



Working Group on Data and Research

High-level panel on
*Strengthening migration statistics:
The 2030 Agenda and the New York Declaration*
Conference room 11
5 March 2018, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the working group on data and research of the Global Migration Group, co-chaired by DESA and IOM.

For many years, statisticians have called attention to the lack of reliable and timely data on migrants and migration. Although some progress has been made in recent years, too often, their calls went unanswered.

The inclusion of migration into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, and the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants have been a game changer.

The paucity in migration data can no longer be ignored.

National migration debates have turned increasingly acrimonious. Information gaps have been filled by myths, negative stereotypes and misperceptions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As custodians for some indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, members of the Global Migration Group are assisting countries in developing methodologies and collecting data on issues such as health worker density, labour migration, costs of migrant worker recruitment, well-managed migration policies, remittance transaction costs and volumes, and the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, often perpetrated by organized crime.

We are also working on disaggregation of SDG indicators by gender, age and migratory status, as called for in the 2030 Agenda. Disaggregation is critical to fulfil the pledge to leave no one behind, including migrant workers, refugees, victims of trafficking, children and the elderly.

The GMG just published a Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development. The Handbook, published by KNOMAD, will be an essential tool for capacity building activities to improve migration data. This week, the Statistical Commission will also consider international recommendations on refugee statistics.

Distinguished delegates,

The Global Migration Group welcomes the zero draft of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Listing the collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies as a priority among the 22 objectives reflects the attention this issue received during the thematic, regional and civil society consultations.

At the same time, we should resist the temptation to confine statistics to only one objective. Better data is needed to assess progress in implementing ALL 22 objectives.

The zero draft reflects many of the priorities highlighted in a recent note prepared by UNDESA, IOM and the OECD. That note provided five concrete recommendations on how to improve migration data from national population censuses, household surveys and administrative sources, how to leverage the potential of new data sources or 'big data' to track mobile populations, and how to monitor progress in the implementation of the migration-related targets of the SDGs. The right to privacy and the protection of personal information, especially when sharing data across borders, must be upheld. These recommendations are supported by several other GMG entities, including UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UNFPA and the World Bank.

In addition, and in line with the New York Declaration, we should also explore data sources and develop new methods for measuring regular and irregular flows, the economic impacts of migratory movements, human trafficking, inclusion of refugees and migrants, access to basic services as well as the needs of host communities.

We further need to better understand the linkages between rural development, economic transformation, internal migration and international movements.

The SDG indicator framework is highly relevant for the follow-up and review of global compact. By the same token, the global migration compact is an opportunity to strengthen national institutions and to integrate migration into national development planning.

Dear colleagues,

The litmus test for the success of any global agreement is national and regional implementation.

As proposed in the zero draft of the global compact, the GMG supports the development of a global programme to strengthen national capacities in data collection, analysis and dissemination, based on international standards and definitions. The existing and proposed regional observatories could support the collection of migration and remittance data at the regional level as well as policy-oriented research and training.

Strengthening institutions and capacities is impossible without funding. Financial support and technical assistance is needed to enable countries to collect and produce international migration data and to review the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the New York Declaration and the global compact. The global financing facility, proposed by former SRSG Sutherland, could include dedicated funding for such a programme.

In closing, let me assure you that the GMG working group on data and research stands ready to assist Member States in the follow-up, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Thank you.
