

**EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 26 February 2019



United Nations

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Note

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

CMS	Center for Migration Studies
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GMDAC	International Organization for Migration's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
GMPA	Global Migration Policy Associates
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NSOs	National Statistical Offices
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PICUM	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
RCNYO	Regional Commissions New York Office
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNU	United Nations University

Panellists agreed that the positive potential of international migration could be leveraged to foster *sustainable development*. Migration was related directly and indirectly to the achievement of many SDGs, including the empowerment of women and girls, economic growth, decent work for all, and reducing inequality within and between countries. Remittances and the transfer of knowledge played a particularly important role in improving living conditions in countries of origin. The links between development and migration should be further systematically explored in order to identify connections and synergies between intergovernmentally negotiated agreements, including the GCM and the 2030 Agenda.

With respect to the *gender aspects* of migration, panellists stressed the importance of recognizing the differences in the migration experience of women and men. Women made up approximately half of all migrants and faced particular challenges, barriers, and threats related to migration, such as trafficking and gender-based violence. At the same time, the debate on the gender dimensions of migration should not exclusively focus on vulnerabilities but also acknowledge the specific contributions migrant women make, for instance, in their roles as community leaders, advocates of rights and agents for change. The gender aspects of migration were not limited to female migrants but also included issues that related to the vulnerability of migrant men, such as detention and forced labour.

Panellists underlined the importance of a *human rights-based approach* to international migration. They reaffirmed that basic freedoms and rights stressed by the 2030 Agenda should apply equally to all migrants irrespective of their legal status. A migrant-centred approach to relevant policies accounting for the human rights of all migrants would enhance their capacity to make a positive contribution to countries of origin, transit, and destination and minimize some of the negative aspects of migration, such as exploitation

III. MIGRATION-RELATED ISSUES AND THE 2019 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The interactive panel on migration-related issues and the 2019 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) was chaired by Mr. François Héran, Professor at the Collège de France. Ms. Marion Barthélemy, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development of UN DESA; Mr. Owen Shumba, Team Leader for the Livelihood and Economic Recovery Group in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery; Ms. Michelle Leighton, Chief of the Labour Migration Branch of the International Labour Organization (ILO); and Ms. Michele LeVoy, Director of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) served as members of the panel.

Panellists stated that the achievement of key migration-related targets was closely interlinked with progress on all *SDGs*. Therefore, the HLPF should, as the central review instrument for the implementation of the *SDGs*, examine the relationship between all relevant *SDGs* and migration. Members of the panel acknowledged the role of the HLPF in providing guidance to Member States and UN entities on how to include migration and displacement when implementing the *SDGs* and monitoring progress. In addition, the HLPF should encourage countries

V. TOUR DE TABLE

The tour de table, chaired by Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Head of the United Nations Network on Migration, provided an opportunity for participants of the expert symposium to share information about recent or upcoming activities on migration and development of the various entities represented. A total of 28 statements were delivered, of which three were by delegates of Member States, 15 were made on behalf of entities of the United Nations system, and eight were by representatives of non-governmental organizations (see list in Annex A.II). In addition, two participants made statements in their personal capacity.

The activities included ~~4051 0 0 1 21509 5833 Fi 0 g0 G()JE00000912 0 62 792 reW* nBF1 1104f1 0 0 1 2150~~

VI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

In his closing remarks, Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, UN DESA, recapitulated that data and evidence on migration should serve as the backbone of policymaking and be used to frame discussions about human mobility. He summarized the

ANNEX

A.I ORGANIZATION OF WORK

UN/POP/MIG-1ES/2019/INF.3

26 February 2019

**EXPERT SYMPOSIUM ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
New York, 26 February 2019

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Morning session (10:00-13:00)

Opening of the meeting

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly

I. Interactive panel on migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Chair: *Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*

Panel:

– *António Manuel de*

