

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON

“RESPONDING TO LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, LABOUR MARKET OPTIONS AND A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION”

20 July 2016 | 13:00-15:00 | PDR 1-3 Delegates Dining Room | UN HQ New York

Formal sit-down lunch event

Concept Note

Background

Large-scale ‘mixed’ movements of migrants and refugees continue to take place in all regions of the world, with an increasing number of women, men and children embarking on irregular and unprotected journeys in search of safety and dignity, often to face abuse and exploitation in transit and at destination.

In recognition of this pressing issue, the General Assembly will hold a *High-Level Meeting on Large Movement of Refugees and Migrants* on 19 September 2016. This is a unique opportunity for the international community to come together to develop human rights-based, gender-responsive and migrant-centred responses to large-scale, irregular and precarious movements of refugees and migrants.

The Secretary-General, in his report [*In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants*](#) prepared as background for the High-Level Meeting and submitted to the General Assembly in May 2016, calls for new global commitments to address large movements of refugees and migrants, and to ensure the protection, dignity and human rights of refugees and migrants in accordance with legal obligations in international human rights law and related standards. The Secretary-General has stressed that with the necessary political will, the international community will be able to ensure responses to large movements of people that are grounded in shared values of responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights.

Many people on the move today fall outside established protection categories but are nonetheless in need of specific human rights protection interventions. This vulnerability arises as a result of the conditions they are leaving behind in their countries of origin and/or the circumstances in which they are compelled to move. Yet, knowledge of the standards of human rights protection to which migrants moving in large numbers are entitled, and in particular how States can operationalize these standards in practice, has been revealed as a significant gap.

In preparation for the General Assembly High-Level Meeting to be convened in September, the Global Migration Group (GMG) with leadership from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and civil society organization the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), are organizing a ***high-level dialogue on “Responding to large movements of refugees and migrants: Human rights protection, Labour market options and a Global Compact for migration”***.

The event is organized in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and with the support of the Government of Switzerland and the Global Migration Group.

Scope of the meeting

The high-level dialogue aims to raise the profile of the human rights of migrants ahead of the General Assembly meeting, through engaging in multi-stakeholder dialogue on a range of issues related to protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations and in large movements. The discussion will be informed by the conclusions of three multi-stakeholder meetings:

1. A multi-stakeholder meeting on protection of the human rights of migrants in large movements, organized in Geneva on 1 June 2016 by OHCHR and PICUM, with the support of the Government of Switzerland and in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.
2. An ILO tripartite meeting on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market, organized in Geneva on 5-7 July 2016.
3. Three GMG multi-stakeholder interactive panels organized in New York in preparation for the UNGA Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants:
 - 25 April 2016 - 'Understanding large movements of refugees and migrants' lead by UNDESA, IOM and UNHCR,
 - 30 June 2016 - 'Protecting the human rights of all people in vulnerable situations within large movements' lead by OHCHR and UNODC,
 - 13 July 2016 - 'Strengthening responsibility sharing for refugees' lead by UNDP and UNHCR.

Participants will also be informed about a set of *Principles and practical guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and within large and/or mixed movements*, led by the Global Migration Group (GMG) Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality.¹

The main objectives of the discussion are to:

- Explore the human rights protection gaps to which migrants in vulnerable situations and within large and/or 'mixed' movements are exposed, and the human rights-based responses needed to ensure their protection.
- Build common understanding among various stakeholders around the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations and in large movements in order to promote and enhance the inclusion of the human rights of migrants within the General Assembly High-Level Meeting's agenda and outcome document, as well as in the development of a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

¹ The Secretary-General report calls on States to consider using these Principles and practical guidance in the development of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and to build on them to improve protection and assistance for migrants in vulnerable situations (paras. 91 and 118). The Human Rights Council Resolution on the "Protection of the human rights of migrants: strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants including in large movements", asks the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as co-chair of the Global Migration Group Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, to continue to develop these Principles and practical guidance and to report thereon to the Human Rights Council at its 34th session (para. 14a).

- Examine labour market options, including principles and good practice guidance to inform policy measures, for both refugees and migrants in the light of recent discussions at the UN and the ILO.
- Discuss key principles that might underpin a Global Compact on Migration and highlight the challenges that such a Compact would need to address as well as available good practices to meet those challenges.
- Identify possible ways forward, including in relation to the outcome document of the General Assembly High-Level Meeting's Declaration and the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Event details

Date: Wednesday 20 July 2016

Venue: PDR 1-3 Delegates Dining Room, 4th floor, United Nations HQ New York

Time: 13:00 – 15:00

As the venue will be a sit-down lunch, the format will not be a traditional panel but rather that speakers will be invited to the front of the room to present their remarks by the moderator, who will then follow the presentations up with remarks from the 'floor' and questions/answers.

Participants

Moderator

- Mr. Craig Mokhiber, OHCHR

Opening remarks

- H.E. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh
- H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

First discussion topic: Labour market options and ideas for a Global Compact

- Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization
- Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration

Second discussion topic: Human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and within large and/or mixed movements: protection gaps and norm-based practical guidance

- Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms. Michele Levoy, Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, PICUM

Next steps and ways forward: towards the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

- H.E. Ambassador David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants
- Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development
- Mr. William Gois, Chair of the Global Coalition on Migration

Closing remarks

- Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director UN Women and Chair of the Global Migration Group

Discussion with participants/Member States