

E c o n o m i c &

S o c i a l A f f a i r s

International Migration Report 2017



United Nations

< this page intentionally left blank >

ST/ESA/SER.A/403
December 2017

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Population Division

International Migration Report 2017



United Nations

< this page intentionally left blank >

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.

Notes

The designations employed in this report 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 report has been issued without formal editing. It is available in electronic format on the website of the Population Division, at 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 email at population@un.org.

Suggested citation:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *International Migration Report 2017* (ST/ESA/SER.A/403).

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

Published by the United Nations
Copyright © United Nations, 2017
All rights reserved

< this page intentionally left blank >

PREFACE

This report presents information on levels and trends in international migration for regions, sub-regions and countries of the world, and on the ratification status of migration-related international instruments. It also contains a summary of the General Assembly's high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, which took place on 19 September 2016.

The estimates of the international migrant stock, described in Chapter I, are from the publication *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*. The estimates and projections of net migration and total population presented in Chapter II are from the *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision*. The information about the status of ratification of the main legal instruments related to international migration, as analysed and reviewed in Chapter III, is from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and the NORMLEX system of the International Labour Organization.

The report was prepared by Julia Ferre, Barbara Kobler and Pablo Lattes, under the supervision of Bela Hovy. The estimates of the migrant stock were prepared by Pablo Lattes. More information on the activities of the Population Division in the area of international migration can be found at www.unmigration.org.

< this page intentionally left blank >

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
PREFACE.....	iii
EXPLANATORY NOTES.....	vii
CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY REGIONS AND SUB-REGION IN THE WORLD.....	ix
CHAPTERS	
I. LEVELS AND TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK	1
II. NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION.....	13
III. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION	21
IV. UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS	25

TABLES

	<i>Page</i>
I.1. Number and annual rate of change of the international migrant stock by development group, income level and region, 1990-2017.....	1
I.2. Number of international migrants by development group and region of destination and origin, 2017 (<i>millions</i>).....	2
II.1. Number of countries or areas with positive or negative net migration during 2000-2010 and 2010-2015, and those with a change in the direction of net migration between 2000-2010 and 2010-2015, by development group and region.....	14
II.2. Ten countries with the highest and lowest levels of net migration during 2000-2010 and 2010-2015 (thousands of migrants per year).....	15
II.3. Projected population in 2050 according to the medium-variant and the zero-net-migration scenario, by development group and region.....	18
III.1. Status of ratification of international legal instruments related to international migration.....	22
III.2. Rates of ratification by States Parties of international legal instruments related to international migration, by development group and region (<i>percentage</i>).....	24

FIGURES

	<i>Page</i>
I.1. Origin and destination of international migrants by development group, 1990-2017 (millions).....	2
I.2. Number of international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2017 (millions).....	3
I.3. Average annual change in the number of international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2017 (millions).....	4
I.4. Average annual change in the number of international migrants along the six largest regional migration corridors, 1990-2017 (millions).....	4
I.5. Countries hosting the largest number of international migrants, 1990-2017 (millions).....	6
I.6. Ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest average annual increase in the number of international migrants, 1990-2017 (thousands).....	7
I.7. Percentage of women among all international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2017.....	9
I.8. Number of international migrants by age and development group, 2017 (millions).....	10

I.9. Percentage female among all international migrants by age and development group, 2017 (percentages)..	10
II.1. Average annual net migration by region, from 1950-1970 to 2010-2015 (millions)	13
II.2. Contribution of natural change and net migration to total population change by development group, from 1950-1960 to 2040-2050 (millions of persons per decade)	16
II.3. Contribution of natural change and net migration to total population change by region, from 1950-1960 to 2040-2050 (millions of persons per decade)	17
II.4. Impact of the zero-net-migration scenario on the projected median age according to the medium variant by development group, From 1950 to 2050 (median age in years)	19
III.1. Status of ratification of legal instruments related to international migration, 1950-2017	21

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The following symbols are used in the tables shown in this report:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported.

Three dots (...) indicate that the treaty was not ratified.

An em dash (—) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1990-2000, signifies the full period from 1 July of the first year to 1 July of the second year.

Due to rounding, the numbers and percentages displayed in tables may not add up to the corresponding totals.

The designation “more developed” and “less developed” regions are intended for statistical purposes and do not express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country, territory or area in the development process. The term “country” as used in this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

More developed regions comprise all sub-regions of Europe plus Northern America, Australia/New Zealand and Japan. Less developed regions comprise all sub-regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), and Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. Countries or areas in the more developed regions are designated as “developed countries”. Countries or areas in the less developed regions are designated as “developing countries”. Following common practice, the more developed regions are also referred to as the “North”, while the less developed regions are also referred to as the “South”.

The group of least developed countries, as defined by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions (59/209, 59/210, 60/33, 62/97, 64/L.55, 67/L.43, 64/295 and 68/18) included 47 countries in June 2017: 33 in Africa, 9 in Asia, 4 in Oceania and one in Latin America and the Caribbean. Those 47 countries are: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia. These countries are also included in the less developed regions.

The designation sub-Saharan Africa refers to all countries in Africa except Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Western Sahara.

Countries and areas are grouped geographically into six regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania. These are further divided into 21 geographical sub-regions.

Country names and the composition of geographical areas follow those of “Standard country or area codes for statistical use”, available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *(continued)*

The following abbreviations have been used:

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
IDP	Internally displaced person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

References:

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017a). Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision. (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/index.shtml>)

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017b). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision. (<https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>)

United Nations, Office of Legal Affairs, Treaty Section (<http://treaties.un.org>).

International Labour Organization, NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex/normlex>).

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY REGION AND SUB-REGION OF THE WORLD

AFRICA				
<i>Eastern Africa</i>	<i>Middle Africa</i>	<i>Northern Africa</i>	<i>Western Africa</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>
Burundi	Angola	Algeria	Benin	Botswana
Comoros	Cameroon	Egypt	Burkina Faso	Lesotho
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Libya	Cabo Verde	Namibia
Eritrea	Chad	Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire	South Africa
Ethiopia	Congo	Sudan	Gambia	Swaziland
Kenya	Democratic Republic	Tunisia	Ghana	
Madagascar	of the Congo	Western Sahara	Guinea	
Malawi	Equatorial Guinea		Guinea-Bissau	
Mauritius ¹	Gabon		Liberia	
Mayotte	Sao Tome and Principe		Mali	
Mozambique			Mauritania	
Réunion			Niger	
Rwanda			Nigeria	
Seychelles			Saint Helena ²	
Somalia			Senegal	
South Sudan			Sierra Leone	
Uganda			Togo	
United Republic of Tanzania ³				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

ASIA				
<i>Central Asia</i>	<i>Eastern Asia</i>	<i>Southern Asia</i>	<i>South-Eastern Asia</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>
Kazakhstan	China ⁴	Afghanistan	Brunei Darussalam	Armenia
Kyrgyzstan	China, Hong Kong Special	Bangladesh	Cambodia	Azerbaijan ⁵
Tajikistan	Administrative	Bhutan	Indonesia	Bahrain
Turkmenistan	Region ⁶	India	Lao People's Democratic	Cyprus ⁷
Uzbekistan	China, Macao Special	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Republic	Georgia ⁸
	Administrative	Maldives	Malaysia ⁹	Iraq
	Region ¹⁰	Nepal	Myanmar	Israel
	Democratic People's	Pakistan	Philippines	Jordan
	Republic of Korea	Sri Lanka	Singapore	Kuwait
	Japan		Thailand	Lebanon
	Mongolia		Timor-Leste	Oman
	Republic of Korea		Viet Nam	Qatar
				Saudi Arabia
				State of Palestine ¹¹
				Syrian Arab Republic
				Turkey
				United Arab Emirates
				Yemen

¹ Including Agalega, Rodrigues and Saint Brandon.

² Including Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

³ Including Zanzibar.

⁴ For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China.

⁵ Including Nagorno-Karabakh.

⁶ As of 1 July 1997, Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

⁷ Including Northern-Cyprus.

⁸ Including Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

⁹ Including Sabah and Sarawak.

¹⁰ As of 20 December 1999, Macao became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China.

¹¹ Including East Jerusalem. Refugees under UNRWA's mandate are not counted as part of the migrant stock for the State of Palestine, as almost all of these individuals were born in the territory.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY REGION AND SUB-REGION OF THE WORLD (*continued*)

EUROPE			
<i>Eastern Europe</i>	<i>Northern Europe</i>	<i>Southern Europe</i>	<i>Western Europe</i>
Belarus	Channel Islands ¹²	Albania	Austria
Bulgaria	Denmark	Andorra	Belgium
Czech Republic	Estonia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Hungary	Faeroe Islands	Croatia	Germany
Poland	Finland ¹³	Gibraltar	Liechtenstein
Republic of Moldova ¹⁴	Iceland	Greece	Luxembourg
Romania	Ireland	Holy See ¹⁵	Monaco
Russian Federation	Isle of Man	Italy	Netherlands
Slovakia	Latvia	Malta	Switzerland
Ukraine	Lithuania	Montenegro	
	Norway ¹⁶	Portugal	
	Sweden	San Marino	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ¹⁸	Serbia ¹⁷	
		Slovenia	
		Spain ¹⁹	
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ²⁰	

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>
Anguilla	Belize	Argentina
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Aruba	El Salvador	Brazil
Bahamas	Guatemala	Chile
Barbados	Honduras	Colombia
British Virgin Islands	Mexico	Ecuador
Caribbean Netherlands	Nicaragua	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Cayman Islands	Panama	French Guiana
Cuba		Guyana
Curaçao		Paraguay
Dominica		Peru
Dominican Republic		Suriname
Grenada		Uruguay
Guadeloupe ²¹		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Haiti		
Jamaica		
Martinique		
Montserrat		
Puerto Rico		
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Lucia		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		

¹² Refers to Guernsey and Jersey.

¹³ Including Åland Islands.

¹⁴ Including Transnistria.

¹⁵ Refers to the Vatican City State.

¹⁶ Including Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands.

¹⁷ Including Kosovo.

¹⁸ Also referred to as United Kingdom.

¹⁹ Including Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

²⁰ Also referred to as TFYR Macedonia.

²¹ Including Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (French part).

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS BY REGION AND SUB-REGION OF THE WORLD (*continued*)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (<i>continued</i>)			
<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>Central America</i>	<i>South America</i>	
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)			
Trinidad and Tobago			
Turks and Caicos Islands			
United States Virgin Islands			
NORTHERN AMERICA			
Bermuda			
Canada			
Greenland			
Saint Pierre and Miquelon			
United States of America			
OCEANIA			
<i>Australia and New Zealand</i>	<i>Melanesia</i>	<i>Micronesia</i>	<i>Polynesia</i>
Australia ²²	Fiji	Guam	American Samoa
New Zealand	New Caledonia	Kiribati	Cook Islands
	Papua New Guinea	Marshall Islands	French Polynesia
	Solomon Islands	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Niue
	Vanuatu	Nauru	Samoa
		Northern Mariana Islands	Tokelau
		Palau	Tonga
			Tuvalu
			Wallis and Futuna Islands

²² Including Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island.

< this page intentionally left blank >

I. LEVELS AND TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK

A. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Globally, there were an estimated 258 million international migrants in 2017 (table I.1).ⁱ Of these, nearly 57 per cent lived in the developed regions (the “North”), while the developing regions (the “South”) hosted 43 per cent of the world’s migrants. Of the 146 million international migrants living in the North in 2017,ⁱⁱ 89 million, or 61 per cent, originated from a developing country, while 57 million, or 39 per cent, were born in the North. Meanwhile, 97 million, or 87 per cent, of the 112 million international migrants residing in the South in 2017 originated from other parts of the developing regions, while 14 million, or 13 per cent, were born in the North (table I.2).

Between 1990 and 2017, the number of international migrants worldwide rose by over 105 million, or by 69 per cent. Most of this increase occurred from 2005 to 2017, when some 5.6 million migrants were added annually, compared to an average of 2.5 million from 1990 to 2005. In the period between 1990 and 2000, the international migrant stock grew at an average annual rate of change of 1.2 per cent, compared to 2.4 per cent from 2000 and 2010 and 2.3 per cent from 2010 to 2017. Between 1990 and 2017, the developed

regions gained 64 million international migrants, which was 60 per cent of the 105 million added worldwide, whereas the developing regions added 41 million, or 40 per cent.

While the North grew at a steady average annual rate of 2.3 per cent in the period from 1990 to 2010, this rate has since declined to 1.6 per cent in the period from 2010 to 2017. For the South, the average annual rate of change was slightly negative (-0.1 per cent) from 1990 to 2000, but has been positive since then. The number of international migrants living in the South grew at an average annual rate of 2.6 per cent from 2000 to 2010 and at 3.2 per cent from 2010 to 2017, surpassing the pace of increase in the North. Since 2000, 60 per cent of the increase of the total number of international migrants reflected movements between countries located in the South.

The increase in the number of international migrants in the developed regions resulted from an increase in the number of migrants coming from both the South and the North. Of the 64 million international migrants added in the North between 1990 and 2017, 48 million, or 76 per cent, were born in the South. The remaining 16 million international migrants, or 24 per cent, originated from a country located in the North.

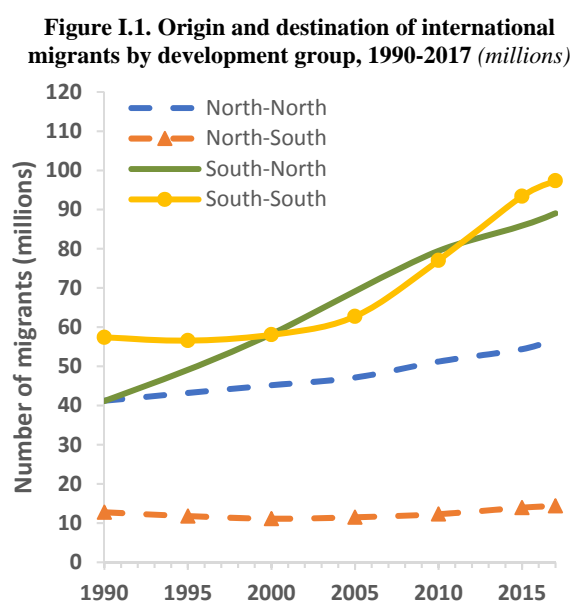
TABLE I.1. NUMBER AND ANNUAL RATE OF CHANGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK
BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP, INCOME LEVEL AND REGION, 1990-2017

	International migrant stock (millions)				Average annual change in migrant stock (per cent)			
	1990	2000	2010	2017	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2017	2000-2017
World	152.5	172.6	220.0	257.7	1.2	2.4	2.3	2.4
Developed regions	82.4	103.4	130.7	146.0	2.3	2.3	1.6	2.0
Developing regions	70.2	69.2	89.3	111.7	-0.1	2.6	3.2	2.8
High-income countries	75.2	100.4	141.8	164.8	2.9	3.5	2.2	2.9
Middle-income countries	68.5	64.0	70.2	81.4	-0.7	0.9	2.1	1.4
Low-income countries	8.5	7.7	7.5	10.9	-1.0	-0.2	5.3	2.0
Africa	15.7	14.8	17.0	24.7	-0.6	1.4	5.3	3.0
Asia	48.1	49.2	65.9	79.6	0.2	2.9	2.7	2.8
Europe	49.2	56.3	70.7	77.9	1.3	2.3	1.4	1.9
LAC	7.2	6.6	8.2	9.5	-0.9	2.3	2.0	2.2
NA	27.6	40.4	51.0	57.7	3.8	2.3	1.8	2.1
Oceania	4.7	5.4	7.1	8.4	1.2	2.8	2.4	2.7

Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

In the developing countries, the growth of the migrant population resulted mainly from an increase in the number of migrants born in the South. Between 1990 and 2017, the migrant population originating from the South and living in the South grew from 57 million to 97 million, a 70 per cent increase (figure I.1). Of the 41 million foreign-born persons added in the South during this period, around 96 per cent were born in the developing regions, whereas just four per cent originated from a country of the North.



Source: United Nations (2017a).

Worldwide, international migrants accounted for a relatively small share of the total population, comprising about 3.4 per cent of the world's population in 2017, compared to 2.9 per cent in 1990. In the North, international migrants constituted 11.6 per cent of the total population in 2017 compared to 1.8 per cent in the developing regions. Between 1990 and 2017, the number of international migrants as a share of the total population increased in the North, but changed very little in the South.

Box I.1. Who is an international migrant?

For the purpose of estimating the international migrant stock, international migrants are equated either with the foreign-born or with foreign citizens. When data on place of birth are available, they are generally given precedence.

Of the 232 countries or areas in *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*, data on the foreign-born were available for 182, or 78 per cent. Data on foreign citizens were used for 47 countries or areas, or 20 per cent. For the remaining three countries, since no empirical data were available, estimates were imputed based on regional trends.

TABLE I.2. NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION OF DESTINATION AND ORIGIN, 2017 (millions)

Destination	Origin									
	Developed regions	Developing regions	Africa	Asia	Europe	LAC	NA	Oceania	Unknown	World
Developed regions	56.9	89.0	12.4	42.6	51.8	31.4	2.5	1.7	3.6	146.0
Developing regions	14.4	97.4	23.8	63.1	9.4	6.3	1.9	0.2	6.9	111.7
Africa	2.3	22.3	19.4	1.2	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.0	24.7
Asia	9.2	70.4	4.4	63.3	7.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	3.7	79.6
Europe	43.3	34.6	9.3	20.5	41.0	4.6	1.0	0.4	1.1	77.9
LAC	2.9	6.6	0.1	0.3	1.3	6.1	1.4	0.0	0.3	9.5
NA	9.4	48.2	2.6	17.2	7.6	26.4	1.2	0.3	2.4	57.7
Oceania	4.2	4.2	0.5	3.2	3.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.1	8.4
World	71.3	186.4	36.3	105.7	61.2	37.7	4.4	1.9	10.6	257.7

Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

B. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS BY REGION

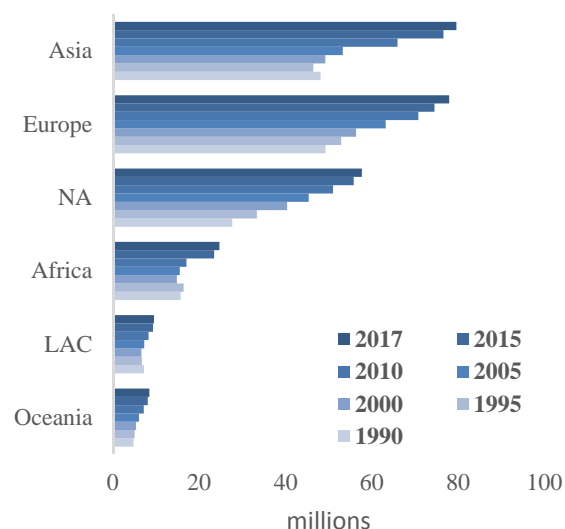
Asia and Europe combined hosted over 60 per cent of all international migrants worldwide in 2017, with nearly 80 million international migrants living in Asia and 78 million in Europe. Northern America hosted the third largest number of international migrants in 2017 (58 million), followed by Africa (25 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (10 million), and Oceania (8 million) (table I.1).

Between 1990 and 2017, Asia recorded the largest gain in the number of international migrants, adding 31 million, followed by Northern America (30 million) and Europe (29 million). Of the 31 million international migrants added in Asia during this period, 28 million, or 89 per cent, were born in other countries of Asia. For Europe and Northern America, the pattern was more diversified. Of the 29 million international migrants gained by Europe during this period, 46 per cent were born in Europe, 24 per cent in Asia, nearly 17 per cent in Africa and 12 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. For Northern America, over 16 million, or 55 per cent of the 30 million migrants gained between 1990 and 2017, were born in Latin America and the Caribbean, while 11 million, or 37 per cent, originated from Asia and just over 2 million, or 7 per cent, from Africa.

Asia, Europe and Northern America accounted for over 85 per cent of the increase in the number of international migrants between 1990 and 2017 (figure I.2). Asia experienced the fastest growth in the migrant population since 2000. During the period from 2010 to 2017, Asia added on average 2.0 million migrants per annum. Europe experienced the second fastest increase during the period from 2000 to 2010, at a yearly average of 1.4 million migrants, followed by Northern America (1.1 million). During 2010-2017, Africa experienced the second fastest growth in the migrant population, increasing by an average of 1.1 million per year, while the annual increase of the migrant population in Europe and Northern America averaged around 1.0 million persons (figure I.3).

While Northern America added the third largest number of international migrants since the year 2000, the number of international migrants added annually has declined from 1.3 million during the period 1990 to 2000, to 1.1 million the following ten years and just under 1 million for the period between 2010 and 2017 (figure I.3). Moreover, between 2010 and 2017, Northern America added only half as many international migrants as did Asia. Meanwhile, Africa, which experienced a relatively small increase in the number of international migrants between 1990 and 2010, gained slightly more migrants than Europe and Northern America from 2010 to 2017.

Figure I.2. Number of international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2017 (millions)



Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

In 2017, Asia-to-Asia constituted the largest regional migration corridor in the world, with some 63 million international migrants born in that region residing in another country of Asia (table I.2). From 2000 to 2010, the Asia-to-Asia corridor grew by an average of 1.5 million international migrants per year, a figure that increased to 1.7 million between 2010 and 2017 (figure I.4). Europe-to-Europe was the second largest regional corridor in 2017, with around 41 million international migrants born in Europe living in another country of Europe. The average annual increase in the Europe-to-Europe migrant stock has been around 0.6 million since 2000.

Figure I.3. Average annual change in the number of international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2017 (millions)

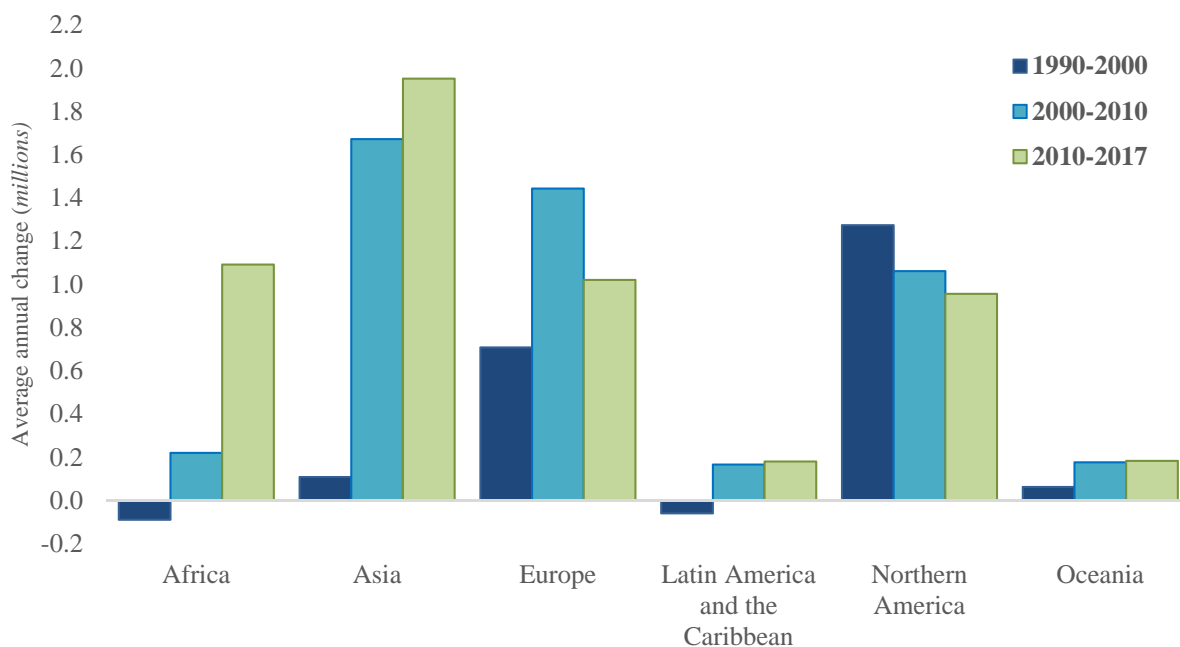
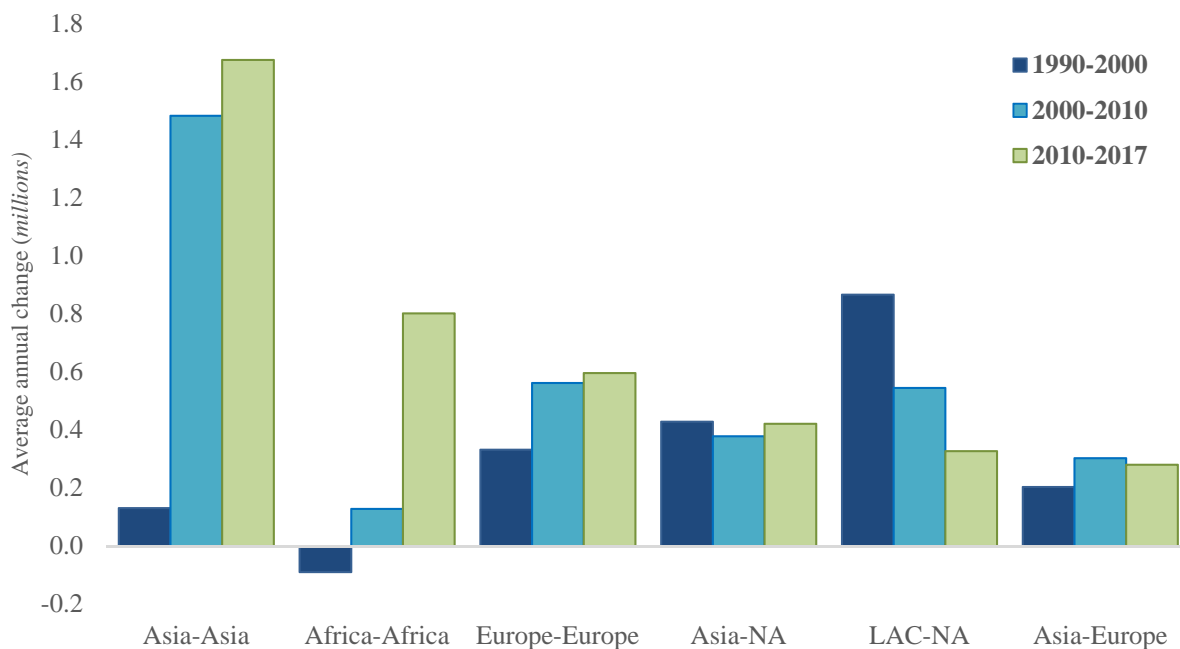


Figure I.4. Average annual change in the number of international migrants along the six largest regional migration corridors, 1990-2017 (millions)



Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

The corridor from Latin America and the Caribbean to Northern America was the third largest in 2017, with over 26 million international migrants. However, the number of international migrants added annually via this corridor declined steadily, falling from an average of 0.9 million between 1990 and 2000 to only 0.3 million between 2010 and 2017. The latter period marked the first time that more migrants were added to the population of Northern America coming from Asia than from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Asia-to-Europe corridor, the fourth largest in 2017, with 20 million international migrants from Asia residing in Europe, recorded a decline in the average number of migrants added per year from 2010 to 2017 compared to the period between 2000 and 2010. The Africa-to-Africa corridor, with 19 million international migrants in 2017, represented the fifth largest in the world. Between 2010 and 2017, the number of African migrants residing in Africa increased faster than any other regional corridor, except for the Asia-to-Asia corridor.

Between 1990 and 2017, the share of international migrants in the total population grew rapidly in Europe, Northern America and Oceania, while it remained relatively small in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. In Oceania, the region with the largest share of migrants in total population, this figure climbed from 17.5 per cent in 1990 to 20.7 per cent in 2017. In Northern America, the proportion of international migrants reached 16.0 per cent of the total population in 2017, up from 9.8 per cent in 1990, while in Europe it rose from 6.8 per cent in 1990 to 10.5 per cent in 2017.

In 2017, Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the lowest proportion of international migrants in the total population (1.5 per cent), followed by Asia and Africa (1.8 and 2.0 per cent, respectively). Indeed, both Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a decline in the share of international migrants in the total population between 1990 and 2017, implying that the overall population increased more rapidly than the migrant population in those regions.

C. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS
AT COUNTRY LEVEL

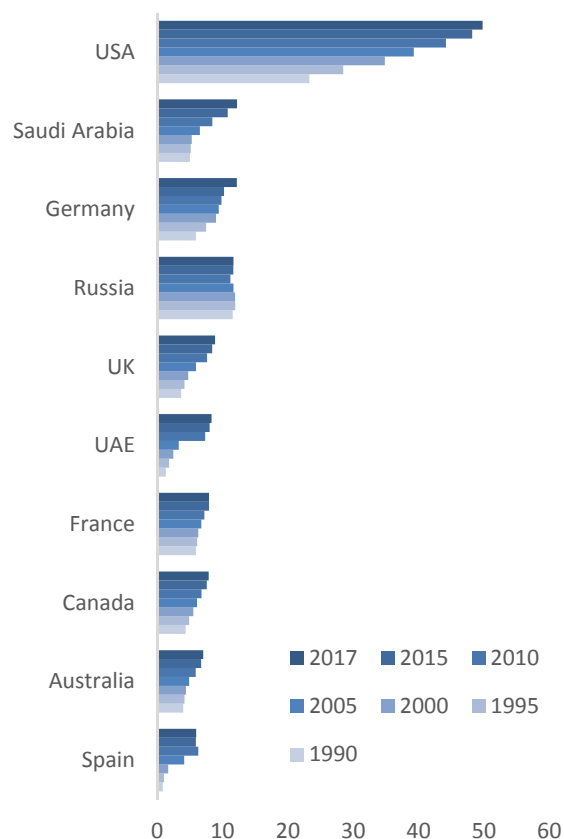
International migrants are unevenly distributed across the globe: in 2017, over half (51 per cent) of all international migrants in the world were living in only ten countries. The largest number of migrants resided in the United States of America, which hosted 49.8 million migrants in 2017, or 19 per cent of the world's total (figure I.5). Saudi Arabia and Germany hosted the second and third largest numbers (12.2 million each), followed by Russian Federation (11.7 million), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (nearly 8.8 million) and the United Arab Emirates (8.3 million).

Between 1990 and 2017, the size of the international migrant stock increased in 169 countries or areas, while it fell in 60. The United States of America experienced the largest increase of the migrant stock between 1990 and 2017, adding 26.5 million migrants, equal to 1.0 million additional migrants per annum. Saudi Arabia recorded the second largest gain during this period (7.2 million), followed by United Arab Emirates (7.0 million), Germany (6.2 million) and the United Kingdom (5.2 million).

Bilateral migration corridors shifted significantly between 1990 and 2017. Over the first decade of that period, between 1990 and 2000, seven of the ten bilateral corridors with the largest average annual increase in the number of international migrants had a country in the North as destination. The United States of America was the destination of five of the ten largest bilateral migration corridors during this period, with large numbers of international migrants originating from

Mexico, India, China, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Mexico-to-USA was the largest bilateral migration corridor in the world, with an annual average of over 500,000 migrants born in Mexico being added to the population of the United States of America from 1990 to 2000 (figure I.6).

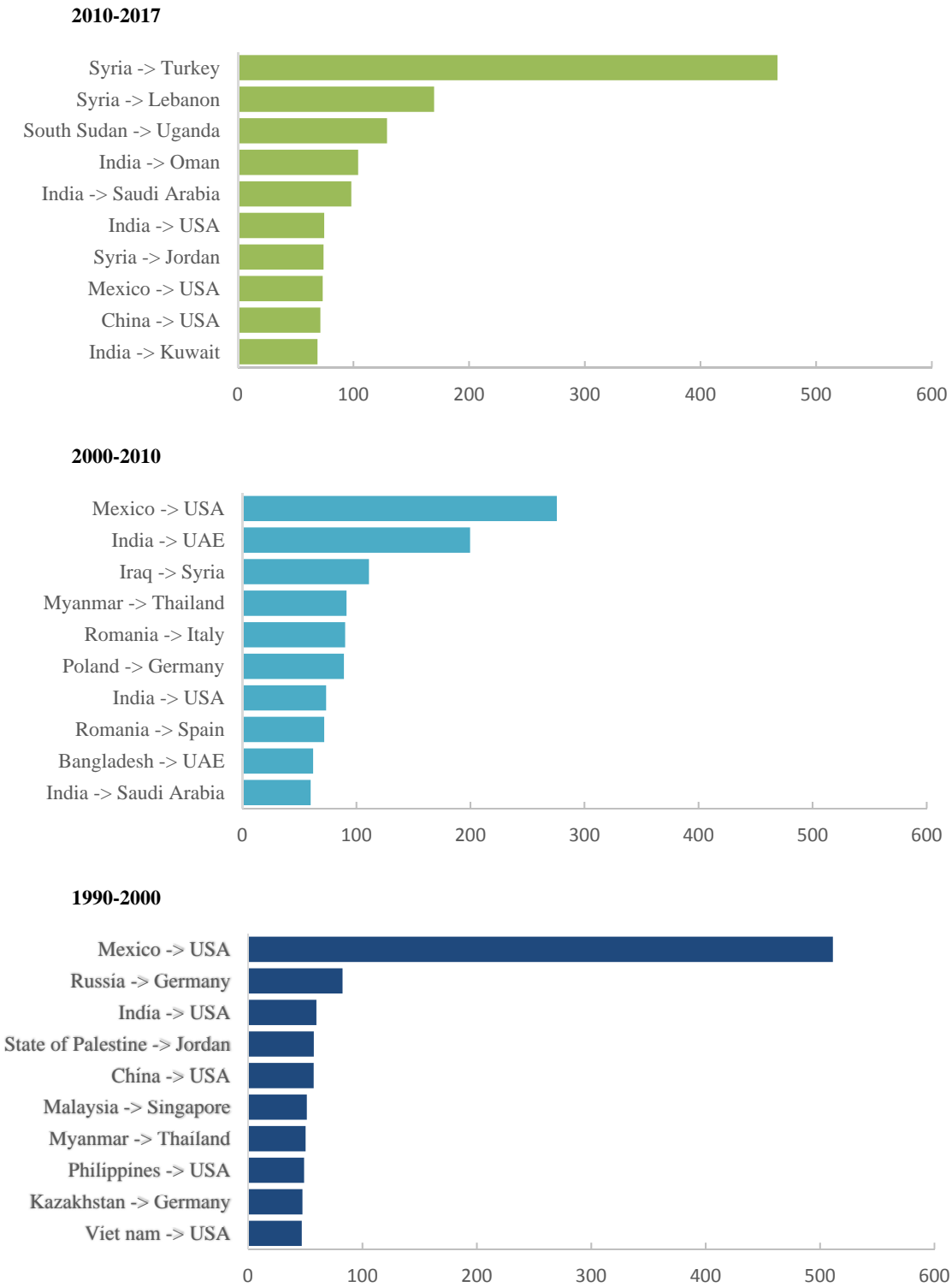
Figure I.5. Countries hosting the largest number of international migrants, 1990-2017 (millions)



Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: Russia refers to the Russian Federation, UAE refers to United Arab Emirates, UK refers to the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland and USA refers to the United States of America.

Figure I.6. Ten bilateral migration corridors with the largest average annual increase in the number of international migrants, 1990-2017 (thousands)



Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: Russia refers to the Russian Federation, Syria refers to the Syrian Arab Republic, UAE refers to United Arab Emirates, UK refers to the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland and USA refers to the United States of America.

Two of the ten largest bilateral migration corridors between 1990 and 2000 had Germany as the destination, while three corridors were between countries or areas of Asia, namely between Malaysia and Singapore, between Myanmar and Thailand, and between the State of Palestine and Jordan. The latter included many refugees falling under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

During the period from 2000 to 2010, however, the ten largest bilateral migration corridors were equally split between those having a country in the South or a country in the North as the destination. Mexico-USA continued to be the corridor with the largest gain — on average, around 280,000 additional migrants per year — though at much lower levels than during the preceding decade. Between 2000 and 2010, some countries in Southern Europe, namely Italy and Spain, became major destinations of international migrants originating from countries of Eastern Europe, in particular Romania. In addition, three of the ten largest corridors were between a country of Southern Asia and an oil-producing country of Western Asia: Bangladesh-United Arab Emirates (UAE), India-Saudi Arabia, and India-UAE. Refugees displaced by the war in Iraq also accounted for large numbers of the migrants added in Western Asia between 2000 and 2010.

During the period from 2010 to 2017, migration patterns shifted significantly with only one country in the North, namely the USA, listed among the ten largest destination countries, with migrants originating from China, India and Mexico. The other seven corridors were among countries in the South, six of them in Asia and one in Africa, namely South Sudan-Uganda. Syria was the country of origin of three of the six largest migration corridors in Asia, while the three other corridors had oil-producing countries in Western Asia as destination. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic caused a large increase in the number of refugees living in neighbouring countries, in particular Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. From 2010 to 2017, the three largest bilateral migration corridors consisted of refugee movements.

In 2017, international migrants accounted for at least a quarter of the population in 42 countries or areas. These included small island states in the Caribbean, Micronesia or Polynesia as well countries in Western Asia. International migrants accounted for at least 10 per cent of the population in 93 countries and at least 5 per cent of the population in 120 countries. In many countries of Africa, Eastern Asia, South America and Southern Asia, migrants continue to account for less than 5 per cent of the total population.

D. MIGRATION LEVELS AND TRENDS: GENDER AND AGE DIMENSIONS

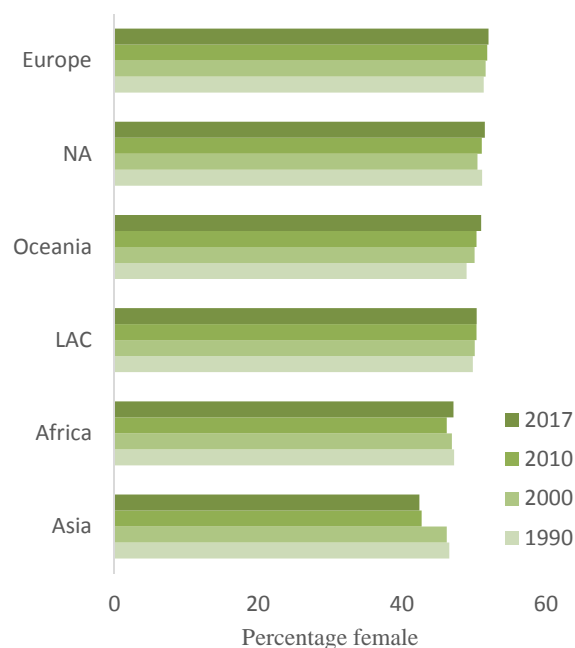
In 2017, women comprised 48.4 per cent of all international migrants worldwide. Yet there were considerable differences in the share of female migrants across regions. In the North, women constituted 51.8 per cent of all migrants in 2017, while in the South they accounted for 43.9 per cent. The percentage of women among all migrants declined from 47.0 in 1990 to 43.9 in 2017 in the developing regions. In the North, however, the share of women among international migrants increased slightly, from 51.1 to 51.8 per cent during the same period.

The decline in the percentage of women among migrants in the South was primarily the result of a rapid increase in the number of male migrants in Asia between 2000 and 2017. During this period, the increase in the number of male migrants in Asia (73 per cent) far exceeded the increase the number of female migrants (48 per cent). The increase in the number of male migrants in Asia was fuelled by the strong demand for migrant workers in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia.

Regions with a longstanding tradition of immigration host the highest percentages of female migrants. In 2017, the percentage female among all migrants was highest in Europe (52.0 per cent), Northern America (51.5 per cent) and Oceania (51.0 per cent) (figure I.7). The higher proportion of women in these regions was mainly the outcome of the ageing process, whereby migrants who had arrived decades earlier were growing older in the host country, combined with the fact that women, including female migrants, tend to have longer life expectancies compared to their male counterparts. By contrast, male migrants significantly outnumbered female migrants in Asia (57.6 per cent) and Africa (52.9 per cent), where migration was typically of shorter duration.

Between 1990 and 2017, the proportion of women among all international migrants declined in Asia and, to a lesser extent, in Africa. In Asia, the percentage of female migrants fell from 46.6 per cent in 1990 to 42.4 per cent in 2017.

Figure I.7. Percentage of women among all international migrants by region of destination, 1990-2017



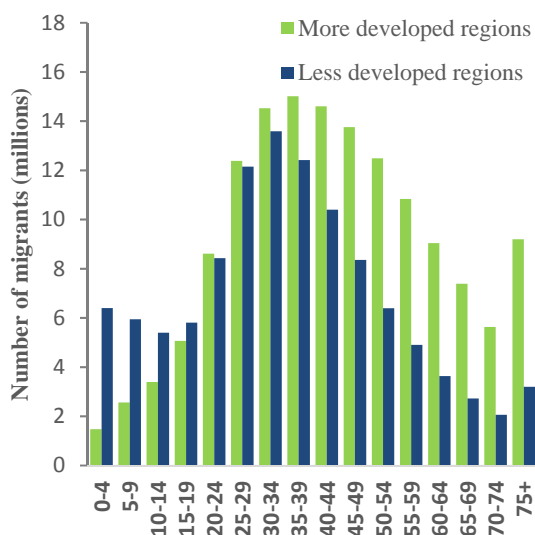
Source: United Nations (2017a).

NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

In 2017, women constituted more than half of all international migrants in 100 countries or areas with Latvia, Montenegro, Nepal and the Republic of Moldova among the countries with the largest shares. In 12 countries, all of them located in Africa or Asia, women accounted for less than one third of international migrants. Maldives, Oman and Qatar were among the countries with the lowest proportions of female migrants in 2017.

In 2017, nearly three quarters of all international migrants were between the ages of 20 and 64 years, which is the age range commonly identified as the traditional working ages (figure I.8). Of the 191 million international migrants of working age, the majority (58.1 per cent) resided in the developed regions. This distribution had changed little since the year 1990, when 56.5 per cent of working-age migrants resided in the North. Among migrants of working age, women represented a larger share of migrants in the developed regions than in the developing regions — 51.2 per cent versus 41.6 per cent, respectively.

Figure I.8. Number of international migrants by age and development group, 2017 (millions)



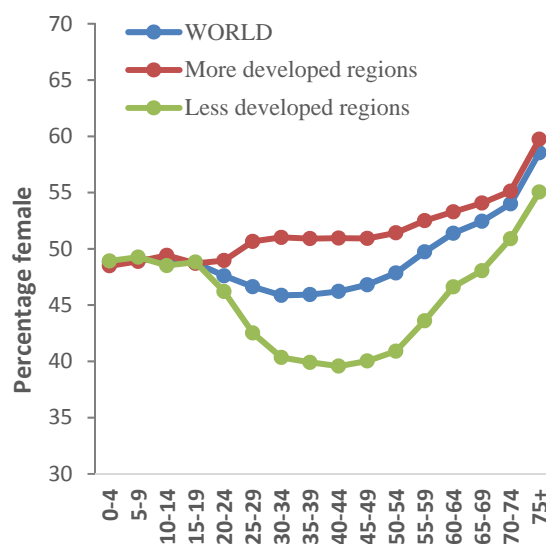
Source: United Nations (2017a).

While the North hosted the largest number of working-age migrants in 2017, the number of migrants in the working ages grew faster in the South than in the North. In the South, the number of migrants of working age increased from 46.6 million in 2000 to 80.3 million in 2017, a 72 per cent increase, compared to the North, where it rose from 77.2 to 111.2 million, a 44 per cent increase, during the same period. Women accounted for around half of the increase in the North (53 per cent) compared to roughly one third in the South (38 per cent).

Globally, 14 per cent of all international migrants were under 20 years of age in 2017. The proportion of young migrants was significantly

higher in the developing regions (21 per cent) than in the developed regions (less than 9 per cent). There were about three times as many migrants under 5 years of age living in the South as in the North. Between 1990 and 2017, the proportion of young persons among all migrants worldwide declined, however. The proportion of those under age 20 declined from 19 per cent in 1990 to 16 per cent in 2000, and further to 14 per cent in 2017.

Figure I.9. Percentage female among all international migrants by age and development group, 2017 (percentages)



Source: United Nations (2017a).

Globally, there were over 30 million international migrants aged 65 or over in 2017. Most older migrants lived in the developed regions, with nearly three times as many migrants aged 65 or over living in the North as in the South (figure I.8).

The number of older migrants increased significantly in the North, but changed only slightly in the South. The North experienced an increase of more than 11 million migrants aged 65 or over from 1990 to 2017. During the same period, the number of older migrants in the South increased by less than one million. The fact that many developed countries had long been the destination of international migrants, combined with the greater propensity among migrants living in the developing world to return to their countries of origin, helps to explain the rising numbers of older migrants

residing in the developed regions compared to the developing regions.

Globally, the proportion of older migrants was higher for women (13 per cent) than for men (10 per cent). In 2017, 55 per cent of international migrants aged 65 or over were women. In the developed regions, 57 per cent of all migrants aged 65 or over were women, compared to 52 per cent in the developing regions.

NOTES

ⁱ The estimates of the migrant stock were prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The data presented here refer to the international migrant stock defined as a mid-year estimate of the number of people living in a country or area other than the one in which they were born or, in the absence of such data, the number of people of foreign citizenship. Most statistics used to estimate the international migrant stock were obtained from population censuses, population registers and nationally representative household surveys.

ⁱⁱ The North refers to countries or regions typically classified as “developed”, while the South refers to those classified as “developing”. The developed regions include Europe and Northern America plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan; the developing regions include the remainder of the world. The use of these terms does not imply any judgment about the current developmental stage of a particular country or area. See Explanatory Notes for additional information.

< this page intentionally left blank >

II. NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

A. GLOBAL TRENDS

Consistently since 1950, the developed regions have gained population due to migration, while the developing regions have lost population as a result of migration. Between 1950 and 2010, the magnitude of the net flow of persons from the developing to the developed regions increased steadily, reaching an average of 3.2 million per year between 2000 and 2010, up from less than 0.3 million per year between 1950 and 1970. After 2010, however, the scale of this migration has declined, falling to 2.2 million per year (net flow) between 2010 and 2015.ⁱ

Box II.1. Net migration: Definition and related terminology

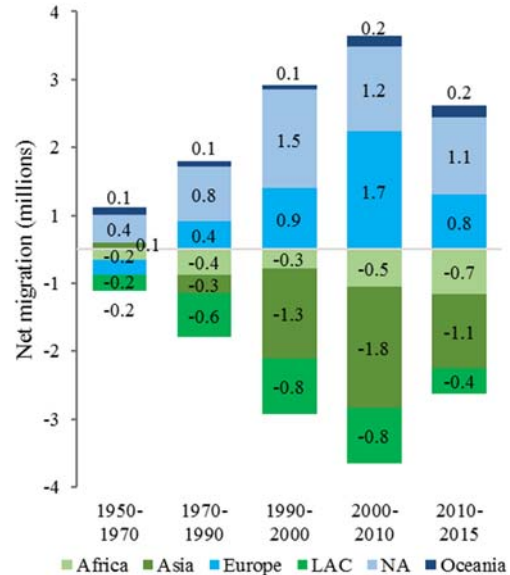
Net migration, for a given country and time period, refers to the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants, irrespective of citizenship. If more people immigrate than emigrate, the country gains population due to *positive net migration*, or *net immigration*; when more people emigrate than immigrate, the country loses population through *negative net migration*, or *net emigration*.

The data on net migration presented here do not include information on the country or region of origin or destination. For regions or groups of countries, the level of net migration reflects only movements from or to countries located outside the region or group. For the world as a whole, the level of net migration is zero.

Much of the recent decline in the net flow of migrants to the North was due to a reduction in net migration to Europe, which declined by more than half, from 1.7 million per annum between 2000 and 2010 to 0.8 million per annum between 2010 and 2015 (figure II.1). The level of net migration to Northern America and to Oceania was comparatively stable between 2000 and 2015.

Both Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a recent decline in the net outflow of migrants. For Asia as a whole, net emigration per year fell from 1.8 million between 2000 and 2010 to 1.1 million between 2010 and 2015. Over the same period, net emigration from Latin America and the Caribbean dropped by half, from 0.8 to 0.4 million per annum. Conversely, the annual net outflow from Africa slightly increased, from 0.5 million between 2000 and 2010 to 0.7 million between 2010 and 2015.

Figure II.1. Average annual net migration by region, from 1950-1970 to 2010-2015 (millions)



Source: United Nations (2017b).

NOTE: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean, while NA refers to Northern America.

These regional trends mask intra-regional migration as well as the diversity of national experiences. Between 2000 and 2010, among the 201 countries or areasⁱⁱ, 80 gained population from migration while 120 lost population due to migration. For the period from 2010 to 2015, the number of countries or areas gaining population due to migration had fallen to 76, while the number of countries or areas losing population due to migration had risen to 124 (table II.1). Apart from

TABLE II.1. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS WITH POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE NET MIGRATION DURING 2000-2010 AND 2010-2015, AND THOSE WITH A CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF NET MIGRATION BETWEEN 2000-2010 AND 2010-2015, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION

Development group and region	Number of countries or areas with:					
	Positive net migration (Net immigration)		Negative net migration (Net emigration)		Change in the direction of net migration between 2000-2010 and 2010-2015	
	2000-2010	2010-2015	2000-2010	2010-2015	From positive to negative	From negative to positive
World	80	76	120	124	12	8
Developed regions.....	31	26	14	19	6	1
Developing regions	49	50	106	105	6	7
Africa	15	12	42	45	6	3
Asia	23	25	28	25	—	3
Europe	26	21	14	19	6	1
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	10	12	27	26	—	1
Northern America	2	2	—	—	—	—
Oceania	4	4	9	9	—	—

Source: United Nations (2017b).

NOTE: Countries or areas estimated to have zero net migration either in 2000-2010 or 2010-2015 were excluded for that period.

Northern America, between 2000 and 2015 all regions included countries that experienced net immigration as well as countries that experienced net emigration.

In the North, the majority of countries or areas experienced a net inflow of migrants. However, that number decreased from 31 between 2000 and 2010 to 26 between 2010 and 2015. Conversely, the number of countries or areas with a net outflow of migrants increased from 14 between 2000 and 2010 to 19 between 2010 and 2015. In the South, while the majority of countries or areas were characterized by negative net migration in both time intervals, the number that lost population due to migration declined slightly, from 106 between 2000 and 2010 to 105 between 2010 and 2015, while the number that gained population due to migration increased from 49 to 50.

Comparing the same two periods, the number of countries recording net inflows of migrants increased in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, decreased in Africa and Europe, and remained the same in Northern America and Oceania. Between 2010 and 2015, the number of countries that gained or lost population due to migration was roughly equal both in Asia (25 and 25, respectively) and in Europe (21 and 19, respectively). In Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania, the majority of countries

lost population due to migration. Northern America was the only region in which all countries gained population due to international migration between 2010 and 2015.

Countries that gained population from migration consistently between 2000 and 2015 included the four traditional countries of immigration — Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America — as well as a few other developed countries that started to experience increasing levels of immigration after 2000, such as Italy and the Russian Federation. Countries in the developing regions that recruited migrant workers on a large scale, such as Qatar, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, were also among the countries experiencing positive net migration throughout this period.

Countries that lost population from migration consistently between 2000 and 2015 included traditional countries of emigration, such as Bangladesh, China, India, Mexico and the Philippines. Many of these countries have had long-standing political ties with traditional countries of immigration, such as Canada, the United Kingdom or the United States of America, while others have more recently established economic ties with countries in South-Eastern or Western Asia that have recruited large numbers of foreign workers. Notably, the net outflow of

TABLE II.2. TEN COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST LEVELS OF NET MIGRATION DURING 2000-2010 AND 2010-2015 (THOUSANDS OF MIGRANTS PER YEAR)

A. Net immigration countries				
Rank	Country or area	2000-2010	Country or area	2010-2015
1.	United States of America	1,024	United States of America	900
2.	Spain	510	Germany	355
3.	United Arab Emirates.....	449	Turkey	325
4.	Russian Federation	389	Saudi Arabia.....	318
5.	United Kingdom.....	300	Lebanon.....	250
6.	Italy	263	Canada.....	229
7.	Canada.....	226	Russian Federation	204
8.	Saudi Arabia	173	United Kingdom.....	198
9.	Australia	170	Jordan.....	195
10.	Malaysia.....	136	Australia.....	183
B. Net emigration countries				
Rank	Country or area	2000-2010	Country or area	2010-2015
1.	Bangladesh.....	511	Syrian Arab Republic	832
2.	India	486	India	516
3.	China.....	442	Bangladesh.....	505
4.	Mexico	316	China	340
5.	Myanmar	271	Pakistan	236
6.	Philippines.....	260	Indonesia	167
7.	Pakistan.....	207	Philippines	130
8.	Nepal	182	Sudan	118
9.	Sudan.....	162	Spain	114
10.	Indonesia	160	Sri Lanka	97

Source: United Nations (2017b)

persons from the Syrian Arab Republic increased from 1,000 persons per year between 2000 and 2010 to more than 800,000 persons per year between 2010 to 2015, reflecting the tremendous impact of armed conflict on migration.

Eight countries or areas, all in the developing regions, transitioned from being a net emigration country between 2000 and 2010 to being a net immigration country between 2010 and 2015. For some of these countries, such as Iraq or Turkey, the shift was due in part to an inflow of refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring countries during the latter period.

Another 12 countries or areas transitioned from being a net immigration country between 2000 and 2010 to being a net emigration country between 2010 and 2015. These include Ireland, Portugal and Spain, countries that had emerged as major destinations for international migrants during the early 2000s, but experienced large net outflows of both natives and immigrants during the

period from 2010 to 2015. Europe and Africa each counted six countries or areas that transitioned from experiencing net immigration to net emigration during this period.

Between 2010 and 2015, the United States of America, Germany, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon were the countries with the highest levels of net immigration, while the Syrian Arab Republic, India, Bangladesh, China and Pakistan were the countries with the highest levels of net emigration (table II.2). After 2010, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and Malaysia dropped off the list of 10 countries with the highest levels of net immigration, replaced by Germany, Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. Similarly, for the period from 2010 to 2015, Mexico, Myanmar and Nepal no longer appear on the list of 10 countries with the highest levels of net emigration, which now includes the Syrian Arab Republic, Spain and Sri Lanka.

B. CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION TO TOTAL POPULATION CHANGE

Between 1950 and 1990, the populations of both the North and the South grew primarily as a result of natural increase (figure II.2). However, whereas in the developing regions the net change in population size rose from 395 million between 1950 and 1960 to 810 million between 1980 and 1990, in the developed regions it fell from 102 to 63 million over the same period.

By the decade from 1990 to 2000, net migration had overtaken natural increase as the primary driver of population growth in the developed regions. Under the “medium-variant scenario”, assuming a continuation of current net migration levels, net migration is expected to become the sole driver of growth starting in the decade from 2020 to 2030.

In the decade from 1990 to 2000, the population of the developing regions continued to grow due to a surplus of births over deaths, albeit at lower rates than during the previous four decades. The impact of net emigration on overall population change in the developing regions remained relatively small. Starting in the decade from 2020 to 2030, population growth in the

developing regions is expected to slow down due to a decline in natural increase caused by a fall in birth rates, with net emigration continuing to play a minor role in overall population change.

At the end of the decade from 2040 to 2050, population growth in the developed regions is projected to be negative, with net immigration no longer able to compensate for the excess of deaths over births. For the developing regions in this period, population growth is projected to continue due to natural increase, albeit at declining rates, with net emigration still having a relatively small effect.

Box II.2. Net migration and population change

A population grows or declines over time due to *natural change*, the number of births minus the number of deaths, and *net migration*, the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants. Migration affects population size by the addition of immigrants and the subtraction of emigrants. Migration can also affect the age distribution of a population and its levels of mortality and fertility.

Figure II.2. Contribution of natural change and net migration to total population change by development group, from 1950-1960 to 2040-2050 (millions of persons per decade)

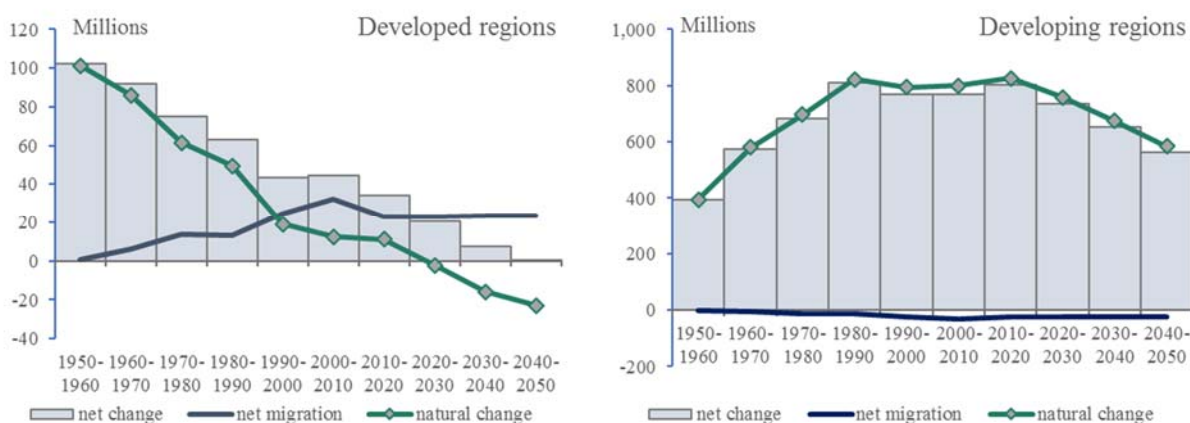
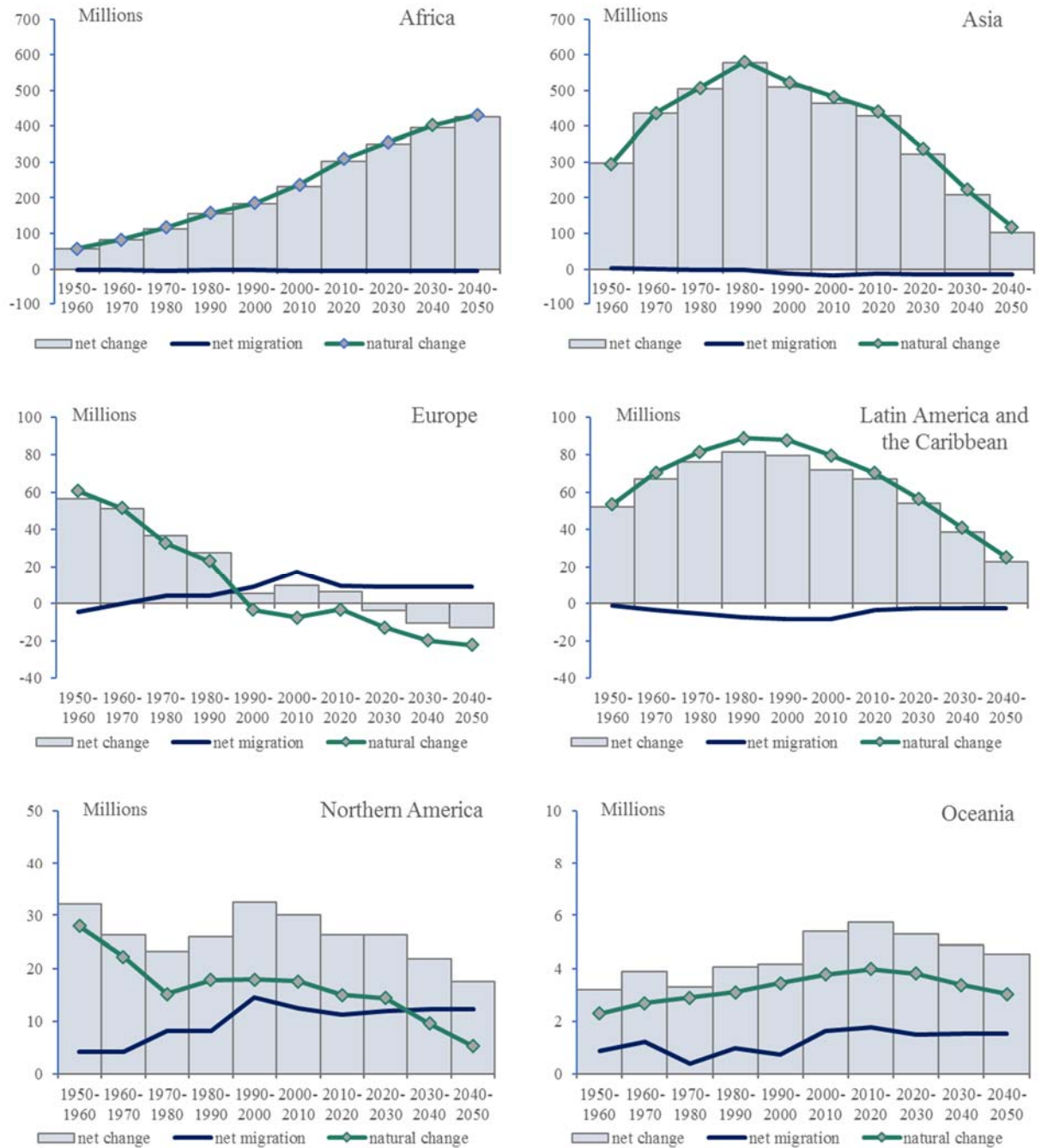


Figure II.3. Contribution of natural change and net migration to total population change by region, from 1950-1960 to 2040-2050 (millions of persons per decade)



Source: United Nations (2017b)

TABLE II.3. PROJECTED POPULATION IN 2050 ACCORDING TO THE MEDIUM-VARIANT AND THE ZERO-NET-MIGRATION SCENARIO, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION

<i>Development group and region</i>	<i>Population in 2050 (millions)</i>		<i>Difference between medium variant and zero-net-migration scenario (percentage)</i>
	<i>Medium variant scenario</i>	<i>Zero-net-migration scenario</i>	
World.....	9,772	9,771	—
Developed regions.....	1,298	1,187	-9
Developing regions.....	8,474	8,585	1
Africa.....	2,528	2,553	1
Asia.....	5,257	5,327	1
Europe.....	716	672	-6
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	780	792	2
Northern America.....	435	377	-13
Oceania.....	57	50	-13

Source: United Nations (2017b).

Since 1950, the populations of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have grown due to natural increase, although at differing rates

Box II.3. Estimating and projecting net migration

The data used in this chapter are from the latest population estimates and projections produced by the United Nations Population Division for five-year intervals. The estimates of net migration for each country were produced to be consistent with past trends of fertility and mortality and with changes in the size of the population and its distribution by age and sex. Under the medium-variant scenario, the projected levels of net migration were generally kept constant until 2045-2050, with the exception of circumstances such as large recent fluctuations in migration numbers, refugee flows, or temporary labour flows. Estimates refer to the period from 1950 to 2015 and projections from 2015 to 2050.

Given the volatility of international migration flows, it is impossible to project with great confidence the future levels and trends of net migration and their impact on the size and characteristics of the population. Nonetheless, a comparison based on different migration scenarios can assist in assessing the likely impact of international migration on future populations.

(figure II.3). In these three regions, negative net migration was more than offset by natural increase, which will remain the major driver of future population trends in these regions over the next several decades.

In Europe and Northern America, net migration has become an increasingly important component of population growth. Starting in the period between 1990 and 2000, the number of deaths has exceeded the number of births in Europe, but this trend has been offset by net immigration, a situation that is projected to continue until around 2020. After 2020, Europe is projected to experience a reduction in population size, despite continued positive net migration. In Northern America, net migration is projected to overtake natural increase as the main driver of population growth starting in the decade 2030-2040. For Oceania, although natural increase will remain the dominant component of population growth, the contribution of net migration as a component of total growth is expected to increase over the next several decades (figure II.3).

Comparing projections based on the medium-variant scenario with projections based on the “zero-net-migration scenario”, in which the number of immigrants equals the number of emigrants starting in 2015, provides some insight into the impact of international migration on population change during the period from 2015 to 2050 (table II.3). Under the zero-net-migration scenario, in 2050 the developed regions would

have a population size that is about 9 per cent smaller than they would have if current migration trends continued. In contrast, with the same assumption, in 2050 the developing regions would record a population size about one per cent larger than under the medium-variant scenario.

The zero-net-migration scenario would have the greatest impact on population change in Northern America and Oceania. In both regions, without positive net migration, the total population would be 13 per cent smaller by 2050. In Europe, the difference in the total population size projected for 2050 between the medium-variant and the zero-net-migration scenario is six per cent. For Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, that difference is two per cent or less.

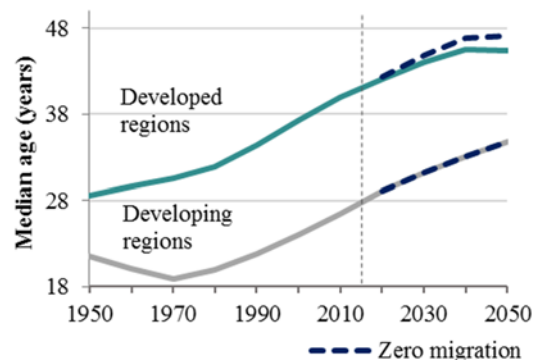
C. IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ON THE AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION

The world is ageing rapidly. The world's population aged 60 and over is projected to double from 962 million today to 2.1 billion in 2050. Because international migrants tend to comprise larger proportions of working-age persons compared to the overall population, positive net migration can contribute to slowing the long-term trend towards population ageing.

Between 2015 and 2050, the world's median age, the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, is projected to increase from 29.6 to 36.1 years. In the more developed regions, the median age is projected to increase from 41.1 years in 2015 to 45.4 years in 2050. In the less developed regions, it is projected to change from 27.8 years in 2015 to 34.8 years in 2050.

Population ageing is particularly rapid in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, with the median age projected to increase by 12.0 and 9.4 years, moving up to 41.1 and 39.7 years in 2050, respectively. The median age is projected to increase by 5.0 years in Europe (46.6 in 2050), by 4.4 years in Northern America (42.4 in 2050) and by 4.6 years in Oceania (37.4 in 2050). The median age in Africa, which was the lowest in 2015 at 19.4 years, is projected to rise by 5.4 years to 24.8 in 2050.

Figure II.4. Impact of the zero-net-migration scenario on the projected median age according to the medium variant by development group, from 1950 to 2050 (median age in years)



Source: United Nations (2017b).

Without migration, by 2050 the median age in more developed regions would be 1.7 years higher than with migration at current levels (figure II.4). Northern America would add 2.0 years, Oceania 1.6 years and Europe 1.1 years to their median age. Net emigration has a small effect on the age structure of the less developed regions: the median age would be 0.4 years lower in 2050 than with migration at current levels.

A similar trend is visible in another measure of population ageing. Based on the medium variant, between 2015 and 2050 the percentage of the population of working age, defined as between 20 and 64 years, will decrease from 60 to 53 per cent in the North, while the percentage of the population aged 65 years or over will increase from 18 to 27 per cent. In the South, the medium-variant scenario projects the size of the working population to remain relatively stable between 2015 and 2050 moving from 57 to 56 per cent. In the same period, the percentage of the population aged 65 or older is projected to more than double from 6 to 14 per cent.

Under the projection scenario of zero net migration, the population of working age in the more developed regions would be 11 per cent smaller by 2050 than with net migration at current levels, while the population aged 65 years or over would be two per cent smaller. In developing regions, zero net migration would have a minimal impact on both the percentage of the population of

working age and the percentage of persons aged 65 years or over (one per cent larger each).

Without migration, by 2050 the population of working age would be smaller in Northern America (-16 per cent), Oceania (-15 per cent) and Europe (-8 per cent), and slightly larger in Latin America and the Caribbean (+2 per cent), Africa and Asia (+1 per cent each) compared to a scenario whereby current migration trends would continue. For several countries, zero net migration would have a considerable impact on the size of their working population by 2050. In the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain the impact would be greatest

with working-age populations 53 per cent, 48 per cent and 45 per cent smaller, respectively, than if current migration trends continued. Conversely, without net migration Samoa (63 per cent), Tonga (45 per cent) and Lebanon (42 per cent) would experience the most significant gains in the size of their populations of working age.

While international migration is expected to have a noticeable impact on population ageing in some countries and regions, current migration levels will be unable to reverse this long-term trend.

NOTES

ⁱ Data on net migration are published in five-year intervals.

ⁱⁱ *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision* provides data on 201 countries or areas. Those with populations of less than 90,000 persons in 2017 were excluded from this analysis.

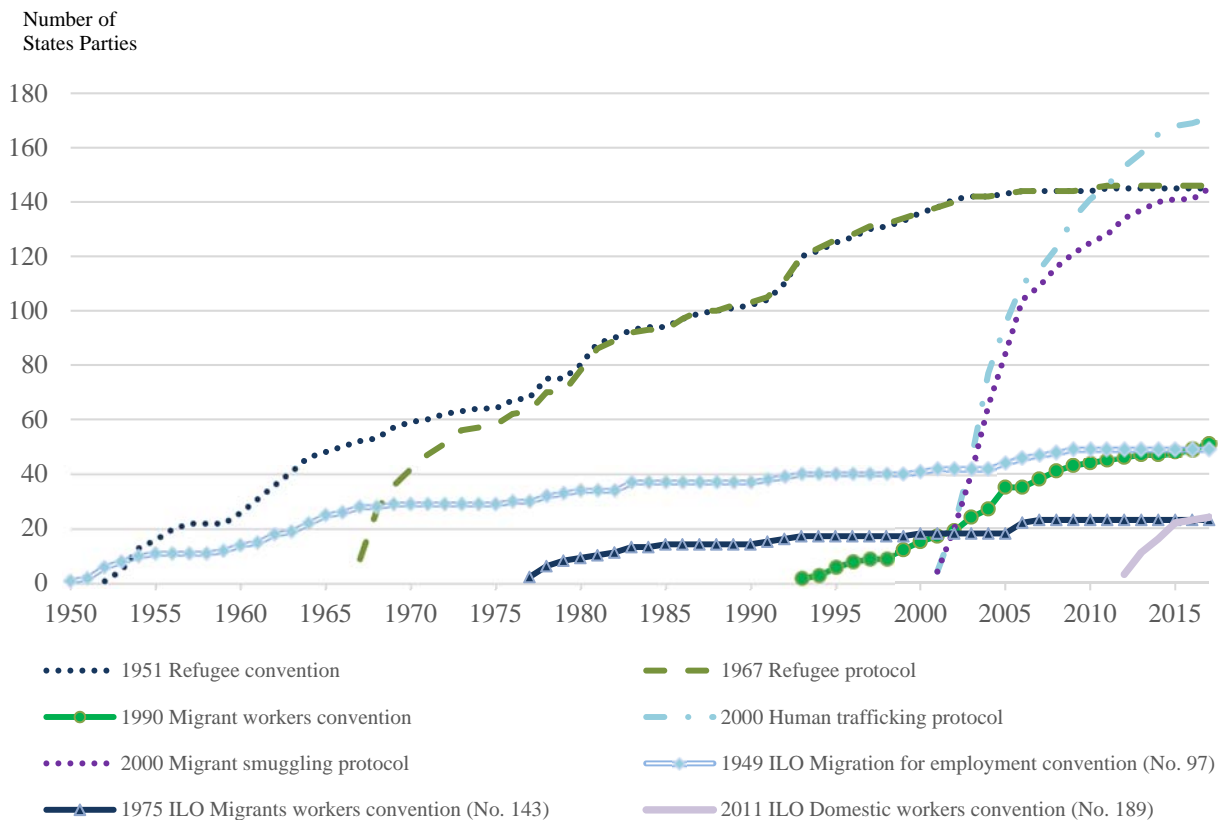
III. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The international normative framework on international migration includes instruments pertaining to the human rights of all migrants, the rights of migrant workers and the protection of refugees, as well as instruments designed to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. These instruments have been ratified in varying degrees by the Member States of the United Nations. As of September 2017, instruments designed to protect refugees or to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking had been ratified by more than three quarters of the Member States, whereas instruments protecting the rights of migrant workers had been ratified by at most one quarter of the Member States (figure III.1).

A. REFUGEES

The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees are the central elements in the international regime of refugee protection. The 1951 Convention defines the term “refugee”,ⁱ enumerates the rights of refugees and establishes the legal obligation of States to protect refugees. The Convention prohibits the expulsion or forcible return of refugees or asylum seekers. In accordance with the principle of “non-refoulement”, a person cannot be returned to a country or territory in which his or her life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, social affiliation or political opinion.

Figure III.1. Status of ratification of legal instruments related to international migration, 1950-2017



Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 25 September 2017); NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex>, accessed 25 September 2017).

NOTE: Does not include ratifications by the European Union.

TABLE III.1. STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Instrument	Year of entry into force	Parties to international instruments	
		Number	Percentage ¹
Refugees			
1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees ²	1954	145	74
1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees ²	1967	146	75
Migrant workers			
1949 ILO Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949) (No. 97)	1952	49	26
1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143)	1978	23	12
1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.....	2003	51	26
2011 ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (No. 189).....	2013	24	13
Smuggling and trafficking			
2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children ²	2003	171	88
2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air ²	2004	145	74

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 25 September 2017); NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex>, accessed 25 September 2017).

NOTES: ¹ Of 187 Member States of the International Labour Organization, or of 193 Member States of the United Nations plus 2 non-member observer States.

² Does not include ratifications by the European Union.

The 1967 Protocol extended the application of the 1951 Convention to persons who became refugees after 1 January 1951, without any geographic limitation.

By September 2017, the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol had been ratified by 145 and 146 United Nations Member States, respectively, with 143 States Parties having acceded to both instruments. In 2016, the 148 States that had ratified either the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol hosted, collectively, 15.7 million refugees and asylum seekers, or around 60 per cent of the global total of 25.9 million.

B. MIGRANT WORKERS

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted three legally-binding instruments that are directly relevant for the protection of migrant workers: the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive

Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions), 1975 (No. 143), and the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (No. 189).ⁱⁱ All three instruments have complementary non-binding recommendations.

The 1949 Convention (No. 97) covers recruitment and promotes standards regarding the working conditions of migrant workers. It establishes the principle of equal treatment of migrant workers and nationals with regard to laws, regulations and administrative practices concerning living and working conditions, remuneration, social security, employment, taxes and access to justice.

The 1975 Convention (No. 143) was the first multilateral attempt to address irregular migration and to call for sanctions against traffickers of human beings. It emphasized that Member States are obliged to respect the basic human rights of all migrant workers, including irregular migrants.

It also provided that lawfully present migrant workers and their families are entitled not only to equal treatment but also to equality of opportunity, e.g. equal access to employment and occupation, the right to join trade unions, cultural rights, and individual and collective freedoms.

The 2011 Convention (No. 189), which entered into force in 2013, was the first multilateral instrument to establish global labour standards for domestic workers, guaranteeing them the same basic rights as other workers. The convention established that domestic workers, regardless of their migration status, have the same basic labour rights as other workers, including reasonable hours of work, a limit on payment in-kind and clear information on the terms and conditions of employment. Employers of domestic workers must respect the fundamental principles and rights at work, including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

As of September 2017, 49 ILO Member States had ratified ILO Convention No. 97, 23 Member States had ratified Convention No. 143, and 24 Member States had ratified Convention No. 189. In total, only four of ILO's 187 Member States — the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Italy, the Philippines and Portugal — had ratified all three instruments. These four countries represent around two per cent of ILO Member States and hosted fewer than three per cent of all international migrants worldwide, with around 7 million in 2017.

The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families is the most comprehensive, international treaty on migrant rights. It establishes international definitions for categories of migrant workers and formalizes the responsibility of States in upholding the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

As of September 2017, 51 Member States had ratified the 1990 Convention. Collectively, they hosted 23.5 million international migrants in 2017, about 9 per cent of the global migrant population. None of the States Parties to the Convention were major migrant-receiving

countries, and only five of them hosted more than one million international migrants.

Overall, 95 countries had ratified at least one of the four instruments regarding migrant workers. Together they hosted 35.4 per cent of the global population of international migrants in 2017, or around 91 million migrants.

C. SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING

The two protocols seeking to stem irregular migration concern human trafficking and migrant smuggling, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children took effect in 2003 and, as of September 2017, had been ratified by 171 United Nations Member States. The Protocol defines human trafficking as the acquisition of people by improper means, such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. The Protocol aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect and assist victims of such trafficking, in particular women and children, to prosecute perpetrators of such crimes, and to promote cooperation among States Parties.

The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air took effect in 2004 and had been ratified by 145 United Nations Member States as of September 2017. As set out in the Protocol, smuggling of migrants involves the procurement, for sake of financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State of which the person is not a national or permanent resident. The Protocol seeks to combat and prevent the smuggling of "human cargo". It reaffirms that migration in and of itself is not a crime, and that migrants may be victims in need of protection.

The rapid increase in the ratification of the human trafficking and the migrant smuggling protocols reflect a growing concern among Member States about the linkages between transnational organized crime in irregular migration.

TABLE III.2. RATES OF RATIFICATION BY STATES PARTIES OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, BY DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND REGION (percentage)

	States Parties to United Nations instruments ¹					States Parties to ILO instrument ²		
	1951 Refugee Convention	1967 Refugee Protocol	1990 Migrant Workers Convention	2000 Human Trafficking Protocol ³	2000 Migrant Smuggling Protocol ³	1949 Migration for Employment No. 097	1975 Migrant Workers No. 143	2011 Domestic Workers No. 189
World	74	75	26	88	74	26	12	13
Developed regions	96	98	4	98	94	38	24	16
Developing	67	67	33	84	68	23	8	12
Africa	89	89	39	91	76	19	13	6
Asia	40	40	21	81	56	16	9	2
Europe	95	95	5	95	91	40	28	18
LAC	82	82	55	100	91	45	3	39
Northern America	50	100	0	100	100	0	0	0
Oceania	57	57	0	43	36	8	0	0

Sources: United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>, accessed 25 September 2017); NORMLEX Information System on International Labour Standards (<http://www.ilo.org/normlex>, accessed 25 September 2017).

NOTES: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ Of the 193 Member States of the United Nations plus 2 non-member observer States.

² Of 187 Member States of the International Labour Organization.

³ Does not include ratifications by the European Union.

D. RATES OF RATIFICATION BY REGION

As of September 2017, the extent of ratification for the above-mentioned conventions and protocols differed greatly by development group and region (table III.2). For the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, both relating to the status of refugees, the rate of ratification was low in Asia (40 per cent) and in Oceania (57 per cent), while the remaining areas showed ratification rates above 80 per cent for at least one of the two instruments. The rate of ratification of the two refugee instruments was higher among countries of the developed regions than among countries of the developing regions.

Ratification rates of the protocols relating to human trafficking and migrant smuggling were highest for Member States in Northern America (100 per cent for both), Latin America and the Caribbean (100 and 91 per cent, respectively) and Europe (95 and 91 per cent, respectively). The rate of ratification of the two protocols was higher among countries of the developed regions than among countries of the developing regions.

Overall, the four instruments relating to migrant rights showed significantly lower ratification rates compared to the other migration-related instruments. Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest percentage of countries having ratified at least one migrant rights instrument, whereas countries in Northern America had not ratified any of these instruments. As opposed to the refugee instruments and those pertaining to human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the rate of ratification of the 1990 Migrant workers convention was significantly greater among countries of the developing regions than among countries of the developed regions.

NOTES

ⁱ The 1951 Refugee Convention defined a refugee as someone who “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”.

ⁱⁱ It should be noted that many domestic workers are migrants, particularly migrant women.

IV. UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly convened a high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, also known as the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The meeting was held in response to the significant number of refugees and other migrants who had left their countries of origin in recent years, especially in 2015, due to insecurity and distress. Many of these migrants and refugees had travelled along similar routes in search of safety and opportunity, as part of relatively large and heterogeneous flows of persons. Their journeys had often involved irregular border crossings and unauthorized stay.

With few refugees able to return to their home countries, their numbers have continued to grow in recent years. A substantial majority of refugees are hosted by developing countries, where many have been living for several years in protracted situations, unable to return home but with little chance of resettlement in a third country.

At the Summit, which was attended by heads of state and government and other senior officials, as well as representatives from the United Nations, other international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1). The Declaration includes commitments to protect the rights of all migrants regardless of status, to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for protecting and assisting refugees, and to address all aspects of international migration. It initiated a process to develop two global compacts: one “on refugees” and the other “for safe, orderly and regular migration”. It emphasized that the migration compact should be grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In his opening remarks at the Summit, the Secretary-General of the United Nations emphasized the importance of collective efforts to address the challenges of human mobility. He remarked that refugees and other migrants should not be seen as a burden, but rather that

we should seek to unlock their potential. He stressed that the human rights of migrants must be placed at the heart of all commitments made during the Summit. He proposed several practical steps to implement the New York Declaration, including by allowing more children to attend school, providing workers with greater access to formal employment abroad and redoubling opportunities for displaced people to return home after the cessation of conflict.

The Secretary-General highlighted some of the main goals of the New York Declaration, including: protecting the human rights of all migrants regardless of their status, increasing support for the countries receiving mass refugee inflows, assisting people in protracted refugee crises, ensuring that children receive an education, improving search-and-rescue operations, boosting humanitarian funding and promoting the resettlement of refugees. He noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development advances many of these same objectives. Further, the Secretary-General launched a global campaign to combat xenophobia, called “Together – Respect, Safety and Dignity for All”, with the objective of creating a more positive public narrative about refugees and other migrants.

Opening statements were delivered also by the Presidents of the seventy-first and the seventieth sessions of the General Assembly, the President of the World Bank Group, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Following a brief ceremony to sign a new relationship agreement between the United Nations and the IOM, the latter was welcomed into the United Nations system as a “related organization”.

Apart from the opening and closing, the Summit consisted of two simultaneous plenary meetings and six parallel roundtables. The roundtables focused on the following themes: (1) Addressing the root causes of large movements of refugees; (2) Addressing drivers of migration, particularly large movements, and

highlighting the positive contributions of migrants; (3) International action and cooperation on refugees and migrants and issues related to displacement: the way ahead; (4) Global compact for responsibility-sharing for refugees; respect for international law; (5) Global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration: towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and achieving full respect for the human rights of migrants; and (6) Addressing vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants on their journeys from their countries of origin to their countries of arrival.

The content of the discussions across the plenary meetings and round tables of the Summit can be organized into four broad categories: (A) addressing the root causes of displacement and the drivers of migration; (B) respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants; (C) contributions of migrants to countries of origin and destination; and (D) strengthening international cooperation and partnerships.

A. Addressing the root causes of displacement and the drivers of migration

Participants highlighted that the world was facing a period of intense human mobility with more than 244 million persons who were living outside their country of birth. In recent years, the number of displaced persons had risen to about 65 million, including 21 million refugees and 3 million asylum-seekers. Speakers acknowledged that the drivers of human mobility were complex and multi-dimensional, encompassing economic, social, political and environmental factors. Delegates recognized that the responses to large movements of refugees and migrants must equally be multi-faceted, requiring coherent approaches and considerable political will. Speakers underscored the distinction between voluntary migration and forced displacement and recognized the different nature of the corresponding drivers and root causes.

Member States noted that poverty, including the lack of access to health care, education, labour markets and essential services, were key drivers of voluntary

migration. Participants welcomed the inclusion of migration-related targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG target 10.7, which calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.¹

In line with the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the so-called Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), participants noted that the early provision of education to refugees and migrants regardless of their status, especially for children, should be mandatory and could act as an effective means of local integration.² Some delegates remarked that education played a key role in combatting racial discrimination and xenophobia.

The lack of economic opportunities for youth was identified as an important driver of migration. Delegates stressed that a lack of access to decent livelihoods for youth did not only have implications for large cross-border movements but also posed threats to national development and security. Member States and intergovernmental organisations pledged monetary commitments to development initiatives focused on youth, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa.

Some participants observed that food insecurity, particularly in rural areas, contributed to migratory movements. Delegates called for greater investment in sustainable agriculture and improved access to land and water as a means of curbing food insecurity and creating rural employment opportunities.

In discussing forced displacement due to conflict and violence, many speakers referred to the enduring relevance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees for protecting refugees and highlighted the need to promote durable solutions for refugees through voluntary repatriation, local integration and third-country resettlement. Participants stressed that greater cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination was critical in order to identify lasting solutions for refugees and to prevent humanitarian crises from

¹ A/RES/70/1

² A/RES/69/313

becoming protracted. There was a resounding agreement among speakers of the importance of preventative diplomacy, mediation and political action to prevent and end conflicts.

Given that internal displacement was often an early sign of future cross-border movements, speakers called for addressing the root causes of internal displacement and for greater protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Participants observed that statelessness was both a cause and effect of displacement, often resulting in discrimination and denial of access to basic services. Speakers called for an end to statelessness through the provision of adequate registration and identification.

Member States hosting refugees and IDPs shared their concerns that camps could become spaces for the promotion of extremist ideology and terrorism. Delegates stressed the need for effective political will to end ongoing protracted crises that result in long-term displacement.

Many Member States emphasized that the role of climate change and environmental degradation in driving large movements required further reflection and action. Delegates welcomed the fact that a specific provision to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change had been included in the text of the Paris Agreement.³ Speakers also welcomed the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction which promotes early warning systems for natural disasters. Speakers noted that small island developing states were particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

B. Respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants

In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, nearly all speakers underscored that the protection of human rights of migrants, irrespective of their migratory status, should be the guiding principle of State-led and international responses to large population movements.

Delegates recalled that both the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA explicitly include language related to the human rights of migrants regardless of migratory status.

Member States pointed toward the need to respect international humanitarian law during periods of armed conflict. In line with the 1951 Refugee Convention, speakers noted that international protection must be afforded to persons recognized as refugees. Delegates called for the principle of non-refoulement to be fully respected by all States, especially by countries of transit and destination.

Participants noted that vulnerable groups, especially women and children, were at risk of human rights violations during large population movements. Speakers called for the mainstreaming of gender concerns into State-led responses to large movements of refugees and migrants. Participants drew attention to the heightened risk that women, girls and boys faced in encountering sexual and gender-based violence during periods of large-scale displacement. Agencies highlighted initiatives aimed at the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of refugees and other migrants along migratory routes.

Delegates noted that the lack of documentation increased the vulnerability of some migrants, highlighting the need for implementing SDG target 16.9 calling for the provision of legal identity, including birth registration, for all people. Speakers observed that the absence of identification documents should not prevent individuals from enjoying their basic human rights.

Delegates acknowledged international efforts to address protection gaps experienced by migrants in vulnerable situations. The agenda for the protection of cross-border displaced persons in the context of disasters and climate change, developed through the Nansen Initiative, was highlighted as an example of a successful, voluntary, State-led initiative to extend international protection to those who did not fall within the existing refugee category, yet nevertheless required similar safeguards.⁴

³ FCCC/CP/2015/10

⁴ <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/>. For the initiative's follow-up, see <http://disasterdisplacement.org/>

Member States noted that restrictive immigration policies exacerbated the exploitation of refugees and migrants and increased the risk of vulnerable populations becoming victims of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Delegates expressed a strong commitment to disrupting transnational criminal networks. Nearly all participants remarked that well-managed labour migration policies could help to combat the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In this regard, many speakers called for the creation of additional legal pathways for regular migration.

Many delegates expressed concerns over the detention of migrants, especially children, and noted that the practice of detaining children often led to human rights violations, contravening article 37 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that no child should be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily and that any arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.⁵ Speakers stressed that the migratory status of a parent should not lead to the detention of a child. Some participants noted that beyond violating human rights, detention could also hinder the legitimate process of seeking asylum.

Many delegates expressed concern about the discrimination and xenophobia directed towards refugees and other migrants. Nearly all delegates acknowledged that the negative narrative surrounding foreigners must be refuted. In this regard, speakers welcomed the launch of the Secretary-General's new global campaign to combat xenophobia, "Together – Respect, Safety and Dignity for All". Delegates shared their commitment to adopting national policies, including education and language training, that would promote the inclusion and reduce the marginalization of international migrants.

Many States highlighted the relevance of the commitment to ensuring that no one will be left behind, found in the 2030 Agenda, to refugees and other migrants. Delegates noted that there was an urgent need to improve social

cohesion in host societies, noting that inclusiveness promoted both economic growth and cultural diversity.

Representatives from countries with a high proportion of citizens working abroad advocated for protecting the rights of migrant workers and improved working conditions. Speakers noted that despite the existence of international normative frameworks, in particular ILO Conventions No. 97, 143 and 189, standards to protect labour migrants were often not respected. Participants appealed to States who had not yet ratified relevant international instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, to do so without delay.

C. Contributions of migrants to countries of origin and destination

Member States underscored the positive contributions of migrants to countries of destination and origin and reiterated their support for internationally agreed frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA, which included concrete actions to strengthen the social and economic contributions of migrants.

Nearly all delegates spoke of the benefits and opportunities presented by labour mobility. Some Member States observed that their countries were highly dependent on labour emigration due to insufficient access to domestic employment. Many countries also relied on incoming labour migration for alleviating labour shortages.

Member States receiving migrants outlined the benefits of international migration for their national development, including increased economic growth and greater social diversity. Delegates stressed that national policies focused on the labour market integration of migrants were essential for capitalizing on the skills of migrants. Delegates further called for the mutual recognition of acquired qualifications, skills and diplomas to increase the benefits of cross-border migration. Beyond the fiscal positive net benefits of migrants to destination countries, their impact on

⁵ A/RES/44/25

demography and the age structure of the population could be advantageous to receiving societies. Several delegates noted that international trade policies should include a migration dimension, calling for the facilitation of the movement of natural persons as per mode 4 under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

Speakers highlighted the benefits of international migration to countries of origin. Migrants contributed to strengthening resilience and building livelihoods by supporting their families and communities back home. Additional benefits could be harnessed if migration was well governed. Participants drew attention to the potential role of diaspora and returning migrants in promoting economic growth, poverty reduction and access to services.

Member States acknowledged the significance of migrant remittances to national development and the international economy, with over USD \$440 billion worth of remittances flows to developing countries sent in 2015. Several delegates called for reducing the cost of transferring remittances in line with the commitment to promote cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances as contained in the 2030 Agenda.

Speakers recognized that diaspora communities played an important role in facilitating the transfer of skills and knowledge, promoting international trade and raising foreign direct investment. Delegates noted that remittances and other contributions from diaspora communities often facilitated access to health and education for family members and communities in countries of origin. Delegates called for greater international cooperation to facilitate diaspora engagement to enhance development in countries of origin.

Some Member States highlighted the potential contributions of migrants who return to their country of origin, including through savings and direct investment. Participants noted that the return of skilled workers could facilitate the transfer of knowledge, creativity and cultural norms to countries of origin.

Speakers acknowledged that many refugees and other migrants were barred from

fully participating in local economies and welcomed innovative schemes by the private sector to facilitate access to banking services for individuals with limited documentation.

D. Strengthening international cooperation and partnerships

There was a consensus among delegates that improving the governance of migration required greater cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination. Many speakers emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation to promote conflict resolution and mediation as one means of addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, especially during periods of crisis.

Member States stressed the importance of sharing the burdens and responsibilities of hosting and caring for refugees more equitably among countries. They highlighted that actions and commitments must be commensurate with the challenges faced by each country and the resources available. Delegates acknowledged that refugees constituted a particular economic and social burden on developing countries, which are hosting the vast majority of refugees and asylum seekers. Increased and adequate humanitarian assistance as well as long-term development funding was necessary to address the needs of vulnerable groups among refugees, migrants and host communities. Some Member States made a commitment to increase the number of refugees they resettled annually.

Participants called for stronger mechanisms and greater collaboration among stakeholders to strengthen the governance of international migration. Some Member States acknowledged the role of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as an effective platform to exchange information among States, civil society and the business sector on best practices of well-managed migration. Experiences with informal regional consultative processes on migration were also regarded as productive.

Delegates emphasized the need for greater bilateral cooperation to find solutions for and reduce vulnerabilities of asylum-seekers and refugees in countries of origin, transit and destination. Participants observed that there was a special responsibility for transit countries to adhere to international law, as this was often

the period in the migratory process during which individuals were the most vulnerable and lacked adequate protection. Some countries called attention to the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative, a State-led project which aimed to build national capacities to better protect and reduce the vulnerability of migrants caught in crisis situations.

Member States stressed that cooperation across governmental ministries was key to ensuring policy coherence on migration matters. Relevant sectors included education, skills upgrading and recognition, labour and youth employment, environmental degradation and climate change as well as agricultural and rural development.

Delegates highlighted that the mobilization of States was needed to combat transnational criminal networks engaged in human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Intergovernmental organizations such as Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were taking the lead in supporting Member States to coordinate their actions in this regard. Delegates called for Member States to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime with the supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

Speakers expressed the need for improved border management to counter migrant smuggling. Delegates asserted that greater international cooperation could enable States to more effectively detect irregular activity at land and sea borders.

Member States expressed their support for the development of a global compact on refugees focusing on greater sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting refugees. Delegates stressed that the refugee compact should be fully aligned with the international humanitarian legal framework. They also reiterated their call for preventative diplomacy to mitigate forced migration and for international efforts to promote durable solutions for refugees.

Member States also voiced their full support for the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, aimed at improving the global governance of migration. Delegates highlighted that the two compacts should form the basis for conscientious and coordinated responses to large migratory movements, ensuring the safety, dignity and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their migratory status. Further, the compacts should articulate additional legal pathways for the entry, stay and work of asylum-seekers, refugees and other migrants.

Speakers underscored the importance of civil society organizations as key partners in advocating for the rights of refugees and migrants globally. Delegates acknowledged that civil society actors were essential, especially at the national and local level, in assisting and integrating refugees and migrants into their countries of destination. Speakers also remarked that the private sector, as a key stakeholder in migration matters, had a strong role to play in the integration of migrants.

Member States underscored the importance of and the need for accurate and reliable data on international migration and migrants to inform evidence-based policy making. Some delegates called for better data on migrants in an irregular situation. The Global Migration Group (GMG) reported that it had produced a handbook providing practical guidance to policy makers on the production and use of migration data. Several United Nations departments and specialized agencies outlined their efforts to strengthen national capacities for the collection and analysis of migration data with a view to designing sustainable responses to large movements of refugees and migrants. They expressed a commitment to work with national statistical offices to improve the production and use of migration data.