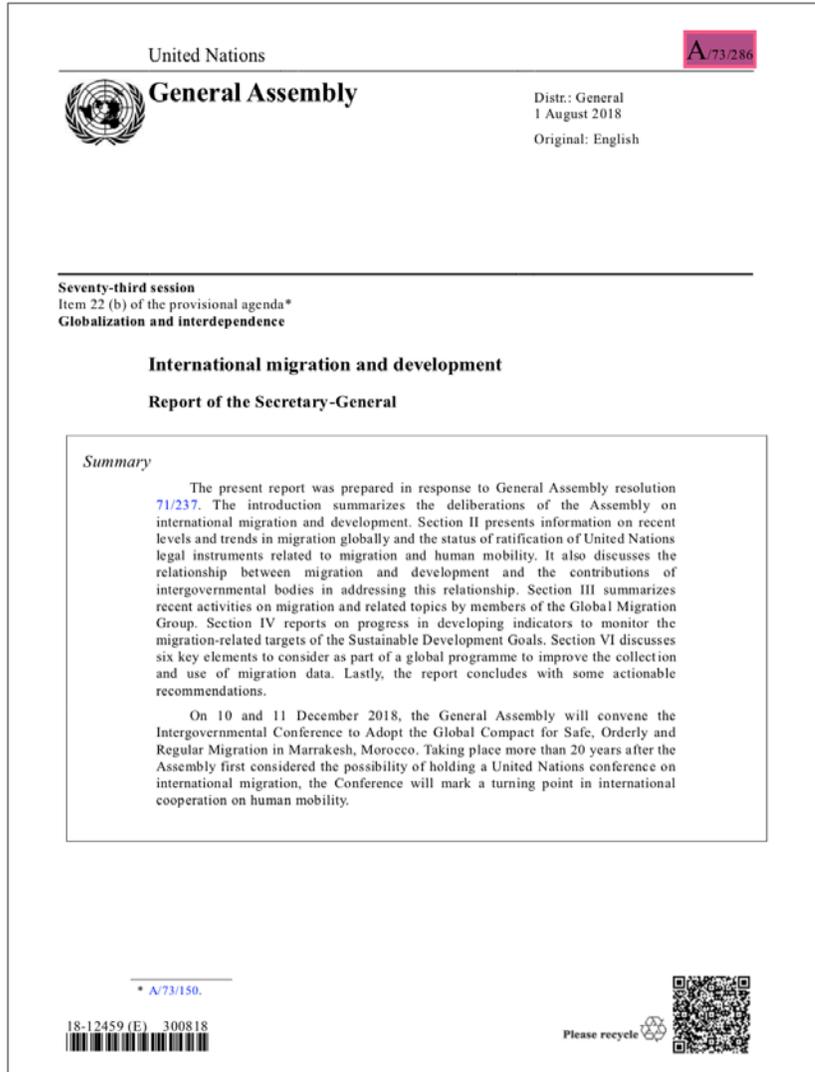
Increased understanding of the causes and consequences of racism and xenophobia;

Recognition of dimensions of vulnerabilities and resilience associated with gender, age, and location;

Effects of environmental change on secure residences and livelihoods.

Innovation

Leadership



D. Supporting demand-driven training programmes

96. Recent workshops, carried out by the Population and Statistics Divisions in Addis Ababa,⁵⁸ Bangkok,⁵⁹ Dakar,⁶⁰ and Rome⁶¹ have highlighted the demand by Member States for training on methods for estimating migration levels and trends and for monitoring progress toward the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. A global programme could support the further development of demand-driven training programmes on migration data for practitioners working in national statistical offices, interior and labour ministries, immigration agencies, overseas employment agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities.

97. Such programmes should be guided by the 2030 Agenda, the New York Declaration and the global migration compact. They should provide training on United Nations standards for the collection and tabulation of migration statistics, the measurement and estimation of migration, indicators for measuring migration-related targets and the disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals by migratory status, as well as data exchange, collaboration and partnerships. The programmes should build on existing tools, such as the Global Migration Group handbook for improving the production and use of migration data for development⁶² and the Statistics Division handbook on measuring international migration through population censuses.⁶³

98. Training programmes must be complemented with in-country support and follow-up provided by qualified nationals, supported by international experts. Courses via eLearning could also be employed as a training method.

E. Establishing regional training centres

99. Regional training centres are critical for ensuring that training and research services are delivered as close as possible to the point of use. The call for regional migration observatories in the migration compact is consistent with recent proposals and initiatives, including for an African institute for remittances, an African migration observatory and a continuous reporting system on international migration in the Americas. Decades-long experience in supporting graduate institutes for demographic training and research, such as the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques⁶⁴ and the Regional Institute for Population Studies⁶⁵ suggest that these centres should be embedded within existing universities. The Global Network of Institutes for Statistical Training, recently established by the Statistical Commission, could provide a useful platform for collaboration among training centres. The regional training centres would also provide an invaluable opportunity for countries in the same region to share and exchange data on migration to work toward improving the availability and quality of such data.

Thank you