

To check against delivery

STATEMENT

William Lacy Swing, Director General

International Organization for Migration

Thematic session 3: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration.

Panel 1: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions

19 June 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

Today we are seeking practical ways to improve the state of migration governance. As all Member States agreed in adopting the SDGs: “safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration” can be achieved through “planned and well-managed migration polices”. The Global Compact on Migration is the instrument which is meant to tell us *how* this is to be done.

At the first two GCM thematic sessions, as well as during IOM’s International Dialogue on Migration held in New York in April, I have heard your call for more concrete ideas to help in the elaboration of this compact.

I have three main recommendations in this regard:

First - Let’s not reinvent the wheel. We have heard this many times at each of these three thematic consultations, and I cannot emphasize enough the importance. States should make every effort to implement the conventions and treaties that you have already signed on to. If you have signed the Palermo Protocols on trafficking and smuggling – put the legislative structures in place to enforce them. Implement the Human Rights instruments and train your officials to ensure they will be used to protect migrants under your jurisdiction. If needed, seek assistance from other states, your institutional partners in the UN family, and our many partners in civil society to help you do so.

We have created excellent migration governance frameworks over the years, several of which are still relevant. Let’s dust off the ICPD Chapter 10 from the 1994 Cairo Conference. Let’s revisit the International Agenda for Migration Management – the Berne

To check against delivery

Initiative. Let's get them out, identify areas of consensus and work in a concerted manner to get these principles incorporated into the global compact and implemented.

So, too, with newer migration governance guidance: perhaps of most comprehensive relevance, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More specific to migration, the Nansen Initiative Agenda for the Protection of people displaced across borders as a result of disasters and climate change; the MICIC Initiative Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries Experiencing Conflict or Natural Disasters; and key to implementation of the SDGs, the Migration Governance Framework endorsed by IOM's Member States at the end of 2015 specifically focused on SDG 10.7 and its rallying call for planned and well-managed migration policies.

Second, it is important that states pursue a whole-of-government – indeed whole of society -- approach to migration governance. This can be achieved by creating inter-ministerial mechanisms to address all policy issues of pertinence to migration. And by creating mechanisms for regular, sustained engagement with the critical non-governmental actors whose work is essential for good migration governance: employers and recruiters of migrants, unions, migrant and diaspora associations, academia, and, most importantly, migrants themselves.

While migration policy is made at national level, we must recognize the paramount role of local authorities in day-to-day practices. Mayors and local leaders are at the forefront of making migration – including economic, social and cultural integration - work in practice. National policies need to be linked with and informed by local realities.

Finally, good policy making on migration is very difficult in the context of a toxic narrative on migration and migrants. This must be countered actively: through global and local political leadership; through the collection and wide dissemination of evidence and facts about migration and the overwhelmingly positive role migrants have historically played. For this, we must improve the ways in which we collect, analyse, and use migration information and migration data. This is essential to opening up the needed policy space for balanced migration governance.

I assure you of IOM's full and continuous support in working with you -- our Member States and partners in the UN family and beyond -- to help implement these three recommendations.

Thank you