

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 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 workshop 18–19 April 2017, CR 1, UN HQ, New York

19 April, 11h30 – 13h

Panel 5 – The Global Compact on Migration: an opportunity to synergize the efforts of the international community

See programme [here](#)

Delivered by Dr. James Cockayne, United Nations University

On behalf of the GMG Chair

Talking Points

- I am honoured to join this distinguished panel on behalf of the Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2017 and Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Dr. David Malone. Thank you to the IOM for organising this most timely Dialogue and for the invitation to participate.
- We closely followed the earlier discussions and are encouraged by the level of engagement and interest in seizing the unique opportunity provided by the global compact negotiations.
- As we prepare for the six thematic sessions identified by the recently adopted modalities resolution, this Dialogue, and the one to follow in July, offer useful opportunities to exchange views and identify how to address governance gaps at the local, national, regional and global levels as we work towards the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

- As agreed in the New York Declaration, adopted last September, the global compact on migration will “make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration...and present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility. It would deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration. It would be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013”.
- We are now at the point where we need to begin to answer how this will happen – and what that contribution might look like. Let me say a few words on each.
- First, on the *how* and GMG’s role in it:
- The GMG, which brings together diverse expertise and operational capacity from across the UN system, is well placed to assist Member States in this exercise. The GMG, which today has 22 members, each of which brings important perspectives and expertise, has a history of close engagement with Member States and civil society, both through the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and through the preparations for the New York Summit in September 2016.
- GMG is increasingly demonstrating that it can serve as an important mechanism not only for internal coordination within the UN, but for coherent and forward-thinking engagement with other stakeholders.
- This is why we are particularly pleased to have been tapped by the Member States, in the Modalities Resolution, to provide support to the President of the General Assembly and Ms. Louise Arbour, Special Representative of the Secretary General and Secretary-General of the 2018 intergovernmental conference, as they prepare the thematic sessions and related Issues Briefs for the global compact consultation process.
- We are pleased to be working closely with both the Office of the PGA and the Office of the SRSG in the preparation of GMG Inputs to these Issues Briefs, and in support of the preparation of the sessions themselves, and we are confident that GMG contributions will help ensure these processes provide the Membership the support they are looking for.
- GMG inputs will be accessible, evidence-driven, concrete, human rights-based and

gender-responsive. We intend to incorporate throughout all the GMG Inputs a series of cross-cutting issues, including the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, men, girls and boys at all stages of migration, particularly challenges relating to discrimination and exclusion; health, social protection; education; respect for cultural diversity; food security; decent work opportunities; the 2030 Agenda; as well as means of implementation, participation and accountability more generally, to name a few. The inputs will consider and build upon the 24 elements identified by Member States in Annex II of the New York Declaration. They will include the most recent age- and sex-disaggregated data that are available; provide a succinct analysis of key trends; and propose specific, concrete and action-orientated recommendations. Once finalized by the SRSG the Issue Briefs should be a useful contribution to the preparatory process for the intergovernmental negotiations.

- At the same time, we acknowledge that even more can be done now and in the future to ensure system-wide coherence.
- Earlier this year, at a Strategic Retreat of the GMG at Principal Level, we heard a strong request from key Member States, including the GFMD Troika and the co-facilitators, for unified and substantive GMG support for the global compact process. The GMG agreed that support for the intergovernmental negotiations should be the priority for the Group in the period ahead.
- A further meeting of the GMG at Principal Level will take place next week in Geneva and will allow our Principals the opportunity to take stock, at a strategic level, of implementation of the New York Declaration and the GMG contribution in support of the global compact process.
- The GMG is working closely with SRSG Arbour and her Office in the crucial undertaking before us to help states prepare the ground for the global compact.
- This brings us to the *what?* What will the contribution of the global compact to the international governance of migration be?
- This is, of course, a question for States to answer, rather than GMG. But as GMG is providing support to SRSG Arbour in preparation of the Issues Briefs for the various thematic sessions, it is of course also a question we have been seeking to answer ourselves.
- There are three central considerations that we would like to highlight.

- First, it is up to Member States to govern migration. The UN can assist and support, by providing information and data, services, normative frameworks and coordination mechanisms, but ultimately the responsibility for governing migration is that of member states. In that sense, while it is crucial that the global compact consider how the UN, civil society, the private sector and local authorities can aid and support states, it is states that will be centre-stage.
- Second, any system of international governance should follow the maxim that form should follow function. The global compact will not be effective if it offers a one-size-fits-all solution, because the functions of governance of migration will be different at different levels – local, sub-national, national, regional and global – and in dealing with different aspects of migration – such as labour migration, displacement, or migration for educational purposes.
- And third, understanding these different functions requires consideration of how different stakeholders and rights intersect and interact at these different levels and in relation to these different aspects of migration. A successful global compact will need to provide a coherent framework housing a variety of smaller coordination arrangements.
- In thinking about what those smaller arrangements might look like, we have the immensely helpful report from former SRSG Peter Sutherland, which makes several important recommendations with respect to strengthening migration governance capacities.
- Both today and at the June thematic session devoted to consideration of governance in all its dimensions we need to reflect on a number of key issues, including:
 - migration governance at international borders, including in relation to upholding international human rights principles and standards in returns and readmission processes
 - migration governance in relation to integration, reintegration and lawful and sustainable return;
 - steps to achieve a whole-of-government approach, to include national, sub-national levels, including parliaments and local governments as well as steps to achieve meaningful participation of migrants.
- In the endeavour to improve governance, we must, as suggested by the New York Declaration, also engage with those directly affected – migrants themselves. Ultimately,

the protection, respect and fulfilment of their rights must be at the core of our endeavours.

Thank you.