

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
United Nations Secretariat
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CONTRIBUTION
TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

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¹The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

QUESTION 1.

Please describe briefly the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken in 2015, or is planning to undertake in 2016, to monitor and implement migration-related commitments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4).

Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Target 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the

QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your organization's contribution to the follow-up and review of the migration-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The UNU Migration Network and the Sustainable Development Goals

A well-established link exists between migration and development, evidenced by the inclusion of migration in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Paragraph 29 of the Declaration states:

“We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognize that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received.” (United Nations, 2015)

Although the indicators for measuring the SDG targets are still under discussion, migration has been explicitly addressed in several of the targets including target 8.8 (labour rights), target 10.7 (facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration), target 10.c (reducing remittances costs) and target 17.18 (disaggregation of data by migration status). It is also evident that migration may indirectly affect many of the other targets indirectly (for example, through the payment of school fees with remittances or positive well-being outcomes contributing to the human development of migrants and their families). Ten of the 17 goals outlined in are covered to varying degrees by research of the UNU Migration Network.

The United Nations University Migration Network is a research platform across Institutes of the UNU that shares expertise on Migration. It has been formed from the premise that migration is a major phenomenon of the twenty-first century, with impact at local and global levels. The UNU Migration Network includes all those UNU Institutes working on the topic of migration with the aim of examining in depth the needs of people who find themselves in the particular situation of migrancy from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Migration can enrich societies, but it can also give rise to challenges for both individuals involved in the migration process and governments and non-governmental organizations with stakes in the process. The UNU Migration Network analyzes and informs on all these aspects.

As a collaborative initiative, the mission of the UNU Migration Network is to support the sharing of knowledge and research practices to find links between supposedly different approaches to the study of migration, such as those between environmental causes for migration and economic consequences to inform policy on matters related to human security to promote comparative regional perspectives on migration to consider patterns of international migration to jointly influence governments or regions. It also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals and to UNU's role as a policy-influencing body. It further acts as a vehicle for good initiatives and local practice to be discussed more widely. It offers a forum for the development of new synergies between UNU's Institutes in order to both create and spread cutting edge research.

QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate any activities and initiatives your organization is planning to undertake in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled on 19 September 2016.

The UNU Migration Network will seek to organise a side event, if approved by the committee planning the high-level plenary, on the role of local and non-state actors in the context of the ongoing migrant influx to Europe.