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**SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

New York, 15-16 February 2018



United Nations

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

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# 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.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the international community with timely and accessible population data and analysis of population trends and development outcomes for all countries and areas of the world. To this end, the Division undertakes regular studies of population size and characteristics and of all three components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration). Founded in 1946, the Population Division provides substantive support on population and development issues to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. It also leads or participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system. The work of the Division also contributes to strengthening the capacity of Member States to monitor population trends and to address current and emerging population issues.

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## PREFACE

The Sixteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 16 February 2018. It was the latest in a series of annual coordination meetings on international migration convened since 2002 by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

The Sixteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held in response to General Assembly resolution 58/208 of 13 February 2004 on international migration and development, which requested the Secretary-General to continue convening coordination meetings on international migration. The purpose of the meeting was to contribute to the preparation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by (a) taking stock of existing data and research on relevant topics, (b) highlighting gaps in the current evidence base and (c) assessing priorities for the further development of data, research and training to support the implementation of the Global Compact. In addition, meeting participants shared information about progress in monitoring the implementation of the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and presented their recent activities and initiatives on migration.

The meeting informed the intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration ([A/RES/73/195](#)) and contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly ([A/73/286](#)).

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## CONTENTS

PREFACE .....	iv
EXPLANATORY NOTES.....	vii
REPORT OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION .....	8
I.    OPENING.....	8
II.   THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION: AN OVERVIEW .....	9
III.  THE GLOBAL MIGRATION COMPACT: REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP.....	10
IV.  SPECIAL PRESENTATION: MIGRATION FACTS AND FIGURES .....	12
V.   INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: A TOOL FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT.....	13
VI.  IMPLEMENTING THE NEW YORK DECLARATION: STRENGTHENING DATA, RESEARCH AND TRAINING .....	15
VII. MIGRATION-RELATED SDG TARGETS: BRIEF UPDATES ON INDICATORS.....	16
VIII. TOUR-DE-TABLE .....	23
IX.  CLOSING REMARKS .....	27

## 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:

BAJI	Black Alliance for Just Immigration
CMS	Center for Migration Studies
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEPS	Foundation for European Progressive Studies
GCM	Global Coalition on Migration
GCR	Global Compact on Refugee
GDP	Global Domestic Product
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFORD	Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographique
IPUMS	Integrated Public Use Microdata Series
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNU	United Nations University
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDER	World Institute for Development Economics Research



## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Sixteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 16 February 2018. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN DESA). The purpose of the meeting was to contribute to the preparation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by (a) taking stock of existing data and research on relevant topics, (b) highlighting gaps in the current evidence base and (c) assessing priorities for the further development of data, research and training to support the implementation of the Global Compact. In addition, meeting participants shared information about progress in monitoring the implementation of the migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and presented their recent activities and initiatives on migration.

The meeting brought together representatives of Member States, entities of the United Nations system, other relevant intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, as well as academia.

### I. OPENING

The Director of the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) opened the meeting with a message from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu Zhenmin. The message underlined the importance of data to determine and recognize the contributions of migrants to destination and origin countries, as well as to dispel myths and misperceptions about migrants and migration. It stressed that the international community should focus its efforts on strengthening the benefits and addressing the challenges of human mobility. The message of the Under-Secretary-General also highlighted the work of UN DESA on international migration and development. The department produced estimates of the global international migrant stock, analysed the relationship between international migration and development and contributed to the work of the United Nations system to measure migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to disaggregate relevant SDGs and targets by migratory status. In addition, UN DESA supported intergovernmental processes, such as the Commission on Population and Development, whose theme this year was “Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration”. Since 1994, the General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) had provided a platform for deliberations on international migration and its linkages to the global development agenda.

Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, presented an overview of the latest data and estimates on international migration produced by the Division and stressed the relevance of this work for the United Nations system and other stakeholders. He also discussed efforts to improve migration data. Together with UN DESA’s Statistics Division, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Division had prepared a set of recommendations to strengthen migration data, training and research in preparation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). The Division had also mobilized the global community of population scientists to prepare a set of recommendations in preparation of the GCM. He welcomed the importance given to strengthening migration data in the first draft of GCM, presented by the co-facilitators. Mr. Wilmoth recalled the partnership established with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank to organize the Global Forum on Remittances, Investment and Development at the United Nations in New York in June 2017. Lastly, he referred to the regional workshops carried out by the Division over the years to strengthen the collection and use of migration data for development.

## II. THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION: AN OVERVIEW

Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy-Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), identified the GCM as a historic opportunity to promote migration through safe, orderly and regular channels. When migration was well governed it often was a positive force for individuals, communities and states. Referring to the first draft of the GCM, released the previous week, Ms. Thompson observed that the document was the culmination of months of open, transparent and inclusive consultations. She congratulated the co-facilitators on the draft, which, in her view, balanced the various priorities of Member States, considering also those of other key stakeholders. The zero draft included all the key dimensions of migration, including development, humanitarian assistance and governance. It tackled difficult issues in a constructive way, in a framework for cooperation. Ms. Thompson highlighted the linkages between the GCM, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant frameworks. In closing, she emphasized the role of accurate and disaggregated data in developing and implementing evidence-based migration policies.

Ambassador Juerg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and one of the two co-facilitators of the GCM, acknowledged the contribution of different stakeholders to the first draft of the GCM. While Member States were leading the process of preparations and negotiations of the GCM, stakeholders from civil society, academia and the private sector, were also encouraged to participate. Ambassador Lauber laid out the basic structure of the document. The draft opened with a preamble that referred to the most relevant United Nations outcome documents. While rooted in the commitments of the New York Declaration, the ambition of the GCM was to produce provide a specific and concrete way forward for international cooperation on migration. The first draft included a set of guiding principles and, at its core, a framework for cooperation, including 22 objectives as well as sections on implementation, follow-up and review. The 22 objectives were arranged in such a way that they followed the migration cycle, ranging from drivers of migration to return and reintegration. He explained that the document refrained from prescribing a detailed process of monitoring and reporting as part of its follow-up and review.

Mr. Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant-Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), delivered a statement in his capacity as co-chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG). He noted that 2018 presented an enormous opportunity for the international community to address one of the defining issues of our times. He highlighted that the GMG was committed to supporting Member States, and particularly the co-facilitators, by providing technical inputs and mobilizing the expertise of its members. Mr. Stamoulis pointed out that the GMG was planning to hold several side-events during 2018 to raise awareness on relevant issues, in close coordination with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration. He expressed support for the Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen interagency coordination in support of migration activities undertaken by Member States. Mr. Stamoulis pointed out that, under the co-chairmanship of FAO and IOM in 2018, the GMG would continue to bring together the capabilities of its members on a range of migration-related policy areas, which is a major strength of the Group's overall support to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his capacity as Co-Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General, Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad, presented the lessons learned from the GFMD, a State-led, informal and voluntary process to promote dialogue and cooperation on migration and development. The GFMD had prepared a collection of inputs, including policy recommendations, best practices drawn from the GFMD's Platform for Partnerships, as well as the results of recent dialogues and workshops. Mr. Nadir remarked that the first draft of the GCM identified shared responsibilities as being instrumental to facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration. He reiterated the need to implement existing legal frameworks by translating them into action. He welcomed the inclusion in the first draft of cross-cutting

issues and its emphasis on international cooperation for effective implementation. The GFMD envisaged playing a role in the implementation, follow-up and review process of the GCM.

Ms. Monami Maulik, International Coordinator for the Global Coalition on Migration, shared the vision of the civil society for the global compact. Ms. Maulik began by presenting key findings gathered by civil society actors in the preparatory phase of the GCM, which reflected a diversity of views from global, regional, national and local experts as well as a deep understanding of migration policies and its consequences. The consultations had identified issues such as ending the criminalization of migrants, prioritizing voluntary over forced returns and addressing gender dimensions of migration. She praised the process that had led to the first draft, describing the text as people-centred, placing human rights and human dignity at its heart. Ms. Maulik identified some of the areas in which the draft of the global compact could be strengthened, including the protection of rights and access to public services for migrants regardless of status, non-criminalization of irregular entry and promoting pathways for regular migration. In closing, she stated that civil society looked forward to contributing to the text of the GCM during the intergovernmental negotiations, promoting innovative approaches rooted in international law and labour rights.

During the discussion, participants congratulated the co-facilitators for their work, noting the high quality and wide reach of the first draft of the GCM. In response to a representative from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), Ambassador Lauber noted that human rights were referenced across the text and encouraged international organizations to use the GCM as a tool in their own work. He highlighted the close collaboration between the co-facilitators and UNHCR to ensure that the GCM and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) were truly complementary. A representative from the International Labour Organization (ILO) welcomed the importance given to the rule of law in the document and appreciated the references to ILO's conventions on migrant workers. A delegate from Sweden provided some specific recommendations to strengthen the document, which Ambassador Lauber welcomed, indicating the suggestions would be duly considered during the negotiations. In response to a representative from the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, Ambassador Lauber noted that consultations at the regional level had been extremely useful in drafting the document. A representative from the World Bank stressed the importance of giving a sense of urgency to the issue of international migration. He noted that the GCM should also address some key challenges, such as job competition faced by local workers in migrant-receiving communities and the well-being of families left behind in migrants' origin countries. An IOM representative enquired about the capacity building mechanism, referred to in the section on implementation, and welcomed the inclusion of references in the text to migrants in vulnerable situations. Ambassador Lauber clarified that the intention of the co-facilitators was avoid a prescriptive text, including on implementation.

### III. THE GLOBAL MIGRATION COMPACT: REVIEW AND FOLLOW-UP

Ms. Sarah Lou Arriola, Undersecretary for Migrant Worker Affairs from the Philippines and moderator for this panel, introduced the panellists. She highlighted that it was through follow-up and review that the fulfilment of the commitments on intergovernmental agreements such as the GCM could be established.

Mr. Navid Hanif, Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, shared information on follow-up mechanisms designed for United Nations conferences, summits and high-level events held since 1995, with a view to informing options for review procedures for the GCM. He indicated that all conferences had a three-tiered mechanism. The first level was comprised of the General Assembly providing overall leadership. At the second level, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) served to bring the whole United Nations system together. Functional commissions provided the third element by convening experts. Since the draft GCM covered many different dimensions, there was a need to envision a mechanism that included roles for the Regional Economic Commissions as well as the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system. Mobilization of every part of the system was needed to

provide analysis and to bring their varied constituencies to the discussion. All stakeholders needed a platform to operationalize their contributions. Mr. Hanif pointed out that while the GCM foreshadowed the adoption of a declaration on progress every four years, the text did not yet include a request to the Secretary-General for preparing a report on the status of the implementation. He also indicated that for outcome documents to have the maximum impact, quantifiable and targeted data had to be generated. Therefore, Mr. Hanif recommended more clarity about the type of data that would be required for the quadrennial review.

Ms. Colleen Thouez, Columbia University, provided further comments on options for review and follow-up of the GCM, stressing the distinction between implementation on one side and follow-up and review on the other. While implementation referred to the operationalization of the global compact, follow-up and review were framed as an assessment of the progress made by States in achieving the commitments. Since the GCM was inherently a political text, the focus of review should be on assessing the general status of implementation rather than on specific implementation-related elements. By repurposing the existing high-level dialogue process into the International Migration Review Forum, the GCM did not establish any additional mechanisms. She remarked that the text of the GCM lacked clarity on whether the review forum would be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly. She also raised the issue of the budgetary implications of the global and regional reviews, as foreseen in the text. Further, the document did not specify the details of the follow-up and review process at the national and sub-national levels or the role of non-state actors in the process. Finally, Ms. Thouez inquired whether the reviews to be presented at the quadrennial review would be voluntary in nature. She also called for an alignment of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the migration and the refugee compact.

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UN DESA's Statistics Division, provided some background information on the role of the Statistical Commission, and explained how the global statistical community could assist in formulating a follow-up and review process. He also remarked that data and statistics could help frame the objectives of the GCM. Referring to the SDGs, Mr. Schweinfest pointed out that, for the first time, international migration was explicitly mentioned in a United Nations development framework. He shared some of the lessons learned from the SDG indicator framework, commending the active role that the statistical community has played since the beginning of the process. A country-led interagency and expert group, including all relevant United Nations entities as observers, served as the main platform for experts to discuss the work on indicators. The SDG indicator framework had been adopted in three stages, that is, by the Statistical Commission, by the ECOSOC and by the General Assembly. The framework included a three-tier system to reflect the various stages in the quality of each indicator. The global indicator framework allowed for the refining of indicators on an annual basis and for a periodic comprehensive review. The global framework was complemented by regional and national indicators. He noted that a good indicator needed to be relevant, methodologically sound, measurable, comparable, accessible and easy to communicate. Mr. Schweinfest also emphasized the importance of capacity building. He then provided a brief overview of the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission on international migration. For its part, the Statistics Division's work on migration focused on collecting and publishing data, developing methodologies, coordinating activities in support of population and housing censuses, measuring several SDG indicators and capacity building.

A representative from the Regional Economic Commissions emphasized the need to establish a regional mechanism to support the implementation of the GCM and to contribute to its follow-up and review. This suggestion was welcomed by all three panellists. Mr. Hanif pointed out that both the ECOSOC and the General Assembly, through the High Level Political Forum, provided a crucial platform for the review forum to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While IOM had a key role to play as the specialized body, he added that the Secretary-General was tasked with the coordination of the United Nations system in the implementation, follow-up and review on the GCM. Following an intervention by the World Bank, Mr. Hanif observed that national governments played a critical role in ensuring policy and

institutional coherence. A representative from IOM remarked that non-United Nations actors and civil society should play a key role in the review and follow-up of the GCM, especially at local level. IOM also called for aligning the GFMD with the GCM.

A representative from civil society and one from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) raised concerns regarding privacy rights, protection and data sharing. Mr. Schweinfest responded by clarifying that the statistical community was aware of privacy protection issues and pointed out that they could be addressed using appropriate levels of aggregation. Answering to a comment from a representative from the World Bank, Mr. Schweinfest remarked that the recommendations for refugee statistics, while finalized, had not yet been formally adopted by the Statistical Commission. He agreed with a representative from the Regional Economic Commissions on the importance of making use, to the maximum extent, of existing indicators for assessing the status of implementation of the future GCM. A delegate from Sweden welcomed the focus in the first draft of the GCM on implementation and capacity building and called for a leading role for IOM to be included in the compact, with due regard given to mandates and the expertise of other entities.

#### IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: MIGRATION FACTS AND FIGURES

Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, presented the latest trends in international migration as well as the main economic and demographic impacts of migration. While migrants made up only 3.4 per cent of the global population in 2017, there were important variations in the number of international migrants in different countries and regions. Migration occurred primarily between countries within the same region. In terms of demographic characteristics, Mr. Wilmoth noted that 48 per cent of migrants were female and 70 per cent of migrants were aged between 20 and 64 years, according to the latest estimates.

While the demographic impact of migration was found to be relatively small for most countries of origin of international migrants, this impact was, overall, larger for destination countries. Focusing on the age structure, he indicated that immigration could play an important role in slowing down the pace of population ageing in many developed countries. Mr. Wilmoth highlighted that if international migration were to stop immediately instead of continuing at recent levels, the percentage of working-age population in 2050 would be much lower in developed regions and slightly higher in developing regions. The economic impact of migration for countries of origin was, in many cases, substantial, with remittances from migrants playing a key role. Mr. Wilmoth noted that the flow of remittances to developing countries significantly exceeded the volume of official development assistance.

Mr. Wilmoth stressed the importance of data and evidence in developing well-managed migration policies, one of the SDG targets, in maximizing the benefits and addressing the challenges of international migration, and in dispelling myths and misconceptions about migration. Important data gaps still existed, especially in Africa and Asia.

In response to an inquiry from a representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regarding availability of data on reasons for migration, Mr. Wilmoth and Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of the Population Division, explained that information on reasons for migration was not systematically available for all countries. A representative from the Holy See inquired about the availability of data on skills and income of migrants. Mr. Wilmoth explained that there was no systematic information on these issues for all countries. Mr. Hovy noted that the Statistics Division had recently decided to include migrants' skills in the questionnaires sent to countries tabulating census information. However, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had already systematically tabulated data on the international migrant stock by level of education for all its member countries.

In response to a question from an IOM representative about the inclusion of questions about migration in population censuses, a representative from the Statistics Division observed that countries were strongly advised to include questions on both place of birth and on duration of stay in their decennial census. However, not all countries expressed the same interest with regards to measuring migration flows. While most countries collected data on the international migrant stock as part of their census operation, a relatively small number of countries collected information on international migration flows. Responding to a question from a civil society representative on whether migrants in detention centres were included in official statistics, Mr. Hovy explained that this varied from country to country. Much depended on whether these detainees met the official definition of an international migrant used in the context of the census.

## V. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: A TOOL FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, opened the session and introduced the panellists.

Mr. Michael Clemens, Center for Global Development, began his presentation by stating that the relationship between migration and development was at the core of the global compact. He challenged the theory according to which providing official development assistance (ODA) to countries of origin of international migrants would reduce migration. Mr. Clemens argued that research indicated that, in the medium term, as a country developed, emigration rates often increased. Mr. Clemens put forth various reasons for this trend, including more disposable income allowing people to pay for the cost of emigrating, rising levels of education propelling the aspiration of people to migrate and, as child mortality fell, a rapidly growing population. Mr. Clemens described three main lessons he drew from his research findings. Firstly, while development could alleviate migration pressures in the long term, migration would probably increase in the short and medium term. Out-migration would in turn contribute to development. Secondly, over time, regular channels could displace irregular channels. Thirdly, there was a need to devise new channels for regular migration, including by establishing a global skills partnership.

Mr. Leon Isaacs, Developing Markets Associates, gave a presentation on innovative solutions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances. Remittances were a very positive outcome of international migration, that had a significant impact on countries of origin. Mr. Isaacs explained that the benefits went beyond increasing liquidity in developing countries. Remittances also often drove financial inclusion, improved health and education, and empowered those individuals receiving remittances. Remittances helped to achieve 12 of the 17 SDGs. However, managing remittances and decreasing the costs of remittances was a complex undertaking. He pointed out that there were about 16,000 remittances corridors or markets in the world, involving numerous money operators and distinct service providers. To make the process more efficient, it would be crucial to remove current obstacles as well as to bring about technological innovation. Mr. Isaacs noted, however, that no single technology could be applied to solve all challenges related to remittances. Some of the areas where modern technologies could make the greatest impact were mobile money and online payment systems. Blockchain technology could facilitate remittance transfer through improved customer identification. While a number of technologies were improving market efficiency, Mr. Isaacs pointed out that they had to be scaled up. Regarding the GCM, Mr. Isaacs offered some additional thoughts, including the need to acknowledge in the document that remittances could deliver benefits for multiple SDGs.

Ms. Ronnie Goldberg, affiliated with the United States Council for International Business, made a presentation on behalf of the business mechanism of the GFMD. Ms. Goldberg pointed out that global skills mobility was critical for modern businesses and economic growth. Migrants supplied their labour and some needed skills, thereby mitigating gaps in the local workforce. She noted that developed economies were facing a shrinking domestic labour pool due to their aging populations and falling birth rates. Creating more legal avenues for low-skilled migration would reduce the incidence of trafficking, irregular migration, informal employment, unethical recruitment practices and forced labour. Ms. Goldberg presented four

recommendations made by the GFMD business mechanism in the context of the consultations for the GCM. First, migration policies should be regularly updated and flexible to accommodate both new and traditional business models. Migration policies should also be predictable and transparent to allow employers to effectively manage compliance. Second, policies should avoid rigid qualification requirements and skills definitions, trusting employers to identify the most-qualified candidate. Third, migration policies should foster family unity by creating accessible pathways for accompanying family members to obtain work authorization. Fourth, the discourse around migration needed to be elevated by highlighting how skills mobility promoted opportunity. All parties need to commit to fair, responsible, and compliant migration. Ms. Goldberg concluded by stressing the importance of forging partnerships between businesses and governments to advance skills mobility.

Ms. Gemma Adaba, from the Council of Global Unions, underlined that migrant workers were present in all key sectors of the economy and pointed out that the Council of Global Unions was particularly concerned with issues related to their conditions of work. Ms. Adaba welcomed the inclusion of skills recognition and skills development in the draft GCM, noting that portability of skills needed to be strengthened in the document. She also called for the inclusion of the drivers of “crisis migration” in the text. Ms. Adaba challenged the notion of migration as a tool for development, arguing that the answer to development was not migration, but investment in skills, productive capacity and infrastructure. Promoting labour market policies and decent work in developing economies were central to these efforts. She highlighted the importance of overcoming the mismatch between skills and jobs that was detrimental to migrant workers' prospects for decent livelihoods. Labour market and employment policies needed to be well-aligned with migration policies. This would help ensure that migration policies - including skills recognition and development - would respond effectively to the needs of destination countries and ameliorate the lives of migrant workers. Ms. Abada highlighted the importance of including partners such as employers and trade unions in the formulation and implementation of measures to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications. In concluding, she reiterated that skills recognition and development should be people-centred and human rights-based.

In the ensuing discussion, several questions revolved around remittances, including the regulatory and policy environment, as well as the assessment of their impact. Some participants asked questions about the data used to examine the relationship between development and migration and about the need for targeted development assistance to address the drivers of migration. Responding to a question by a representative of IFAD concerning innovative policies to facilitate remittances, Mr. Isaacs provided the example of Bangladesh, stressing the importance of cooperation between governments of sending and receiving countries. In addressing a comment made by a representative from the World Bank, Mr. Isaacs noted that the draft GCM clearly mentioned the need to improve the regulatory environment on remittances and hoped that this wording would remain in the final version of document. A representative from UNDP raised the issue of the assessment of the impact of remittances on migrants themselves, to which Mr. Isaacs responded by acknowledging that more work was required in that area.

Mr. Clemens agreed with a representative from the World Bank on the emergence of new countries of destination for migrants in the global South, highlighting that these emerging markets could potentially be an opportunity for migrant workers from countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Responding to a question from the UNDP representative, he mentioned the Australia Pacific Training Coalition as a successful example of a human development scheme for skills mobility. Following a query from IOM about the research on the linkages between migration and development, Mr. Clemens clarified that his research was based mostly on census data. Ms. Adaba pointed out that the impact of migration should not only be considered through the lens of remittances, but also in terms of the social fabric of migrant families. She encouraged participants to look at migration beyond its income potential and to consider decent work and living conditions for migrants as well.

Mr. Haque reflected on the environment in which the GCM would be negotiated, noting that many of the assumptions concerning the drivers of migration were currently being questioned. He indicated that human rights issues were missing in the first draft and stressed that no positive discussion on migration and development could be held without the full inclusion of human rights.

## VI. IMPLEMENTING THE NEW YORK DECLARATION: STRENGTHENING DATA, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

The moderator, Mr. Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD, introduced the panel and acknowledged that there was both a paucity of migration data as well as an underutilization of available data. The General Assembly had called for accurate, timely and disaggregated data on migration on many occasions. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants reiterated this call, emphasizing the need to increase international cooperation to improve data on international migration. In view of the backlash against migration and migrants in many countries, Mr. Dumont mentioned the importance of providing the best available evidence to address unfounded preconceptions of migration. The GCM and the GCR provided an excellent opportunity to achieve this. In particular, the first draft of the GCM presented a promising vision on data and evidence. Mr. Dumont stressed the importance of utilization of existing data, data innovation and international cooperation for sharing data. He cited the first International Forum on Migration Statistics, organized by IOM, OECD and UN DESA in January 2018, as an important new initiative aimed at contributing to these efforts.

Professor Ellen Percy Kraly, Colgate University, commented in her presentation on the outcomes of the consultation phase of the GCM with respect to data and evidence. Professor Kraly began by providing an overview of the vision, guiding principles and objectives in the first draft of the GCM, remarking that these were consistent with the New York Declaration and reviewed closely the actionable commitments contained in the first objective of the GCM entitled “Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies”. The consultation phase for the GCM had taken three forms: thematic sessions organized by the General Assembly, regional consultations organized by the Regional Economic Commissions, and stakeholder consultations launched by the President of the General Assembly. For each of the six thematic sessions, the co-facilitators had prepared a summary, which included references to data for each of the themes. With regard to the five regional consultations, held in Santiago, Beirut, Addis Ababa, Bangkok and Geneva, Ms. Kraly shared some of the main recommendations, noting that each consultation had emphasized a different set of data issues. For instance, while the consultations in Addis Ababa had discussed data needs for the six thematic areas discussed by the General Assembly, the Economic Commission for Europe had focused specifically on migration data. The multi-stakeholder meetings had yielded recommendations on data and evidence on a variety of themes. Ms. Kraly concluded by outlining some of the emerging themes on data collection, research and training, and capacity building.

Mr. Philippe Fargues, European University Institute, presented the recommendations made in the document “Strengthening migration data and research in the context of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration”, prepared by an ad hoc panel of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). The panel had formulated a set of fifty recommendations arranged in four different sections. In the first section, focusing on definition and concepts, the paper argued that the United Nations definition of an international migrant, while universally accepted, needed to be complemented to cover all dimensions of migration. The paper recommended universal data collection on six variables, namely country of birth, country of nationality, duration of stay, migrants and refugees, irregular migration and cause of migration. In the second section, the panel had delved into the minimum standards for data collection and dissemination. It analysed problems such as disentangling migrants from travellers, it reviewed the existing sources of data and discussed potential new data sources such as surveys, administrative records and “big data”. Regarding research on migration, the IUSSP panel had put forward ten research priorities for the coming years. The final section focused on strengthening training programmes



on migration. Moreover, Mr. Fargues noted the need to focus on human migration within the context of global development.

Ms. Kim Roberson, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), began her presentation by explaining her organizations' goals in terms of data in the context of the GCR. UNHCR aimed to integrate data and research into evidenced-based decision making and to use data and information to assist displaced people. Her office sought to bridge data, information and knowledge gaps by working with partners. Ms. Roberson shared some of the latest trends, which showed an increase in the number of displaced people. She pointed out that obtaining solid data on forced displacement was a challenge and that access to microdata was highly restricted. She observed that humanitarians, development actors and researchers could have radically different considerations on data. Ms. Roberson pointed out that "migration and asylum statistics" was a more accurate term than "migration statistics", due to important differences between migrants and refugees in terms of trends, impacts and duration of stay, among other factors. The first draft of the GCR contained recommendations on refugee statistics and called for the collection of more information on the demographic characteristics, the socio-economic impact and the well-being of refugees and host communities as well as for inclusion of refugees in national data collection systems. She concluded her presentation by summarizing the work of the expert group on refugee and internally displaced person statistics and proposed some common actions that the UN system could take.

Ms. Rachel Snow, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), shared the lessons learned from UNFPA's experience in building national capacities in analysing population data, which began in the 1970s. Ms. Snow reviewed the different approaches adopted by UNFPA over the years, including short-term training programmes provided by European research institutions, a long-standing effort to second experts to national statistical offices during the decennial population census, supporting students to obtain advanced degrees in regional universities and training centers, and supporting scientific networks. Ms. Snow observed that the most successful approach had been to establish institutions and training centres in the global South. As an example, she provided the case of Cameroon, where one such institution, the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographique (IFORD), was established back in 1972. About 1,000 demographers from 23 francophone countries had followed a two-year training programme to obtain an advanced degree. Many of its trained experts were working in national statistical offices, the United Nations system, African universities and other relevant institutions. While UNFPA had supported these institutes for over two decades, funding in recent years was more limited and intermittent. Experience showed that embedding training centres in existing universities in the global south was the most sustainable option in the long term. These institutions had created a generation of researchers that in turn was able to train local expertise.

In the subsequent discussion, a representative from the Swedish Migration Studies Delegation suggested that objective nine of the GCM should consider diasporas and the role of migrant networks. He asked panellists about their view on how to better integrate research findings in the implementation of the GCM. A representative from IOM underscored the need for international cooperation on migration statistics, highlighting the International Forum on Migration Statistics as a prime example. Professor Kraly agreed on the importance of translating research into action and emphasized that the academic community needed to engage more with practitioners. Ms. Roberson concurred that international cooperation in the realm of migration data was crucial. Ms. Snow noted the need for training a new generation of migration experts to support the implementation of the GCM.

## VII. MIGRATION-RELATED SDG TARGETS: BRIEF UPDATES ON INDICATORS

Mr. Bela Hovy, Chief of the Migration Section of UN DESA's Population Division, opened the session by summing up some of the issues raised during the previous day. He recalled that the paragraphs on follow-up and review in the draft of the GCM were rather light and did not contain an explicit reference to collecting data or monitoring indicators. He asked participants for their inputs on the potential role of the

United Nations system in developing targets or benchmarks for the GCM should Member States wish to include those.

In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Sonia Plaza, World Bank, cited some tools and experiences that could serve as a basis for the review mechanism. Mr. Frank Laczko, IOM, observed that the indicators being developed for the SDGs should be used, to the maximum extent, in the context of the follow-up and review of the GCM. Mr. Jean-Claude Dumont, OECD, shared this view, highlighting the strong emphasis on data contained in the first draft of the GCM. Lastly, Eva Sandis, NGO Committee on Migration, remarked that she would appreciate a reference to civil society in the paragraphs on follow-up and review of the GCM.

Mr. Hovy continued by introducing the topic of the morning session, namely SDG targets and indicators relevant to migration. In line with the organization of work of the meeting, the discussion would be divided in two parts. The first part would cover SDG targets and indicators related to migration, while the second part would focus on indicators relevant for disaggregation by migratory status. According to the documentation prepared by the Secretariat, ten indicators were described as of direct relevance to migration, while 24 indicators were considered as of direct relevance for disaggregation by migratory status. He then introduced the speakers representing agencies responsible for the various indicators.

Mr. Jim Campbell, World Health Organization (WHO), presented the methodology and conceptualization used to measure SDG indicator 3.c.1 on health worker density and distribution. He highlighted the importance of the cooperation with the OECD and the ILO to collect and analyse data on this indicator. In presenting data on the national density of doctors, nurses and midwives, Mr. Campbell noted the disparity between countries; those with the greatest burden of disease generally had the smallest number of per capita skilled health professionals. Mr. Campbell reported that migration was on the rise among health workers and that this trend ran parallel to the general increase in mobility among highly educated individuals. He noted that over the past ten years there had been a 60 per cent increase in the number of doctors and nurses migrating to OECD countries. This trend was likely to continue due to the rising demand for healthcare workers in those countries. Mr. Campbell further pointed out that the pattern of mobility among healthcare professionals was complex: it no longer could be seen exclusively as a flow from the global South to the global North. WHO also collected relevant information as part of the Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. During the latest round of data collection, 74 countries had produced reports, highlighting 65 bilateral agreements. This reporting mechanism could usefully inform the development of a system for follow-up and review for the GCM. He also reported on the creation of new international platform on health worker mobility, set up in collaboration with the ILO and OECD. This platform would encourage dialogue among states and contribute to the production of data on the mobility of healthcare professionals. He concluded by remarking that the increasing complexity in the mobility of health workers warranted a more mature policy debate that could produce benefits for both source and destination countries as well as for migrants themselves.

In congratulating Mr. Campbell for the work conducted on SDG indicator 3.c.1, Mr. Hovy pointed out that the available data on foreign-born professionals residing in OECD countries did not indicate in which country the person had obtained his or her training. Mr. Campbell responded that this was indeed the case and that further data collection was underway to disentangle foreign-trained health workers from the foreign-born workers who had obtained training in the host country.

Mr. Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD, reported on his organization's progress on indicator 4.b.1, measuring the amount of official development assistance (ODA) available for scholarships abroad. OECD's global education monitoring report had published data for this indicator. While not all countries classified scholarships as ODA, among those that did, he reported a decline in scholarship financing from 12 billion US dollars in 2010 to 11.5 billion US dollars in 2015. This decline was in line with the overall decline in the availability of funding for educational programmes. He also pointed out that scholarship aid did not

specifically target low-income countries: while students from middle-income countries received 625 million US dollars, the corresponding figure for students from low income countries was only 87 million US dollars. Mr. Dumont highlighted some important coverage issues, since increasingly important donors such as China, Brazil and India were not included in the data. Furthermore, data from private foundations providing scholarships to students in developing countries were not included either in the reporting mechanism. Mr. Dumont concluded by the mobility challenges faced by students in terms of the recognition of their degrees and the lack of information about education systems in other countries.

In the subsequent discussion, the representative of the Swedish Migration Studies Delegation reported on a study conducted by his organization on scholarship recipients from Eastern Europe that were studying in Sweden. The study had followed students for over 20 years and found that about 50 per cent of them had returned to their countries of origin, 27 per cent had remained in Sweden and 23 per cent had moved to other countries. Mr. Dumont observed that, while 35 to 40 per cent of scholarship recipients in OECD countries stayed in the country in which they pursued their studies, OECD-wide figures were not available on the proportion of students that had decided to return to their countries of origin or to move to other countries. The representative of the World Bank observed that some scholarship programmes required students to return to their countries of origin upon the completion of their studies. The representative of UNHCR mentioned that her Office was investigating scholarships as an alternative way for refugees to obtain a legal status in the country of asylum. Because the range of scholarships had increased dramatically in recent years, refugees often applied for scholarships on their own instead of relying on sponsorship by her agency.

Mr. Shabarinath Nair, International Labour Organization (ILO), updated participants on the status of the SDG indicators 8.8.1 and 8.8.2 on safe work environments and labour rights, respectively. He pointed out that these indicators provided a crucial link between the GCM and the 2030 Agenda. Mr. Nair recalled that indicator 8.8.1 focused on fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries disaggregated by sex and by migrant status. Migrants often performed work that made them particularly vulnerable to injuries. Globally, migrant workers were twice as prone to injuries as local workers. This number was even higher for irregular migrants employed in the informal sector. Mr. Nair emphasized that implementation of ILO's Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHS), which applied equally to migrant and national workers, was the most important preventive strategy to protect the safety and health of migrant workers. ILO had established a joint working group with IOM and WHO on the health of migrant workers within the context of the GCM. SDG indicator 8.8.2 covered national compliance of labour rights, specifically freedom of association and collective bargaining. In many countries, migrant workers were not allowed to form and join trade unions, hold office in trade unions, be protected against discrimination on the grounds of their trade union activities or have the freedom to strike. He concluded by underlining that these rights should be upheld independently of the legal status of migrants.

During the ensuing discussion, a participant asked whether, in measuring these two indicators, the ILO was monitoring the actual implementation of labour rights or the ratification of legal instruments. Another participant inquired about any positive examples of settings in which migrant workers enjoyed a wide range of labour rights. A delegate from the Philippines remarked that domestic workers were particularly vulnerable and often saw even their most basic rights being violated. She asked whether ILO had some specific measures in place to monitor the violation of labour rights for household workers. Mr. Campbell also raised the issue of domestic workers, especially in the context of the rising demand for care workers. WHO had published a recent report on migrant care workers which found that many of them were women and that they were often employed informally. Ms. Gemma Adaba added that empowerment of migrant workers had been a low priority in the discussions on the GCM and argued that the document should include references to the freedom of association and collective bargaining. She pointed out that ILO Convention 143 dealt specifically with the issue of irregular migrant workers, while ILO Convention 189 covered domestic workers. She cited South Korea and Brazil as examples of countries that allowed migrant workers

to join trade unions. Mr. Nair added that the ILO worked constructively with Qatar to promote labour rights of migrants.

Mr. Nair from the ILO and Ms. Plaza from the World Bank jointly reported on the progress made in developing SDG indicator 10.7.1 on recruitment costs of migrant workers. Ms. Plaza recalled that indicator 10.7.1 measured recruitment costs borne by employees as a percentage of yearly income earned in the destination country. Reducing these costs could lead to enormous savings for migrants. In calculating this indicator, the financial costs involved in each stage of the recruitment process were considered, including recruitment fees, agent fees, document costs, transportation bills and informal payments. The indicator was computed for each migratory corridor separately as well as for three different occupations, namely domestic workers, agricultural workers and construction workers. The indicator was expressed as the number of months it would take a migrant worker to pay off recruitment costs in the country of destination. The initial data gathered indicated that recruitment costs were significant in some corridors. Understanding the reasons for these excessive costs was essential to advocate for interventions. She stressed that several methodological issues needed to be solved. Mr. Nair pointed out that ILO and the World Bank were developing guidelines for national statistical offices on surveying migrant workers, which should be tailored to the national context, employment sector and skills set of the migrant worker. The guidelines would be first reviewed by experts and then presented to a conference of labour statisticians in October 2018.

Mr. Hovy opened the discussion by remarking that surveys were expensive and that it would be hard to monitor recruitment costs using this instrument. He therefore asked whether any other data, from administrative records or civil society reporting, could be used to track this indicator. One participant reported on a study conducted by his organization on Thai workers recruited seasonally to pick berries in Sweden. These workers, who returned to Sweden periodically, continued to rely on expensive recruitment agencies instead of contacting employers directly. This was due to the elevated levels of regulation in Sweden which made it expensive for firms to hire workers. Ms. Plaza confirmed that the ILO and the World Bank were reviewing alternative data sources and would consult with experts in various realms. Mr. Nair indicated that personal trust between recruitment agencies and migrant workers in countries of origin played an important role, despite the high costs associated with rendering recruitment services.

Ms. Clare Menozzi and Mr. Frank Laczko, representing the Population Division and IOM respectively, reported on progress in measuring SDG indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with well-managed migration policies. Mr. Laczko noted that identifying and measuring “well-managed migration policies” was far from straightforward. Mr. Laczko mentioned two initiatives to inform this indicator. The first one, developed jointly by UN DESA and IOM, involved adding questions on migration governance to DESA’s longstanding Inquiry on Population and Development. The questions that would be added to the Inquiry pertained to the six dimensions developed in the context of IOM’s migration governance framework. The second initiative to inform indicator 10.7.2 was a project conducted by IOM in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit, covering about 90 indicators in 40 countries.

Ms. Menozzi then proceeded to provide further detail on the scope of the Inquiry as well as on the necessary steps to improve the measurement of indicator 10.7.2. She recalled that the Inquiry was mandated by the General Assembly and was first conducted in 1963. The most recent round, which took place in 2014, contained three modules covering population size and structure, fertility and international migration. By partnering with IOM and contacting Member States directly, she expected that response rates to the questionnaire would improve. She indicated that the Population Division and IOM were developing proxy measures to capture each of the six dimensions of the IOMs governance framework. Over the past six months, the two entities had validated and tested the methodology, conducted country consultations and organized two regional workshops. Next steps involved conducting regional consultations online, start collecting the data, requesting an upgrade of the indicator to tier II, and preparing analytical outputs based

on the data collected. Mr. Laczko added that IOM was also gathering feedback from states on their needs for capacity building and on the aspects of migration governance they wished to see enhanced.

During the discussion, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) asked whether access to cultural rights would be considered in calculating SDG indicator 10.7.2. Other questions focused on whether the data collection tool for SDG10.7.2 included any open-ended questions and on the role of return and reintegration in the definition of well-managed migration policies. Ms. Menozzi replied while cultural rights were included broadly in the first dimension of IOM's migration governance framework, they were not part of the calculation of SDG10.7.2. The Inquiry included qualitative questions, but the calculation of indicator 10.7.2 would be based on a set of well-defined categorical variables. Mr. Laczko pointed out that the project conducted by IOM in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit included two indicators on return and reintegration. In addition, IOM carried out numerous projects on return and reintegration from which relevant information could be extracted.

Ms. Sonia Plaza, World Bank, presented the conceptualization and measurement issues related to SDG indicators 10.c.1 and 17.3.2. She recalled that SDG target 10.c aimed to reduce to less than three per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and to eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent. SDG indicator 10.c.1 measured the costs of transferring remittances as a proportion of the amount remitted. Ms. Plaza described the work of Remittance Prices Worldwide – a World Bank initiative established in 2008 to monitor remittance prices and volumes across all regions. The quarterly surveys, carried out under this project, currently covered 48 remittance sending countries, 105 remittance receiving countries and 365 corridors worldwide. She pointed out that, according to the latest available survey data, remittance costs remained exorbitant, averaging 7.2 per cent, and they were particularly high in Sub-Saharan Africa. She emphasized that there had not been a significant reduction in costs in recent years and that no major area of the world had yet achieved the SDG target of three per cent. The situation was even bleaker for informal channels of transferring remittances. Increased competition between money transfer agencies and elimination of exclusivity contracts were crucial means to lower remittance costs.

Ms. Plaza then turned to SDG target 17.3, covering resource mobilization for developing countries. The corresponding indicator focusing on remittances, SDG 17.3.2, measured the volume of remittances as a proportion of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). She indicated that remittances to low and middle-income countries were projected to amount to 450 billion US dollars in 2017. Remittances were one of the largest and most stable financial inflows of developing countries, constituting a substantial share of GDP in some low-income countries. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, remittances accounted for 38 per cent of GDP in 2017. Remittances could be leveraged to access international capital markets since they reduced the risk ratings of countries, and they were considered in debt sustainability analyses. Remittances had important benefits since they went directly to individuals, were often used for small-scale investments and promoted financial inclusion. However, she stated that there was a risk of remittances crowding out other sources of financial inflows such as development assistance. Indeed, to prevent this from happening, she underlined that remittances should not be considered as a substitute for aid or other financial flows.

In the ensuing discussion, the representative of IFAD indicated that the migrant savings could be substantial. However, these savings, which were often invested in countries of origin, were difficult to monitor. Some organizations, including IFAD, were setting up platforms to promote these 'diaspora investments'. Mr. Leon Isaacs suggested that financial regulators could start collecting information on market shares from money transfer agencies, which would help to elucidate the actual rates consumers were paying. Such data would be an important asset in evaluating progress towards implementing SDG target 10.c. Ms. Plaza responded that the World Bank was collecting information on the migrant investments in countries of origin. She concurred that there were numerous platforms that aimed to mobilize financial resources for development and supported the suggestion to collect data from financial regulators about the market share of money transfer agencies.

In presenting progress on SDG indicator 16.2.2, Ms. Kristiina Kangaspunta, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), recalled that the indicator covered the number of victims of human trafficking, disaggregated by age and sex. While UNODC had already collected disaggregated data on the number of known or detected trafficked persons for ten years, the number of undetected victims of trafficking remained unknown. She underscored that the extent of human trafficking was difficult to assess precisely because of its illicit nature. In partnership with ILO, UNODC was developing a survey methodology to compute the number of persons trafficked for the purpose of forced labour. In addition, UNODC had successfully applied multiple systems estimation, a specific form of capture-recapture methodology that estimated the total number of trafficked persons based on the number of detected trafficked persons. In countries in which there was solid data on trafficked persons, it would be thus possible to infer from these numbers an estimate of the total number of trafficked persons. This methodology had been tested in the Netherlands yielding promising results. Using this technique, UNODC had been able to produce data disaggregated by age, sex, domestic versus international trafficking as well as trafficking for specific employment sectors. Following further testing in Europe, the tool would be subsequently rolled out in Latin America.

Mr. Justin Gest, George Mason University, presented the migrant rights database, a project funded by the World Bank's KNOMAD project. He started his presentation by pointing out that international migration policies were increasingly being informed by international laws and conventions. He briefly described the migrant rights database, a tool comprised of 65 indicators grouped in 17 categories, based on the 2011 international migrants bill of rights. The tool was potentially applicable to any country and legal structure. Using rigorous standards for data collection and analysis, data had already been collected in five pilot countries, namely Germany, Mexico, Russia, South Africa and Turkey. Persons coding information for the database had used both official legislation and case laws ensuring full replicability. Mr. Gest explained that the database helped highlight some patterns across countries. For example, while the right to asylum and protection against crime seemed to be generally respected in the five countries coded, civil and political rights were not. He stated that these observations could help identify baselines and opportunities for policy interventions. In many countries, the rights of migrants depended on their visa category. A high percentage of migrants, in particular in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, had temporary visas, which greatly reduced their access to rights.

In the subsequent discussion, one participant asked whether the database also covered the respect of rights in practice. Another question focused on whether the collective dimensions of labour rights, such as freedom of association and collective action and bargaining, were considered. Mr. Gest responded by noting that the implementation of policies was hard to measure. As a first step, the project had focused on coding laws and regulations. Labour rights constituted the largest category of indicators in the database, including freedom of association.

Ms. Haoyi Chen, UN DESA's Statistics Division, opened the next part of session, focusing on disaggregation of SDG indicators. She observed that data disaggregation was critical to 'leave no one behind', the promise of the 2030 Agenda. An expert group meeting on international migration statistics, held in June 2017, had identified 24 indicators that should be disaggregated by migratory status as a priority. These 24 indicators addressed issues such access to basic services, migrant integration of migrants and exposure to violence and discrimination. In selecting these 24 indicators, measurability and relevance had been key considerations. Ms. Chen then explained the step-by-step approach, recommended by the experts, to disaggregate indicators by migratory status. The first step was to disaggregate indicators by nativity status, that is for the native- and foreign-born population, or by citizenship status, that is, for citizens and foreign citizens. A subsequent step could involve disaggregating data between first- and second-generation immigrants by collecting also information on the country of birth or citizenship of the parents. Lastly, the expert group identified issues such as duration of stay and reason for migration as important dimensions of the migrant population. The Statistics Division was preparing a publication on collecting and using data for

migration-relevant SDG indicators and developing targeted capacity building activities. She added that the Statistics Division would start the process of revising the 1998 *International Recommendations of Statistics on International Migration*.

In the ensuing discussion, the UNHCR representative inquired whether the proposed approach for disaggregation by migratory status included the identification of stateless people. Professor Kraly observed that the areas of interest for disaggregation by migratory status coincided with the recommendations on data resulting from the preparatory process of the GCM. Mr. Hovy confirmed that the expert meeting had recommended that statelessness be recorded as a third category beyond the citizen/non-citizen dichotomy.

In the afternoon, Ms. Chen resumed the session by introducing Ms. Kristen Jeffers, Senior Data Analyst, Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) International, University of Minnesota.

Ms. Jeffers's research, funded by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, was one of the first known attempts to use data from population censuses to measure SDG indicators disaggregated by migratory status across countries. While censuses were one of the most important sources of data on migrants, countries often used different standards in their data collection efforts making cross-country comparisons problematic. The purpose of IPUMS was to harmonize census data and to make it accessible to researchers and policy makers. IPUMS constituted currently the largest repository of publicly available census data, covering over 300 censuses. To identify international migrants, Ms. Jeffers had considered, as a first step, the nativity status of the respondent. When this information was not available, she had used citizenship status to distinguish migrants from non-migrants. Her research covered 75 countries, using data from the 2000 and 2010 round of population censuses. Ms. Jeffers illustrated her findings for two SDG indicators, namely the percentage of youth not in education, employment or training (SDG 8.6.1) and the share of population with access to electricity (SDG 7.1.1). Results for the first indicator in selected countries in Latin American and the Caribbean indicated, in general, higher percentages for migrants than for non-migrants. Results for the second indicator suggested that in many African countries, migrants were more likely to have access to electricity than non-migrants. Ms. Jeffers explained that this was probably attributable to the fact that migrants were more likely to live in urban areas than the native-born population. As such, further disaggregation by urban versus rural residence was important to explain the observed differences in access to electricity by migratory status.

Ms. Jeffers remarked that her research could shed light on the advantages and limitations of using census microdata to disaggregate SDG indicators by migratory status. Among the advantages, she pointed out that censuses were conducted in most countries and generally covered everyone in the population. This was particularly important for vulnerable populations that were often underrepresented in other data collection methods. Furthermore, large sample sizes allowed for disaggregation by multiple dimensions. Some 30 SDG indicators, relevant for migration, could be disaggregated based on census data, while many more indicators could be collected using a combination of census data and other sources. Turning to the limitations of census data, Ms. Jeffers noted that fewer than half of the countries that had conducted a census around 2010 had provided data to IPUMS. The topics covered by censuses also varied among countries and not all issues of interest to policy makers were included. Lastly, she noted that since censuses were generally conducted every ten years, they were not well suited to study rapidly changing phenomena, such as sudden population movements. To improve the comparability of census data, she recommended that national statistical offices implement the census guidelines produced by UN DESA's Statistics Division. Furthermore, she noted that in some countries with register-based censuses, foreigners were not, or not fully, included. In some instances, the samples provided by national statistical offices were too small to allow for disaggregation by multiple dimensions. In conclusion, she remarked that, to monitor the characteristics of migrants, it often was advisable to combine census data with other data sources.

In the subsequent discussion, Ms. Keiko Osaki-Tomita, UN DESA's Statistics Division, congratulated IPUMS for their important and longstanding work. She recalled that some countries, especially in Europe, were moving to register-based censuses and asked Ms. Jeffers whether IPUMS had been able to collect samples for these countries. In response, Ms. Jeffers confirmed that IPUMS had received some samples drawn from register-based censuses. In the case of Switzerland for which register-based census data was available, the sample was limited to citizens, however.

Ms. Chen then invited participants to comment on the list of 24 indicators that experts had recommended, as a priority, to disaggregate by migratory status. Given that basic data for maternal mortality was often lacking and also reflected a rare event, Mr. Hovy questioned whether this indicator should be prioritized for disaggregation by migratory status. He suggested to prioritize instead under-five mortality, which had a well-established methodology and for which data were more readily available. A representative from the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations supported disaggregating SDG indicators for first- and second-generation immigrants, given the significant differences in educational attainment between those two groups. One participant suggested that the disaggregation by migratory status should allow for the identification of undocumented migrants. Ms. Chen pointed out that while censuses were supposed to cover the entire population, including undocumented migrants, the distinction by legal status was generally not made in the census, because it could lead to undercounting of this important subgroup. Ms. Osaki-Tomita indicated that it would be useful to identify return migrants among the total population. Finally, the representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) inquired about the method to assess the reason for migration, given that many migrants had a variety of motives for moving. States could have a vested interest in considering some reasons over others. Ms. Chen noted that about 25 countries had included the reason for leaving the country in the 2010 census. They had generally asked about the main reason for departure, recording the response based on self-declaration. Mr. Dumont added that the OECD had compared data on reasons for migrating drawn from the European Labour Force Survey with data from administrative sources. While the results were generally comparable, this was not the case for all countries. He indicated that recall error could play a role for migrants who had moved decades ago.

#### VIII. TOUR-DE-TABLE

Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for international migration moderated the *tour de table*.

Mr. Ernst Stetter, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) indicated that he represented a progressive political think-tank in Europe, established ten years ago by the European Parliament and the European Commission. FEPS was a platform for ideas and dialogue focusing on democracy, empowerment and international solidarity. Having a keen interest in migration and the integration of migrants, FEPS was concerned about the political consequences of the so-called "migration crisis", which took place in Europe in 2015. He commented that the migration policies and instruments currently in place in Europe, such as a scheme for relocating refugees, were wholly inadequate. While many of these tools were developed using a top-down approach, his institution promoted concerted action based on policy dialogue at the national, regional and local levels of government. Mr. Stetter mentioned that FEPS had created a working group under the leadership of former Italian prime minister Giuliano Amato that brought together migration experts from various countries. The working group aimed to formulate a progressive vision and narrative of migration-related issues and would serve as a vehicle to implement the GCM in Europe. The working group would convene a meeting during opening of the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of General Assembly in September 2018.

Professor Kraly, representing the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), congratulated the Population Division for organizing the annual coordination meeting on international migration, which allowed for exchanges on emerging issues and presentations based on the latest data and



evidence. IUSSP was establishing a network of experts on international migration which would allow to inform academics and practitioners about the results of high-level meetings at the United Nations as well as to exchange migration research findings and policy developments. The network would contribute to preparing statements for major IUSSP initiatives and allow for IUSSP to be represented at key events across the globe. Referring to the presentation made the previous day by a representative of UNFPA, she added that the network could promote training of students in population sciences and the demography of migration. The network could also be a catalyst to develop and implement a world migration survey. Persons interested in developing an IUSSP working group on international migration were encouraged to contact the IUSSP Secretariat by the first of March.

Ms. Christina McElwaine, United Nations University (UNU), reported that, in 2017, UNU had co-chaired the GMG and contributed to its work programme by convening a panel series on academic thinking on migration. Currently, UNU was preparing a report on xenophobia, representations of migration and the role of media. UNU's Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT) had evaluated the impact of an IOM project in the Netherlands, aimed at connecting diasporas with institutions in their countries of origin. UNU-MERIT also conducted a study of the economic impact of Congolese refugees in Rwanda. UNU's World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) had organized a conference on migration and mobility in collaboration with the African Research Universities Alliance. The focus of the conference was on migration and development with an emphasis on South-South migration, especially intraregional migration within Africa. UNU-WIDER was also undertaking studies on migration governance and policy in the global South. UNU's Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility was undertaking a study on the nexus between migration and economic crises. It had recently issued a publication on white prejudice as a global security threat. Ms. McElwaine concluded her statement by mentioning that references to these initiatives can be found both on UN DESA and UNU websites.

Mr. Mark Hereward, representing UNICEF, highlighted that better data on children on the move would lead to better protection of children. UNICEF took a leading role in data analysis and research on migrant and forcibly displaced children, including refugee, stateless and internally displaced children. He emphasized the need for data disaggregated by age, sex and, where possible, other socio-demographic variables. Mr. Hereward underscored the importance of sharing data across sectors, agencies and countries. He then provided some examples of projects UNICEF had been working on related to migrant children. Its Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) included a standard set of questions on migratory status, region and type of residence before leaving, migration status of family members, children left behind, internally displaced persons and refugee status. In Eastern and Southern Africa, country offices had been collecting data on child migration in the region in collaboration with non-state actors and local authorities. Similar projects, conducted in the Balkan region, were assessing practices on access to services, the return of migrant children, treatment of migrant children with disabilities and child detention. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF collaborated with national statistical offices to strengthen data sharing and promote the usage of administrative data. In Latin America, his office focused on discrimination of migrant children and on barriers they faced in accessing education. Mr. Hereward also mentioned a partnership between IOM and UNICEF to study mobility patterns in Western Africa. He further recalled UNICEF's collaboration with IOM, OECD and UNHCR to enhance the availability of data on migrant children, an initiative that had been showcased during one of the side events of the coordination meeting. In closing, he affirmed that UNICEF was committed to promote evidence-based policies and research that support children's rights.

Mr. Kostantinos Tararas, UNESCO, identified three areas in which migration was dealt with in his organization, namely (a) fostering a culture of living together, (b) promoting the right to education, and (c) strengthening the evidence-base for migration policies. He then outlined some of the initiatives conducted by UNESCO within each one of these realms. UNESCO had supported municipal authorities by publishing

a report on cities and migrants and by preparing a handbook with operational advice. UNESCO had also prepared a guide to assist journalists in reporting on migration, as well as on the interaction between the media and displaced communities. His organization was also involved in promoting intercultural dialogue and collecting good practices on the interaction between migrants and host communities. In the realm of education, UNESCO's main focus was to promote the mutual recognition of degrees. Currently, the Organization was preparing a global convention on the recognition of degrees in higher education, which would be presented for adoption at UNESCO general conference in 2019. At the regional level, UNESCO was revising standards for the recognition of degrees within Latin America, which were slated for adoption in 2018. UNESCO had also provided supported education for displaced persons in Syria. Its 2019 Global Education Monitoring report would be dedicated to migration, displacement and education. Furthermore, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics continues to collect data and evidence on foreign students in tertiary education. Mr. Tararas closed his statement by mentioning a publication released in cooperation with UNU on migration, free movement and regional integration as well as UNESCO's contribution to the GMG's handbook on migration data.

Mr. Mauro Marini, representing IFAD, announced that his organization would organize the first country-led regional forum on remittances, investments and development in collaboration with the World Bank and the Central Bank of Malaysia. The forum would be an opportunity for Member States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to share good practices and evidence on leveraging the impact of remittances. In preparation of the forum, IFAD would release a study on market trends and opportunities in the realm of remittances in Asia.

Ms. Charu Bist, representing UNDP, updated participants on some of the migration-related initiatives conducted by her organization. UNDP had worked to support more than 30 governments to address the adverse drivers of migration and displacement. It had participated in many joint initiatives on migration, including a project, in partnership with IOM, on mainstreaming migration in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). In Asia, UNDP had supported an intergovernmental process to address the problem of human trafficking. In response to the Syrian crisis, UNDP, in collaboration with UNHCR, had developed regional plan to strengthen resilience of host communities. It was planning, in close cooperation with other United Nations entities, to support legal identity for vulnerable groups, particularly undocumented migrants. Furthermore, UNDP was also conducting work on policy and institutional coherence in the framework of the KNOMAD initiative.

Ms. Mehreen Afzal, representing UNHCR, provided an overview of the discussions that her Office had facilitated with Member States and other stakeholders on the GCR. The GCR was composed of three parts: responsibility sharing for refugees hosting refugees, access to services and inclusion of refugees, and partnership arrangements. During the first round of consultations in Geneva, Member States had called for additional references to the international protection regime and to the UN reform process, a more robust system of review and follow-up and stronger mechanisms for responsibility sharing, emphasizing regional platforms and providing details on financial arrangements. Member States had also raised the issue of coherence between the GCR and the GCM and had requested persons displaced by climate change to be included in both compacts. However, no specific calls had been made to align the follow-up and review mechanisms of the two compacts. While some Member States had called for stronger language on local integration and on voluntary repatriation, others did not share the same positions. Lastly, Ms. Afzal mentioned need to balance references to international protection while maintaining the established principles for intergovernmental consultations, most notably with regards to the application of the principle of *non-refoulement*.

Mr. Tadios Belay, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), commented on his organization's priorities. BAJI was an organization advocating for the rights of black migrants in the United States. He pointed out that African migrants were often targets of xenophobic attacks and faced deportation and

detention in many countries. Mr. Belay remarked that these issues should be policy priorities and that Member States should promote the protection of African migrants.

Mr. Kevin Appleby, Center for Migration Studies (CMS), described his Center as a non-partisan educational institute dedicated to the study of international migration. The CMS was part of the Scalabrini International Migration Network, which is implementing some 270 programmes for migrants around the world. CMS had contributed to the implementation of the New York Declaration as well as to the preparations of both compacts. His Center was in the process of preparing various contributions relevant to the GCM and would hold a symposium on both compacts during the spring. Mr. Appleby recalled that the CMS produced the *International Migration Review*, a leading social science journal on migration and human security. He expressed the view that the first draft of the GCM failed to recognize the contributions of faith-based organizations in the care of migrants. Moreover, the GCM lacked specific targets, contained weak provisions for follow-up and review and was unclear about funding for capacity building. He concluded that the GCM could only be successful if it moved international cooperation away from its current focus on deterrence to a model centered on the protection of migrants.

Ms. Lisa Simeone, Global Migration Policy Associates, explained that her organization promoted a rights-based approach to the governance of migration. Ms. Simeone noted that quantitative data could not fully capture the complexities of migratory phenomena and that data collection could have certain human rights implications. Administrative records, which were shaped by migration policy, could be an unreliable source of information for certain population groups. Furthermore, she opined that census questionnaires were not able to capture the multifaceted nature of the decision to migrate. She also pointed out that collecting data on undocumented or irregular migrants could make them vulnerable and jeopardize their ability to access services and participate in the labour market. She highlighted that the circumstances under which surveys are conducted may skew their results and that quantitative data should be complemented by qualitative research. Ms. Simeone mentioned that while the migrants' rights database presented in the morning was a very powerful tool, it could not fully capture the reality of rights on the ground. It was the task of civil society to shed light on the day-to-day experiences of migrants. In closing, she thanked the organizers for inviting her organization to the meeting.

Ms. Gemma Adaba, representing the International Trade Union Confederation, joined the previous speaker in thanking organizers for inviting civil society organizations. In her view, the linkages between data collection and policy making should be of chief concern. For instance, Ms. Adaba also pointed out the need for research on the integration of migrants. She was struck with the comparison, presented earlier in the day, between the performance of children of migrants and of non-migrants, and whether any studies had been undertaken comparing the performance of children of migrants in countries of destination with those that had been "left behind". She concurred with remarks made earlier in the day that the experience of migrants was closely associated with their visa status.

Ms. Elisenda Estruch, representing FAO, underlined the need to consider the rural dimensions of migration, given that many migrants originated from rural areas and that an estimated 40 per cent of migrant remittances were sent to rural areas. People in rural areas were particularly vulnerable to degradation of natural resources, food insecurity, climatic events and the lack of opportunities for decent work. Addressing these issues, she indicated, would contribute to tackling the adverse drivers of migration. Ms. Estruch noted that agriculture and the rural dimension had not yet been fully integrated into the discourse on migration, including the first draft of the GCM. FAO stood ready to support the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the GCM as a specialized agency and as a GMG co-chair. The FAO was carrying out research on the nexus between agriculture, rural development and migration, and had released an atlas on rural migration in sub-Saharan Africa last year. FAO's flagship publication, to be released in October 2018, would focus on migration, agriculture and rural development. At the regional level, the FAO had facilitated migration events with the participation of local stakeholders, raising awareness and sharing good practices.

At country level, FAO was implementing projects focusing on the youth migration and on job opportunities for young people in rural areas. She also cited projects aimed at increasing productive investment of remittances in rural areas. In 2017, World Food Day, celebrated on 16 October, had focused on migration, food security and rural development.

Ms. Suzanne Sheldon, representing IOM, presented some of IOM's recent work on research, data collection and policy analysis. Last year, IOM had set up a migration research leaders' syndicate to promote exchanges between leading migration experts. In 2015, IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre had established a collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit with a view to bringing together migration data from a range of diverse sources. Ms. Sheldon reminded participants that IOM's International Dialogue on Migration, to be held in March 2018, would focus on inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration.

Mr. Prentice closed the session and joined previous speakers in thanking the organizers of the coordination meeting as well as all participants for their contributions. He reminded participants that the negotiations on the GCM would start the following week and concluded that there was significant expertise to adequately support this process.

#### IX. CLOSING REMARKS

In his closing statement, Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of UN DESA's Population Division, summarized some of the key issues touched upon during the coordination meeting. During the first day, speakers had highlighted that 2018 would be a crucial year for migration in view of the anticipated adoption of the GCM in December. Moreover, panellists had provided numerous good practices for the follow-up and review of intergovernmental processes and had highlighted the crucial role of the Statistical Commission in coordinating the global statistical system. In the afternoon of the first day, many speakers had examined the important relationship between migration and development. During the second day, experts representing the agencies responsible for migration-related SDG indicators had provided an excellent overview of the progress in developing these indicators. He also recalled the useful proposal, presented by UN DESA's Statistics Division, for disaggregation of SDG targets by migratory status. Mr. Wilmoth observed that the coordination meeting had, once again, proven to be an important platform to bring together experts from Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and academia, to share information on migration and to identify gaps in the evidence base on migration. Finally, he thanked again all participants for their engagement, and closed the meeting.