

International Dialogue on Migration 2016
“Assessing progress in the implementation of the migration-related SDGs”
Session 4, Panel 2
Financing the implementation of the migration-related targets
Geneva, 12 October 2016, 15:00 – 16:30

Introductory remarks by the Moderator
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Distinguished Panellists and Participants,

Let me first express my appreciation to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for inviting me as representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) to moderate this panel. IOM has been a regular and valued contributor to the work of UN-DESA. As IOM has recently joined the UN system as a related organization, UN-DESA looks forward to an even closer cooperation with IOM.

By way of introduction, let me make a few points and pose a few questions, which I hope will be useful in stimulating our discussion.

First, the relevance to migration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goes far beyond the so-called migration-related Sustainable Development Goals. SDG Target 10.7 is entirely devoted to migration, but there are at least 10 other goals and targets that are migration-related and, if achieved, will have a profound impact on migration. Indeed, ending poverty, achieving food security, promoting employment, improving access to health and education, reducing inequalities, building sustainable cities and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies will all contribute to our objective to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, with full respect for human rights.

Moreover, migration is an important element of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. In Addis, Member States committed to enhance cooperation, with a view to ensuring migrant rights and promoting migrant economic activity. However, given the limited public resources for both development and humanitarian finance, providing sufficient funding will be challenging. In reality, ODA targets are not being met and resources for humanitarian relief often fall short of meeting the needs.

Furthermore, the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing called for ending “short-termism” and bridging the humanitarian-development divide with programming based on joint analysis. It put emphasis on prioritizing the needs, focusing on people and diversifying the funding base. IOM and UNDP should be commended for taking the lead in developing guidelines for integrating migration into development assistance frameworks.

Most recently, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants added urgency to strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus. The new commitments on behalf of refugees and migrants go beyond the Summit’s political declaration. The World Bank, for instance, established a new concessional financing facility for middle-income countries hosting large numbers of displaced persons, while IFAD launched a facility to build resilience for host communities. These are clear examples of initiatives that seek to close the humanitarian-development divide and fill the financing gaps.

Before giving the floor to our distinguished panellists, I wish to raise four issues, which I hope will be addressed in our panel discussion in more depth.

First, the Addis Agenda is clear not only on the importance of various types of finance, but also on the need to match finance to its best use. It calls for focussing concessional finance on countries with the greatest needs. At the same time, in-donor refugee costs are taking up an increasing portion of constrained ODA budgets. And many middle-income countries are increasingly bearing the costs associated with ensuring the fulfilment of the rights of displaced people. *How can these conflicting demands be balanced and where should limited concessional resources be directed?*

Second, in the Addis Agenda, Member States stressed that remittances are the private resources of individuals and should not be compared to ODA, FDI or other sources. The Panel's report highlights the role of remittances in meeting people's basic needs, especially in fragile countries. Remittances remain important for the welfare and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of individuals. Both, the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda commit to reducing the transaction cost of remittances to less than 5 per cent by 2030. There is also a call to remove obstacles to the flow of remittances, such as the trend of banks withdrawing services. There is an increasing concern about this so-called "de-risking" and the negative repercussions on remittances and financial inclusion. *What are the best ways of reducing the cost and increasing the access to remittances?*

Third, the issue of ethical recruitment and full respect for migrant rights is extremely important. Reducing recruitment fees to increase the net gains for workers is a clear commitment in the Addis Agenda. These costs can be directly influenced by employment and other regulation in destination countries, albeit enforcement often lacks sufficient resources. *What can be effectively done to eliminate or minimize recruitment costs to increase savings and net gains for migrants?*

Finally, the background note refers to diaspora investment as a critical, non-traditional method of SDG funding. Again, this is a private process. Countries of origin have long sought to attract investment from their diasporas, though not always successfully. Important considerations may be overall ease with which the diaspora can invest in their home countries, and risks related to political instability or conflict. *What are recent country experiences in attracting diaspora investment, which may be useful to share and learn from?*

Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants all require taking a much more horizontal approach to the financing of the humanitarian-development nexus.

I look forward to the insights of the panel and the contributions of all participants.

Let me now remind you of the format and introduce the members of the panel.