

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 16-17 February 2017

**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) celebrated its 65th anniversary last year by joining the UN family in becoming a UN related organization. IOM is now the only UN agency dedicating one hundred percent of its resources towards ensuring the orderly and humane management of migration and enhancing the well-being of migrants. In over 500 offices world-wide, nearly 10,000 IOM staff contribute to the fulfillment of the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. As the leading agency in the field of migration, IOM continues to engage with its member states and partners to promote and protect the rights of migrants. In line with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the New York Declaration, IOM has committed to ensuring that migration is mainstreamed in development policy through its activities and programs.

A. HOW IOM SUPPORTS MEMBER STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MIGRATION ASPECTS OF THE SDGS

In November 2015, IOM Member States endorsed the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), through Council Resolution 1310, which remains the only internationally agreed definition of SDG target 10.7 on implementing well managed migration policies. This tool does not entail any new obligations for Member States, but builds on existing international instruments, norms and research to ensure that migration is governed in an integrated and holistic way. IOM is using MiGOF to advise governments on both policy and programmatic priorities that lead to the development of targeted, impactful and strategic programmes. As IOM Member States have requested the Director General to report on the activities of the organization using the six (6) MiGOF categories, the following section, which summarizes a few examples of activities geared towards helping Member States achieve migration aspects of SDGs, is organized accordingly.

Principle 1: Adherence to international standards and fulfillment of migrants' rights

IOM works continuously to ensure that migrants' rights are respected in accordance with international standards. IOM promotes migrants' rights through information sessions, trainings and consultations with stakeholders including the private sector. In the first half of 2016 alone, IOM staff trained 22,000 practitioners on international norms, human rights standards and good governance. IOM has also worked towards the development of policy material to guide its work in the field. IOM's efforts in humanitarian policy have led to the development of a policy document on the Principles for Humanitarian Action, which aims to assist and protect migrants. Along with this initiative, IOM has developed a toolkit to help prevent sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA). The *Best Practice Guide: Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanisms* aims to promote field-level implementation of collective PSEA activities.

Principle 2: Formulating policy using evidence and a "whole of government" approach

IOM's efforts to develop states' capacities to provide data and build on existing governmental structures have focused on formulating research and publications. This has led to the establishment of the Data Cluster Working Group, which aims to capture up-to-date and accurate migration data. The creation of the Global Migration and Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) in Berlin is IOM's response to the growing demand for reliable migration data. The work of the GMDAC provides support to build the data capacity of Member States by providing training tools and enhancing policy frameworks to collect better data. These efforts also contribute to the achievement of SDG target 17.18. IOM has also developed a Migration Governance Index (MGI) which provides a framework for countries to measure their progress towards better migration governance. IOM, in partnership with the Economic Intelligence Unit, established the framework as a way to help states identify gaps and build their

capacity to develop policies that ensure safe, orderly and humane migration. The MGI report contributes to the fulfillment of SDG 10, in particular target 10.7 and acknowledges that well governed migration has benefits for both sending and receiving countries.

Principle 3: Engaging with partners to address migration

In September 2016, IOM became a related organization of the United Nations, a relationship that will allow for improved partnerships with various intergovernmental organizations that work on migration issues. IOM has worked to enhance and strengthen such partnerships which are critical to the work on SDGs at the local, regional and international level. IOM has organized several forums which allowed member states to exchange views on migration policy, share best practices, and promote coordinated efforts on migration issues. Last year's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) meetings focused on the follow-up and review of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals. Along with other international and regional forums, such as the Global Regional Consultative Processes (GRCP), local consultations with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the private sector drive IOM's work with governmental and non-governmental partners to ensure that migration policy and migrant issues are addressed at all levels. IOM also engages in international and multinational fora to advance its work on migration and development. One such example is the Global Forum of Migration and Development (GFMD), which in 2016 focused on sustainable development for all in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Objective 1: Advancing the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society

The socio-economic wellbeing of migrants in society is a key priority of IOM's work. IOM's "I am a migrant" campaign was scaled up to change public perceptions of migrants and challenge anti-migrant hate speech. This initiative has stretched to the organization's social media and online platforms. Migrants' health outcomes are also a primary objective in IOM's programming. By September 2016, IOM had conducted 320,400 health assessments, engaged in the training of 2,000 health and non-health practitioners and provided migrant-sensitive health services that enhanced practitioners' abilities to respond to clinical, cultural, linguistic and administrative specificities in 34 countries. IOM also helps to raise awareness of the challenges migrants face in their daily lives. IOM provides training on ethical recruitment through direct engagement with the private and public sectors. With its International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), IOM has brought government officials, multinational companies, employers, non-governmental organizations and trade unions together to devise ethical recruitment standards that complement existing regulations.

Objective 2: Effectively address the mobility dimensions of crises

In 2016, IOM supported humanitarian operations in more than 55 countries. IOM deployed rapid response officers from Headquarters on 93 occasions to start or scale up emergency operations. At the institutional level, IOM has continued to promote dialogues amongst its bilateral stakeholders and has worked to support states in times of crisis. The Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative was established to enhance the protection and assistance for migrants in countries that are experiencing conflicts or environmental-related shocks. The working group has developed a set of guidelines for states in order to protect migrants in such countries and is available in six languages. The guidelines drafted by the MICIC initiative propose best practices to complement existing protection frameworks. The MICIC initiative supports goal 10 of the 2030 Agenda which prioritizes reducing inequalities within and among countries.

Objective 3: Ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner

In 2016, IOM's work to promote and ensure migration programs and practices led to safe, orderly and regular pathways reached new levels. IOM has facilitated the administrative processing of over 127,000 temporary and permanent visa applicants to Canada and the United Kingdom alone and assisted in the processing of over 20,000 humanitarian visas for Haitians to enter Brazil. IOM has also engaged in assisting migrants who are unwilling or unable to stay in a host or transit country through safe and regular channels. In 2016, IOM assisted more than 76,000 migrants to return home voluntarily, from 92 host countries to 150 countries of origin (a 6,000 person increase compared to 2015). The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme ensures that trafficked individuals or migrants in vulnerable situations find safe avenues to return home with the assistance to reintegrate upon arrival. IOM has also developed training on immigration and border management to government officials, which have enhanced the skills of 5,445 people (35% of whom were women).

B. HOW IOM WILL SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

The following section outlines a non-exhaustive list of actions which IOM plans to use to support its Member States to achieve the commitments made in the New York Declaration. These commitments have been grouped thematically in the interest of synthesizing.

Human rights - IOM will continue to assist Member States with legislation and policy review – ensuring the respect of international standards both in national legal instruments as well as in policies; giving guidance on how to have a rights based approach, and ensuring the effective implementation of these standards. However, ensuring a rights based approach with the individual at the centre of activities is a cross cutting activity, which is at the basis of all of IOM's activities. IOM will also support government representations abroad in reaching out to and protecting the rights of migrants in destination countries, including via cooperation with diaspora and transnational communities.

Migrant integration - IOM has consistently emphasized that migration is not a problem to be solved, but a mutually beneficial process to be managed responsibly and humanely. To this end, IOM works to achieve a fundamental and positive shift in public perceptions of migrants and migration through its work and various campaigns. Furthermore, IOM will continue to provide pre-departure and post-arrival orientation services for migrants and refugees which will better prepare them for integration into their new communities and labour markets. IOM will promote inter-state and multi-stakeholder cooperation to identify effective integration policies and their implementation, with a particular focus on local governance.

Research, data collection and policy support - IOM will work towards improving the nature and quality of global migration data, in particular in its newly created Global Migration Data Analysis Centre fully dedicated to this end. IOM will continue building the capacity of governments to collect, analyse, process and share migration-related data, via innovative data sharing mechanisms and practices, and building on existing processes and tools. The IOM Migration Governance Framework in particular, sets out the essential elements to support planned and well-managed migration, offering a comprehensive and balanced approach to migration governance.

Migration and health - Through its worldwide network of health teams, IOM will continue to promote comprehensive, preventive and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equitable for migrants and mobile populations throughout all phases of the migration process. Bridging the needs of both migrants and Member States, IOM contributes towards the physical, mental and social well-being of migrants and mobile populations, enabling them and host communities to

achieve social and economic development in line with the SDG commitment to ‘leave no one behind’. It does so while ensuring the right to health for all migrant populations; avoiding disparities in health status and access to health services; reducing mortality and morbidity among migrant populations; and minimizing the negative health outcomes of migrants for an optimal migration outcome.

Migrants in vulnerable situations - IOM will continue to work with partners to identify and address gaps in existing care, support and justice systems in post-conflict countries, and create an effective, comprehensive and standardized approach to assisting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. IOM’s work in this effort is focused on the development and establishment of a comprehensive legal framework and mechanisms to enable victim-status recognition and provide reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. IOM will continue to develop the capacities of governments, and other partners to provide a comprehensive response to the protection of migrants in situations of vulnerability and work to prevent their exploitation and abuse. IOM will continue to facilitate and encourage regional cooperation and international dialogue, including through the regional consultative processes and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, on combating trafficking. IOM will also continue to strengthen legal frameworks and policies to combat trafficking and protect victims, including through training to CSOs and government officials.

Assisted Voluntary Return - IOM will continue supporting the provision of assisted voluntary return assistance to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host or transit countries, in close cooperation with migrant communities, consular authorities, civil society organizations, and Governments. This will include the provision of a) counselling and return-related information dissemination on the country of origin, medical assistance, transport assistance arrangements, including specialized assistance for migrants in vulnerable situations, b) travel assistance (movement coordination, transit assistance, medical and non-medical escort, etc.) and c) post-arrival assistance: reception, inland transport, health-related support. IOM will continue providing comprehensive reintegration assistance to returning migrants to support the sustainability of the return process, through the provision of up to date information, referral services and direct assistance, and in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and local service providers.

Technical support (border management, return and readmission) - IOM will continue supporting governments to ensure that their migration management frameworks and mechanisms lead to safe, orderly and regular migration processes. IOM will continue to support Member States in building their capacity to facilitate legitimate cross-border movement of people and goods as well as to enhance border security in line with States’ obligations under international law.

Migration and development – IOM will help governments in developing approaches to mainstream migration in the 2030 Agenda, both at national and regional levels. Through its 3Es diaspora engagement strategy, IOM will provide mechanisms to engage skilled diaspora individuals in the development of educational institutions in their countries of origin. IOM will engage with partners to develop reliable, up-to-date comparisons of remittance transfer costs. IOM will continue its engagement in inter-State Consultative Mechanisms on Migration (ISMCS) aiming to provide evidence-based technical support, advance multilateral understanding and action on migration issues, and support individual ISMCS with technical advice and capacity building on migration-related SDG targets.

Migration and climate change - IOM will continue to support the implementation of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement by collaborating with international actors, in particular providing technical support to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and national partners to bring human mobility matters into climate policies. IOM will contribute to the development of the Global Compact on Migration at the thematic level, providing technical support on discussions related to

migration and climate change. IOM will continue its collaborative efforts related to protecting and assisting persons displaced across borders in the context of disasters as part of its collaboration with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), successor to the Nansen Initiative. Furthermore, IOM will implement its capacity building and technical support programme of activities on migration, environment and climate change, at national and regional levels, to target decision makers in countries vulnerable to climate change. Activities will encompass migration and climate change assessments, training programmes and project development targeted to country specific needs.

Migration crisis - IOM and relevant partners will disseminate and follow-up on the *MICIC Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disaster* and other relevant policy tools, and build the needed capacity at national and regional levels to facilitate safe and regular migration, and reduce the incidence and impacts of irregular migration.

Labour migration - IOM will further develop the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS), which is a voluntary certification process for international recruitment intermediaries in upholding ethical recruitment principles and give companies much-needed tools to ensure exploitation-free supply chains. IOM will continue to advise governments on their labour migration policies; building national capacities for safe labour migration practices; supporting intergovernmental dialogue on labour migration, the implementation of intra-regional labour mobility agreements, the establishment of bilateral labour migration agreements, and supporting the development of best practices in pre-departure post-arrival counselling for migrant workers.