

**SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**  
Population Division  
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**CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION<sup>1</sup>**

*International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

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

The core guiding principle of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. This principle, which guides IOM's work across the full breadth of migration issues, is also at the heart of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants. IOM's work and its overall mission are therefore intrinsically aligned with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and of the multilateral frameworks addressing migration, including the New York Declaration.

As 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, IOM continues to engage with member states and other partners to promote and protect the rights of migrants and to mainstream migration in development policy and practice through its programmes and activities. The following is a brief snapshot of some of IOM's activities in support of the 2030 Agenda and of the current process to develop a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

(a) Activities undertaken during 2017 to support the implementation of the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda

***Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*** – Over the course of 2016 and 2017, IOM, in cooperation with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), supported governments on issues related to migration policy through the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) process. The MGI is framework to help countries assess the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, and to identify gaps and areas that could be strengthened. The MGI is also an ideal tool Member States can use to follow-up and review progress towards the SDGs (including, but not limited to, SDG target 10.7). The MGI assessments can help generate follow-up activities to build States' capacity on policy-making (e.g. on migration data, human rights, labour migration, etc.). To date, 29 countries have participated in the MGI process, and it will be rolled out in at least another 10 countries in 2018.

Since 2011, IOM and UNDP have implemented a Joint Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration (MM) into National Development Strategies. This programme has supported 8 governments apply a whole-of-government approach to migration governance by integrating migration into national development planning or other sectoral areas. The programme has had a large focus on knowledge sharing, capacity building, setting up institutional working groups and coordination mechanisms and more. A third phase of this project is currently under development, the aim of which will be to foster greater policy coherence on migration and development at the global, national and local levels.

Launched on International Migrants Day in 2017, the MigApp, IOM's flagship app gives migrants access to relevant, secure, and up-to-date information. Thanks to partnerships with three private sector actors, the MigApp's remittances comparison feature provides migrants with transparent, real-time information on the fastest and cheapest money transfer options available between two countries worldwide. By providing this information to migrants, IOM seeks to enhance transparency and increase competition between money transfer operators and thereby reduce the costs of remittance transfers.

***Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages*** - IOM's core health activities have, for decades, included advocacy for migration-sensitive health policies, as well as monitoring, supporting and improving the health and well-being of migrants through its services and programmes. IOM projects address vulnerabilities and health systems risks including individual risk factors, social barriers, and economic costs. IOM will continue to promote comprehensive, preventative and curative health programmes which are beneficial, accessible, and equitable for migrants and mobile populations through all phases of the migration process.

Within the framework of the IOM Equihealth project (Fostering health provision for migrants, the Roma, and other vulnerable groups), the health strand of the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) was developed, along with other partners including COST Action IS1103, Adapting European Health Systems to Diversity (ADAPT), and the Migration Policy Group (MPG). The questionnaire measures the equitability of policies relating to four issues: migrants' entitlements to health services; accessibility of health services for migrants; responsiveness to migrants' needs; and measures to achieve change.

***Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*** – IOM was a principle partner in the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) which came to an end in November 2017. The JMIDI was a global inter-agency programme led by UNDP in partnership with IOM, ITC-ILO, UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNITAR. It focused on the local dimension of migrants' contribution to development and aimed to maximize the potential of migration for local development, providing technical and financial support to up-scale existing locally-led migration and development initiatives across 15 projects in eight target countries.<sup>2</sup> Over 6,700 beneficiaries have received support and seen their livelihoods enhanced.

***Taking urgent action to address climate change, disaster and its impacts*** – Throughout 2017, IOM's Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) activities focused on i) development of projects at the national and regional level and ii) policy engagement in processes of relevance to environmental migration, at both the Geneva and New York levels. A key component of IOM's field engagement on MECC is the provision of technical support at the national level. In that respect, IOM built the capacity of 112 government officials in 16 countries.

In addition, IOM continued to provide technical submissions and contributions to several multilateral processes including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as a Member of the Taskforce on displacement; the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the G7 Expert Group on fragility and climate change; and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. IOM provided key support to the implementation of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) work plan and the implementation of the Nansen Agenda.

In 2017, IOM also launched its Strategic Work Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience 2017-2020, outlining IOM's strategic approach to reducing disaster risk within the broader frame of the Organization's global migration mandate. The strategic work plan is aligned with the Sendai Framework, which is the first global agreement on DRR to include clear references to the contribution of migration towards reducing risk and building resilience. IOM's work plan on DRR seeks to assist States' efforts to reduce disaster-induced forced migration, strengthen resilience in recovery and contribute to risk-informing development in support of the SDGs.

***Helping eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking*** – IOM's work to tackle human trafficking and other forms of migrant exploitation is varied. It assists victims directly; trains national authorities, practitioners and media; contributes to national or local strategies; and works on public campaigns and global initiatives. IOM's work continues to support States to end human trafficking and achieve SDG Targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2.

Several recent initiatives have sought to better develop the evidence base for practice and policy to address some of the most pressing knowledge gaps in this area and ensure that the rights and dignity of migrants are upheld and protected. For example, in 2017, IOM partnered with the ILO and Walk Free Foundation to produce the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery. In November 2017, IOM, in partnership with US-based NGO, Polaris, launched the

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<sup>2</sup> Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Senegal and Tunisia.

Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC),<sup>3</sup> which is the world's first human trafficking data portal to include data contributed by multiple agencies. The portal allows certain types of data to be publicly accessible for the first time in a secure manner.

In September 2017, IOM and UNICEF jointly launched “Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation”. Based on 11,000 interviews with migrant children and youth carried out through IOM's flow monitoring surveys (DTM), the report evidenced the high levels of trafficking and other exploitative practices among children and youth travelling via the Mediterranean migration routes to Europe.

IOM continued to work with its partners to strengthen the humanitarian community's capacity to respond to human trafficking in emergency contexts, and coordinate multi-lateral efforts. For example, IOM supported the establishment of an Anti-Trafficking in Crisis Task Team within the Global Protection Cluster. Co-led by IOM, UNHCR and Heartland Alliance International, the Task Team's aim is to identify gaps in existing responses and recommend humanitarian coordination mechanisms which would better integrate anti-trafficking responses.

***Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*** – in 2017, IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) engaged in migration data capacity-building activities in various countries. For example, IOM developed the *Guidelines for the harmonization of migration data management in the ECOWAS region*. Workshops and trainings on migration data collection, analysis and needs have also been carried out in Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, and Zambia.

As co-custodians of SDG indicator 10.7.2, IOM and UNDESA have been working closely to develop a methodology to measure orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, building on existing data sources. One of the priorities for IOM and UNDESA is to ensure its reclassification to a “tier I” indicator, so that it can inform the global review of SDG target 10.7 and relevant thematic reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

On 15–16 January 2017, IOM, the OECD and UNDESA jointly organized the first-ever International Forum on Migration Statistics. The Forum was hosted by the OECD and was attended by some 500 participants from no less than 50 different countries, including representatives from national governments, international organizations, universities and research institutes, the private sector and the civil society. It is intended that the Forum will become a regular event that will contribute to the exchange of information on migration measurement issues, promoting mutual learning and facilitating cooperation among relevant stakeholders, and mobilizing expertise from a wide range of disciplines.

Recognizing that businesses are a critical partner in the fight against human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, IOM implemented its Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking in Asia (CREST) programme. CREST helps companies protect the human and labour rights of migrant workers within supply chains across Asia, and maximize the benefits of migrant labour in their supply chains. It centres around three pillars of work: (1) training for the commercial sector on human trafficking; (2) pre and/or post orientation training for labour migrants; and (3) labour supply chain mapping and ethical recruitment.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>

- (b) Initiatives that will be undertaken during 2018 to support the implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM)

Throughout 2017, IOM has provided its technical and policy expertise to support the GCM process, as called for in the modalities resolution. This will remain a key priority for the Organization throughout 2018. IOM intends to continue to step-up its whole of organization support in 2018 including engagement with governments, the UN system and other stakeholders in addition to providing ongoing support to the SRSG, the PGA and the co-facilitators.

***Building partnerships for the GCM*** – IOM’s overarching focus in 2018 will be on partnerships. IOM has been promoting partnerships with numerous entities as being essential to a global compact for migration, in both policy development and operations. For example, the theme of IOM’s 2018 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) will be “Inclusive partnerships for effective governance of migration”. The two workshops planned for this year (one in New York and one in Geneva) will provide a space to showcase and discuss some of the tools developed through partnerships with and between various actors in the field of migration, at local, national, regional and international levels.

IOM will continue to support civil society’s engagement in the GCM process through initiating CSO briefings and dialogues with IOM and other stakeholders and strengthening the link between the local, national, regional and global civil society involvement to enable a ground-up approach.

Similarly, IOM’s field offices will be supporting governments wishing to hold national and regional multi-stakeholder consultations during the negotiations phase. IOM will also be focusing on preparing for the implementation of the GCM following its adoption. To this end, IOM is consolidating and further enhancing a range of practical tools, many of which were developed in partnership with other stakeholders, such as the Migration Governance Indicators and the update of IOM’s key capacity building tool – the Essentials of Migration Management.

***Strengthening the evidence base*** – Further supporting efforts to collect, share, and apply reliable data on migration to facilitate the design of evidence-based policy making is another key priority. On 15 December 2017, IOM’s GMDAC launched the Migration Data Portal,<sup>4</sup> a one-stop-shop for global statistics on migration, featuring a) an interactive world map with over 70 indicators from 15 data providers; b) pages by topic summarizing latest trends, and strengths and limitations of available data; and c) guidance tools to improve data collection.

Launched on 23 January 2018 at the World Economic Forum, GMDAC produced the report ‘*More than numbers*’ in collaboration with McKinsey & Company. The report goes beyond the well-known challenges of migration data and illustrates the potential, concrete value of improving migration statistics. The report shows how data enable policymakers to protect migrants in vulnerable situations, fill labour market shortages, improve migrant integration, manage asylum procedures, ensure the humane return of migrants ordered to leave, and increase remittances (to name a few).

Over the coming months, IOM’s GMDAC is issuing a series of Data Bulletins titled *Informing a Global Compact for Migration*, which will summarize in an accurate and accessible fashion the existing evidence on various migration-related themes to support the discussions and any follow-up activities of the GCM.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://migrationdataportal.org>.

Another initiative to provide policymakers with reliable information and analysis on migration in 2018 is a series of high level meetings bringing together policy leaders and members of the Migration Research Leaders Syndicate, which IOM will organize to, inter alia, discuss innovative solutions that are grounded in evidence and knowledge. These events will build on the work of the Migration Research Leaders Syndicate in 2017.

***Media and communications outreach*** – IOM is conducting communications outreach throughout the GCM process, aimed at bringing to life thematic issues; raising awareness of the human dimension of migration; and changing the narrative on migration to a positive one. IOM’s communications strategy is closely linked with key partners such as the OSRSG and the UN Together Campaign, an initiative that promotes respect, safety and dignity for refugees and migrants. IOM’s “I am a migrant” campaign, in partnership with the Together Campaign, has conducted film screenings, interviews for social media with migrants, the SRSG, member states and experts. IOM is producing a podcast series called “Together” that tells the stories of migrant and refugee integration around the world.