



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

## **International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2016**

### **FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF MIGRATION IN THE SDGS**

Intersessional Workshop, 29 February - 1 March 2016

United Nations Headquarters, New York

### **Summary of conclusions**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) held its first session of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), IOM's main migration policy dialogue forum, on 29 February and 1 March at the United Nations in New York. This workshop was the first of two events planned for 2016 on Follow-up and review of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The second workshop will be held on 11 and 12 October 2016, in Geneva.

The workshop gathered some 300 participants including high level United Nations representatives, ministerial level government representatives as well as other high-level government officials, parliamentarians, and key focal points on migration and SDGs from international organizations, NGOs, academia, the private sector and media.

IOM's Director General opened the meeting, followed by a statement by Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, who was invited as special guest to highlight the synergies between IOM's IDM Conference on Migrants and Cities in October 2015 and this year's focus on the Sustainable Development Goals. Jan Eliasson, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations dedicated his keynote address to the opportunities and challenges that stem from the inclusion of migration in the SDGs. Abderrahmane Sylla, Minister of Malians Abroad, presented the implications of migration for Mali and the strategies promoted by his Government to consider migrants in the national development plans.

The discussions were divided into three sessions, each with two panels, and led by 34 speakers representing a balanced mix of policymakers, experts in the areas of migration and development, academics, private sector and international organizations' officials. The composition of the panels ensured a good geographical and gender balance with speakers, of whom 11 were women, representing almost all regions of the world.

This document summarizes the main conclusions and outcomes of the discussions over the course of the two days.

## **MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONNECTIONS IN THE 2030 AGENDA:**

### **1. Migration and migrants are key development actors and always have been.**

- Participants emphasized that the world is experiencing the time of the greatest human mobility in its history. A mega trend of our time, migration does not need to be solved but requires effective management approaches.
- Migration and migrants are key to reducing inequality. In the context of goal 10 of the SDGs, which focuses squarely on reducing inequality within and among countries, migrants are central to the solution.
- Many speakers during the workshop mentioned the need to ensure that migrants are at the center of national development policies and that migrants' fundamental human rights are promoted and protected, regardless of their legal status, while dealing with large-scale movements of refugees and migrants.
- Discussants called for the translation of the commitments outlined in the 2030 Agenda into concrete actions. In that context, they welcomed IOM's Migration Governance Framework which provides a comprehensive tool for putting effective global migration policy into practice.

### **2. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda, and the inclusion of migration in the SDGs, creates the right momentum for collaboration to develop effective, human-rights based migration policies, and to ensure that migrants are fully taken into account in national development plans and frameworks.**

- With the adoption of the SDGs, migration is now mainstreamed in national policy, offering an opportunity for changing the perception of migration, to a positive and natural component of national development policies. This will be particularly important over the coming year, as UN Member States deliberate on how to promote more effective, rights-based approaches to current migration challenges.
- In this sense, as many speakers recalled, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an overarching framework within which to design, implement and monitor national migration policies. As recalled by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, David Nabarro, it is important to see the SDGs through the lenses of those that are left behind.

### **3. Not all aspects of migration that are relevant to development have been captured in the SDGs.**

- It is now fundamental for the international community to pay attention to the migration-related targets outlined in the SDGs, but it is also important to find a way to account for issues that have not fully been captured by the agenda. For instance, displacement and crisis induced migration remained out of the Agenda even though protracted displacement, if left unaddressed, generates further marginalization, inequality, fragility, vulnerability and erodes people's resilience. This poses a serious impediment to all three pillars of sustainable development both for the displaced persons and host communities.
- National level indicators and plans, and thematic reporting to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) therefore present opportunities for countries to report on and

address issues that are not fully captured in the SDGs but which are nonetheless crucial to well-managed migration policies and to achieving sustainable development.

**4. Holistic approaches, based on the 2030 Agenda and other major frameworks and which consider migrants in discussions and in policy responses, are called for.**

- Many speakers reflected on the many simultaneous, complex and protracted crises, with no immediate end in sight, which the world is witnessing today. The solution rests on all-inclusive and coordinated policy approaches. Some speakers pointed to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) as a critical juncture in this context as a means through which more holistic migration policies that take into account the needs of migrants in crisis situations can be promoted, and which can properly link efforts to uphold safe, orderly and regular migration with humanitarian and development interventions.
- Also, participants quoted important frameworks adopted over the last two years such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway Document, the outcome of the SIDS Conference, the SDGs and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris agreement. If taken together these can provide an ideal basis for action.

**TRACK AND REPORT ON PROGRESS IN MIGRATION GOVERNANCE:**

**5. In order to track and report on progress achieved in good migration governance, better data, including disaggregated data, as well as a robust monitoring framework for migration, are needed.**

- We heard from a number of speakers that, although the demands for reliable data have increased in recent years, timely and quality disaggregated data on migration are often scarce. This makes it challenging for decision-makers to develop effective and informed migration policies.
- IOM has tried to augment existing data sources by establishing a Global Migration Data Analytics Centre (GMDAC) in Berlin. Tremendous work to address this gap is being done by a number of other stakeholders who presented at this workshop
- The Global Pulse initiative illustrated that new technologies may provide crucial information on migration in coming years. Since people produce huge amounts of data daily when they go about their lives on the internet. As there are measurable patterns on this data that measure human behavior, big data constitute an incredible tool for building effective policies.
- Talking about the need for a monitoring framework, Gallup discussed how to measure improvements in migrants' well-being, while the Economist Intelligence Unit provided insights into the measurement of 'well managed' migration policies. These two exercises could be important tools for follow-up and review of migration at the national or thematic levels.
- A number of partners including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Bank, as well as governments and other stakeholders, informed the participants on the important work they are doing in these areas.
- IOM and its partners in the UN system are also working to enhance the level of data and knowledge on migration. With the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-

DESA), for instance, IOM collaborates on a global indicator to track progress against key policy domains which are thought to constitute good migration policy.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

#### **6. Participants recognized the importance of building strong partnerships in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.**

- As discussed by a number of panelists and most notably the Special Adviser on the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, Ms. Karen AbuZayd, the upcoming high-level meeting on September 19 is a key opportunity for governments to enhance existing partnerships, and to build new ones.
- Discussants reminded that no single country can address effectively the challenges of migration when acting alone. States should therefore have in mind a tangible framework that can lead to effective responsibility sharing for large-scale movements, and firm partnerships to promote well-managed migration.
- Recalling the outcomes of last year's IOM Conference on Migrants and Cities, the Mayor of Montréal noted that it is essential to recognize the role of local authorities, as integration most often happens at the local level. Local leaders are at the forefront of migration management and therefore, inclusive national policies need to be linked with local level implementation.

This summary is not all-encompassing. Since the discussion on the implementation of migration-related SDGs will be continuing in Geneva this coming October, where good practices, progress and lessons learned a year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda will be discussed, a single report will be produced at the conclusion of these two IDM workshops.

The comprehensive report will be edited by Kathleen Newland of the Migration Policy Institute and Jill Helke, Director of IOM's Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships. The report will provide inputs to a series of processes, including the upcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) hosted by the Government of Bangladesh.