



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15 January 2019

Excellency,

I refer to my letter dated 2 January 2019, and in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 73/241, entitled “International migration and development”, by which the General Assembly decided “to convene, in the first half of 2019, a one-day high-level debate on international migration and development, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, in lieu of the 2019 High-level Dialogue, to inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which will review the Goals and targets relevant to migration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into consideration the outcomes of other processes related to international migration and development”.

It is my honour to share with you a preliminary programme of the High-level Debate. A more detailed programme will be provided in due course.

Your Excellency’s participation in the High-level Debate would add great value to this event and I look forward to your positive response. For further information, your office may contact my Senior Advisers, Ms. Lea Matheson (lea.matheson@un.org; +1 347 582 7210) and Mr. Andrea Pontiroli (andrea.pontiroli@un.org; +1 917 325 9966).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'MF Espinosa'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

High-Level Debate on International Migration and Development

27 February 2019

ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

Migration is one of the defining features of the 21st century and is integral to social and economic development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized the role of international migration in achieving inclusive social and economic development. At least 10 of the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include references to issues directly pertaining to international migration, migrants, and mobility.¹ These include targets under goal 4 on scholarships for study abroad, under goal 8 on labour rights of migrants, and under goal 10 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Migration will have a significant impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, many of the SDGs can only be fully achieved if migrants and their contributions to development are taken into account. Conversely, differing development outcomes are likely to influence migration patterns well into the future.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 73/241, decided to convene a one-day high-level debate on international migration and development in lieu of the 2019 High-level Dialogue, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, to inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development which will review the Goals and targets relevant to migration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into consideration the outcomes of other processes related to international migration.

Well ahead of the International Migration Review Forum, scheduled to take place in 2022, this high-level debate will seek to inform the 2019 high level political forum on sustainable development by “advancing the discussion on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development and assessing progress towards the achievement of the migration-related goals and targets—Considering that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), is grounded in the 2030 Agenda, the high-level debate will also consider the interlinkages and synergies between the SDGs and the GCM, without prejudicing the negotiations concerning the modalities of the International Migration Review Forum, which will be concluded later this year.

To best assist Member States’ deliberations, the high-level debate should:

- Provide an overview of progress, gaps and challenges in achieving the migration-related targets of the SDGs;
- Highlight the links between the SDGs and the activities that support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
- Consider the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, keeping in mind the HLPF’s theme in 2019: *empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*;

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20155.pdf>

- Showcase practice and replicable examples of best practices in including migration in voluntary national reviews,
- Ensure the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development issues related to migration;
- Promote transparency and inclusiveness by encouraging the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Governments, along with civil society organizations, the private sector and others, are already implementing various activities that contribute to achieving migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. The High-Level Debate will provide an opportunity to share experiences and best practices, including how stakeholders at the national and local levels are implementing the SDGs, their successes, challenges and lessons learned. These experiences could also help provide relevant examples for implementation of the GCM.

Time	Panels and Speakers
10:00 a.m. – 10:45	Opening of High-Level Debate Opening Remarks by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces
10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Panel 1: Overview on Progress in Achieving Migration Goals This session will provide a high-level and strategic overview on the progress in achieving the various goals/targets around migration. The discussion will focus on what has been achieved, what the gaps are, and what new or emerging issues and policy development need to be taken into account. The discussion will showcase good practices in including migration in voluntary national reviews at the HLPF
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lunch
3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Panel 2: Addressing capacity building gaps, mobilizing resources and developments in technologies, processes and policies Panel Discussion: This session will look at how to further make progress on the Goals including the challenges and opportunities. The speakers will focus on addressing capacity building gaps, mobilizing resources for migration governance, linking to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and learning of innovative technologies, processes or policy developments.

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	<p>Panel 3: Partnerships for implementation</p> <p>This session will focus on partnerships, which are essential for achieving migration goals and implementing the Global Compact for Migration. The speakers will bring in various perspectives including south-south cooperation, cities/local authorities, parliamentarians, private sector. They will also focus on the above two sessions and look at ways forward</p>
5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m	<p>Closing</p> <p>Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces</p>