



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

CLOSING REMARKS

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International Organization for Migration

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

27 March 2018, UN Headquarters, New York

Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking all of you for your active and engaged participation over these past two days in our very productive discussion. Your interest and engagement in migration matters are an inspiration to us. I wish to thank each and every one of our speakers, panelists and moderators whose contributions give us valuable information to take back and promote inclusive and innovative partnerships, with all relevant actors, for better migration governance. I have learned a lot from you, for which I thank you.

This was the first of two IDMs that IOM has scheduled in 2018, as part of our commitment to support our Member States in addressing the various aspects of migration governance and policy-making.



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Over the last two days, we have heard many valuable perspectives and experiences. Governments, civil society and international organizations all play a specific role in this endeavor. Working together, challenges are more easily overcome. All your views restated the centrality of collaboration for implementing concrete responses to common challenges.

A more elaborate summary of the discussion and proposals gathered in the past two days will be shared with you in the coming days. The outcome of this discussion and of the second workshops will be consolidated in a publication that we will aim to finalize in time for the intergovernmental conference on migration scheduled in December.

I thank all panelists, and all of you, once more, for your participation and important contributions to this debate. It was great to have such a large and diverse participation during these two days.

I would also like to thank the Government of Australia for its generous financial contribution towards the IDM – a contribution that made this event possible.

To summarize the main conclusions resulting from this dialogue, I would like to highlight five main takeaways:

1. Global dialogue and cooperation among all actors – including youth – on migration governance are paramount to success. Genuine partnerships and



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cooperation, with all relevant actors, will enable us to deliver on the commitments we will make on migration in the GMC.

Throughout our discussions, you highlighted the need to maintain open dialogue for integrated and coordinated partnerships to respond to the needs of migrants and their families. I wish to acknowledge the important calls made yesterday morning by ILO Director General Ryder and UNICEF Executive Director Fore for the global community to come together to arrive at solutions for people on the move – by forming inclusive and innovative partnerships. Let's be frank: Member States expect us to work in partnership.

Let me emphasize what Special Representative Arbour recalled for us yesterday, namely, that we can most effectively manage migration through cooperation among ourselves. The GCM is an impetus to go beyond existing partnerships; to view partnerships in a new light; to build new ties and; to find innovative uses of partnerships. The long-standing, multi-sectoral partnerships among UN System agencies need to be leveraged to promote and assist effective Member State migration governance.

I thank the distinguished representatives of WHO and UNAIDS for presenting good partnership and coordination efforts and examples to support Member States.

IOM fully believes in inter-agency cooperation, especially in efforts to mainstream migration into national development programs and make it work for



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all. Assisting, and not competing with our partners, is what makes any associative endeavor successful.

You all highlighted in your contributions during these 2 days that only through cooperation based on trust and solidarity will we be able to tackle problems and harness benefits of migration and guarantee the dignity and rights of migrants.

Many of you highlighted the importance of engaging CSO actors to achieve our commitments on migration. Speakers in the panel on whole-of-society partnerships today and the CSO representatives in the room shared their involvement in successful partnerships for effective global migration governance.

Safe, orderly and regular migration in cities also requires partnerships to insure effective local implementation of national laws and global frameworks. We have heard during the panel on local partnerships with the civil society and international organizations to reflect migrants and their rights into local policies and to provide necessary support to vulnerable groups of migrants.

2. Migration data and data analysis must be available to ensure effective policy-making. As we heard yesterday, statistics guide decision-making, but we need to make sure that available data is shared. We need to make sure that Member States develop the capacity to collect and share data. IOM and its partner organizations are ready to do that through tools developed so far such as the Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDAC) and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).



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Good policies will result from the work of strong, inclusive partnerships, at all levels of government and society.

As mentioned by our speakers yesterday, collaboration for data sharing improves our protection response, which is exactly what we strive for: protect migrants and their families and reduce their vulnerabilities.

Building on this last point, I wish to acknowledge another important message from the discussions these two days: **the need for all of us actors to share tools and instruments, to strengthen partnerships and to ensure, protection of migrants, especially of vulnerable groups such as woman and children.** The Global Compact is an opportunity for States to define practical measures and actionable commitments to effectively protect migrants and enforce existing protection mechanisms. We learned from many speakers of the existing good platforms for collaboration and dialogue and tools to best leverage partnerships between governments, agencies, NGOs and CSOs, to effectively respond to the protection needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.

3. Regional groups and consultative processes on migration are critical to forging understanding and cooperation on migration between States.

These are often where the most in-depth and engaged examples of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on migration take place and they must continue to play this crucial role in migration governance. We heard examples from the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM). We also heard about the role of



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processes such as the GFMD in promoting cooperation on migration and development at the global level.

4. We must redouble our efforts to eradicate forced labor. This is essential to safeguarding the rights of migrants. We are pleased that forced labor is being addressed in the current GCM negotiations – we need to continue working together – States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society partners – to eradicate all forms of modern slavery and forced labor.

As FAO Director General Da Silva well put it, migration is a major source of development, when it is orderly, safe and regular.

5. Finally, as a number of you distinguished panelists and participants said during these two days of discussions, migration is not a crisis, but a reality to be managed and governed. Successful governance of migration depends on building relationships of trust between all States and actors involved.

Conclusions

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must continue working together in an equal, transparent, responsible and complementary results-oriented approach to reap the benefits of migration for all. Our partnerships greatly benefit from our individual expertise in addressing migration comprehensively. It is only together that we can continue reaching our objectives in global migration governance, keeping the rights of migrants, and their families at the forefront.



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This is a crucial year in the field of migration, as a global compact on migration is negotiated – a guiding instrument for migration governance. Inclusive partnerships have been identified as a necessary tool for implementing those agreements and making migration work for all, as well as safe, orderly and regular.