



Infosheet No 11

Global Migration Governance – Update to WMR 2018

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees adopted in December 2018 mark a new phase in international cooperation to manage and respond to the movement of people. Chapter 11 provides an update on these important developments that have occurred since the publication of the *World Migration Report 2018*, which included a chapter on global governance of migration. This chapter provides a descriptive analysis of the two global compacts. It

walks through their development and adoption and offers a brief analysis of the complementarity, coherence and gaps between the two compacts. It also examines the effects of the global compacts on the global migration governance architecture. The chapter also looks to the future by outlining the key implications of these developments and the challenges for implementation of the two global compacts.

The global compacts mark a new phase in international cooperation to manage and respond to the movement of people. Although they are not legally binding, they represent a near-universal consensus on the issues that require cooperation, and on actions to move toward achieving the objectives laid out in the compacts. The Global Compact on Refugees, if implemented consistently, will reinforce the willingness of States to host refugees, by breaking their sense of abandonment when their burdens are not shared with others.

United Nations Member States crafted the Global Compact for Migration with an eye to the long term, but it already has one accomplishment to its credit: it has brought one of the last outstanding global issues into the United Nations in a formal manner. The Global Compact for Migration is the first agreement that has been negotiated intergovernmentally at the global level, and heralds a major step forward in international cooperation.

One of the challenges will be how the United Nations and its Member States deal with the expected shifts in political support and changing commitments to implementation of the Global Compact. Unlike processes related to the adoption and implementation of treaties (as well as withdrawal), which are

necessarily long and involved, support for the non-legally binding compacts is foremost political. It is likely that, as governments at the national level change over time, which they inevitably will do, there will be a “moving feast” of State support. Implementing positive and constructive policies and practices on international migration as complexity increases and fragmentation becomes more deeply embedded will take leadership and unwavering commitment on the part of the vast majority of States, the United Nations system and the many other actors involved.

Global Compact for Migration objectives by category

1. Specific and relatively straightforward measures	2. Specific but contested issues	3. Very broad and aspirational goals
Improving migration data and research (Objective 1)	Opening wider legal pathways for migrants (Objective 5)	Reducing the negative drivers of migration (Objective 2)
Providing accurate and timely information at all stages of migration (Objective 3)	Managing borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner (Objective 11)	Addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration (Objective 7)
Ensuring that migrants have proof of their legal identity (Objective 4)	Using detention only as a last resort, and seeking alternatives (Objective 13)	Empowering migrants and societies for full social inclusion and cohesion (Objective 16)
Facilitating fair and ethical recruitment and conditions for decent work (Objective 6)	Providing access to basic services for migrants (Objective 15)	Eliminating all forms of discrimination and promoting evidence-based public discourse (Objective 17)
Saving lives and coordinating efforts on missing migrants (Objective 8)	Investing in skills development and mutual recognition (Objective 18)	Creating conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development (Objective 19)
Strengthening the transnational response to smuggling (Objective 9)	Facilitating return and reintegration (Objective 21)	Strengthening international cooperation and global partnerships (Objective 23)
Preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in persons (Objective 10)		
Strengthening migration procedures (Objective 12)		
Enhancing consular services for migrants (Objective 14)		
Facilitating remittance transfers (Objective 20)		
Supporting portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits (Objective 22)		

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