



International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2016
Assessing progress in the implementation of the migration-related SDGs

Second Intersessional Workshop, 11 - 12 October 2016

Palais des Nations, Geneva

Summary of conclusions

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) held the second workshop planned within the framework of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2016 on the 11th and 12th October 2016 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The first workshop in the series was dedicated to discussing the “Follow-up and review of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and was held on the 29th February and March 1st at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

This second workshop, entitled “Assessing progress in the implementation of the migration-related SDGs” gathered over 300 participants, representing governments, international and regional organizations, academia, the private sector, diasporas and migrants organizations, as well as civil society. Over two days, participants discussed all aspects of the implementation of the migration-related SDGs, sharing experiences and lessons learnt in the process.

The meeting opened with welcome remarks from IOM Director General Mr. William Swing, followed by a setting-the-scene presentation by Ms. Jill Helke, Director of the International Cooperation and Partnerships Department and finally a brief report on the first workshop by Ms. Kathleen Newland, Director of the Migrants, Migration, and Development Program, Migration Policy Institute.

The discussions were structured around seven panels and led by 36 speakers representing a balanced mix of policymakers and experts in the areas of migration and development who contributed their important perspectives to the discussions. The composition of the panels allowed for a good gender and geographical balance, with speakers, of whom 14 were women, representing almost all regions of the world.

This document summarizes the main conclusions of the deliberations held over the course of the two days.

1. Important progress has been made on issues related to migration and development in recent years.

- Several countries have begun to implement new measures geared towards achieving progress on their commitments to the 2030 development agenda, such as on ethical recruitment of migrant workers and reducing the cost of remittance transfers.
- Participants highlighted the growing recognition of the central role of migration in development and thus its inclusion in the most relevant international fora and processes. One key example of this is the 19 September UN General Assembly High-level Summit gathering Heads of States to address large movements of refugees and migrants for the first time in 71

years. Moreover, unlike the MDGs, migration is now included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Another important marker of progress is the decision by world leaders to create a process leading towards the creation of a Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration.
- Finally, participants also identified IOM's entry into the UN system as an important achievement, positioning IOM as the leading global migration agency.

2. Increasing migration challenges undermine States' progress on migration.

- Speakers called attention to the numerous complex migration challenges which weaken States' advancement on the goals and require urgent responses. Many representatives identified forced labour, human trafficking and migration of unaccompanied minors as major problems in several parts of the world calling for better international responses, based on solidarity and collaboration as well as for effective frameworks to promote safe and regular migration.
- As noted by the UNSG's Special Advisor on the Sustainable Development Goals, Governments need to adopt a twofold approach to migration challenges: to manage migration in a safe, orderly and regular manner and to reduce the pressures of migration. Resolving the challenges of migration rests on achieving the 2030 Agenda which will consequently contribute to reducing the push factors of large flows of migration.

3. Empowering migrants is paramount for enabling their full potential for the implementation of the SDGs.

- Several panelists throughout the workshop highlighted the important role that diasporas can play in implementing concrete measures that contribute to enhancing the well-being of migrants. The Minister of Malians Abroad and the Minister of State of Sierra Leone highlighted that diasporas themselves are increasingly engaged in migration governance and can greatly contribute to the achievement of migration-related SDG goals and targets.
- Furthermore, in the "Migrant's voice session", speakers shared their experience as migrants and founders of diasporas-based organizations engaged in developing projects for migrants and their families both in Europe and in the African region. The potential of diaspora communities for development is seldom realized including because countries lack data about their diasporas.
- For migrants and diasporas to be actors of development, countries of origin, and destination need to encourage the civic participation of migrants and to strengthen their sense of belonging and their shared responsibility in building a common destiny. The engagement of policy-makers at the local level (municipalities, etc.) is extremely important as this is where integration takes place.

4. Building the capacity to collect and analyze migration data.

- Several participants highlighted the need to develop new tools to improve the collection and analysis of migration data, including innovative benchmarking tools to identify gaps and track progress on the implementation of well-managed migration policies.
- Discussions echoed the need to understand migration and use accurate information to correctly communicate the implications of migration. Many speakers expressed their concern

with the too-often toxic narrative and xenophobic rhetoric on migration, and noted the need to build States' capacity to collect and analyze migration data to allow for evidence-based responses to the false declarations about migration.

- Participants noted the important role dialogue on migration at the regional and global levels has in promoting a better understanding of migration trends and in promoting informed migration policy-making.

5. Proactive policies for migration are necessary.

- With the inclusion of migration in the SDGs, development policies have now taken on a new role. One that cannot be reduced only to lowering inequalities and poverty, but that takes into consideration migrants as agents of development. We need not only to highlight what migrants can do for development, but also what development can do for migrants. The experts mentioned that migration policies can no longer be defensive tools to keep migrants from entering countries, but they need to be proactive tools which address migration as a trend of our times and enable migrants to play their role as agents of development. In order to do so, speakers agreed that it is crucial to work towards minimizing the 'push factors' that compel people to migrate, while recognizing that the 'pull factors' will always be there.

6. Time to move from conceptualization to implementation.

- One of the recurring themes throughout the two-day workshop was the need to give life to the SDGs by moving to the implementation phase.
- To ensure effective implementation, countries have to translate their global commitments into national ones that can fit their national contexts. Moreover, several speakers emphasized that the implementation of the SDGs relies on the involvement of local actors who have the role to translate the SDGs into local development policies.
- Governments presented measures they are putting in place to achieve the migration-related development goals using innovative tools including the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), Migration Governance Index (MGI), IRIS, as well as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC), whose guidelines are starting to be rolled-out. Capacity building and partnership - with traditional and new partners – were referred to as key elements to enhance effective implementation process.
- Participants agreed that the Global Compact for Migration will be a vital component for migration governance and for achieving the SDGs.

7. States and migration actors need to collaborate to put their commitments into practice.

- Participants applauded the inclusion of a proposal for a Global Compact for Migration in the New York declaration. This global compact will be an important vehicle to implement the migration-related aspects of the SDGs through the elaboration of a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migration and human mobility.
- Many speakers called for IOM to play a leading role in the process towards the creation of the Global Compact as well as emphasized that in order to ensure that significant progress is made on the migration-related aspects of the SDGs, it will be important to build transparent and inclusive partnerships, where all actors, including the private sector, civil society, and migrants themselves can play a role.

- At the regional level, various existing bodies and platforms need to work together to create more synergies. Regional Consultative Processes, for instance, could strengthen their ties to UN regional economic commissions and other regional bodies.
- Migration is an important element of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development; however limited public resources will make it challenging for States to provide sufficient funding to implement their commitments related to migration. While remittances are acknowledged to make an important contribution to the welfare and livelihoods of millions of people, speakers emphasized that these remain private resources and should not be compared with ODA, FDI or other official sources of financing for development.
- Speakers noted that ensuring sufficient financing for the implementation of the SDGs requires stronger collaboration between governments as well as with relevant commercial actors. A combination of private and public resources will be necessary.

Conclusions:

The present summary is not all-encompassing. A comprehensive analytical report is being produced combining the outcomes of the discussions at both workshops organized in 2016. The report will provide inputs to a series of processes, including the upcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017 and the preparations leading to the 2018 international conference for the adoption of a Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration.

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