



International Dialogue on Migration in 2017

Strengthening international cooperation on and governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018

Intersessional workshops:
18–19 April 2017, United Nations Headquarters, New York
July 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Concept note

So far, our response to the global phenomenon that is migration has all too often been disjointed. There are numerous interested parties but insufficient coordination. We focus too much on problems; too little on solutions. In recent times, we have, arguably, become better at addressing immediate needs, but we struggle to develop a comprehensive, long-term vision for human mobility. – W.L. Swing at the IOM Council in December 2016.

In the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September 2016, Member States made a commitment, inter alia, to strengthen the global governance of migration through the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The global compact, guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, is intended to promote international cooperation on migration. It seeks to create a comprehensive framework that will allow the field of migration to be guided by a set of common principles and approaches and to foster more collaboration between Member States and relevant partners on international migration.

In the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact on migration,¹ Member States called on IOM to make use of its premier policy forum, the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), to contribute to the preparatory process of the global compact. In line with this call, and with the role the IDM has had for over a decade, namely “to provide a forum to States as well as international and other organizations for the exchange of views and experiences, and the promotion of cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues” (Art. 1(1)(e) of the IOM Constitution), IOM is dedicating the IDM in 2017 to in-depth dialogues aimed at stimulating exchanges of views between Member States and with other relevant stakeholders and identifying core elements for the global compact.

¹ See United Nations document A/71/L.58.

In line with a process that is open, transparent and inclusive, two separate IDM workshops will be convened under the overarching theme of “Strengthening international cooperation on and governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018”, bringing together around the same table all relevant stakeholders. Participants, including government representatives, local and regional authorities, international organizations, non-governmental and civil society organizations, migrant and diaspora groups, the private sector and academia, will explore approaches to governance of international migration at the local, national, regional and global levels as input for developing the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

With a view to connecting the diplomatic and expert communities in New York with the migration policy community in Geneva, one workshop will be held in each location.

The **first workshop will be held on 18 and 19 April 2017 in New York** and will discuss international cooperation on and governance of migration. The workshop will focus, inter alia, on migration governance at the global, national, regional and local levels, and on cooperation mechanisms, with a view to identifying concrete elements, models and potential actionable commitments for the global compact. A discussion on this topic will offer Member States and other stakeholders an opportunity to frame the core objectives for the global compact, and ground it in the existing normative framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specifically, the workshop will facilitate exchange on:

- Implementation of the migration-related Sustainable Development Goal targets (target 10.7 and others specific to migration), including results of the use of tools such as the Migration Governance Framework and the Migration Governance Index;
- Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to migration, including consideration of the role of local authorities, diasporas and migrant communities, and the private sector;
- Coherence within and among different levels of governance;
- Strengthening migration governance capacities for the protection of migrants at risk, for facilitating labour migration, and for arrangements for return and reintegration consistent with international standards;
- Existing and envisaged cooperation and follow-up mechanisms aimed at facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration (including strengthening United Nations leadership and capacities on migration);
- How existing and envisaged cooperation mechanisms could best contribute to the elaboration and implementation of the global compact on migration.

The outcomes of this workshop will inform the preparatory process for the global compact and help elaborate recommendations covering various aspects of migration as identified in the New York Declaration, including, but not limited to, facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration; protecting the rights and well-being of migrants; reducing the incidence and impact of forced and irregular migration; and addressing the mobility dimensions of crises.

The **second workshop will be held on 18 and 19 July in Geneva** and will provide Member States and other relevant actors in the migration area an opportunity to explore protection of and assistance for migrants

in vulnerable situations from a policy, cooperation and practical perspective. This is a key issue that is highlighted in the New York Declaration (paragraph 52: “We will consider developing non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines, consistent with international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations”), but not specifically captured in the themes for the informal thematic sessions. This is a critical issue for governance and cooperation on migration that requires detailed and practical consideration. The workshop will offer Member States and other stakeholders an opportunity to highlight their efforts to include migrants in their national plans for the protection of the most vulnerable groups of people, share challenges to the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and recommend ways in which all relevant actors can reduce and address these vulnerabilities. Elements proposed for discussion under this theme will include:

- Identifying how and where migrant vulnerabilities arise;
- Crisis and non-crisis/forced and voluntary/regular and irregular migration scenarios: similarities and differences between protection and assistance needs and responses; what these situational responses can teach us and where there are gaps;
- Current practices and processes to identify vulnerable migrants in need of protection and assistance, including best practices and gaps in protection and assistance at the national level;
- Protection and assistance gaps within the contexts of migrant smuggling and separately in the context of human trafficking;
- Addressing the needs of children on the move;
- Cross-border cooperation on data collection, sharing and monitoring.

This workshop is expected to identify challenges and put forward recommendations, including concrete and implementable measures, for consideration by stakeholders in their endeavour to develop the global compact on migration.

Outcomes

Discussions during the two proposed workshops will help frame and complement the informal thematic sessions on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, and consequently provide important input for the intergovernmental negotiations leading to the development of the global compact on migration. The results of the 2017 IDM will be consolidated in a publication constituting part of IOM’s contribution to the development of the global compact on migration, and specifically in relation to the elaboration of the first comprehensive global framework for cooperation on international migration.