



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF MIGRATION IN THE SDGS

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Background paper

Introduction

After more than three years of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, the text establishing a new sustainable development agenda – including a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their accompanying 169 targets – was adopted last September in New York. With this historical agreement, migration has been incorporated into mainstream global development policy. The political declaration of the summit outcome document, entitled Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizes the “positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth”, while noting the “multidimensional reality” of international migration.

The central reference to migration is made in target 10.7 to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, which appears under Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries. This target in particular creates greater impetus for governments to adopt “high-road” migration policies to promote dignified, orderly and safe migration for the benefit of all.

Other migration-related targets call for eradicating forced labour and human trafficking, promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers, including for migrant workers, reducing the costs of migrant remittances, and significantly reducing the number of people affected by disasters.



Migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Several references are made to migration in the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the declaration:

- Highlights the impact of humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people on development progress;
- Calls for the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants;
- Calls for access by all – including migrants – to lifelong learning opportunities;
- Commits to eradicating forced labour and human trafficking and to end child labour;
- Recognizes the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The following figure gives an overview of the references to migration and migrants in the Goal and target framework of the 2030 Agenda and other possible entry points.



The full text of the targets containing specific references to migration and migrants are as follows:

Target 4.b: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.



Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Target 10.C: By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda¹

As was the case for the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda envisages a voluntary and multilayered follow-up mechanism to review progress on the SDG targets over the next 15 years. This input will feed into the deliberations of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which is held yearly under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and will act as the central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. National reviews will be the linchpin of the follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs, with regional and global reviews being conducted to complement the process.

National reviews – The SDGs should be translated into nationally owned visions and objectives that countries will endeavour to achieve over the next 15 years. The original data for this reporting should be information produced nationally based on the indicators for the SDG targets, with support from international organizations. A specific indicator for target 10.7 is being developed (see below).

Regional reviews – Regional reviews will create an opportunity to hold discussions and share information on region-specific matters, while at the same time fostering partnerships and regional cooperation. Existing review mechanisms and forums, including regional economic commissions and subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies and groupings, are likely to be employed in the process of follow-up and review of the SDGs. Regional Consultative Processes on Migration provide existing tools and mechanisms that can also contribute to regional reviews.

¹ These aspects will be addressed in detail in a forthcoming General Assembly document, Report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level.



Thematic reviews – The HLPF will also hold a number of yearly thematic reviews that will shed light on cross-cutting aspects of the 2030 Agenda in order to illustrate its integrated nature. The themes should cover the whole 2030 Agenda within a four-year cycle. Given the impact of migration across sectors, the migration-related targets may be touched upon in such thematic reviews.

Migration-related indicators

Based on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda will use a list of clear indicators to track and review progress on achieving the targets.

The ongoing discussion of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators should culminate in a report that will be presented at the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. This report will outline a list of indicators to be used to review progress on achieving the SDGs; ideally, there would be one indicator for each SDG target.

With target 10.7, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the significance of “well-managed migration policies” for improving the conditions under which migration takes place, with the target being to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. The United Nations Statistical Commission is currently deliberating on a specific indicator to measure the adoption of comprehensive migration policies by governments. This indicator is based on an assessment of six policy domains found in the Migration Governance Framework,² adopted by the IOM Council in 2015. It is also inspired by the work IOM is conducting in collaboration with the Economist Intelligence Unit on developing a Migration Governance Index.

Other suggested indicators for measuring progress on migration in the 2030 Agenda are aimed at assessing the evolution of recruitment cost for migrants, the number of migrants killed or injured, or the number of victims of trafficking in human beings.

Mapping well-being of migrants

A number of methodologies have been tested in recent years to try to assess migrants’ well-being. Since 2011, IOM and Gallup have collaborated on a number of surveys on the well-being of migrants in all regions of the world, which resulted in a set of findings published in the *World Migration Report 2013: Migrant Well-being and Development*. It will be important to study the correlation between these findings and the assessments of “well-managed migration policies” mentioned above.

The *World Migration Report 2013* drew upon the findings of a unique source of data, namely Gallup World Poll surveys – which are conducted in more than 150 countries – allowing for the first assessment of the well-being of migrants worldwide, and examined outcomes on six core dimensions of migrant well-being: financial situation, career satisfaction, social connections, community well-being, health and subjective well-being.

² See Council document C/106/40.



Tapping into innovative data sources

The international community has been calling for improvements in the availability and quality of migration statistics and methodologies using data beyond official sources. For instance, there is significant interest in using as yet untapped sources of “big data” generated by the information emanating from billions of mobile phone and internet users. In the area of migration, applications could help assess the use of “mobile money” for remittances or to predict mass movements based on mobile phone tracking devices.

Global partnerships for implementation

Civil society and the business sector – Strong engagement with civil society and the business sector will be crucial in order to achieve the migration-related SDG targets. These actors have been instrumental in making the 2030 Agenda exhaustive and integrated, and should similarly be given the opportunity to contribute to HLPF deliberations on the progress being made. Actors from civil society have already started thinking about establishing a parallel follow-up and review architecture with their own set of indicators.

Cities – We live in an era in which migration is primarily an urban phenomenon. Fifty per cent of international migrants live in 10 highly urbanized countries, and internal migration to cities is on the rise in all regions of the world. The integration of migrants, which is realized at the local level, is a key variable in achieving Goal 10 of reducing inequality within and among countries. In this context – and as observed at the IOM Conference on Migrants and Cities held in October 2015 – local authorities can be key stakeholders in the global partnership for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda because of their crucial role in drafting and implementing inclusive policies that facilitate the integration of migrants. All aspects of local public policy and development planning should include the integration of migrants because the extent to which migrants are included in policy planning will determine whether human mobility has a positive effect on cities.

Forums – International forums, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and IOM platforms such as the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) and the IOM Council, provide stakeholders with an opportunity to share best practices and discuss progress and challenges related to achieving migration aspects of the SDGs, and come up with approaches on how to better address the needs of migrants. These forums will most likely play an important role in the thematic review of migration issues in the SDGs.



Questions to be addressed during the workshop discussions

The following questions could be addressed during the workshop discussions:

- What new opportunities have been created by including migration in the SDGs?
- What is the international community already doing to achieve the migration-related targets?
- How can we ensure rigorous follow-up and review of all migration aspects of the SDGs?
- How should “well-managed migration policies” be defined?
- How can we measure well-managed migration policies?
- What methodologies and tools already exist and what still needs to be improved?
- What does the thematic review mean for migration aspects of the SDGs?
- What role can cities/forums/international organizations/civil society organizations/Regional Consultative Processes on Migration/States play in realizing the SDGs?
- How can we strengthen partnerships on migration aspects of the SDGs?

For more information, please visit the IDM section of the IOM website dedicated to the [workshop](#).

