Migrant vulnerability and the Global Compact: Some thoughts & ideas

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Contemporary Migration Space

- Changing Development Paradigm
  - Hyper-connected world
  - Globalization: *slowing down*
  - ‘Triple F’ crises
  - Fourth Industrial Revolution
  - changing ‘world of work’
  - People first, *leave no one behind*

- Changing geo-politics
  - protracted conflicts
  - fragility of States
  - rise of non-State actors
  - humanitarian challenges
  - large-scale population movements
  - institutional shortcomings

- Unprecedented transformation

- Uncertain, tumultuous time
Concept of migrant vulnerability is ambiguous and often fluid.

- Migrants' vulnerability refers to the inability of migrants to effectively address/deal with the adverse effects of the migratory process.

- It could also be seen as a function of:
  i) Migrants' ability to survive in an adverse situation,
  ii) Migrants' capacity to return to normal life and livelihood, and
  iii) Larger socio-economic and political situation of migrants' place of stay.

**Access to resources and power mostly determine vulnerability.**
Global Migratory Flows

Rights and Protection

- Migration for Sustainable Development
- Irregular Migration (Human Trafficking and Smuggling)
- Cross-border displacement (vulnerable migrants)
- Refugees
States face three challenges in dealing with vulnerable migrants:

i) Drawing a balance between maximizing economic gains, protecting citizens (at home and abroad) and maintaining state security (Regulate or Counter)

ii) Managing tensions between state sovereignty /national interest (of State) and universal human rights of citizens/non-citizens

iii) Matching capacity and resources with rising demand for governing migration and mobility

How to effectively address these challenges?!
Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration (Agenda 2030) – **Goal 10 (Target 10.7)**

- “Orderly” refers to a system whereby migratory movements are made systematic, consistent, predictable and humane
- “Safe” refers to physical and mental safety
- “Regular” refers to legal migration
- “Responsible” refers to all parties/stakeholders assuming corresponding roles and responsibilities, taking into account circumstances
Approach:

- Opportunities and challenges of migrations deserve to be weighted in an integrated manner within the broader development context (Agenda 2030)
- Not leaving anyone behind (vulnerable migrants)
- New and innovative mechanism for governance of migration
- Ensure peace and stability along the migration pathway
- Implement normative frameworks
- Need for a bold, focused and measurable migration compact
Migration Compact

**Elements:**

- Ensuring that migrants’ human rights are protected specially in times of crisis
- Foster inclusion of migrants
- Making it easier for migrants to move
- Preventing irregular movements including trafficking and smuggling
- Reducing the costs for migrants, and enhancing the developmental impacts of migration
- Promoting inclusion and combating racism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance towards all migrants
Four main options:

1. Migration Convention (binding agreement)
2. Guiding principles and guidelines (non-binding)
3. Commitments with concrete deliverables, implementation and monitoring framework (SDG-type)
4. Instrument like the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
Probable way forward!

- Leadership for ambitious and balanced Compact outcome
- Avoid politicization and securitization of migration
- Ensure UN system-wide coordination
- Build a new and constructive partnership

Time for a new Migration Compact
Thank you!