

ZERO DRAFT OF OUTCOME DOCUMENT FOR 19 SEPTEMBER HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO ADDRESS LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Comments provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) appreciates that the outcome document recognises that migration is not a new phenomenon and explicitly mentions the **root causes of migration** under paragraph 1.9. Reasons for involuntary migration are many and include: conflict, persecution, poverty, natural disasters and environmental factors are mentioned. FAO suggests to include also a reference to food insecurity and lack of income-generating opportunities among the root causes of large movement of refugees and migrants, as stated in paragraph 1.1. FAO suggests to include a specific commitment to address the root causes behind the large movement of refugees and migrants in Section 3 (Principles to ensure safety and dignity for displaced persons); a specific reference could be added in paragraph 3.v.

FAO appreciates that Section 4 explicitly mentions the need to address the “conditions that create, or exacerbate, large movements of migrants”. In this regard, FAO suggests to include a reference to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in paragraph 4.iv and to add another paragraph on the lack of decent employment opportunities and limited access to social protection in rural areas (see footnote for the suggested wording)¹.

FAO appreciates that the outcome document explicitly mentions “**the positive contribution made by migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development**”. However, section 1. Introduction, paragraph 1.3 makes reference to the pressure migration flows can exert only on receiving countries. FAO suggests to make a reference to both the opportunities and the challenges that migration can cause to rural areas of origin, in particular in relation to the possibility to lose a vital and potentially dynamic share of their workforce.

FAO suggests to add reference to **internal migration**. Most of the time migration is a step-wise process and internal and international migration are interconnected. People may follow their migration journey in a series of stages, first internally, then between developing countries, or from developing to developed countries.

Section 5, paragraph xiii explicitly mentions investment in **data collection**, including in sex and age-disaggregated data. FAO suggests adding focus also on areas of origin (See suggested text in the footnote)².

FAO recommends stressing that the need for bridging the humanitarian/development divide and underlines the importance of both **humanitarian and development responses** to achieve durable solutions (Paragraph 1.6), see suggested text in the footnote³.

In paragraph 1.9 the document states “such implementation would address many of the root causes of involuntary movements of refugees and migrants”. The outcome documents is about all large movements of refugees and migrants, not only of those who have been displaced, have an established or

¹ Suggested wording for an additional paragraph on “A growing number of migrants are compelled to move as they do not have any other alternative and sustainable livelihood option. We will invest in sustainable livelihoods and innovative solutions to promote new decent employment and income-generating opportunities, especially for the youth, inclusive social protection systems and financial inclusion, including in rural areas of origin”.

² Suggested wording: “We will invest in data collection, including sex and age-disaggregated data per area of origin (rural/urban), as well as information on both regular and irregular flows, the vulnerability of migrants and the economic impacts of migration. The data should be analysed to inform policy responses to address the movements at their root causes, to promote the inclusion of migrants and to facilitate their positive contributions to sustainable growth”.

³ Suggested wording “...and a precarious future. The complexity and scale of the phenomenon requires an integrated sustainable development approach that also addresses its root causes, including poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation.”

well-founded fear of persecution, or have been moved by deception or coercion. If the term "involuntary" is used, we leave out all those migratory movements that can be referred to as **distress migration**, that is when migrating is perceived as the only viable option for moving out of poverty. In this case, migrants decide to move on their own initiative (so they are in theory voluntary migrants). While they might not be displaced by war or famine, they can be forced to move because of circumstances that are beyond their control.

In addition, FAO also stresses the need for acknowledging explicitly in the outcome document the particular needs and specific challenges faced by **youth** migrants.

Finally, in Section 4, paragraph xvi the text refers to the UN System, it is suggested that mention be made to the inter-agency **Global Migration Group** that brings together agencies to work together on this issue (see suggested text in the footnote)⁴.

⁴ Suggested wording "...international migration and development within the UN System, including through the more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration promoted by the Global Migration Group and the first and second High-Level Dialogues..."