

**FOURTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

New York, 25-26 February 2016



United Nations

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**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Population Division

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United Nations  
New York, 2017

# DESA

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.

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## PREFACE

The Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25 to 26 February 2016. It was the latest in a series of annual coordination meetings on international migration convened since 2002 by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the United Nations Secretariat.

The coordination meetings on international migration are convened with the purpose of reviewing the latest evidence on emerging topics in the field of international migration, exchanging information on current and ongoing migration projects, and enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence on migration. The Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, organized in response to General Assembly resolution 58/208 of 13 February 2004, had three objectives. First, the meeting considered progress in implementing migration-related commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4). Second, participants reviewed the contribution of relevant intergovernmental bodies and forums to the follow-up and review of the migration-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Third, participants exchanged information on their activities in the area of migration, including those being undertaken in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, which would be held on 19 September 2016.

This report was prepared by Pablo Lattes and Bela Hovy, Migration Section. For further information on the present publication, please contact the Director by mail (Population Division / DESA, United Nations DC2-1950, New York, NY 10017), telephone (+1 212-963-3209), fax (+1 212-963-2147) or e-mail ([population@un.org](mailto:population@un.org)). This report, as well as informational materials, contributed papers and presentations from the Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, may be accessed at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/14/index.shtml>. Other publications of the Population Division, including those on international migration, are available at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org).

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## CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	iii
EXPLANATORY NOTES .....	vi
REPORT OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION.....	1
I. OPENING .....	1
II. THE UNITED NATIONS MIGRATION AGENDA ONE YEAR FROM NOW: EXPECTATIONS AND PRIORITIES .....	2
III. FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CRITICAL MILESTONES.....	3
IV. STRENGTHENING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO DEVELOPMENT .....	5
V. IMPLEMENTING MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS: INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION.....	6
VI. MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS RELATED TO MIGRATION .....	8
VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ROADMAP TO ADDRESS THE LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS .....	9
VIII. PREPARING THE 19 SEPTEMBER SUMMIT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT.....	10
IX. COORDINATION OF WORK PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES: PRIORITIES FOR 2016 .....	11
X. TOUR-DE-TABLE.....	13
XI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING.....	16

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

AU	African Union
CMS	Center for Migration Studies
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
GMPA	Global Migration Policy Associates
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICIC	Migrants in Countries in Crisis
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIMN	Scalabrini International Migration Network
SRS	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNU	United Nations University
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25 to 26 February 2016. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the United Nations Secretariat. The meeting had the following three objectives: first, to assess progress in implementing the migration-related commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4); second, to discuss the contribution of relevant intergovernmental bodies and forums to the follow-up and review of the migration-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda; and third, to coordinate activities and initiatives on migration, including those being undertaken in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, which would be held on 19 September 2016.

The meeting was attended by more than 170 participants, including representatives of Member States, Observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other international organizations, departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, the regional commissions of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in the field of international migration. Also present were some invited migration experts.

### I. OPENING

In his opening remarks, Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, recalled that the global number of international migrants had reached 244 million in 2015, an increase of 41 per cent increase since 2000.<sup>1</sup> In countries characterized by low fertility rates, international migration had become an important factor in overall population change. Due to recent, large movements of refugees and migrants, migration had become a major issue of concern to the international community. The current crises demonstrated the need for well-managed migration policies. Policy priorities should include facilitating labour mobility, reducing forced migration, and protecting migrant rights. While underscoring the importance of including migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 10.7 which seeks to foster orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, Mr. Gass highlighted the relevance of other SDG targets for achieving well-managed migration. He then recalled various important events that had taken place, or would take place, during 2016, including a pledging conference for Syrian refugees, held in London in February, a conference to promote resettlement and other legal pathways for refugees, which would take place in Geneva in March, the first World Humanitarian Summit, which would be convened in Istanbul in May, and the high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, which would be held by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 19 September.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision*. (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2015).

## II. THE UNITED NATIONS MIGRATION AGENDA ONE YEAR FROM NOW: EXPECTATIONS AND PRIORITIES

Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Migration, thanked the Population Division for convening the coordination meeting. He referred to the present situation as a critical moment in history that demanded solutions based on knowledge and facts. There were currently 60 million people displaced, including 20 million refugees, many of whom were subject to abuse and discrimination. Although the media captured the tragedies, politicians often turned a blind eye on finding solutions. Mr. Sutherland acknowledged the role of the two high-level dialogues on migration, convened by the General Assembly, as well as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Migration Group (GMG) in laying the foundation for integrating migration into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. DESA had significantly improved the evidence base on migration over the last ten years, while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were playing a greater role in global migration than before. The inclusion of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflected the heightened attention to migration. Civil society had played an important role in convincing governments to act and to assume their responsibilities to protect refugees and other migrants. He praised the Deputy-Secretary-General for his leadership in convening a steering committee to respond to the various refugee and migratory crises that were unfolding in 2015. Mr. Sutherland drew attention to the fact while eighty-six per cent of the world's refugees resided in the developing world, less than 100,000 refugees were resettled by third countries each year. With the current spotlight on migration issues, there was a potential to improve the governance of migration. For this to happen, he called on the Global Migration Group (GMG), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), civil society and the private sector to work together. Only through collaboration could rhetoric lead to meaningful change and practical outcomes.

Karen AbuZayd, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, gave an overview of the preparations of the Secretary-General's report for the 19 September Summit. The report would set out the recommendations of what the Summit could achieve, based on consultations with a broad range of stakeholders. Key messages that had been brought to her attention included the importance of root causes of displacement, the contribution of migrants and refugees to development, the need for states to develop systematic responses and collaborative approaches. With regard to refugees, the key question was how to encourage states to agree to more equitable responsibility-sharing. With regard to migration, interlocutors had stressed the importance of national sovereignty in determining whom to admit, the centrality of a human rights-centred approach for all people on the move, the need to combat transnational criminal networks that were engaging in migrant smuggling and human trafficking, and the importance of a closer working relationship between the IOM and the United Nations system.

In her capacity as GMG Chair-in-Office, Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women, emphasized the historical opportunity for the United Nations system and Member States to come together to develop joint approaches and to ensure that migration would be considered a positive force for development. Ms. Puri emphasized the need to consider the

gender and age dimensions of migration, with women comprising around half of the world's international migrants. UN Women would highlight the plight of migrant women during the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women. Supporting the GFMD and implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, would be among the GMG's priorities for 2016. Further, the GMG would join the SRSG on Migration and the Special Adviser on the Summit in countering xenophobia and promoting tolerance.

In response to a question about the role of internally displaced persons (IDPs), panellists observed that while internal displacement was often a first step towards crossing international borders in order to seek protection, the General Assembly had decided that the Summit would mostly focus on international movements. Attention was drawn to the fact that many vulnerable migrants failed to qualify as refugees under 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees. One participant urged the General Assembly to include the voices of migrants in the Summit. Another participant argued that the role of local governments in integrating migrants should be included in the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which would be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016. Widespread support was voiced for including the voices of all stakeholders, including civil society, city officials and migrants, in the preparations for the 19 September Summit.

### III. FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CRITICAL MILESTONES

Juwang Zhu, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA, presented key findings from the Secretary-General's report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>2</sup> The High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) would be the central platform to review, and identify gaps in, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission on Population and Development (CPD), a functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, could play a key role in reviewing the migration-related commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda, considering its existing mandate of reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The GFMD, the IOM and civil society could also make important contributions to the HLPF. He suggested that such contributions need not be limited to the migration-related Goals and targets. He added that the commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind also applied to migrants and refugees.

In her capacity as Chair of the 49th Session of the CPD, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mwaba Patricia Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations, highlighted the role of the CPD in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, which included chapters on population distribution, urbanization and internal migration (Chapter IX) and on international migration (Chapter X). The Commission had focused on migration issues several times since 1994, including in 2006 and 2013, the years of the first and second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and

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<sup>2</sup> A/70/684

Development. The Ambassador stressed that, in order to succeed in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, all United Nations bodies, together with intergovernmental forums outside the United Nations, should cooperate and coordinate their work, so that efforts would be complementary and mutually reinforcing.

In his capacity as GFMD Chair-in-Office, H.E. Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, observed that his Government recognized the important contribution of civil society in developing migration policies. The GFMD provided a platform where different actors could share experiences and discuss sensitive issues, including migration governance. Ambassador Haque outlined the main goals of the Forum during 2016. First, Bangladesh would explore the linkages between international migration and business which were driven by, and also facilitated, connections between communities and societies. The second thematic workshop would focus on the challenges of maintaining cohesive societies in an era of diversity. A third objective of the 2016 GFMD would highlight the importance of peaceful and stable societies for economic growth and for safe, orderly, and regular migration. In chairing the 2016 GFMD, Bangladesh would pay special attention to the institutional context for the governance of migration. Further, it would promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda under the overarching theme “Migration that works for sustainable development for all: Towards a transformative migration agenda”.

In her presentation, Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration, outlined a framework for the governance of migration, which had recently been welcomed by the IOM Council. The framework included three principles. The first principle required adherence to international standards and the fulfilment of migrants’ rights. The second principle focused on the importance of evidence and a whole-of-government approach in formulating migration-related policies. The third principle stressed the role of partnerships in improving migration governance. Furthermore, the framework had three objectives. First, migration governance should advance the socioeconomic well-being of migrants as well as societies. Second, effective migration governance depended, in large part, on finding concrete responses to the mobility dimensions of crisis situations. Third, it was critical that migration should take place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. She highlighted efforts, together with DESA and the Economic Intelligence Unit, to develop a migration governance index in order to measure progress in the implementation of SDG target 10.7. She also highlighted IOM’s International Dialogue on Migration, which provided a multi-stakeholder forum for states, civil society, academia and migrants.

Bob van Dillen, Migration and Development Civil Society Network (MADE), stressed the important role of civil society in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in contributing to national reviews at the HLPF. Civil society had campaigned to integrate members of civil society into national delegations attending the HLPF. Civil society intended to produce a “shadow report”, which would include information and data going beyond the global review of the migration-related Goals and targets, as well as information on its own role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In reviewing the implementation, civil society would participate in the work of the IOM Council and the functional commissions of ECOSOC. Despite challenges faced in recent years, the CPD should continue to strive for the adoption of negotiated outcomes

in the form of resolutions combining the review and follow-up of both the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. Such resolutions would send a strong message to the HLPF.

In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the importance of bringing regional perspectives to the table, such as those of the African Union. Ms. Thompson concurred with this viewpoint, indicating that regional consultative processes on migration, many of which were supported by her organization, could play an important role in reviewing the progress made toward achieving the SDGs.

#### IV. STRENGTHENING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO DEVELOPMENT

Bela Hovy, Population Division, DESA, opened the session by presenting information on the latest trends in international migration, using the Division's global estimates of the stock of international migrants and of net flows of migrants. The *2015 Revision* of the international migrant stock confirmed that Asia and Europe were hosting the largest number of international migrants, that the global stock of international migrants had risen in the past few decades, and that there were no signs that this increase would halt or reverse in the near future. He also drew attention to the significant difference in the projected change in the size of the working-age population for Africa and Europe over the next 35 years. He also observed that net positive migration could slow, but not halt or reverse, population ageing.

Jean-Christophe Dumont, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), presented recent research on responses to the refugee crisis. First, he indicated that short- and medium-term direct fiscal costs, which were significant in some countries, could boost aggregate economic demand in Europe by about 0.1 to 0.2 per cent of gross domestic product. Second, he pointed to the large differences in access to the labour market for asylum-seekers, ranging from no waiting period in some Nordic countries to 12 months in the United Kingdom. A third important finding was that while the employment rate for those seeking international protection was below 25 per cent during the first few years of stay, their participation in the labour force reached almost 75 per cent after 15 years of residence. The large diversity in skills among humanitarian migrants highlighted a need for tailor-made approaches for job training. Moreover, there was need for a more rigorous evaluation of refugee qualifications and skills.

Participants inquired about the definition of migrant stock and whether it would be useful to provide a more nuanced picture of different types of migrants. Questions were also raised about the definition of labour market integration and whether informal work was included. One participant asked about the experience of the OECD countries with regard to the integration of unaccompanied minors, while reiterating the need to increase public spending to promote the integration of migrant children. The role of employers and unions in the integration of migrant workers was highlighted. Mr. Dumont underscored that it was important not only to consider average labour market outcomes, but also to disaggregate such outcomes by the type of migrant.

## V. IMPLEMENTING MIGRATION-RELATED COMMITMENTS: INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

The moderator, François Crépeau, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, explained that the session was comprised of two panels. The first panel would focus on protecting the human rights of migrants, while the second panel would deal with improving the perception of migrants in the media. He then asked the first panel to identify areas where tangible progress had been made in protecting the human rights of migrants and to list examples of areas that continued to represent major challenges.

Craig Mokhiber, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), observed that, in the past few years, female migrants had received increased attention and support. A second area of progress was that, increasingly, migrants in an irregular situation could access basic services, including personal identity documents. Some of these good practices had been achieved at the municipal level.

Fatumo Farah, Himilo Relief and Development Association, noted that significant progress had been made in addressing gender-based violence against migrants and in improving the protection of unaccompanied girls. Moreover, the role and contribution of civil society in the GFMD had significantly increased in recent years.

Donald Kerwin, Center for Migration Studies (CMS), concluded that much progress had been made through regional agreements that allowed for the free movement of workers and others. Also, there had been increased efforts by some states to provide services to their citizens residing abroad.

With regard to issues that required urgent attention, Mr. Mokhiber drew attention to the increasing threat posed by xenophobia, by the rhetoric about constructing walls and barriers to halt migration, and by the lack of protection for migrants in transit. Ms. Farah identified as a major challenge the problems faced by refugees, particularly women, and the lack of coherent government strategies to respond to large inflows of refugees and other migrants. Lastly, Mr. Kerwin cited as a major concern the insufficient opportunities for legal migration, the issue of migrant smuggling, and the emphasis on preventing refugees from moving from countries of first asylum to third countries.

During the discussion, participants identified several additional challenges with regard to the current state of migrant rights, including the lack of training for service providers interacting with immigrants, the lack of inclusion of stakeholders in migration policy development, including local and regional governments, and the lack of attention to the issue of internal displacement. Moreover, participants also listed as important challenges the absence of well-managed migration policies, which had resulted in reactive rather than proactive responses, as in the use of private contractors for immigration control and border enforcement, the insufficient resources for saving migrant lives, the lack of attention to addressing root causes of displacement, including poverty, armed conflict and discrimination, and the lack of attention to empowering migrants.

By way of introducing the second panel, participants viewed a short video by the BBC on the perception of migrants in Scotland. Following the video, the panellists in the second round were asked about the main challenges in shaping the public perception of migrants.

Matthew Hodes, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), identified exclusion, hate speech, and an excessive emphasis on negative information as some of the main challenges. Parvati Nair, United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM), drew attention to the disparaging language that was often used to describe migrants and migration, the discord between the reality and the perceptions of migrants, and the fact that the media tended to focus on aspects such as security and terrorism. Patricia Ann Torsney, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to the United Nations, cited the responsibility of parliamentarians in building peaceful societies and in communicating in a balanced manner about migration and displacement. Kavitha Rajagopalan, World Policy Institute, noted the spike in anti-migration sentiment not only in Europe and Northern America, but also in many other parts of the world. She concurred that the emphasis on security represented a major challenge in combating negative stereotyping of migrants.

Other challenges identified by participants were the lack of voice and agency of migrants to control their own narrative, the gap between policies and what was happening on the ground, the overemphasis on polls measuring people's perception, the need to fight racism and hate speech more effectively, and the need to make use of social media platforms and to engage with a variety of stakeholders, including youth.

Asked to provide examples of good practices to improve the public perception of migrants and migration, Mr. Hodes drew attention to programmes to monitor hate speech. He also referred to a joint IOM-UNAOC initiative called "PLURAL+", an international youth video festival showcasing migration, diversity and social inclusion. He also noted UNAOC's work to produce a media-friendly glossary of migration. Ms. Nair made reference to a recent meeting her Institute had convened to promote good migration practices by local governments, called "The New Barcelonians: Migration, Work and Family in the City", as well as media campaigns to address discrimination against the Roma. Given that the voices of migrants often failed to capture the public's attention, there was a need for a coherent media strategy. Ms. Torsney called for a greater emphasis on the success stories of migrants and for more programmes focusing on creating connections between immigrants and natives. Ms. Rajagopalan noted that, unfortunately, the economic case for migration had not borne fruit. Rather, it was necessary to focus on the personal stories of migrants and the multiplication of media platforms. It was important to avoid "fetishizing" migrants by presenting them neither as heroes nor victims. Greater emphasis should be given to community-based media and the ethnic press. She noted that polling data often reflected the status quo in terms of xenophobia without contributing to a more nuanced narrative.

Other initiatives aimed at improving the public's perception of migrants and migration included mayoral forums, organized by UNITAR and others, and the GFMD's platform for partnerships. Participants called for involving younger generations, trade unions and service providers, using sports to channel a positive message about diversity, including anti-racist curricula in schools, addressing economic inequality, providing objective information to

parliamentarians and other elected officials, establishing a common ground between migrants and natives, emphasising integration and interaction between different groups, highlighting the role of migrants in revitalising depressed cities and areas, and improving the availability of information to monitor and evaluate best practices.

## VI. MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS RELATED TO MIGRATION

By way of introduction, Bela Hovy, Population Division, provided a brief overview of the decades-long efforts by the General Assembly to integrate migration into the United Nations development agenda. Despite the analysis of international migration and refugee movements in the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the MDGs had failed to recognize the interlinkages between migration and development. Both the 2006 and the 2013 High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development, as well as the annual meetings of the GFMD, had provided a major impetus for integrating migration-related targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). The SDGs included several targets related to migrants, including target 8.8 (creating safe working environments for migrant workers), target 10.7 (facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration), target 10.c (reducing transaction costs of migrant remittances), and target 16.2 (ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children).

Michelle Leighton, International Labour Organization (ILO), provided an overview of the state of data collection related to migrant workers. Recent estimates from the ILO suggested that migrant workers constituted about 73 per cent of the global stock of international migrants aged 15 years or above. Women constituted about 44 per cent of migrant workers worldwide. Among the 11.5 million domestic workers, many of whom were migrants, some three-quarters were women. Most migrants were employed in the service sector (about 71 per cent), followed by industry (18 per cent) and agriculture (11 per cent). Ms. Leighton highlighted research findings with regard to several SDG targets, including 8.8, 10.7 and 10.c. While recruitment fees could reach up to one year of salary for temporary jobs overseas, such costs showed large differences by country of destination and origin of the migrant worker. The wage gap between migrants and non-migrants also showed great disparities, varying between 8 to 32 per cent, depending on the country of employment. In Europe, the average wage gap between migrants and natives was about 17 per cent. In response to the current refugee crisis, ILO was implementing programmes to create decent jobs, assess labour market skills, promote tolerance and encourage school attendance. Given that refugees faced many similar challenges compared to other migrants in the labour market, humanitarian action and labour market responses should be integrated.

Yongyi Min, Statistics Division, DESA, informed participants about the stage of preparations of the global SDG indicator framework. In March 2015, the UN Statistical Commission had set up an expert group composed of 28 Member States as well as observers from international agencies, regional organizations, and civil society. Meetings of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) had taken place in New York in June 2015 and in Bangkok in October 2015. In February 2016, the full list of 230 SDG indicators had been made available. In presenting the list of indicators, the IAEG-SDGs had

stressed that not all indicators were applicable to all national contexts and that some indicators required further development. Proposed indicators were classified into three tiers. “Tier I” indicators included those with an established methodology and for which data were already widely available. “Tier II” indicators referred to those with an established methodology but for which data were not easily available. “Tier III” indicators were those for which no internationally agreed methodology had yet been developed. Data for measuring the indicators would be produced by national statistical offices and aggregated at the regional and global level. Progress toward the achievement of the SDGs would be documented in an annual report. The current framework included several migration-related indicators, including 8.8.1 (frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status), 8.8.2 (national compliance of labour rights by sex and migrant status), 10.7.1 (recruitment cost borne by employees), 10.7.2 (number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies), 10.c.1 (remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted) and 16.2.2 (number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population).

Martin Fowke, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), presented methodologies to assess progress in achieving the Goals and targets related to human trafficking, in particular, SDG targets 5.2, 8.7, 10.7 and 16.2. Assessment of the scale of trafficking in persons was thwarted by a high incidence of non-detected cases, estimated to reach some 60 per cent worldwide. To improve data collection, UNODC had developed the questionnaire to gather information on victims including their gender, age and citizenship, and on the forms of exploitation and the countries from which the victims had returned. UNODC’s 2014 global report on trafficking in persons indicated that most known victims were women and girls. While trends showed a decrease in the human trafficking of adult women, the report had documented an increase in the number of trafficked girls. The detection of women and men being trafficked varied significantly by region and cause. Men comprised about 65 per cent of the victims of trafficking for forced labour. With regard to child trafficking, some 53 per cent of victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, while 40 per cent were for the purpose of forced labour.

During the discussion, participants inquired about the respective roles and contributions of statistical offices, international agencies and civil society in compiling the indicators at the national level. Various participants raised questions about the quality and reliability of data on human trafficking. A representative of the Global Migration Policy Associates drew attention to a matrix his organization had developed, identifying thirty-seven targets across fourteen SDGs that directly concerned migration and migrants. The matrix included proposed indicators.

## VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S ROADMAP TO ADDRESS THE LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

In his keynote address, the Deputy Secretary-General noted that 2016 provided a critical opportunity to improve the lives of millions of refugees and migrants, to address the root causes of forced displacement, to secure orderly, safe, and regular pathways of migration while leveraging the benefits and mitigating the challenges of migration. The Summit for Refugees and Migrants, to be held on 19 September 2016, would be guided by eight principles put forward by the Secretary-General, namely: (1) saving lives, (2) protecting refugees, (3) promoting non-discrimination, (4) improving reception, (5) enhancing responsibility-sharing,

(6) strengthening cooperation, (7) creating safe, orderly and regular channels of migration, and (8) helping those fleeing the effects of climate change. The Deputy Secretary-General observed that alleviating the plight of refugees and vulnerable migrants was not only a moral imperative but also formed a strategic bulwark against instability in countries of first asylum. In order to combat the scourge of human trafficking, he called for more legal pathways for the admission of refugees, including through resettlement. A particular concern was the violation of the human rights of migrants, especially in the face of rising xenophobia and discrimination. He expressed the hope that, with the spotlight of the international community focusing on refugees and migrants this year, pledges for humanitarian financing would increase. Lastly, he called for a global approach to respond to refugee and migratory crises.

In January, donors meeting in London had pledged more than USD 11 billion to help address the Syrian humanitarian crisis. In March, the international community would meet in Geneva in order to facilitate the admission of Syrian refugees through resettlement and other legal pathways. It was expected that the first World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul in May, would lead to a paradigm shift in the response of the international community to humanitarian crises. Lastly, on 19 September, the General Assembly would convene a high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

#### VIII. PREPARING THE 19 SEPTEMBER SUMMIT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT

José Riera, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, opened the session and introduced the panellists. The session would focus on the preparations of the Secretary General's report for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

Elizabeth Ferris informed participants that the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report, to be submitted no later than May 2016, setting out recommendations on ways to address large movements of refugees and migrants. The report would be prepared through a consultative process including Member States, international organizations and civil society. The Deputy Secretary-General had established a steering committee, representing the main international organizations involved, to oversee the preparation of the report. Member States had already been asked to submit written inputs. The report would provide data on and definitions of people on the move (Chapter I), indicate the main reasons behind large movements of refugees and migrants (Chapter II), highlight the danger of refugee journeys and their uncertain reception (Chapter III) and summarize relevant state-led initiatives (Chapter IV). Further, the report would outline a new approach for addressing large movements of refugees and migrants (Chapter V), describe common principles and a roadmap on migration (Chapter VI), and present a framework for international cooperation on large-scale refugee movements (Chapter VII). The report would build on recommendations from the 2006 and 2013 high-level dialogues on migration, the first World Humanitarian Summit, and other relevant initiatives.

Currently, some 7.5 million people were displaced within Syria while over four million Syrian refugees had found refuge abroad, according to Ninette Kelley, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number of Afghan refugees had

exceeded three million for several decades, and the number of displaced persons was on the rise in Africa's Great Lakes Region. Particularly worrying to UNHCR was that very few refugees were able to find a durable solution to their plight. In 2015, fewer than 120,000 refugees were able to repatriate, compared to about 1.5 million refugees in 2005. Given the large number of refugees hosted by some countries of first asylum — in Lebanon, refugees comprised 25 per cent of the total resident population — there was an urgent need for a more equitable sharing of responsibilities in supporting refugees.

Jill Helke, International Organization for Migration (IOM), presented several priorities in addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. In IOM's view, all refugees and migrants, regardless of their particular reason for leaving, deserved protection based on actual needs. Human rights applied to every single human being, regardless of the categorization that was applied. As migrants were received by communities at the local level, the Summit needed to strengthen support for local actors. She recalled that the Deputy Secretary-General had just laid out key elements of well-managed migration policies. Ms. Helke highlighted the importance of registration: without proper documentation, displaced persons were often left without any means of assistance and unable to reach safety.

Ambassador Mehmet Samsar, Director General for Consular Affairs, Turkey, noted that Turkey's chairing of the GFMD in 2015 came at a time when the world's attention was focused on migration. With worldwide displacement at a record level, large movements of refugees and migrants were a global issue that required solidarity, cooperation and a humanitarian response. This is why Turkey had made the decision to put forced migration and development on the agenda of the GFMD. It was imperative for the Turkish government to focus the attention of the international community on applying development-oriented solutions to humanitarian crises, on sharing the responsibility for safe, orderly and regular migration, and on the humane treatment of migrants, refugees and displaced persons. Turkey was hosting more than 2.5 million Syrians and was acutely aware of the need for international solidarity targeted on saving lives, providing safety, and improving the living conditions of asylum-seekers. In this regard, education was a key factor to ensure that younger refugees would not become a "lost generation". Turkey was committed to integrating migrants fully into its national development planning and to maximizing the development impact of migration. While the migration-related targets and indicators of the SDGs were a good start, migrants would be systematically included in his country's efforts to improve human security and human development. As background to the high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, Turkey had called for a plenary meeting to raise global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin, with specific emphasis on Syrian asylum seekers, during the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. During that debate, held on 20 November 2015, the Secretary-General had presented his road map for addressing large movements of refugees and migrants in 2016.

#### IX. COORDINATION OF WORK PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES: PRIORITIES FOR 2016

In his role as GFMD Chair-in-Office, Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, outlined his priorities. While the GFMD would focus on the implementation of the

2030 Agenda, it would also consider migration-related issues that had not made it into the 2030 Agenda (“SDG plus”). In order to gain insights from different perspectives, preparatory meetings would be held in different locations. Linkages between business and migration would be explored in Bangkok, while pluralism and diversity would be the focus of a meeting in Geneva; the question of migration governance would be tackled in New York. The Forum would also consider how to strengthen the linkages between the Forum’s annual meeting, the thematic meetings and the various ad hoc working groups. In this regard, he announced the creation of a working group on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Meg Jones, UN Women, presented the results of the recent GMG retreat, which took place from 22 to 24 February 2016. The retreat had included a discussion on how the GMG and its members could best support Member States, the GFMD Chair-in-Office and the work of the Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. The retreat was also an occasion to take stock of the GMG’s contribution to the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. Ms. Jones announced that the GMG would organize several interactive, preparatory meetings to ensure that all stakeholders would reach a common understanding regarding basic migration trends and terminology ahead of the 19 September Summit. As Chair-in-Office of the GMG, UN Women would seek to elevate the focus on women in the current migration debate. Second, it intended to strengthen the role of the GMG in implementing and monitoring the migration-related SDG targets. Third, UN Women aimed to strengthen the overall effectiveness of the GMG through enhanced coordination. Fourth, the GMG needed to apportion responsibilities for following up on the migration-related targets of the SDGs that had been identified during the retreat.

Colin Rajah, Global Coalition on Migration, thanked the organizers of the meeting for inviting representatives of civil society, thus creating an opportunity for civil society to find synergies and to collaborate with Member States and international organizations. In 2013, civil society had defined a five-year, eight-point action agenda on migration. During a recent retreat in Geneva, civil society had identified the following priority areas: (a) global and local migration governance, (b) xenophobia, (c) protection of migrant workers, and (d) migrants on the move. Civil society would also seek to increase its engagement with Member States before, during and after GFMD meetings. Civil society promoted the inclusion of migrants in intergovernmental meetings, so that migrants could not only tell their individual stories but also participate as political actors. Civil society would hold preparatory meetings in Costa Rica, Kenya and Lebanon in order to contribute to the guidelines for migrants in countries in crisis. Meanwhile, the Migrants Forum Asia was working to reform labour recruitment practices. With regard to the September Summit, civil society focused on the modalities for organizing the event to ensure that the participation of civil society would be as broad and inclusive as possible.

During the discussion, participants noted that, given the breadth and depth of civil society’s engagement on the topic of international migration, it was difficult to speak with one voice. Nevertheless, participants felt that civil society has an important role to play in proposing and operationalizing indicators to measure the migration-related targets of the SDG. The GFMD was an important catalyst for civil society to build capacity and participate at the international level.

## X. TOUR-DE-TABLE

The representative from Metropolis indicated that the next Metropolis conference, which would be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2016, would focus on the following eight themes: (1) refugee protection, (2) migrants in crisis, (3) migration and development in East Asia, (4) linkages between migration, trade and the diaspora, (5) Asia's demographic potential for migration, (6) inclusive development, (7) best practices for integration and development at the city level, and (8) migration policy in Japan.

The representative from UNFPA gave an overview of the activities of her agency related to international migration. In particular, UNFPA had proposed indicators for inclusion in the SDG indicator framework, provided assistance to displaced persons in humanitarian situations, improved data on migrants and addressed some of the root causes of migration. UNFPA provided financial and technical assistance to countries to improve the migration data collected through censuses and surveys, including non-traditional data sources such as information collected at borders, aerial surveys and satellite imaging. UNFPA would continue to provide relief, protection and reproductive health care to refugees and internally displaced persons.

The representative from the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) presented a summary of its work during 2015. The Network had produced various regional reports on migration issues, particularly in Latin America, started a new programme to collect data from its shelters, and had organized several meetings. In collaboration with the Center for Migration Studies, the Network had produced profiles of migrants based on data from the US census.

A representative from Education International reported that the seventh Education World Congress, held in Ottawa in 2015, had adopted resolutions on the rights of students and educators, on education and displaced people, and on migration, professional diversity and racism. A representative from a teachers' union based in the United Kingdom drew attention to the role of unions in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in monitoring progress toward achieving the SDGs, as unions were a potential source of valuable information and were engaged at local, national and international levels concerning migrant teachers and students. Her union helped teachers in promoting equality and respect for diversity. She argued that the SDG target of every child having free, equitable quality education needed to be broadened. Measuring numeracy and literacy was inadequate and encouraged a narrow focus on testing.

A representative from the U.S. State Department presented the Migrants In Countries In Crisis (MICIC) initiative. She reminded the audience that many migrants, although they did not meet refugee definition contained in the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees, were forced to leave their countries due to conflict, human rights abuses, food insecurity, natural disasters and other circumstances. The representative from the Government of the Philippines, co-sponsor of the initiative, stressed the relevance of the MICIC initiative for the Philippines, given the large numbers of Filipinos abroad. These migrants would likely be affected whenever a crisis occurred, hence the importance of including the MICIC guidelines in the outcome document of the 19 September Summit. Together with Bangladesh, Colombia and Mexico, the Philippines would continue to advocate for the inclusion of labour migration in the agenda for the 19 September Summit and for the development of migration-related indicators.

The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) aimed to support local actors in the area of migration and development so that they could harness effectively the potential of migration for development. The Initiative's representative acknowledged that while much work was carried out by municipal, provincial and regional actors, many of those activities were done in an isolated manner. Now, it was time to develop international partnerships, promote networks, and to provide those actors with financial assistance and technical resources. The Initiative assisted local actors in countries of destination and origin, where it could be difficult to manage and to develop policies. JMIDI had organized two international meetings over last two years and was planning to hold another one in the Philippines.

One-third of the members of Public Services International (PSI) were active in the health sector. A representative indicated that PSI offered a programme aimed especially at nurses to develop capacities to facilitate the migration of health workers — an issue that was related to the SDGs. While PSI supported creating legal channels for migration, it did not share the view that migration was a tool for development. Rather, it preferred to focus on creating decent work and public services in the countries where potential migrants reside. As a response to large movements of refugees and migrants, PSI was planning to organize a seminar in April 2016 to promote the role of public services in welcoming migrants.

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa promoted synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU). Both agendas emphasized the need to regulate migratory movements, protect the rights of migrants and mobilize international cooperation to address migration-related issues. Agenda 2063 aimed at implementing a continental free trade area as well as the free movement of people on the African continent. Given the importance of refugee movements in Africa, the promotion of peace and security in the region was essential. The AU had launched an initiative called “Silencing the guns” to highlight the role of armed conflict in displacement. In November 2015, the Office had organized a meeting on conflict-related migration in Africa, together with IOM, UNHCR and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes. Topics discussed included the importance of addressing the root causes of migration, such as youth unemployment and armed conflict, as well as the need for better education and for well-managed migration policies.

As co-chairs of the GFMD during 2017 and 2018, the governments of Germany and Morocco planned to strengthen the GFMD as the principal forum for promoting the linkages between migration and development and to work with civil society to achieve tangible results.

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) focused on addressing the root causes of distress migration. The FAO considered the linkages between remittances and migration a priority within the context of rural development. The Organization offered support in three main areas. First, it helped countries to enhance policy coherence by incorporating migration in development policy. Second, it promoted migration policy dialogues across key sectors, including all relevant stakeholders. Third, it promoted job creation in agriculture and rural areas, especially for youth in areas stricken by distress. The FAO had aligned its work with the 2030 Agenda, contributed to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and increased its engagement in the GFMD.

A representative from the Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA) presented seven activities his group was carrying out in relation to the implementation of the SDGs. First, his group had identified 37 targets across fourteen SDGs that applied to migrants and migration. Second, GMPA had prepared a guidance note on migration, health and HIV/AIDS related to Goal 3 of the SDGs. Third, the group had assisted the African Union in developing a 10-year labour migration programme, which was adopted in 2015. Fourth, in March 2016, the group had launched a comprehensive study of European Union law and policy to assess access to the European territory and the degree to which refugees and migrants received protection. Fifth, the group had helped to establish a centre for Asian migration studies at the University of Sydney. Sixth, GMPA had been requested to make a presentation on migration and human rights to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Lastly, it was planning to convene an expert group on mobility and migration in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

A representative from IOM presented some of the work of her organization during 2015, including the development of a migration governance framework. Another project, implemented by the Economist Intelligence Unit and Gallup, Inc., was aimed at assessing whether countries were implementing migration policies. With regard to data and research, the IOM had established a migration data centre in Berlin, supported by the Government of Germany. IOM had also supported efforts to include migration in the HABITAT III outcome document. IOM's "I am a migrant" campaign was intended to help counter xenophobia and to improve public perceptions of migrants. Further, the Organization was involved in projects to reduce the cost of remittance transfers.

The Statistics Division of DESA was developing guidelines for the collection and compilation of migration statistics. It was collaborating with the Population Division in building national capacities for the collection and use of migration data for development. It was also collaborating with IOM in implementing a project to improve migration data in the ECOWAS region, which included preparing technical guidelines and holding workshops.

A representative from the League of Arab States (LAS) reported on progress in establishing a regional consultative process on migration in the Arab region. The first meeting of this new mechanism had taken place in April 2015, while the second was planned for May 2016. In connection with the SDGs, the League was reviewing how it could implement the 2030 Agenda at national level. It was also preparing a position paper for the purpose of harmonizing the views of its Member States in the context of the 19 September Summit.

A representative from UN Women reported on his organization's work to strengthen the role of civil society in protecting migrant rights in the Philippines. The adoption of a bill on the welfare of overseas workers was considered a milestone. Together with the GFMD and the GMG, UN Women was planning to organize various migration-related events in the context of the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women. UN Women vowed to bring issues and challenges faced by migrant women to the attention of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

A representative from UNDP reported that his organization was scaling up its activities related to migration at all levels. UNDP had created a steering group to discuss issues of migration and displacement. The group, supported by all regional bureaus, coordinated the migration-related activities in three main areas. First, it supported countries in implementing comprehensive national policy and institutional frameworks. Second, it aimed to strengthen the developmental impacts of migration. Third, it worked with other UN system entities on developing solutions for migration and displacement. UNPD was also implementing a project with IOM to mainstream migration as part of development planning in eight countries, a programme to combat human trafficking in Asia, and various projects related to migration and displacement. Much of UNDPs work on refugees and migrants focused on strengthening livelihoods for host communities.

#### XI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

In his closing remarks, John Wilmoth, Population Division, DESA, stressed the value of the annual coordination meeting in bringing together Member States, international organizations, civil society and experts in the field of migration policy, data, research and advocacy. The relevance and importance of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual coordination meeting on international migration had been underscored by the lively debates on the 2030 Agenda and on the protection of the rights of all migrants. Improving the data and evidence base on international migration and strengthening cooperation between different stakeholders remained the priorities of the meeting. He echoed the Deputy Secretary-General in emphasizing that 2016 would be a crucial year for migration at the United Nations, especially in the context of recent large movements of refugees and migrants. In closing, Mr. Wilmoth thanked participants for their presentations and contributions.