

**E c o n o m i c &**

**FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

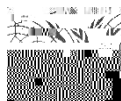
New York, 16-17 February 2017



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

# **FIFTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

New York, 16-17 February 2017



United Nations  
New York, 2017



## PREFACE

The Fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 to 17 February 2017. It was the latest in a series of annual coordination meetings on international migration convened since 2002 by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

The coordination meetings on international migration are convened with the purpose of reviewing the latest evidence on emerging topics in the field of international migration, exchanging information on current and ongoing migration projects, and enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence on migration.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

AU	African Union
CRRF	Comprehensive refugee response framework
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCM	Global Coalition on Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMG	Global Migration Group
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IUSSP	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
JMDI	Joint Migration and Development Initiative
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RCP	Regional consultative process
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRSR	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UN MGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNU	United Nations University



## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

The Fifteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 16 to 17 February 2017. The meeting was organized by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UN DESA). The meeting had three main objectives. First, the meeting took stock of progress made in implementing the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([A/RES/70/1](#)). Second, the meeting contributed to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants ([A/RES/71/1](#)) by reviewing the substantive preparations for the 2018 intergovernmental conference on international migration, with a particular focus on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Third, the meeting provided a venue for Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to present, discuss and coordinate activities and initiatives on international migration.

The meeting was attended by more than 300 participants, including representatives of Member States, Observers, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations regional commissions as well as non-governmental organization

important step towards a better and more humane governance of the global movement of people. In the Declaration, Member States had expressed the political will to save lives and protect the rights of both refugees and migrants. He called upon Member States to implement the commitments made in the Declaration without delay. He then recalled that the President had been mandated by Member States to lead the negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and that he would closely work with Member States as well as with the United Nations Secretariat, IOM and GMG in this regard. In closing, Mr. Christensen emphasized that given the tight timelines, driving the process forward was one of the President's key priorities for the 71st session of the General Assembly.

## II. IMPLEMENTING THE NEW YORK DECLARATION FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the IOM, referred to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants as a remarkable accomplishment in the international community's efforts to improve the governance of human mobility. Despite the tight timeframe and the enormous challenges, the global migration compact, to be adopted by September 2018, presented a historic opportunity to implement well-managed migration policies. As the newest member of the United Nations family, IOM was prepared to take on this task. Mr. Swing further discussed IOM's global vision for the global migration compact which included a well-governed system in which migrants move as a matter of choice with their rights protected throughout the migratory journey irrespective of their status. He highlighted the importance of putting migrants at the heart of all deliberations, treating migration as a cross-cutting issue requiring policy and institutional coherence, and developing a truly comprehensive, participatory approach for developing the compact. IOM had already started to gather inputs for the global migration compact through national consultations, regional consultative processes, civil society consultations and the IOM's International Dialogue on Migration. The IOM would soon launch a migration research network and create a dedicated civil society liaison function. In closing, Mr. Swing expressed hope that the global migration compact would build on existing processes, highlighting the need to join forces.

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Special Adviser ad interim on the follow-up to the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, presented a roadmap for implementing the New York Declaration. Quoting the Secretary-General in his former function as High Commissioner for Refugees, Ms. Nakamitsu recalled that while mobility was as old as mankind, it sometimes turned into a crisis due to the lack of a strategy on how to respond to it. The global migration compact would provide the United Nations with an opportunity and responsibility to develop such a strategy. From April to November 2017 the President of the General Assembly would organize six informal thematic sessions with the first to take place in Geneva in May 2017. In addition, the United Nations regional economic commissions would organize consultations to examine regional and sub-regional aspects of international migration and to provide their perspectives to the co-facilitators. The outcomes of these various meetings would inform the stock-taking meeting, to be held in Mexico in early December 2017, and provide the basis for the zero draft of the global migration compact. Then, in February 2018, the Secretary-General would present his recommendations for the global compact in a report that would include facts and figures as well as challenges and opportunities of migration. Intergovernmental negotiations for the compact would start in February 2018. To highlight the participatory nature of the process, the President of the General Assembly would preside over four days of informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings with representatives of a wide range of organizations between April 2017 and July 2018. In light of this ambitious agenda, Ms. Nakamitsu underscored the need to work together. She also urged participants to think strategically beyond 2018.

In his capacity as Chair of the GMG, Mr. David Malone, Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), informed participants that the GMG would adapt its work plan to reflect the new realities and to redefine its role within the context of the preparations of the global migration compact. In the coming

months, the GMG would









generations. Ambassador Lauber concluded that the preparatory process for the compact should be inclusive, open and transparent with a view to improving the understanding of each other's perspectives. In addition, in developing the global migration compact, interlinkages between the local, national, regional and global level would be key. Finally, the global migration compact should be developed through a fact-based approach in order to address misperceptions about migrants and migration.

V. TOWARDS 2018: NEXT STEPS

Before introducing the panellists, Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and moderator of the session, briefed the meeting about his recent experience in supporting the intergovernmental negotiations for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. He identified four success factors of this process. Regarding engagement and ownership, he highlighted that seven million people had provided input into the process. He suggested that, in the preparatory work for the global migration compact, the specific views of migrants should be taken into account at scale using social media and other modern technologies. Inputs could be structured along the six thematic sessions to be held by the General Assembly. Regarding strategy, he emphasized the importance of focusing on the final products and providing a clear timeline to take forward the work. He added that the 2030



for the global governance of human mobility. In this regard, he voiced the opinion that the global migration compact could take various forms. The document could be i) a legally binding convention or treaty to regulate the conduct of Member States, ii) a political declaration with principles, guiding the behaviour of state parties, or iii) an agenda with concrete operational commitments containing clear goals, targets and indicators as well as a robust monitoring framework. He recommended that the global compact would be a hybrid document including a framework agreement with legally binding elements on consensual issues, political commitments on other areas and concrete actions with a robust mechanism for review, follow-up and implementation.

The Director of the New York Office of UNHCR Ms. Ninette Kelley shared her views on the global compact for refugees and how the two compacts could be aligned. Ms. Kelley noted that the comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF), included in Annex I of the New York Declaration, provided a solid roadmap for the operationalization of the commitments pertaining to refugees contained in the declaration. UNHCR was following three tracks for implementing the CRRF. First, the CRRF would be tested in several countries, including Ethiopia, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. Second, the CRRF would encourage the establishment of new partnerships, for example with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on access of refugees to labour markets and with

the inclusion of some principles of the ICPD in the MDGs was part of its success. Follow-up activity had been successful because of shared responsibility between the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund. Responding to a question about the relationship between the two compacts, Ms. Kelley reiterated that compatibility could be achieved through transparent discussions and the involvement of similar stakeholders in both processes. In response to a question on how the agency-led guidelines on vulnerable migrants would be absorbed into the state-led agenda of the global migration compact, Mr. Mokhiber explained that the GMG had laid the groundwork in close collaboration with Member States. This work could well be absorbed into a state-led process.

## VI. CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORKPLAN FOR MEMBER STATES

The moderator, Ms. Clare Menozzi of the Population Division, opened the session recalling that the New York Declaration had tasked the Secretary-General to prepare a workplan for Member States and to deliver a report that included recent facts and figures as well as challenges and opportunities of migration. She underlined the need for concrete inputs and evoked the sense of urgency and positive energy from the first day of the meeting.

integration policies and policies to foster cooperation among States, policy coherence and strong multilateralism.

In the subsequent discussion, participants voiced concerns about a current global trend in many policy areas, including international migration and trade, to adopt bilateral agreements limiting possibilities for strong multilateralism. Regarding the four scenarios, participants commented that countries with a large proportion of young people were likely to experience significant internal migration. Mr. Pezzini agreed that endogenous growth, spurred by investments in human capital and innovation, and productive transformation of economies were ways to enhance the capacity of countries to absorb and make productive use of a young working age population.

Mr. Konstantinos Tararas, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), presented aspects of the organization's work on migration. Under the theme of fostering a culture of living together, UNESCO promoted a welcoming agenda at the local level, in particular, in urban areas. Currently, practical guidelines for city authorities including references to SDG 11 on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable





aspects, including working and health conditions. Additional social costs such as children left behind were very difficult to measure, but work of the United Nations Children’s Fund on psycho-social costs of migration was underway. There was broad consensus that better data was required for monitoring the migration-related aspects of the SDGs, not only at the international but especially at the national and subnational level. Collaboration between countries of origin and destination was required for robust data collection on international migration. Participants suggested that access to reliable data combined with capacities to analyse and formulate policies on migration was particularly critical for local authorities as they often formed the first line of response to large numbers of new arrivals. Strengthening migration data collection and use at the local level was one of the recommendations from the third global mayoral forum which had taken place in the Philippines in September 2016 and was also mentioned in the New York Declaration. Several initiatives were ongoing to tap into the great potential of data collected by cities and local authorities such as the work of the world council on city data. Further, IOM’s migration governance framework and guidelines for migrants in countries of crisis had been adapted for use by local governments. Because the necessary data for monitoring of the migration-related indicators of the 2030 Agenda were currently not available, it would be necessary to tap into a variety of data sources including household surveys, population censuses, civil registers and the use of big data. Participants and panellists called for more resources to be dedicated to capacity building for migration data collection and analysis as suggested in the “Sutherland report”. To improve data comparability, it was suggested that relevant United Nations recommendations be implemented and that data sets of United Nations agencies be synchronized. Measuring irregular migration and undocumented migrants was an even more challenging task and required close collaboration with local authorities. A “firewall” between local officials and immigration authorities was essential in encouraging undocumented migrants to come forward and to register for statistical purposes.

#### VIII. TOUR-DE-TABLE

The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) highlighted that addressing the root causes of forced migration was a key objective of his organization’s proj

which pertained to oceans.

Professor Rey Koslowski, State University of New York at Albany, presented a proposal to match increasing expenditures for border security with contributions to the UNHCR given that increased international cooperation on international travel and border security could affect the opportunities for asylum seekers to reach developed countries. Such matching contributions to UNHCR would enable States to demonstrate their commitments made in the New York Declaration and allow UNHCR to better assist refugees and host communities in countries of first asylum.

A representative of UNDP presented various migration-related projects which were being implemented in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR. At the global level, UNDP supported the mainstreaming of migrati NDP

Although forcibly displaced persons and their host communities were not being explicitly included



statistics in early 2018. An expert group meeting on improving migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda, to be held in June 2017, would focus on reviewing data gaps for measuring the SDGs and discuss how to promote disaggregation by migratory status. UNSD was further collaborating with the Population Division, OECD and IOM in organizing the first international forum on migration statistics in Paris, France, in January 2018.

Development, the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM) reaffirmed its commitment to coordinate the voices of migrant-led organizations at the local and regional level in preparation of the global migration compact. In 2017, GCM planned to engage in capacity building activities for migrant networks to ensure that the regional, national and local perspectives would be considered in the global migration compact. Secondly, the GCM would expand its base of civil society organizations to ensure meaningful and sustained civil society engagement throughout the intergovernmental process for developing the global migration compact as well as its implementation.

## XI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

In his closing remarks, Mr. Jorge Bravo, Chief of the Demographic Analysis Branch of the Population Division, conveyed the appreciation of the Director for a very successful coordination meeting. He underscored that the timing and the relevance of the coordination meeting were critical, given the need to implement the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and to prepare for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. While urgent actions were necessary, a long-term vision and plan for human mobility would also have to be developed. He highlighted the importance of including all stakeholders in the discussions and in particular of incorporating the views of migrants themselves. The global migration compact should focus on practical solutions and be informed by lessons learnt from the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mr. Bravo highlighted the need for accurate data and evidence to underpin the intergovernmental negotiations and the importance of carrying forward the TOGETHER campaign against xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination. He reiterated the collective responsibility of all relevant stakeholders to live up to the call by the Secretary-General and Member States to work together towards a successful global migration compact. In closing, he thanked participants for their rich and concrete contributions throughout the two days and expressed his appreciation for the excellent work of the organizers.