

**Compendium of agreed language on  
international migration**

DOCUMENTATION



United Nations

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

# **Compendium of agreed language on international migration**

DOCUMENTATION



United Nations

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.

This compendium was prepared by Barbara Kobler and Marilou Vicente, under the supervision of Bela Hovy.

#### **Note**

The designations employed in this document and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

This document is available in electronic format on the Division's website at [www.unpopulation.org](http://www.unpopulation.org). For further information about this report, please contact the Office of the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, 10017, USA, by Fax: 1 212 963 2147 or by e mail at [migrationp@un.org](mailto:migrationp@un.org).

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Official symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with numbers, as illustrated in the above citation.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
DOCUMENTATION .....	1
A. Description of the compendium .....	1
B. User guide .....	3
ANNEX 1. LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONTAINED IN THE COMPENDIUM .....	8

## TABLES

Table 1. Schematic overview of symbols used to identify texts in the Compendium .....	5
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## DOCUMENTATION

On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. In the Declaration, Member States called for the adoption of two global compacts in 2018. The global compact on refugees, to be developed by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in close consultation with relevant States, will seek to share the burden and the responsibility of hosting refugees and of funding refugee programmes more equitably. The global compact on refugees will be presented by UNHCR to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-third session in 2018. The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which will be negotiated by the General Assembly, will seek to strengthen international cooperation on international migration. The global migration compact, which will deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration, will be presented to the General Assembly for adoption at an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 10 to 11 December 2018.

With a view to supporting the process of intergovernmental negotiations for the global migration compact, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has developed this compendium, which brings together conventions, declarations and resolutions related to international migration that have been adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. This accumulated body of United Nations legislation aims to provide negotiators, policy-makers and the Secretariat with a user-friendly tool to access previously negotiated and agreed upon language (“agreed language”) on international migration and related topics. While, as general rule, the resolutions contained in this compendium have been adopted since 2000, the declarations, conventions and outcomes from international conferences and summits on population and other social and economic issues may have been adopted before. The 24 elements listed in Annex II of the New York Declaration (A/71/1) have guided the selection of relevant materials. Currently, the compendium contains over 200 texts. To ensure that the latest internationally agreed texts are included, this compendium will be updated on a continuous basis.

### A. DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPENDIUM

This section provides an overview of the content of the compendium. A more detailed list of documents can be found in Annex 1.

#### *1. Declarations and conventions*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains several provisions that touch upon migration issues. Further, seven conventions and protocols of the United Nations are of direct relevance to international migration. Moreover, the nine core international human rights instruments of the United Nations include provisions that are relevant for international migrants.

#### *2. The General Assembly and its subsidiary organs*

The issue of international migration has been addressed in the outcome documents of numerous United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic field. Formal adoption of these outcomes generally takes place in the General Assembly without reference to a Main Committee.

The Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) contains one of the most comprehensive negotiated texts on international migration to date. While earlier international population conferences also considered migration-related issues, international migration and its relation to development has steadily risen in importance on the agenda of the United

Nations since the 1994 ICPD.<sup>1</sup> Subsequent United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic field affirmed the contribution of international migration to development.

After years of deliberating the question of convening an intergovernmental conference on international migration, the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. This marked the first high-level event of the General Assembly dedicated exclusively to this topic. At the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in October 2013, the General Assembly adopted a landmark declaration. The agreement not only acknowledged the contribution of migration in realising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but also recognised that human mobility was a key factor for sustainable development, which would need to be adequately considered in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that would succeed the MDGs. Consequently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015, include one migration-specific target and several migration-related targets. Furthermore, the SDGs call on countries to disaggregate relevant targets by migratory status. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which spells out the means to implement the SDGs, contains several practical proposals to reduce the costs of migration and to strengthen its development outcomes. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is the latest example of the importance the General Assembly attaches to issues pertaining to international migration.

The Second Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with economic and financial issues, considers the issue of international migration and development on a regular basis. The Third Committee of the General Assembly, which focuses on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, reviews topics such as the protection of migrants, violence against women migrant workers, human trafficking and refugees. The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly is the primary forum for the consideration of legal issues. The outcomes of the deliberations from these Committees are adopted as resolutions by the General Assembly, based on a report of the respective Committee.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has adopted various resolutions relating to the human rights of migrants.

### *3. The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions*

The main task of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. In reviewing the implementation of Chapter X of ICPD, which deals with international migration, the CPD has adopted several resolutions on migration.

### *4. Specialized agencies*

In addition to the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, several specialized agencies whose work is coordinated through ECOSOC have addressed migration-related topics. The International Labour Conference, the governing body of the International Labour Office (ILO), adopted three legally-binding instruments that are of direct relevance for the protection of migrant workers, while several other ILO conventions touch upon the topic of migration. The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has adopted several regional conventions regarding the recognition of qualifications in higher education, some of which are currently being revised. In consultation with its Member States, UNESCO is currently in the process of drafting a

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<sup>1</sup> In resolution 65/234, the General Assembly extended the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014.



global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications. The World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO) has adopted a resolution on the health of refugees and migrants as well as a global code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel. Lastly, in 2015, the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) adopted a resolution proclaiming 16 June as the international day of family remittances.

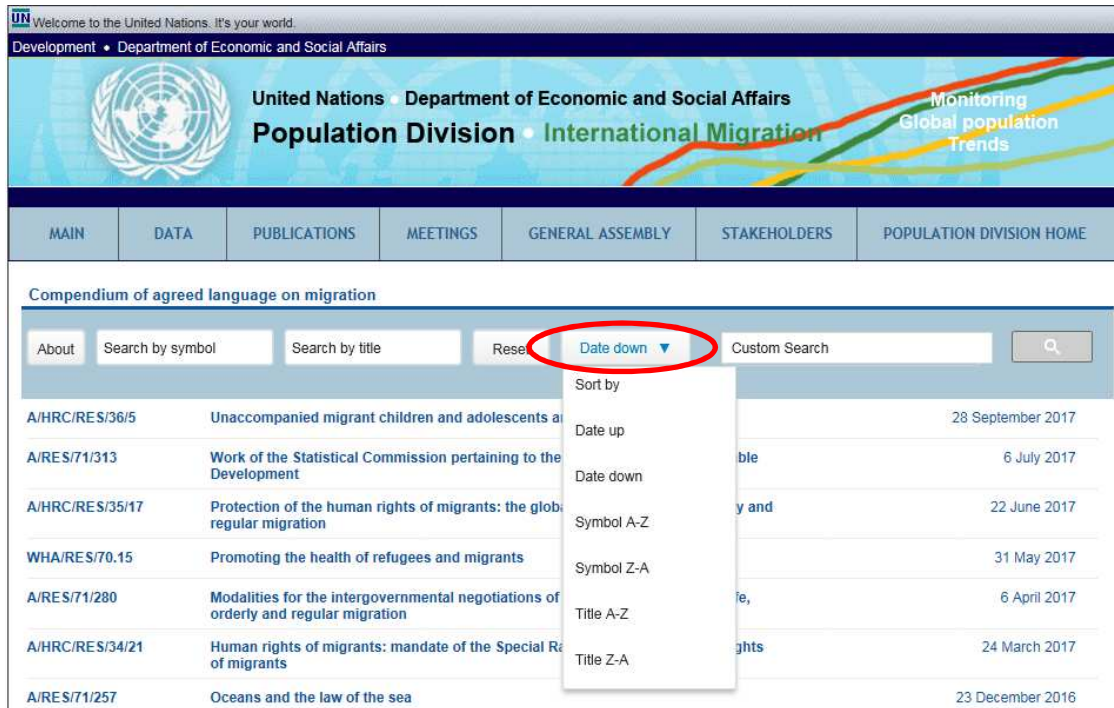
TABLE 1. SCHEMATIC OVERVIEW OF SYMBOLS USED  
TO IDENTIFY TEXTS IN THE COMPENDIUM

<b>Symbol starting with:</b>	<b>Text adopted by / the governing board of:</b>
A	General Assembly
A/HRC	Human Rights Council
E	Economic and Social Council
E/CN	Commission on Population and Development
FCCC	Conference of the Parties (COP)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Office
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHA	World Health Assembly

## B. USER GUIDE

This section provides an overview of different sorting and searching options which enable users to find agreed language on specific topics:

### Sorting by date, symbol or title



The screenshot shows the UN Population Division website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for MAIN, DATA, PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY, STAKEHOLDERS, and POPULATION DIVISION HOME. Below this is a search bar with options for 'About', 'Search by symbol', 'Search by title', 'Reset', and 'Date down'. The 'Date down' dropdown menu is open, showing options for 'Sort by', 'Date up', 'Date down', 'Symbol A-Z', 'Symbol Z-A', 'Title A-Z', and 'Title Z-A'. Below the search bar is a table of documents with columns for document ID, title, and date.

Document ID	Title	Date
A/HRC/RES/36/5	Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents a	28 September 2017
A/RES/71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the Development	6 July 2017
A/HRC/RES/35/17	Protection of the human rights of migrants: the glob regular migration	22 June 2017
WHA/RES/70.15	Promoting the health of refugees and migrants	31 May 2017
A/RES/71/280	Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of orderly and regular migration	6 April 2017
A/HRC/RES/34/21	Human rights of migrants: mandate of the Special R of migrants	24 March 2017
A/RES/71/257	Oceans and the law of the sea	23 December 2016

A drop-down menu (“Sort by”) enables the user to sort the documents by adoption date (down for descending or up for ascending), by symbol (A-Z or Z-A) or by title (A-Z or Z-A). The default setting sorts all documents by date, starting with the newest document. Sorting by date, symbol or title can be combined with a search by symbol or a search by title.

### Making a selection

#### Option 1: By symbol



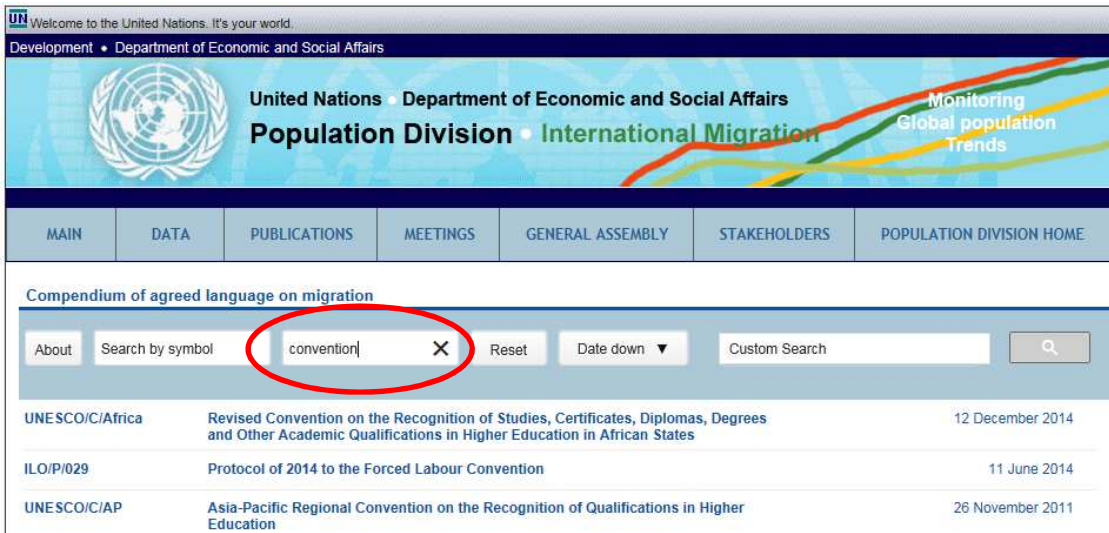
The screenshot shows the UN Population Division website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for MAIN, DATA, PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY, STAKEHOLDERS, and POPULATION DIVISION HOME. Below this is a search bar with options for 'About', 'A/RES/71', 'Search by title', 'Reset', 'Date down', and 'Custom Search'. The search bar is highlighted with a red circle. Below the search bar is a table of documents with columns for document ID, title, and date.

Document ID	Title	Date
A/RES/71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	6 July 2017
A/RES/71/280	Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration	6 April 2017

By typing the relevant symbol, or part thereof, in the relevant space, the system will display all documents that meet the criterion. For instance:

- to select a particular text, type the exact symbol (e.g. “A/RES/71/1”),
- to select all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, type “A/RES”,
- to select all resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, type “A/HRC/RES”,
- to select all resolutions adopted during a particular session, add the relevant session (e.g. “A/RES/71”),
- to select all agreed texts adopted by a specialized agency, add the relevant symbol (e.g. “WHA”).

### **Option 2: By title**



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**Population Division • International Migration** Monitoring Global population Trends

MAIN DATA PUBLICATIONS MEETINGS GENERAL ASSEMBLY STAKEHOLDERS POPULATION DIVISION HOME

Compendium of agreed language on migration

About Search by symbol **convention** X Reset Date down Custom Search

UNESCO/C/Africa	Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States	12 December 2014
ILO/P/029	Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention	11 June 2014
UNESCO/C/AP	Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education	26 November 2011

Typing in a keyword will return all documents with the search word in the title (e.g. “convention”).

### Option 3: By custom search

The screenshot shows the United Nations Population Division website. The search bar contains the text "human trafficking" and is circled in red. Below the search bar, a table lists search results:

Document ID	Document Title	Date
A/HRC/RES/36/5	Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights	28 September 2017
A/RES/71/313	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	6 July 2017
A/HRC/RES/35/17	Protection of the human rights of migrants: the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration	22 June 2017
WHA/RES/70.15	Promoting the health of refugees and migrants	31 May 2017

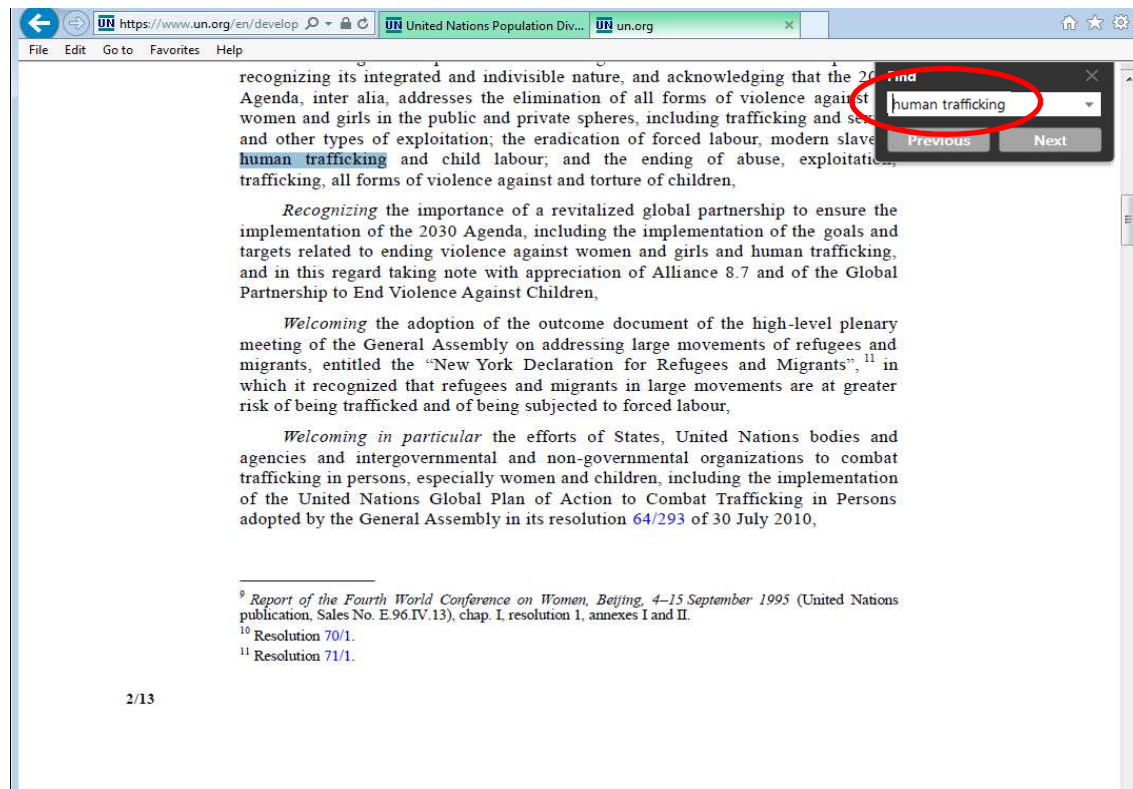
Typing in a keyword will search the full text of all documents, displaying a list of documents including the location where the keyword is first mentioned. Sorting of the results is possible by relevance or date. Searching for multiple words will render documents containing all searched words in no particular order (e.g. the search words “human” and “trafficking” will select all documents which include the words “human” and the word “trafficking”). To limit the search to documents containing the exact word order of the search, use quotation marks (e.g. “human trafficking” will select only those documents which include references to “human trafficking”). The google search function is limited to 100 search results per query.

The screenshot shows the search results page for "human trafficking". The search bar is circled in red, and the "Sort by: Relevance" dropdown menu is also circled in red. The results are sorted by relevance and include the following entries:

- A/RES/70/179: Improving coordination of efforts against trafficking in ...**  
www.un.org/en/development/desa/.../docs/.../A\_RES\_70\_179.pdf  
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat  
Feb 16, 2016 ... **human trafficking** in supply chains of businesses\*,10 and other ... as appropriate, national and regional anti-**human trafficking** policies, and to.
- A/RES/71/167: Trafficking in women and girls**  
www.un.org/en/development/desa/.../docs/.../A\_RES\_71\_167.pdf  
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat  
Dec 19, 2016 ... targets related to ending violence against women and girls and **human trafficking**, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of Alliance ...
- A/RES/69/149: Trafficking in women and girls**  
www.un.org/en/development/desa/.../docs/.../A\_RES\_69\_149.pdf  
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat  
Dec 18, 2014 ... the situation of victims of **human trafficking** and for the promotion and protection of their rights,. Noting with appreciation the steps taken, ...
- A/RES/68/192 Improving coordination of efforts against trafficking in ...**  
www.un.org/en/development/desa/.../docs/.../A\_RES\_68\_192.pdf  
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat  
Feb 14, 2014 ... A/RES/68/192. 3/7 **human trafficking** in supply chains of businesses\*,9 and other relevant resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons,.

If 100 results are shown, it is suggested to sort by relevance, to refine the search further or to use one of the alternative search options.

## Searching a document



Once a document is opened, it is searchable by typing Ctrl+F. When searching for two or more words in the exact word order (e.g. human trafficking), quotation marks are not necessary.

For further questions or comments, please contact [migrationp@un.org](mailto:migrationp@un.org).



## **Annex 1: Body of negotiated and agreed language on international migration**

### **1. Declarations and conventions**

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- Legal instruments related to international migration:
  - United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
    - Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)
    - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2000)
  - Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961)
  - Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954)
  - Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
    - Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)
- Core international human rights instruments:
  - International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2006)
  - Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (2006)
  - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families (1990)
  - Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
  - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
  - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
  - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
  - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
  - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)

### **2. The General Assembly and its subsidiary organs**

- Outcome documents of the United Nations population conferences:
  - Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994)
  - Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development (1984)
  - Recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (1984)
  - World Population Plan of Action (1974)
- Outcome documents of major United Nations conferences in the social and economic field and General Assembly resolutions without reference to a Main Committee:
  - Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2017)
  - Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (2017)
  - Oceans and the law of the sea (since 2002)
  - New Urban Agenda (2016)
  - New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016)
  - Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (2016)
  - Paris Agreement (2015)

- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)
  - Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015)
  - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (2015)
  - Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013)
  - The future we want (2012)
  - Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (2010)
  - Global Forum on Migration and Development (2008)
  - 2005 World Summit Outcome (2005)
  - Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002)
  - Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance (2001)
  - United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000)
  - Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
  - Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (1995)
  - Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995)
  - Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1995)
  - Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)
  - Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992)
  - Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)
  - United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)
- General Assembly resolutions of the Second Committee:
    - International migration and development (since 2000)
    - Women in development (since 2000)
    - Facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances (2005)
- General Assembly resolutions of the Third Committee:
    - Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (since 2000)
    - Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons (since 2006)
    - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (since 2000)
    - Protection of migrants (since 2000)
    - Rights of the child (since 2000)
    - Trafficking in women and girls (since 2002)
    - Violence against women migrant workers (since 2000)
    - Migrant children and adolescents (2014)
    - Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2003 – 2013)
    - Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families (2012)
    - Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (2000-2008)
    - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2000 – 2004)
    - Human rights and mass exoduses (2001 – 2003)
    - Proclamation of 18 December as International Migrants Day (2000)
- General Assembly resolutions of the Sixth Committee:
    - Expulsion of aliens (2014)

- Resolutions of the United Nations Human Rights Council:
  - Protection of the human rights of migrants (since 2015)
  - Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights (since 2015)
  - Human rights of migrants (since 2009)
  - Promotion of the right of migrants to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (2014)
  - Migrants and asylum-seekers fleeing recent events in North Africa (2011)

### **3. The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions**

- Resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development:
  - New trends in migration: demographic aspects (2013)
  - International migration and development (2006)

### **4. Specialized agencies / governing bodies**

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):
  - Proclamation of an International Day of Family Remittances (2015)
- International Labour Organization (ILO):
  - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention (2014)
  - Domestic Workers Convention (2011)
  - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999)
  - Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention (1988)
  - Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention (1982)
  - Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention (1975)
  - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958)
  - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957)
  - Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) (1949)
  - Forced Labour Convention (1930)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):
  - Revised Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and Other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in African States (2014)
  - Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (2011)
  - Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (1997)
  - Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab States (1978)
  - Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean (1976)
  - Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (1974)
- World Health Assembly (WHA) of the World Health Organization (WHO):
  - Promoting the health of refugees and migrants (2017)
  - WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (2010)