

OPENING REMARKS

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*Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global
governance of migration*

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Your Excellencies,
Distinguished participants and panelists,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Introduction

It is an honor to welcome you to New York for this year's first IOM International Dialogue on Migration (IDM).

The 2018 IDM is dedicated to *Inclusive and innovative partnerships for effective global governance of migration*. As in previous years, IOM is offering its major policy forum, the IDM, to Member States, UN agencies, academia and civil society to discuss and exchange ideas and practices to increase common understandings and reinforce collaboration.

Today's dialogue on partnerships takes place at a crucial moment:

1. **First of all,** negotiations for a global compact on migration are underway and the importance of partnerships, at all levels, was a key conclusion from the stocktaking meeting, held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in December 2017.
2. **Second,** Secretary-General Guterres' report, "Making migration work for all" states that "Managing migration is one of the most urgent and profound tests of international cooperation in our time." He also calls on Member States to set out practical approaches to maximizing the positive potential of migration, and, where necessary, to ask for, and offer, the technical assistance, resources and partnerships required to manage migration.
3. **Third,** partnerships and cooperation are also cornerstones of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and essential for its achievement.

4. **Fourth, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016 calls for inclusive partnerships on migration governance to:**

- 1) Promote and protect the human rights of all migrants.
 - 2) Implement concrete measures to identify and protect migrants in vulnerable situations.
 - 3) Consider migrants' contributions to sustainable development.
 - 4) Adopt a whole-of-society approach to migration, sharing responsibilities and opportunities of migration
 - 5) To strengthen cooperation on data collection and analysis to promote evidence-based policy making.
- The thematic consultations held since then have re-emphasized the importance of these lines of action. Each of them has an important contribution to make to the Global Compact

on Migration. None of them can be developed without stakeholder partnerships.

Against this background, I would like to make 3 points:

First, **partnerships are required at all levels of governance** – at local, national, regional and global levels;

Second, **partnerships must include all stakeholders**: government, international organizations and civil society; and

Third, **partnerships are not just about working together but about working together to find new and creative ways of conducting our migration business**

I. Multi-level Partnerships

On a personal note, Partnerships were one of my **3 strategic goals (the 3 Ps)** on taking office in 2008, and, Partnerships have remained at the heart of my mandate.

Today's session builds on one of the key messages of the 2017 International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), and other global fora: **the need to strengthen international cooperation for effective global migration governance.**

“Partnership” is a key word in migration given that migration is, by its very nature, a phenomenon that creates ties that bind; a process that gives rise to strong and durable linkages between people living in different countries around the world. **No single government, international organization or civil society stakeholder can expect to reap migrations benefits or address its challenges by going it alone.**

Migration is a common good. It is a common enterprise. Migration calls for common action. This is why UNHCR and IOM established the Geneva Migration Group in 2003 -- and why Secretary-General Kofi Annan expanded its Membership a few years later and renamed it the “Global Migration Group” which now has 22 Members.

A. Global. The focus right now is on global cooperation. And rightly so. The Global Compact for Migration is a project that deserves close, concerted action from the

international community as a whole; not just to conclude negotiations but, beyond that stage, to ensure successful review implementation and follow up.

B. Regional. It is not just at the global level, however, that the concept partnership is needed. Governments have known for a long time the value of **regional** consultation and cooperation on migration. Regional partnerships were a necessary forerunner to global partnership. Indeed, many common understandings and approaches on migration at the regional level before global efforts were launched.

IOM currently contributes to the work of more than 20 Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs). They vary widely in terms of (a) membership; and (b) agendas.

Some focus on migration coming to or emanating from the region; others have as their primary objective management of intra-regional migration; still others cover all aspects of mobility within their region. Some have a more targeted focus on one or two issues.

All of them have demonstrated their value as platforms of consultation, dialogue and cooperation -- platforms on which information about migration trends

and patterns is exchanged, issues of common interest identified and policy responses explored.

C. National. The case for partnership on migration is just as strong at the **national** level although different configurations of players operate at each level.

At the national level, the challenge for governments the world over is to achieve effective coordination among the very many ministries and agencies that have a stake in migration: Ministries of Interior, Labor, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Social Affairs, Employment and Health each with different migration-related responsibilities but needing to work together as partners to ensure that migration objectives are met.

D. Local. Finally, there is the local level, often referred to as the “lowest” administrative level but, in reality, perhaps the most critical level. It is at the local level that shelter has to be provided, jobs to be filled, security assured, access to public services to be assured and integration into the local community to be prepared. We need to listen to Mayors and local officials more. They understand migrants and migration for better than national politicians.

It is, after all, at the local level (and most frequently at the local **urban** level) that the migration experience is lived: in the workplace, in schools, at the supermarket, on the playing field or at the drop-in community centre. This is where the migrant/host community encounter occurs and where integration happens – or fails to happen. Partnerships at this level are not just about administrative matters but about the very practical arrangements that will give migrants access to the jobs they seek and the services they require but **beyond that** to the opportunity to become a productive member of the community.

II. Inclusive Partnerships

Which brings me to my second point: While it is important to ensure that migration is addressed **at all levels of administration**, it is also important to ensure that **all parties** are given the opportunity to make their contribution to making migration a success.

The IDM was established some 17 years ago to be a very large and welcoming meeting place, where our Member States can interact directly and openly with other relevant actors on migration governance, exchange

views, and promote understanding of migration dynamics.

Migration partnerships must extend well beyond the governmental infrastructure. The cross-cutting nature of migration, and the number of migration related targets spread across the SDG's, call for strengthened forms of partnership **by all relevant players across all sectors of activity**: all of us have a stake and, therefore, a role to play in migration governance.

Among the key players who are either already active in the field or should be encouraged to be are:

- **The UN System agencies** have a key role to play. It is heartening to know that the GMG brings together 22 UN organizations with a manifest interest in migration governance. The 2030 SDG agenda already provides them with a robust platform for cooperation on migration matters. The Global Compact for Migration will offer additional ever greater opportunities for joint activity. IOM fully believes in inter-agency cooperation, and is proud to be part of many inter-agency programmes, especially in efforts to

mainstream migration into national development planning.

- **Civil society** has multiple roles to play. Because of their close relations with migrants, civil society is often best placed to advocate for the human rights of migrants. And IOM knows from long experience that they are the most reliable of partners in the provision of service to migrants – whether in emergency situations, in labour migration or in integration programming, Civil Society Members are often the best qualified to intervene.
- **The private sector** may have, in the past, been more inclined to be observers rather than actors in the migration process, but that has changed enormously in recent times. The private sector has very active interlocutors who have placed migration on the agendas of major economic consultative platforms such as the World Economic Forum. Beyond that, a number of us are now working on practical projects with the private business sector in areas as diverse as humanitarian assistance, ethical recruitment, migrant trafficking and reducing the costs of remittance transfers.

- Finally, and most importantly **the migrants themselves**. All of us are committed to supporting migrants. We often talk **about** them. Frequently also, we talk **on their behalf**. But it is high time **to ensure them a voice -- a voice** to articulate their aspirations, their needs and their challenges.

III. Innovative partnership

Third, and finally, as I hand over to Executive Director Fore, I would like to leave you with a challenge: the challenge of how partnerships may be used to generate and put into practice new and more effective ways of conducting our migration business.

The world of migration is not a static one. It is a world that evolves rapidly. And is in constant flux. The policy approaches that were used yesterday may be of lesser value today and not of much worth tomorrow.

Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society must pool together their resources – whether political, intellectual or financial – and learn to use them in cleverer ways.

There are three policy areas in which new, smart cooperative partnerships are emerging:

- It has become clear to all those who work in the field of labour migration that the recruitment sector is the point of intervention where reform is most likely to yield tangible benefits for migrant workers. This could be, for instance, in the form of decent work standards, or in the setting up of supply chains that are free from trafficking and other forms of exploitation and abuse. No single stakeholder can hope to do this alone. We at IOM have been greatly encouraged by the willingness of our partners in international organizations (ILO, in particular), civil society organizations and – most importantly – the private business sector to work on the IRIS (International Recruitment Integrity System) initiative. This innovative project seeks to promote ethical international recruitment. It will provide international standards, a voluntary certification scheme for labour recruiters and a compliance and monitoring mechanism.

- In the field of integration, exciting prospects are emerging as collective action by migrant groups and associations – supported by local government authorities – become involved in the provision of essential services such as housing, employment or transport; offer humanitarian assistance after disasters; contribute to urban planning; and generally, help to turn urban diversity into a social and economic advantage. This is again a large space for the development of new partnerships
- Finally, in the field of migration and development, long seen as the domain -- if not the preserve -- of international organizations and their specialized NGO partners, diaspora communities are being encouraged to take on a leading role in international efforts by drawing on their knowledge of conditions in countries of origin and by helping to channel development resources to the places where they are most needed.

Conclusion

You will hear, in these two days how governments can engage non-state actors, with their important

knowhow and capital, in devising joint ways to address the challenges of migrant workers and promote the protection of their rights.

Establishing and ensuring effective capacity, policy coherence, awareness-raising and partnerships are key to fully safeguarding the human rights of migrants and avoiding all forms of discrimination. As an answer to the call of the Secretary-General on the UN system, IOM will continue to promote synergies with partner Organizations to assist Member States on promoting effective migration policies.

We will strive to **expand our existing partnerships** and build new ones and that migrants social, economic and health needs are properly addressed, with the collaboration of all relevant actors. Together, we can achieve our common purpose of reaping the benefits of migration for migrants, and destination and origin societies.