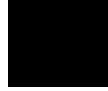


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MR. LIU ZHENMIN
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

OPENING STATEMENT
16th Coordination Meeting on International Migration

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Although the global population of foreign-born persons increased twice as fast as the total population between 2000 and 2017, international migration continues to be a relatively rare event. Today, international migrants represent only about

The UN estimates demonstrate that roughly half of the migrants born in countries of the global South are now residing in other countries of the South, while the other half have moved to countries of the global North. For refugees, however, a large majority (more than 80 per cent) are being hosted in developing countries.

Population projections by the United Nations indicate that international migration will slow the long-term process of population ageing in migrant-receiving countries. This will boost the size of the working-age population as a share of the total, resulting in a more favourable ratio of workers to retirees at least temporarily.

Immigration cannot, however, halt or reverse the gradual upward shift in the population age distribution that is taking place over time because of the demographic transition toward longer lives and smaller families.

In DESA, over the last year, we have redoubled our efforts to provide you with relevant estimates and analysis of international migration. We hope that this work will help to inform the negotiations of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, starting next week.

Strengthening national institutions and investing in local skills and capacities to collect and use migration-related data is key to understanding and properly managing migration. I was pleased, therefore, to learn that the zero-draft of the global compact reflects the urgent need to strengthen migration data, research and training.

For decades, DESA has helped to develop global statistical standards on international migration and has produced global estimates of the size and essential characteristics of the foreign-born population. It has brought together migration experts, supported relevant intergovernmental processes and engaged in capacity building on migration data and statistics. In doing so, we have worked closely with various partners, especially through the Global Migration Group. DESA looks forward to continuing this fruitful collaboration in the future.

In closing, let me welcome you once again to this coordination meeting. I thank all the panellists, presenters and moderators for accepting our invitation, as well as those who travelled from afar to join us in this meeting. We encourage all of you to contribute actively to the discussions over the next two days and hope that you will take advantage of the various side events.

I wish you a very successful meeting.
