UN Task force on

Data and indicators set on international migration

Terms of reference (draft as of 18 June 2019)

Background

Migration is a top priority on the policy agenda of many receiving, transit and origin countries across the world but robust, relevant and internationally comparable data are still lacking to support evidence-based immigration and integration policies. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/70/1) and the recently adopted Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (A/73/195) have recognized the importance of data as a basis for evidence-based policies. These initiatives have also urged for strengthening national capacities to collect, analyse and disseminate quality and comparable migration statistics. In this context, the United Nations Statistics Division has initiated the work on revising the 1998 Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, mandated by the UN Statistical Commission[1] and created five taskforces, the first one being on data and indicators set on international migration.

Many initiatives at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels have already started to identify key relevant indicators related to specific policy areas. However, no clear guidance on data and indicators set has been agreed upon yet at the global and regional levels to help countries collecting migration-related data. This poses challenges for addressing data gaps and prioritizing methodological development and capacity building at various levels.

Objective of the task force

The objective of this task force is to take stock of the existing good practices related to the collection of national data and indicators related to migration as well as relevant regional and international initiatives in this regard. It also aims at establishing **a standard set of data and indicators** to address key development policy issues that are relevant for international migration and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation. The set of data and indicators should be gender-responsive and child-sensitive.[2]

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[1] E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37, decision 49/101(j)

[2] Gender-responsive: ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly understood and addressed and they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.

Child-sensitive: promotes existing international legal obligations in relation to the rights of the child, and upholds the principle of the best interests of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in all situations concerning children in the context of international migration, including unaccompanied and separated children.

Source: Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Ultimately, the list of indicators will not be mandatory for countries but will only serve as a guide to promote the production and compilation of international migration statistics at the national level, addressing specific migration issues that are relevant for countries. Countries may decide to use the standard set of indicators as a framework for national data compilation and monitoring and/or as a basis for the development of a more comprehensive list of national indicators.

The exercise will also consist in identifying, among the standard set of data and indicators, *a minimum set of indicators* to facilitate global comparisons of the state of international migration statistics and address key development policy issues. Indicators could be classified by policy stream that would have been identified as a preliminary step, based on countries' interest.

While there are at least three levels of indicators for monitoring purposes (international comparison; specific regional circumstances; and national monitoring), the standard set of indicators corresponds to the national level in a broader sense, which leaves sufficient flexibility for countries to integrate their own national policy needs. The minimum set covers the international monitoring that contains the minimum common denominator for statistics on international migration, and forms the basis for regional and national exercises. Indicators specific to regional and national contexts should be further developed and adapted by regional and national entities.

The proposal should be in line with the renewed concepts and definitions presented in Task force on "key concepts and definitions related to international migration".

The list compiled by the task force will be reviewed by the Expert Group on Migration Statistics, and presented to the UN Statistical Commission for consideration in March 2021

Selection Criteria

The selected indicators should be broadly consistent with other global lists such as the Sustainable Development Indicators Framework and avoid imposing an unnecessary burden on national statistical systems, national Government agencies and other partners.

Acknowledging the fact that not all existing SDG indicators are necessarily equipped to reflect issues pertaining to international migration, the exercise shall specify additional disaggregation dimensions that are necessary to reflect relevant issues on international migration. The additional disaggregation dimensions should be kept at the minimum level that is sufficient to reflect policy issues, to avoid unnecessary burdens for the national statistical system.

Selected indicators should respond to the various policy concerns expressed by countries, depending on the size, the composition and the outcomes of their population of migrants. Task members will have to identify the main policy streams to be considered regarding social inclusion and migrant integration and organize data and indicators set across those streams.

Draft Work Programme

May-October 2019	Global survey aiming to identify relevant policy areas for data
November 2020	Final draft document following global consultation.
SUBMISSION TO the March 2021 UNSC COMMISSION by UNSD	