THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT HUMANE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION BENEFITS MIGRANTS AND SOCIETIES IOM ASSISTS IN MEETING THE GROWING OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT UNDERSTANDING OF MIGRATION ISSUES ENCOURAGES SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MIGRATION UPHOLDS THE HUMAN DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF MIGRANTS.

No. 35

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION

LEVERAGING HUMAN MOBILITY IN SUPPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IOM
UN MIGRATION

The opinions expressed in the report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

No. 35

INTERNATIONAL
DIALOGUE
ON MIGRATION
2023

LEVERAGING HUMAN MOBILITY IN SUPPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IOM
UN MIGRATION

"The primary goal of IOM is to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration... To achieve that goal, IOM will focus on the following activities, acting at the request of or in agreement with Member States:...

"7. To promote, facilitate and support regional and global debate and dialogue on migration, including through the International Dialogue on Migration, so as to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges it presents, the identification and development of effective policies for addressing those challenges and to identify comprehensive approaches and measures for advancing international cooperation..."
(IOM Strategy, adopted by the IOM Council in 2007).

Strengthening the **positive role that human mobility plays in societies and sustainable development** can help in human mobility being recognized as a public good, able to contribute to a renewed global social contract and concurrently advance the key priority areas of the United Nations Common Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This means understanding migration and displacement in the broader context of reducing inequalities and empowering everyone, including migrants and displaced persons, to participate actively in and contribute to addressing and solving societal challenges, while leaving no one behind.

Solutions and responses to the major challenges of our times, such as inadequate health systems, gaps in social protection, environmental degradation, unequal recovery from the pandemic, the digital divide, discrimination and exploitation, and conflict and insecurity, have to be inclusive of people on the move if we are to reduce poverty for all, build thriving societies and ensure that we leave no one behind.

As stated by IOM Director General António Vitorino during the opening session of the International Dialogue on Migration 2023, held in

i

New York over 30–31 March 2023, the **interrelation and connection between development and human mobility** is profound and more relevant than ever. Human mobility, in all its dimensions, can be a powerful driver to deliver the 2030 Agenda. With the right enabling conditions, human mobility can fulfil the aspirations of those who move and the societies they join, and lift up those who stay behind.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) marks the first time that migration has been fully recognized as a core development consideration by the international community. The need to anchor the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact) in the 2030 Agenda is essential; the SDGs cannot be realized without the involvement of migrants. Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, eight are explicitly linked to human mobility, while all have an impact on, or are impacted by, human mobility.

The **challenges of our times**, like pandemics, forced displacement and climate change, require urgent action; global multi-stakeholder efforts and partnerships are needed to face these realities and protect vulnerable groups, including migrants, that are among the most affected. The Global Compact serves as a blueprint for managing migration, protecting migrants and promoting the positive impact of human mobility. **Human mobility considerations need to be integrated** not only within development plans and programmes, but also in crisis prevention and preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

A whole-of-society approach, which includes the involvement of diasporas and migrants themselves, as well as localized leadership, is needed for effective action and to advance development goals. The objective is to join forces, seize the momentum and identify and agree on concrete solutions towards accelerating the achievement of SDGs; there is the need to be bold and ambitious.

IOM is fully committed to supporting Member States to advance key priority areas of the United Nations Common Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Global Compact for Migration, which provides a framework for further accelerating migration governance in line with human rights and sustainable development. IOM also remains

fully committed to stand together with the international community and take urgent action to design and implement sustainable solutions to reduce inequalities, and assist and protect those who are most affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

ABBREVIATIONS

GNI	Gross National Income
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HLS	High-level Segment
IDM	International Dialogue on Migration
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UHC-HLM	Universal Health Coverage High-level Meeting
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF FIGURES

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION 2023

New York, 30–31 March 2023

Report

1. THE MOMENTUM – THE BROADER FRAMEWORK

The IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) 2023 was held in New York (with opportunity for remote participation) over 30–31 March 2023, on the theme "**Leveraging Human Mobility in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals**". This session of the IDM took place at a crucial time in light of the forthcoming SDG Summit (September 2023), which will mark the midway point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and provided an opportunity to assess progress towards the SDGs.

This New York session of the IDM, along with the one scheduled in Geneva in September 2023, is part of a broader global process to **develop transformative and accelerated actions** leading up to the SDGs' target year of 2030. This IDM was also timely in the lead-up to global commitments that include the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the United Nations High-level Meeting on universal health coverage (UHC-HLM), the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future.

It was also crucial in contributing to refine "**acceleration points**", which were first introduced by IOM in its submissions to the HLPF in 2020.[1] These actions, in the context of major global transformations that are already occurring and will continue to generate an evolving set of challenges and opportunities in relation to human mobility, apply an **integrated approach to migration, recovery and sustainable development** and build on the opportunities that the Global Compact

---

[1] See https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/documents/25932IOM_contribution_to_the_2020_HLPF.pdf.

for Migration objectives can bring for the achievement of the SDGs individually and as a whole.

The Global Compact has given us a blueprint for the potential development benefits of human mobility. It recalls that: "migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone." This edition of the IDM was conceived within this philosophy of comprehensive action. Through our discussions, we aim to identify tangible actions to leverage human mobility for sustainable development and transformation, and to accelerate positive change.

Within this framework, the particular importance of this IDM discussion was to:

- **Showcase how to break the silos** and discuss a topic that leads towards the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and addressing multivariate drivers of instability, as well as laying a foundation for sustainable recovery.

- **Outline a whole-of-organization approach** to integrate migration and development comprehensively into policymaking and programming, in alignment with the IOM Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development.

- **Serve as a platform to identify tangible actions** to contribute to and support the necessary active engagement in the United Nations Development System, hinged on building stronger partnerships within the United Nations system and beyond.

- **Provide a participatory platform** to recognize the centrality of the community in IOM's planning and programming; and to **elevate the voices of migrants and communities** for joint action towards accelerating the SDGs.

This engagement is also meant to strengthen the advocacy capacity of IOM and empower migrants' voices towards tangible actions for the SDGs.

Overall, the scope of this IDM session was to provide an opportunity for Member States, international organizations, civil society, youth, women, communities and other key stakeholders **to take stock of the complex and intertwined ways in which human mobility is impacted by and impacts the major transformations and challenges of our time.** Building on progress made since 2015, and the landmark International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Progress Declaration,[2] this IDM session also intended to maintain and advance the momentum to maximize the positive impact of human mobility by exploring and refining practical actions towards the acceleration of the SDGs.

In the context of the unique and interlocking set of crises facing the world and the ongoing major global transformations, the New York session of the IDM 2023 had the **following objectives**:

(a) **Take stock and discuss promising and emerging practices of integrated migration governance solutions for the acceleration of the SDGs**, midway into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and ahead of the HLPF and the SDG Summit, with a focus on interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, as well as key areas where transformative pathways for accelerated progress have been successful.

(b) **Promote community-based discussions about challenges and good practices on identifying and addressing the needs of migrants, leaving no one behind** (e.g. targets 1.3 on social protection schemes; 10.2 on promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all; 11.1 on access to basic services and housing; 11.3 on inclusive and sustainable urbanization; 16.1 on reducing violence; and 16.7 on participatory decision-making).

(c) **Identify opportunities and recommendations** to accelerate tangible global and regional actions within the time frames of the United Nations processes' global summits.

---

[2] See https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/resources_files/Final-%20IMRF%20Progress%20Declaration-%20English.pdf.

Figure 1 outlines the **IDM New York conceptual map**, showing how the IDM New York sessions' expected outcomes reflect the acceleration points drawn by IOM, and how all are placed within the broader framework of key United Nations processes and global reviews, such as the HLM-UHCM, the HLFP, the SDG High-level Segment (HLS), the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration. These **acceleration points** are:

(a) Empower Diaspora

(b) Green Economy and Climate Change

(c) Equitable Access

(d) Empower Local Governments

(e) Strengthen Data

(f) Promote Resilience

The figure also shows how these acceleration points were reflected in the IDM New York session structure, panels and expected outcomes. For each of the thematic areas, the **three levels of analysis** taken into consideration were those of **local actors, communities (people's voices)** and the **global/United Nations network** level.

Figure 1: IDM 2023 - Conceptual Mapping

Leveraging Human Mobility in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations Processes/ Global Reviews

- SDG HLS
- UN-HLM UHC
- HLPF
- Summit of the Future

Governance/ Global Agreements

- Global Compact for Migration
- Our Common Agenda
- 2030 Agenda

IOM Acceleration Points

- 1: Empower Diaspora
- 2: Greening Economy and Climate Change
- 3: Equitable Access
- 4: Empower Local Governments
- 5: Strengthen Data
- 6: Promote Resilience

IDM Results/ Outcomes

- 1 - Explore and showcase acceleration points between migration and SDGs
- 2 - Showcase what IOM and other stakeholders have done towards the SDGs
- 3 - Draft practical and tangible actions towards the acceleration points and the SDGs

Levels of Analysis

Local actors/ Member States **+** People's voices **+** Global/ United Nations network

SESSION STRUCTURE

IDM New York / 30–31 March 2023

Panels

Opening session: Ensuring human mobility is leveraged as a crucial component to achieve the 2030 Agenda

1: Analysing interlocking factors to strengthen migration data

2: Empowering diasporas and migrants as development agents

3: Towards the acceleration of SDG 3 implementation: ensuring an inclusive Universal Health Coverage agenda

4: Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and greening the economy

5: Building resilient cities and communities

Closing Remarks: Key actions to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

IDM Geneva 5–6 October 2023

2. KEY THEMATIC AREAS

This IDM New York session offered a platform to **understand more deeply to what extent migrants and human mobility should be better integrated in the achievement of the SDGs**. The SDG monitoring framework requires States to report on the progress that is being made in attaining SDG targets, placing new demands on countries to collect more data on different aspects of migration and development.

The motto of the SDGs is to "leave no one behind", and often migrants or migrant subgroups, such as IDPs or unaccompanied minors, are particularly exposed to exclusion and vulnerabilities. To include them in development policies, they first need to be counted and visible. Greater efforts are needed to create migration and development data from the 2030 Agenda. There is a wide range of innovative projects, expertise and a shared commitment to leave no one behind by 2030. However, to date, there has been no comprehensive stocktaking either of migration trends within the SDGs or of the effects that the SDGs have had on migration data, posing challenges to understanding the overall impact of including migration in such a high-level global process.

Given the importance of linking SDG indicators with risk factors that hinder the SDG achievements and goals in matters of migration, an understanding of the needs of people on the move in different situations and regions is essential. In this context, it was crucial for the IDM to have a **geographical/regional approach, recognizing that there are different realities in place**. In this sense, the IDM provided the opportunity to showcase achievements and challenges, and bring forward recommendations and good practices connecting with the SDGs and the 2023 midpoint review.

Since a successful implementation of the SDGs requires **systematic and multi-stakeholder engagement**, the IDM New York was structured in six panels that provided the platform for **multilayered discussions at the Global, People and Local level**, in line with the United Nations Common Agenda, the Global Compact for Migration and the Agenda 2030. In this way, the IDM intended to promote interlinkages between national implementation, regional and local efforts, highlighting good practices in the context of the evaluation of the SDGs, with whole-of-society and whole-of-organization approaches.

The presentation of the sessions' discussion points and findings provided in this report is structured around the **different thematic areas** addressed during the five panels (with three panels held on Day 1 and two panels on Day 2). The panels were preceded by an opening session setting the stage on leveraging human mobility as a crucial component to achieve the 2030 Agenda. For each of the thematic areas, a general background is provided, followed by shared challenges, good practices and progress made, and recommendations, as derived from panellists' and participants' presentations and discussions.

This structure reflects the expected outcomes of IDM New York session, which are as below:

Outcome 1
Participants identified and shared challenges and responses in strengthening migration as a pillar to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcome 2
Relevant stakeholders displayed the progress on migration management towards achieving the SDGs.

Outcome 3
Global, local and community actors drafted practical and tangible actions towards the acceleration of migration within the SDGs, leading up to the SDG Summits and other relevant United Nations processes.

After the opening session, the **five panels** held within the course of the two days of session were as below:

DAY 1

- **Panel 1:** Strengthening migration data for action, insight and foresight

- **Panel 2:** Empowering diasporas and migrants as development agents

- **Panel 3:** Towards the acceleration of SDG 3 implementation: ensuring an inclusive Universal Health

DAY 2

- **Panel 4:** Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and for greening the economy

- **Panel 5:** Building resilient and peaceful cities and communities

The session ended with **concluding remarks** that summarized the main discussion points of the different panels and their overall findings.

Figure 2 shows the interrelation between the IOM acceleration points prioritized by IOM and the corresponding SDGs.

Figure 2: IOM Acceleration points prioritized and SDGs

5. Empower diaspora groups, migrants and displaced persons, through financial inclusion

SDGs associated: 5, 8, 9, 10, 17

7. Empower local governments and include migrants / community-approach/resilience and peace and security

SDGs associated: 16, 11

8. Effectively connect recovering with greening the economy and climate action

SDGs associated: 7, 8, 13, 16

10. Ensure equitable access to services to recover-health

SDGs associated: 3

11. Strengthened data, research and analysis on the interlinkages between migration and sustainable development

SDGs associated: 3, 10, 16, 17

The five thematic areas selected for the IDM New York session reflect these acceleration points, as below:

- **Panel 1/Thematic area 1:** Strengthening migration data for action, insight, and foresight – Acceleration point 11

- **Panel 2/Thematic area 2:** Empowering diasporas and migrants as development agents – Acceleration Point 5

- **Panel 3/Thematic area 3:** Towards the acceleration of SDG 3 implementation: ensuring an inclusive Universal Health – Acceleration Point 10

- **Panel 4/Thematic area 4:** Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and for greening the economy – Acceleration Point 8

- **Panel 5/ Thematic area 5:** Building resilient and peaceful cities and communities – Acceleration Point 7

3. OPENING SESSION: ENSURING THAT HUMAN MOBILITY IS LEVERAGED AS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT TO ACHIEVE THE 2030 AGENDA

3.1 Overview

There are over 281 million people on the move outside their countries of origin. They move in pursuit of opportunity, dignity, freedom, safety and a better life.[3] Many more are on the move within the boundaries of their countries and regions: in 2021, the number of internally displaced persons hit an all-time record high, nearing 60 million people.

Human mobility in all its dimensions is part and parcel of the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. With the right enabling conditions, human mobility helps achieve development outcomes and fulfil the aspirations of those who move and the societies they join, as well as those who stay behind. A recent study from the International Monetary Fund suggests that every additional 1 per cent of immigration has the potential to boost GDP growth by 2 per cent in destination countries, in addition to the boost to economies in countries of origin. However, these benefits are not guaranteed. When relevant policies do not consider the needs of migrants or the effects of migration, migrants are put at risk, communities come under strain and development gains are jeopardized.

---

[3] See UN DESA, International Migrant Stock 2020.

Migration continues to be a highly visible reflection of global inequalities, whether in terms of wages, labour market opportunities or lifestyles. Migrants and displaced persons are people who have been a cornerstone of development, innovation and progress since the dawn of time. At the same time, these are the very people who too often have suffered, been stranded and excluded and exposed to abuse, exploitation and discrimination solely based on their movements. They are more likely to find themselves impacted by various forms of intersecting inequalities and risks to their well-being and life.

Migration remains far from safe: since 2014, nearly 45,000 lives have been lost during the journey worldwide, though the true number is likely far higher.[4] Migrant workers also often work in dangerous roles and foreign-born employees are in higher danger of occupational injuries than native-born peers. Non-fatal occupational injuries are also more common among foreign-born employees in the same countries. Social protection coverage of migrants is also low and exacerbates the risk of falling into poverty.

Mobility patterns are also increasingly complex, being driven and impacted by major global transformations that already present and will continue to generate their own evolving set of challenges and opportunities in the years to come and well beyond the 2030 Agenda, as they relate to demographic shifts; digitalization; mistrust and exclusion from decision-making; hyper-individualism; conflicts; climate change; changes to the funding ecosystem; and challenges within the multilateral system. At the midway point of the 2030 Agenda, these persistent and new challenges risk leaving one in every eight people in the world behind – hundreds of millions of international migrants, internal migrants and displaced persons.

Human mobility is a global common good, not a problem to be solved. Inclusion of mobile populations and integration of human mobility considerations across sustainable development efforts is part of the solution and requires leveraging the unprecedented Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Secretary General's Action Agenda for Internally Displaced Persons.

---

[4]   See www.iom.int/news/rising-migrant-deaths-top-4400-year-iom-records-more-45000-2014.

The midterm implementation of the 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to take stock of the increasingly complex and intertwined ways in which human mobility is impacted by and impacts major transformations, and to reflect and discuss practical policy and operational acceleration actions that have the potential to boost progress on the SDGs as a whole in what remains of the Decade of Action, but also – and looking beyond the 2030 Agenda – that can be an integral component of the renewed social contract needed to secure our future.

Objective

Take stock of the increasingly complex and intertwined ways in which human mobility is impacted by and impacts major transformations; and reflect on and discuss acceleration actions that leverage human mobility for sustainable development.

3.2   Shared challenges

Migration remains a reflection of global inequalities in terms of wages, labour market opportunities and lifestyles. Migrants and displaced populations are more likely to find themselves impacted by various forms of intersecting inequalities and risks to well-being. Migrants can find themselves in poverty even while employed and only a minority of migrants have access to social protection benefits in destination and origin countries through portability and bilateral agreements. Barriers to migrants' entrepreneurship, and the cost of sending remittances to low- and middle-income countries, which is still high at 6 per cent, are constraints to the potential positive effects of human mobilities on all societies involved.

More and more countries, traditionally as countries of origin of migration, are facing new challenges as they experience immigration and transit migration; the support of organizations like IOM contributes to effectively manage these emerging needs (as in the case of the migration transit centres in Honduras).

For many developing countries, issues like human mobility and climate change are at the core of their development challenges, which include the needs of very young populations, of women and girls, and of community resilience for climate adaptation. Other countries have been dealing with massive flows of displaced people and refugees and are working to provide services and protection to migrants, refugees and stateless persons in need in order to promote inclusive and welcoming communities. This is happening at the national and local levels, with some municipalities working to pilot new initiatives in this regard.

Young generations are at the forefront of these challenges and the actions needed to address them; the youth are willing to commit, participate and contribute, and they can offer tools for innovation to advance sustainable development.

3. Opening session: Ensuring that human mobility
is leveraged as a crucial component to achieve the 2030 Agenda

3.3 Good practices

Several good practices were highlighted, including regional platforms for information-sharing; and perspectives were gathered on mobility, the environment and development, to disseminate good practices, promote innovation, and engage diasporas and civil society. An example in this sense is the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), which is working to develop innovation, gather diverse partners, and develop programmes and policies to promote the positive impact of human mobility. Some concrete initiatives launched by the OACPS include, for example the platform of engagement with the diaspora and people of African descent, "ACP Diaspora",[5] which pursues the mission to facilitate exchanges of good practices and to generate innovative ideas on all issues related to migration, human mobility and development, in particular by promoting South–South and triangular cooperation.

Regional organizations are also creating platforms and programmes to engage their diasporas, disseminate knowledge, facilitate good practices and promote innovative initiatives. Other bodies, like the European Union, are also committed to work bilaterally and multilaterally to promote partnerships for the identification of common solutions in which all needs are equally accounted for. Bilateral and multilateral partnerships for the identification of common solutions were mentioned, for example, around promoting migrants' skills transfers and securing regular migration pathways.

Several global processes and tools are also working towards addressing some of the particular challenges faced by vulnerable groups, such as people without access to social protection, including those working in the informal and care economies, women, children, youth and those without access to digital technologies. One of these tools is the Global

---

[5] Available at https://businessacp.com/en/2022/11/28/acp-diaspora-platform-for-diaspora-engagement-in-the-world/.

Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions,[6] which has the aim of fast-tracking global actions to promote a job-rich recovery, as well as equitable ecological, technological and societal transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies.

The need to increase representation of affected populations in high-level dialogue on migration, to involve youth that are ready to commit and innovate, and the need to integrate mobility concerns into international processes and treaties, were also cited.

Other good practices were presented, such as the provision of social benefits as a way of helping migrants to remain in their own countries; the creation of offices to work with irregular migrants, refugees and stateless people at the municipal level, offering social and legal services and emergency shelters; and the work of municipalities that are piloting new initiatives to welcome migrants and refugees. The session made clear that migration policies of welcoming are possible.

---

[6] Available at www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/global_accelerator_summary.pdf.

3.4 Recommendations

The opening session addressed macroconsiderations and touched upon diverse issues that were further elaborated in the different panel discussions. Some recommendations presented in this session included:

- Given the links between human mobility and development, we need to anchor the Global Compact for Migration in the 2030 Agenda – the SDGs cannot be realized without the involvement of migrants.

- The challenges of our times – pandemics, forced displacement, climate change – require urgent action; global multi-stakeholder efforts and partnerships are needed to face these challenging realities and protect vulnerable groups, including migrants, that are the most affected.

- Human mobility considerations need to be integrated not only within development plans and programmes, but also in preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

- Issues like human mobility and climate change are at the core of the development challenges, which include the needs of very young populations, of women and girls and communities' resilience for climate adaptation; affected countries should have access to funds to fight climate change and common solutions are required.

- Young generations are at the forefront of these challenges and the actions needed to address them; the youth are willing to commit, participate and contribute, and they can offer tools for innovation and inclusion; we must capitalize on the contribution of young people, collaborate with them to create solutions and generate positive impacts for migrants, in the countries of departure, transit and reception.

- Labour protections need to be integrated into migration policies.

- There is a need to pursue concrete measures such as: the regulation of undocumented migrants and the right to asylum through pathways of regular migration; a dignified and safe reception at borders; protective rights for refugees; and the closure of places that deprive people of their liberty.

- Increased accountability and follow-through between the topics discussed in high-level dialogues and tangible policy outcomes for migrants themselves should be pursued.

- The representation of affected populations in high-level dialogues on migration needs to be ensured.

- Human mobility should be prioritized in discussions on climate-related loss and damage, leveraging for example the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP 27.

- It remains important to address to the root causes of migration, to ensure that migration remains a choice and not a desperate necessity.

- The powerful transformative role of the arts and creative industries in supporting the rehabilitation of vulnerable groups, as well as integration and reconciliation among individuals and communities, should be recognized and strengthened.

- Migration policies of welcoming are necessary and attainable.

4. THEMATIC AREA 1 – STRENGTHENING MIGRATION DATA FOR ACTION, INSIGHT AND FORESIGHT

4.1 Overview

The inclusion of migration in the SDGs has provided a unique opportunity to improve migration data. For instance, SDG target 17.18 calls for greater support to developing countries to increase the availability of "high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and migratory status". This reflects a growing understanding that strengthening migration data is an important way to facilitate safe, regular migration pathways and durable solutions, ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for sustainable development.

After the approval of the 2030 Agenda, there has been progress in developing new ways to gather data and report on migration and development targets related to the SDGs. Calls to improve migration data to formulate evidence-based migration policies and inform public discourse have become increasingly strong. Out of 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in December 2018, objective 1 is solely devoted to data. However, significant data gaps still exist in all areas of the SDGs in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness and level of disaggregation. There remains a particular lack of timely, comparable, reliable and disaggregated migration data, which means that we are not able to understand where people on the

move are being left behind in the SDGs, or to capture fully the benefits of human mobility for sustainable development.

Countries continue to face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and assess the effectiveness of their responses to this crisis, with opportunities and challenges in improving the availability and use of migration data. In this context, to identify overlapping vulnerabilities, it is essential to capture the impacts on migrants and better inform prevention and response programming. More action is needed to translate SDG data frameworks and objective 1 of the Global Compact into durable solutions and safe, regular migration pathways. Therefore, strengthening migration data remains crucial to these ends in the context of sustainable development.

Objective

This session illustrated the compelling positive role migrants and diaspora play in sustainable development, through a focus on data. The session highlighted data-driven approaches to strengthen durable solutions that are aligned with the 2030 Action Agenda and SDGs, the IDP Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement, and the Global Compact for Migration, among others.

4.2   Summary of main discussion points

- **Data** about international migration **highlights the positive role that migrants play in sustainable development**; and the increase of remittance flows during the COVID pandemic is evidence of remittances being a leading source of development finance worldwide.

- **Migrant labour** plays an essential role in global food security and migrants make up a significant part of essential workers, as well as senior managers and leaders.

- **High-quality data** will be needed to deliver on the mandate of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration to inform evidence-based policies; this will require domestic and international collaboration, to avoid data existing in silos.

- **Disaggregated and intersectional data** are needed, especially for vulnerable groups such as minorities, children, youth, migrant women and non-binary persons; this was raised as a way to generate tailored policies.

- **Scarcity of data** currently exists on the drivers and impacts of migration, and on the benefits of migration on sustainable development; administrative records or statistics do not include migration-related indicators; therefore, **methodology-strengthening is needed**.

- While the COVID-19 pandemic has spurred innovation in data methodology and collaboration, **capacity varies greatly** between countries and administrative ecosystems are often incomplete. Speakers highlighted the need for political, financial and human resource commitments to improve data capacity at national and international levels.

- Several **good practices** on data collection were shared, such as the observatory of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on smuggling data; a migrant registry to understand access to health care, which also includes disaggregated data on people with disabilities and different ethnicities; the African Union's observatory on migration; and various regional partnerships.

- Overall, **investments and partnerships on data collection** were encouraged, since accurate, timely and disaggregated data will be needed to deliver on the mandate for the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration.

4.3   Shared challenges

Among the shared challenges, speakers highlighted the **lack (or limited availability) of disaggregated data** on migration and human mobility in general. Most often, data are not disaggregated by migration status, and even disaggregation by age, gender and other status is very limited. Scarce data currently exist on the drivers and impacts of migration, or the benefits of migration on sustainable development. Gaps in data and related knowledge lead to poorly informed decision-making.

Also, **data often exist in silos** both nationally and across different institutions, as well as internationally. Several speakers highlighted that many administrative records or vital statistics are designed to meet agency or government-specific needs, and do not necessarily include concepts that could be used to give a trans-sectoral overview related to migration. Some statistical institutes are working towards strengthening data methodology (e.g. Mexico, South Africa, Algeria) and are beginning to collect migration indicators in key surveys. Intranational progress is needed to achieve international progress.

Other specific needs were highlighted such as the necessity for **statistics specifically about children and young people on the move,** as a prerequisite to address better the specific demands of this group, which makes up a large proportion of migrants (youth aged 29 and under represent 31% of migrants).[7] Youth programmes are chronically underfunded and youth face financial and time barriers to involvement in unpaid advocacy activities. Also, the need to consider **spatial databases,** which can capture where migrants are in transit in relevant geographic areas, was raised, as migration-related issues may be concentrated in particular regions and transit corridors. It was noted that trends in data improvement have been the result of compromise between ambition and pragmatism over the last 30 years, but programmes have often been short-

---

[7]   See www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2013/02/07/chapter-2-demographic-portrait-of-adult-children-of-immigrants/.

lived due to reactive funding cycles. It was also noted that experiences of migrants are influenced by diverse and intersecting identities, and that disaggregated data that consider this **intersectionality** are needed. The experiences of minorities and outliers need to be factored into policy development.

With regard to the disaggregation of data, it further was noted that disaggregation specified in SDG 17 is not being fully implemented and there is a need to raise interest in government departments to **translate data into evidence-informed policymaking**. Administrative ecosystems are incomplete and capacity varies greatly between countries. For example, even when vital statistical records are fairly comprehensive, they tend to exclude information about migrants (e.g. births and deaths of migrants who are not permanent residents). Some country representatives intervening from the floor highlighted **country-specific issues,** such as the need to invest in cooperation and capacity-building with host communities and municipalities that receive migrants and respond to their needs, as in the case of Chile; the difficulties in collecting data from irregular migrants, who are often deprived of their identification documents (in Algeria); while Ecuador highlighted the need to include the experiences of returning migrants in data collection.

4.4 Good practices

Despite the existing needs and the work ahead to improve data collection and use, panellists and participants highlighted a number of good practices on data that can offer interesting inspiration towards the advancement of global and national development priorities and presented manifold examples of the power of data and evidence-informed policy development.

Speakers emphasized how data about international migration **highlight the positive role migrants play in sustainable development.** For instance, data on remittance flows during the COVID pandemic provide strong evidence of remittances being a leading source of development finance worldwide. Data on migrant labour also show that migrants play an outsized role in food production that forms a crucial part of global food security. It was noted that aside from subsistence agriculture, internal and international migrants comprise a significant part of the labour force employed in commercial farms in countries richer than neighbouring countries;[8] migrants also make up a significant part of essential workers, comprising one in five essential workers in the global north. Over half of CEOs from leading technology companies worldwide have migration backgrounds.[9] Overall, **available economic data substantiate the fact that migrants play a crucial role in national economies.** As data quality and analysis improve, such insights draw the focus towards actions that will accelerate sustainable development.

Some **country-specific good practices** presented by panellists and participants from the floor included the regional collaboration between Mexico, Colombia and Chile to spearhead a data collection initiative on migration with a regional perspective, cognizant of the transborder impacts of migration. This initiative was endorsed by 10 countries and

---

[8] See ILO (2022:11).

[9] See www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2017/12/04/almost-half-of-fortune-500-companies-were-founded-by-american-immigrants-or-their-children/.

received financial and technical support from the United Nations and IOM. The 2020 Mexico census included disaggregated indicators to capture migration-related data points, which will be captured for the first time in a report on people living in Mexico who are not permanent residents. This was done in collaboration with the Dominican Republic and IOM. Some countries are also increasing the use of "big data" to better understand human mobility within their contexts and are developing or implementing registers of their citizens living abroad.

In the African continent, the development of the forthcoming African Union observatory on migration is promising. The examples of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) guidelines on sharing data to facilitate prediction and planning related to migration, and the development of an online Observatory on smuggling that collects and disseminates data, were also mentioned. The Observatory collects and disseminates data, information and analysis on the smuggling of migrants and related crimes, with the goal of better understanding, preventing and combating it, and to protect the human rights of people who are smuggled. Through its research and data collection, the Observatory has found that demand for migrant smuggling arises from people's strong motivations for migration, combined with a lack of access to legal pathways for travel.[10] Also, through the United Nations Network on Migration, UNODC and IOM co-lead a workstream on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The UNODC 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, the sixth of its kind mandated by the General Assembly through the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, features key patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and global levels, which represent relevant data at a time when the world is grappling with multiple crises that offer a breeding ground for trafficking.

Partnerships and increased collaboration at national level between ministries and statistical offices have fed into strategic and global initiatives, including among others the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) Data Portal, which provides a single entry point to data and knowledge on migration and demography relevant to European Union policies. The Hub covers multiple aspects related to migration in Europe ranging from data on stocks, flows and children

---

[10] See www.unodc.org/res/som/index.html.

in migration, to forced displacement, demographic and socioeconomic indicators.

The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC), launched in 2020, was also presented as a way to drive data improvements, uniting the many players invested in upholding children's rights in the migration and displacement context. IDAC is a cross-sectoral global coalition comprised of governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, think tanks, academics and civil society. Its main objective is to improve statistics and data on migrant and forcibly displaced children, with the goal to support evidence-based policymaking that protects and empowers them. An interesting publication produced is the annual report of the International Data Alliance for Children on the Move from January 2023.[11]

Important data collection and research is increasingly available to help stakeholders better understand the link between migration and development, such as the report on "Migration and the SDGs: measuring progress" by IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (2022),[12] which establishes the state of the art on technical and data collection issues involved in measuring migration and SDGs. The report aims to explore migration trends within the SDGs using the latest available data and to discuss the impact of the 2030 Agenda on migration data. Further, the volume brings together and examines, for the first time, data on all indicators under SDG target 10.7, taking stock of what the international community has learned regarding how to conceptualize and monitor safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration.

South Africa has recently started introducing migration modules into key surveys, as suggested during the consultation phase of discussion around the Global Compact for Migration. These modules were first inserted into labour force surveys in 2012 and have subsequently been repeated. Morocco and South Africa are in the process of piloting modules to address indicator 10.7.2, which deals with recruitment costs. South Africa has established a National Migration and Urbanization Forum, which

---

[11] Available at https://data.unicef.org/resources/international-data-alliance-for-children-on-the-move/.

[12] Available at https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-and-sdgs-measuring-progress-edited-volume.

provides a platform for research and data with the objective of creating a space for evidence around migration debates to be shared.

As migrant surveys have gained a lot of attention, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) have been leading an initiative with the intention of producing guidelines for countries to use when implementing migrant surveys.

The Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) is working to uphold the right of youth engagement in matters that directly affect them by establishing a partnership with IDAC. As part of their joint efforts in driving commitments on research and the collection and use of data, the MYCP launched the Global Pledge for Better Data on Migrant and Displaced Children, which covers how data should be disaggregated by exact age and migration status, and how stakeholders should coordinate better data collection processes and results of national surveys.

4.5 Recommendations

Given the essential role played by data availability and use in order to understand better and leverage the impact of migration for development (and vice versa), several recommendations were presented in this regard:

► Encourage and facilitate international collaboration to establish common and comparable data sets and where possible standardize data collection and analysis methodology internationally to allow global data-sharing.

► Include data in the package of commitments that will emerge at the SDG midpoint summit later this year, to translate ambition into action.

► Since gaps in data often indicate gaps in policy, further develop data on children and young people on the move, migrants who go missing or die, women, non-binary migrants and other vulnerable groups, unsafe migration, risks of migration, and economic benefits of migration for sustainable development.

► Urgently prioritize the data needs of children on the move and commit the necessary political, technical and financial investments; the time to strengthen data systems and improve data availability, accessibility and usability is now.

► Increase collaboration between government ministries and agencies that collect data and statistical offices that can inform methodology.

► Use data disaggregated by migration type to investigate trends and differences in access to basic services, health, income expenditure related to health, and exposure to violence, compared with the general population.

► Integrate migration indicators into existing key surveys, e.g. censuses.

► Foster political, financial and human resource commitments to improve data capacity at national and international levels.

► Invest in administrative data sources, especially in regions where these are lacking, since administrative data systems are often very incomplete and often exclude births and deaths of migrants who are not permanent residents. In other sectors, such as education, health and labour, some registries are not even in existence, which further exacerbates the challenges around data production.

► Consider the different levels of capacities of different countries, since the challenges related to the data ecosystem are diverse.

► At regional level, building on the example of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) guidelines, include in the technical guidance for data collection the identification of data and indicators needed for the SDG targets and the Global Compact for Migration. This can help to bring global aspirations to practical action at regional, national and local levels.

► Invest in data and research that showcase the contributions that migrants make towards sustainable development and measurable progress on the SDGs.

4.6 Links with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration

Capturing disaggregated, high-quality data remains a priority to understand and harness the relationship between human mobility and development, inform sound and effective policies and programmes, and facilitate safe, regular migration and durable solutions, ensuring that no one is left behind in the quest for sustainable development. While migration is a cross-cutting issue in the 2030 Agenda, it is for the most part not possible to identify migrants in official SDG data – limiting our understanding of whether they are being left behind or not. The tools directly respond to the objectives laid out in the Global Compact for Migration. Progress is being made at both global and national levels, but commitments and investments need to be fostered.

This priority is reflected by IOM acceleration point 11. It is in line with the SDG target 17.18, but is also associated with 3, 10 and 16. It is compliant with Global Compact objective 1. Specifically, and similar to SDG 17.18, **the first objective of the Global Compact for Migration calls for States to "collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies".** It is important to realize that accurate and disaggregated data represent the first objective of the Global Compact for Migration, as these are fundamental to being able to achieve all the other 22 objectives.

5. THEMATIC AREA 2 – PANEL 2: EMPOWERING DIASPORAS AND MIGRANTS AS DEVELOPMENT AGENTS

5.1 Overview

We live in an ever-interconnected world in which communities and individual experiences increasingly transcend geographic boundaries. More and more of us live transnational lives, caring about and contributing to multiple localities simultaneously. Transnational communities, composed of migrants and diasporas, play an invaluable role in the life and growth of the various societies in which they participate. They create bridges that allow the sharing and dissemination of knowledge, ideas, values, technology and economic resources. As such, these communities are important actors that can accelerate countries' achievement of sustainable development, as framed within the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

While this is commonly accepted and even features prominently in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (specifically, under its objectives 19 and 20), there remains a scarcity of data on the contributions that transnational communities make to sustainable development. Migrants' economic contributions to their countries of origin in the form of remittances have been well documented. The latest World Bank data show that they continued to increase over the past year and are the most significant international financial flow for many low- and middle-income countries. Remittances are an important source of private capital and their importance has been widely recognized in developing

human capital. However, important as they are, remittances only capture a small fraction of the multitude of ways in which migrants' and diasporas' economic capital contributes to their countries of origin and residence. Other sources of diaspora economic capital, such as investment, business development and trade, are also important. However, data on these contributions can be difficult to source.

When engaging in humanitarian and development activities, diasporas face multiple challenges in terms of building trust with key actors, seeking funding to sustain their initiatives, and ensuring the existence and sustainability of their projects. These challenges depend on establishing adequate conditions to facilitate their successful engagement. To ensure prosperity, it becomes essential that stakeholders systematically work together to recognize diaspora contributions, capital and potential, while strengthening the capacity-building of diaspora organizations, particularly in financial and organizational management. Moreover, key actors that engage in transnational operations should further institutionalize their communication channels and expand their areas of collaboration targeting specific populations and locations.

Allowing migrants and diaspora to maximize their economic contributions to development requires their enablement. Such support may constitute stabilizing the employment opportunities of migrant workers in host countries, supporting returning migrants, improving access to financial inclusion in developing countries, providing an enabling regulatory environment, reducing remittance costs and improving the data related to transaction costs.

Objective:
Provide a platform for migrants and diasporas to share their experiences and views on how to strengthen diaspora contributions in development.

5.2   Summary of main discussion points

- It is crucial to create effective and **whole-of-society strategies** to guarantee social and economic integration of migrants and the communities they call home.

- Mobilizing and empowering women and youth is key to leveraging human mobility for development.

- The **power of diaspora** to drive development is key; this is connected with the need to invest in the collective leadership of migrant communities.

- **Remittances** are an important contribution to national GDPs and an accelerator for economic and social development. **Diaspora entrepreneurship** is valuable to both host countries and countries of origin, as well as diasporas' **knowledge, skills and technology transfers.**

- The need to establish national skills development policies, capacity-building and education programmes in developing countries exists, as a way to increase migrants' opportunities and job security, and improve migrants' skills and financial power.

- Governments and financial institutions must work together to create **inclusive financial and digital infrastructure** that facilitates international exchanges.

- Host countries **need to promote welcoming communities** for migrants that are embedded in inclusivity and non-discrimination and elevate migrants' opportunities for employment, business creation, access to services, information and governance.

5.3 Shared challenges

Speakers and participants agreed that in order to effectively leverage the positive impact that transnational communities (including migrants and diasporas) have upon communities, some existing challenges need to be addressed. Since remittances continuously prove to be an important tool for economic and social development, there is an urgent need to **build financial systems that promote inclusion** and financial literacy.

Participants agreed on the need to foster **national skills development policies and programmes, capacity-building and education** (both in person and digital), using official development assistance. This will subsequently enhance migrants' opportunities and job security and improve the quality of their services, which increases their financial literacy and thus their remittances.

There is also a need to promote **whole-of-society strategies** in order to guarantee social and economic integration of migrants and host communities. The need to invest in the collective leadership within migrant communities and their organizations was also emphasized.

In line with issues raised during Panel 1, the **criticality of data** was also recognized; there is a need for increased quality and quantity of data **on the impact mobile populations have on development** (i.e. remittances, entrepreneurship and related issues); this is critical in informing policy and advocacy for mobile populations. It is crucial to build **multi-stakeholder, multisector partnerships** to push policies and investments aimed at elevating the potential of diasporas as an essential force both domestically and internationally. There is a need to leverage global collaboration to link global, national and local partners and involve all relevant actors to put policies into practice.

5.4 Good practices and progress made

Panellists and speakers from the floor shared several good practices that show the commitment towards recognizing and leveraging the invaluable role that transnational communities, composed of migrants and diasporas, play in the life and growth of the various societies in which they participate, those of origin, transit and destination. Bangladesh, for example, reported on the progress made on migration management through a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach by working closely with local governments, lawmakers, civil society, migrant workers, NGOs, private sectors, United Nations agencies and foreign governments. The sizeable flows of remittances have contributed to Bangladesh's GDP and overall economic development. The Central Bank of Bangladesh tripled the ceiling on the cash incentives scheme, whereby remittances beneficiaries received a 2 per cent bonus on transfers up to USD 5,000; "wage earners' development bonds", bonds that can be purchased against foreign currency, are also an interesting model.[13] Also, 43 per cent of the financial flows from the Bangladesh diaspora are directed to various forms of charity. When Bangladesh announced a lockdown following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Bangladeshi diaspora launched a campaign called #BacharLorai (which means Fight for Survival) to mobilize funds to distribute food supplies to tens of thousands of people and has proved to be a good model. The nation also established an Expatriate Welfare Bank that works as a critical link between the diaspora and the country. Several platforms also exist to collect diasporas' fundraising efforts; one that was mentioned is United 24,[14] which allows donations to Ukraine and is designed for collaboration between diaspora, charities, partners and donors worldwide.

Other countries, like Portugal, are working to support migrant organizations financially and empowering diasporas in policies and programmes as a way to further social inclusion. The Philippines reported

---

[13] See www.bb.org.bd/investfacility/2023_wage_broch_eng.pdf.

[14] See https://u24.gov.ua.

on their law creating the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) with the function of protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), regardless of their status and their means of entry into the country of destination, and to formulate and implement policies in relation to overseas employment and reintegration. This law has made the Philippines the first country in the world to include in its law a progressive realization of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. While the Global Compact is a non-binding framework, it will now be legally enforced in the Philippines through this law.[15] The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) has established engagement platforms that allow direct contact, integration and exchange between diaspora groups worldwide.

All speakers recognized how creating welcoming communities contributes to achieving sustainable development, resilience to authoritarianism and a sense of *esprit de corps*, and encourages more individuals to see themselves as stakeholders in their communities, economies and democracies and ensures that no individual is left behind. In this regard, some good practices were mentioned such as the initiative "Welcoming America",[16] which advocates for the need to establish welcoming communities and promote narratives around migrants that are embedded in inclusivity, regardless of race, religion, origin and gender identity. The vision is to establish a welcoming infrastructure to cultivate a society that is ingrained in cohesion, trust and networking in ways that elevate migrants' opportunities for employment, establishing businesses, receiving services and accessing information in languages other than English. Welcoming America works with a network of communities to help migrants systematically reduce barriers to civic, social and economic participation in collaboration with civil society, the private sector, philanthropy, and migrant communities and mutual aid organizations. As was shown during the rapid arrival of Afghans and Ukrainians, communities with established welcoming infrastructure have been more resilient and able to respond rapidly and incorporate people, and they have done so with the leadership of migrant communities themselves – tapping into their lived experience and networks.

---

[15] See https://migrationnetwork.un.org/practice/creation-department-migrant-workers-created-under-republic-act-no-11641.

[16] See https://welcomingamerica.org/about/.

In some countries of origin there are programmes that facilitate the return of diaspora and migrants, such as the "Year of Return" in Ghana, intended to position Ghana as a key travel destination for African-Americans and the African diaspora, in ways in which tourism can also promote business and development.[17]

The African Union Commission developed the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA)[18] and its Plan of Action, which provides the umbrella policy guidelines for African Union Member States and regional economic communities (RECs). In addition to providing guidelines in nine thematic areas, namely Migration Governance, Labour Migration and Education, Diaspora Engagement, Border Governance, Irregular Migration, Forced Displacement, Internal Migration, Migration and Trade, and Other Cross-Cutting Issues, the revised framework reflects the current migration dynamics in Africa and offers a strategic framework to guide Member States and RECs in the management of migration.

5.4.1   Recommendations

Speakers reinforced the importance of creating effective and whole-of-society strategies to guarantee social and economic integration of migrants and the communities they call home, as well as to leverage further and more effectively the role of transnational communities for the benefits and the development of all the communities involved. They recommended to:

▶ Invest in the collective leadership of migrant communities.

▶ Lower the cost of remittances and promote migrants' financial inclusion and literacy; improved financial literacy and training helps to support migrant businesses, social networking and entrepreneurship.

---

[17] See www.yearofreturn.com/about/.
[18] See https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/35956-doc-au-mpfa-executive-summary-eng.pdf.

► Encourage governments and financial institutions to work together to create financial and digital infrastructure that is inclusive and facilitates international exchanges with the possibility of mobile transfers.

► Include diaspora in decision-making and governance as a way to contribute to providing feedback and input on essential matters and create effective policies to deal with diaspora and migration-related issues; this can be achieved through the establishment of advisory committees or consultative bodies that can provide input and feedback on policies and programmes that affect them.

► Address issues surrounding governance and lack of economic opportunities to promote better conditions for individuals to thrive and contribute to their respective communities.

► Partner with diasporas that can play a key role in the development of their countries of origin by transferring knowledge, skills and technology.

► Provide visa accessibility and pathways to allow both resettlement and the chance for return to undocumented migrants, thus allowing members of the diaspora to maintain their transnational relationships and fully meet their potential as workers and community members.

► In host countries, nurture migrant-led initiatives and promote migrants' skills development.

► Diasporas, especially those living in developed countries, can help push official development assistance (ODA) policies in advanced countries. It is important that developed countries fulfil their ODA commitments and deliver at least 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their GNI to the least-developed and most vulnerable countries.

► Promote a tripartite model involving the diaspora, development partners and national governments to leverage remittances as well as ODA in realizing national development priorities.

► Governments, financial institutions and development organizations can work together to promote financial and digital inclusion for diasporas and displaced persons; this can involve creating policies and regulations that facilitate access to financial services, investing in digital infrastructure, providing financial literacy training, and supporting entrepreneurship and business development. A skilled workforce is an asset for both host country and country of origin.

► Address the root causes of migration and displacement and create conditions that enable people to stay in their communities and contribute to their development; this requires addressing issues such as incomplete governance, poverty, conflict, lack of economic opportunities and poor environmental conditions that force people to leave their homes in search of better lives.

► Create narratives of belonging and inclusion for all in order to leave no one behind.

5.4.2 Links with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration

Empowering transnational communities, migrants and diasporas to catalyse their development contributions and to harness the benefits of human mobility as a source of sustainable development, both for countries of origin and destination, is crucial and sits at the core of the relation between human mobility and development. Migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination.

This priority is reflected by IOM acceleration point 5. It is in line with the SDG targets 5, 8, 9, 10 and 17. It is compliant with Global Compact for Migration objective 19.

6. THEMATIC AREA 3 – TOWARDS THE ACCELERATION OF SDG 3 IMPLEMENTATION: ENSURING AN INCLUSIVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH

6.1   Overview

The first United Nations high-level meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage in New York, held in 2019, resulted in the adoption of a political declaration that explicitly mentions addressing the needs of migrants, refugees and internationally displaced persons (IDPs) and represented a significant milestone for global development, global health and migration health goals. At the 2018 HLM on the Fight Against Tuberculosis, the resulting political declaration recognized migrants as an affected population that often experienced catastrophic economic and social impacts and burden due to the disease. The HLM on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response will be the first United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting of its kind and presents a key opportunity to discuss enabling human mobility as part of resilient pandemic preparedness and response, a topic that has been discussed in recent IOM governing bodies' meetings.

This IDM session provided the space for Member States and key stakeholders to discuss how migration can be included in upcoming UNGA HLM discussions and outcomes,[19] and to identify the opportunities to promote the health and empowerment of refugees and migrants therein, including in terms of disaggregating development data and outcomes by migratory status, age, sex/gender, disability status and other dimensions. The discussions also built on the outcomes of the recent IMRF and garnered interest from Member States to reinforce further the importance of ensuring health for migrants and equitable access to health services in order to recover from public health emergencies. These aspects are to be featured in the political declaration, the outcome document of the SDG Summit and plans for the upcoming third global consultation on health of migrants and refugees, where monitoring health outcomes and a global research agenda on this topic are proposed for discussions. Recommendations made will feed into the IOM inputs to the SDG Summit and relevant ongoing work through the United Nations Network on Migration.

Objective:
Identify the opportunities to promote the health and empowerment of refugees and migrants therein.

---

[19] In September 2023, UNGA High-level Week will feature several meetings on key cross-cutting issues of particular interest to migration and ensuring equitable access to services to recover from emergencies, with three HLMs related to health, on Universal Health Coverage; Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, and the Fight Against Tuberculosis.

6.2 Summary of main discussion points

- Access to health care is a human right for all, including migrants and refugees, regardless of administrative or legal status, and it is protected by several international conventions.

- Universal health coverage (UHC) inclusive of migrants and refugees is necessary to achieve SDGs; the costs of excluding migrants from UHC in host nations are higher than the costs of including them.

- **Good practices** for advancing this agenda include (a) **cross-border collaboration** between multiple sectors for health emergency preparedness; (b) practices to address the **unique health needs of migrant women, children and adolescents;** (c) the power of **community engagement and leadership** in health programmes; (d) **generation and sharing of data** on health outcomes and the **barriers** faced by migrants; (e) the role of **health professional diaspora** in both sending and receiving communities; and (f) **durable solutions in health** for internal displacement.

- The integration of **migrants' needs and perspectives** in health programmes, along with the inclusion of civil society organizations and diasporas to improve health of migrants and refugees.

- **Children, adolescents and youth,** who make up a substantial proportion of affected populations and have unique needs, need to be engaged in health policies.

- Some destination and transit countries face specific challenges such as hypermobility of migrants, intensification of migration,

cultural and linguistic difficulties, and raising migrants' awareness around risks. **Technical support and collaboration are needed.**

- **Building strong health systems and health-care worker capacity** is needed to develop the skills, knowledge, flexibility and cultural competence to care for refugees and migrants.

- Governments need to ensure a clear **firewall between health services and immigration authorities,** to build trust with migrants and engagement with health-care services.

6. Thematic area 3 – Towards the acceleration of
SDG 3 implementation: ensuring an inclusive Universal Health

6.3 Shared challenges

Speakers and participants agreed that **UHC inclusive of migrants and refugees is necessary to achieve the SDGs, especially SDG 3.** The costs of excluding migrants from UHC in host nations are higher than the costs of including them. Also, it was made clear that access to health care is a human right for all, including migrants and refugees, regardless of administrative or legal status, and is protected by several international conventions.

Some **destination and transit countries face specific challenges,** such as hypermobility of migrants, intensification of migration, cultural and linguistic difficulties, difficulty in addressing specific diseases, or informing migrants of specific vulnerabilities they may be facing. These issues, in addition to human trafficking and violence, have a cost, and no country should be expected to cover the huge financial burden of addressing these challenges alone. Support, especially from health experts, and collaboration are needed to address these challenges.

Speakers highlighted the **need for essential health services surrounding migration to include psychological support and services tailored to the needs of specific groups, such as returning migrants and those internally displaced.** Country representatives also emphasized the importance of building health-care worker capacity to develop the skills, knowledge and flexibility to care for refugees and migrants. They also raised the need to ensure that governments have a clear and explicit firewall between health services and immigration authorities, and understand the importance of empowering migrants and refugees through building health literacy and trust. They addressed critical non-medical factors such as xenophobia, access to social support networks, employment, education and language accessibility as factors that must be addressed to achieve SDG 3.

Many countries highlighted that while they strive to provide equal access to care for migrants at the same level as citizens of their country, **it is not always clear how to include irregular or undocumented migrants or people without identification**. Some groups, like pastoral communities that migrate across international borders, face specific challenges requiring regional and cross-sectoral collaboration, given the increased risk faced within cross-border areas, both from increased volumes of migration and from potential transmission of infectious diseases.

All stakeholders recognized how **climate change and extreme weather events can precipitate migration and health crises,** especially in the context of fragile health systems.

6.4   Good practices

Several transformative practices and lessons learned were shared in the panel discussion and interactive dialogue by Member States, United Nations partners and key stakeholders from across the world. Speakers and participants highlighted how **progress can be made,** through:

(g) **Cross-border collaboration** between multiple sectors for health emergency preparedness;

(h) Practices to address the **unique health needs of migrant women, children and adolescents;**

(i) The power of **community engagement and leadership** in health programmes;

(j) **Generation and sharing of data** on health outcomes and the barriers faced by migrants;

(k) The crucial role of **health professional diaspora** in both sending and receiving communities;

(l) **Durable solutions in health** for internal displacement, among others.

The call for inclusion of migrants and human mobility considerations from Thailand and Morocco, as the co-facilitators for the 2023 General Assembly High-level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage and on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, respectively, was very encouraging in advancing this agenda.

In terms of country-specific good practices, Morocco, for example, has adopted the National Health Immigration Plan 2021–2025, which aims precisely to guarantee access to health services for migrant populations regardless of their status, but also aims to contribute to the reduction of specific vulnerabilities impacting the health of this population. In this framework, regular and irregular migrants on Moroccan soil benefit free of charge from the services offered by a primary health-care network that offers a primary health-care package that covers sexual health care and reproductive health, as well as vaccination and general consultation.

6.4.1   Recommendations

This panel **generated concrete important recommendations and calls for action for the acceleration of SDG 3 implementation and the inclusion of migrants within the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda.** These include:

► People-centred approaches are needed to improve access to health care for migrants, who should have the same access as citizens of the country.

► Health care for migrants should consider cultural, linguistic, age, gender-appropriate and trauma-informed needs.

► Needs of migrants should be included and considered during the early conception of health policies; and all migrants' needs at all stages, including pre-departure, in transit, in the destination country and on return to the home country should be accounted for.

► Health services should be equally accessible to citizens and migrants, including irregular or undocumented migrants, those without identification and internally displaced persons.

► Provision of quality, accessible care to migrants requires training of health-care workers to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

► Governments should maintain firewalls between health and immigration services, to build trust with migrants and engagement with health-care services.

► Ensuring access to safe water and sanitation services is key to achieving SDG 3.

► Improved methods of data collection, analysis, standardization and dissemination are required to make evidence-based policy decisions and to coordinate international responses to migrant health needs.

► International, regional and cross-border collaboration and data-sharing should be encouraged, as well as collaboration between different levels of subnational and national governments and local communities.

► Children, adolescents and youth, women, people with disabilities, elderly persons and other vulnerable groups should be involved in policy considerations and decision-making.

► International dialogue including civil society organizations to share best practices and data-driven approaches that have improved access and quality of health care for migrants and refugees should be promoted.

► Collaborations with civil society organizations and diasporas to address migrant health needs should be expanded.

► International cooperation and support are needed to address health issues that disproportionately affect migrants, including human trafficking and violence against and exploitation of migrants.

► Member States should, in advance of the SDG Summit and Summit of the Future, take a more comprehensive stock of their progress towards achieving SDG 3 and ensure that their new forward-looking commitments include the rights of all migrants to access UHC. This would include addressing access to education, economic opportunity and social support for refugees and migrants.

6.5 Links with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration

Expanding and improving access to UHC for migrants remains a priority, in order to leave no one behind and leverage the potential that human mobility brings in order to strengthen the achievement of SDG 3. This IDM session and the upcoming series of high-level United Nations meetings on tuberculosis, pandemic preparedness and inclusive UHC are further opportunities to address the needs associated with this agenda.

This priority is reflected by IOM acceleration point 10. It is in line with the SDG target 17.18, but is also associated with targets 3, 10 and 16. It is compliant with Global Compact for Migration objective 1.

7. THEMATIC AREA 4: ENGAGING YOUTH TO CAPITALIZE ON THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND DISASTERS, AND FOR GREENING THE ECONOMY

7.1   Overview

In recent years, young people all over the globe have mobilized to raise awareness of the need to take more action to fight climate change and deliver on the promises of achieving the 17 SDG goals of the 2030 Agenda. Young people today are fully aware of the challenges the world is facing because of the climate crisis and how climate change impacts can jeopardize their future, but they also acknowledge the opportunities that lie ahead.

While the climate crisis affects everyone everywhere, its impacts are greater on those most vulnerable, such as children and youth. When facing adverse climatic conditions that very often intersect with other social, political and economic factors, people engage in different forms of migration, either within their countries or abroad. Children and youth face

specific challenges during their migration or displacement experiences, especially as it occurs at a crucial time in their emotional, cognitive, physical and social development. When moving, they are exposed to a variety of risks such as abuse, trafficking and exploitation. However, specific vulnerabilities of children and young migrants in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster remain underexplored and their specific needs are often overlooked in climate migration-related policy processes. In this context, IOM, UNICEF and other partners in 2022 jointly released a set of guiding principles that looks at protecting children on the move in the context of climate change. However, much more needs to be done. In the context of climate and environmental change, migration can either aggravate young people's challenges or boost their opportunities.

Looking at the future, predictions indicate that many more people will be on the move within their own countries because of the adverse effects of climate change, continuing to expose children and youth to a variety of risks. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its sixth report of 2022 highlights that "Regions with more youthful populations – such as sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Central America – are both highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, and reliant on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries for livelihoods. (…) In these vulnerable regions, climate change compounds other drivers such as poverty to increase youth out-migration to urban areas or other regions (medium confidence), which can further worsen rural economies."[20]

Migration can also offer young people new opportunities and horizons, such as the chance to improve skills, access alternative livelihoods and pursue education, as well as being a strategy to adapt to the changing climate. Where possible, migration has to be a choice, especially for youth to explore their full potential. However, climate change impacts, especially in rural areas, can lead to a decline in youth employment opportunities, which in conjunction with other drivers can increment youth movement from rural to urban areas. Youth can be effective partners in addressing climate change-induced migration, recovering the rural areas and engaging in local responses in cities, for example. However, in order for them to engage in policy development, there is a need to ensure access to quality

---

[20] See www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/.

7. Thematic area 4: Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and for greening the economy

education, dignified employment opportunities, skills and knowledge to adapt to a changing world and climate.

Objective

Explore how to foster youth engagement in green activities that can build their resilience, accelerate climate action and contribute to addressing the environmental drivers that compel them to move.

7.2   Summary of main discussion points

- The linkages between climate change and human mobility are strong, and the **effects of climate change on youth** are disproportionate.

- Innovative green economy solutions need **the right investment** to accelerate green economic activities and prevent future greater costs. **Access to finance** is essential.

- Some **good practices** include platforms for collaboration between countries that are climate vulnerable, direct funding for climate-driven loss and damage for climate-vulnerable countries to invest towards green development, the empowerment of youth to promote climate diplomacy and ambitious climate actions, and dedicated funding and awards for best practices developed by migrants and diasporas.

- Other important actions include **local collaboration in green energy,** conservation and coastal protection; local actors' roles in promoting green economies; and the role of remittances to support resiliency in climate-affected countries.

- **Migrants need opportunities to build innovative solutions for their countries of origin,** to accelerate the transition into green economies and increase the availability of **green jobs for youth. Youth migrants** can **influence policy decisions** by engaging with relevant industry players to drive key policy actions that lead to green economy transitions.

- **Equitable distribution of the opportunities** related to the transition to green economies and markets is crucial for the legitimacy of the green transition and for addressing the drivers of migration.

- **Education on climate change,** coherently funded and systematically introduced in curricula, is key to developing a "green civic spirit" and it is an indispensable precursor to young people taking up green careers for their communities.

- **Good urban planning** and support to small and medium locally owned agricultural industries needs to be promoted.

- Data, coherent policies and **multi-stakeholder engagement** (including with the private sector) are needed to develop green economies that address adaptation and resilience.

- **Mobility and settlement** can be seen as **climate solutions/ mitigation tools** for vulnerable populations and should be facilitated as such.

- The **Global Compact for Migration is the leading policy document** on addressing the role of migration and diasporas in addressing climate change and is an important guide to action.

7.3   Shared challenges

A macrochallenge that was shared by speakers and participants relates to the recognition that climate change is a risk multiplier and that climate change and limitations on mobility produce **disproportionate effects on young people.** Youth are experiencing similarities in the nature of climate change effects, across language, culture and geography; the most vulnerable and affected are also those who are the least responsible for pollution and emissions.

Climate migration, especially from areas where the strong power and visibility of climate change effects overlap with the heavy demographic weight of youth, is by its very nature an involuntary process.

It was also shared that one of the **biggest barriers to transitioning into green economies is the lack of investments and training.** Greater funding and data are necessary to drive programmes forward. Participants emphasized the need to understand that green investment and money spent on mitigation of climate change will save money in the long term by preventing catastrophes.

Different views were expressed on whether solutions should be driven by front-line communities or by international coalitions and centralized organizations.

7.4   Good practices

Several good practices were presented both by speakers and through interventions from the floor. The collaborations between countries that are especially vulnerable to a warming planet through the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) was mentioned. The Forum serves as a South–South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.[21] The platform promotes climate prosperity plans, as national investment strategies and pathways to prosperity in a climate-insecure world,[22] and it has produced interesting publications, like the V20 Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report, which analyses the loss attributable to climate change in the V20 "Vulnerable 20" nations' economies over the last 20 years (2000–2019).[23] The same forum foresees direct funding for climate-driven loss and damage going directly to the governments of especially climate-vulnerable countries for green development, and a scheme to empower youth for climate diplomacy, by funding 10 young participants through a fellowship programme to promote ambitious climate action through the next generation.

Other good practices mentioned include support for climate-displaced people, increasing pathways to migration for climate migrants. Also, the initiative Migrants for Climate led by Bangladesh at COP 27, which includes funding and an award for best practices developed by migrants and diasporas, was presented. Speakers highlighted that local collaboration in green energy, conservation and coastal protection creates social cohesion and pride, and the importance of local actors' green economies and green jobs for youth is to be recognized and fostered. It was also mentioned that remittances from members of the diaspora to support resiliency and locally based organizations in climate-affected countries are key.

---

[21] See https://thecvf.org/about/.

[22] See www.v-20.org/climate-prosperity-plans.

[23] Available at www.v-20.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Climate-Vulnerable-Economies-Loss-Report_June-14_compressed-1.pdf.

Other good practices mentioned relate to the decentralization and mobility of training programmes in rural, low-income and climate-vulnerable communities, such as using mobile training equipment and enabling educators to travel outside of cities. Ghana's representative mentioned the policy of a five-year tax holiday in Ghana that allows young people to invest fully in communities, education and projects, as well as the availability of green bonds for youth. The regional collaboration centres sponsored by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and East African Development Bank, which aim to integrate efforts between intergovernmental organizations and development banks to support national climate action through capacity-building, technical assistance and strategic networking – sourcing know-how and resources to drive clean development and support agricultural enterprises and small and intermediate-size businesses – provide an example of multilateral cooperation.

Speakers from the floor cited the situation of refugees who often take up subsistence farming in settlements, which can be either a strain on local land resources or a low-emission way of providing resources for vulnerable people. The Loss and Damage Fund proposed at COP27,[24] which would allow those who are most affected, but least responsible for climate change to receive some amount of compensation, was also mentioned.

---

[24] See https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-reaches-breakthrough-agreement-on-new-loss-and-damage-fund-for-vulnerable-countries.

7. Thematic area 4: Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and for greening the economy

7.5   Recommendations

The need to take more action to fight climate change and deliver on the promises of achieving the 17 SDGs goals of the 2030 Agenda is urgent. Several recommendations were raised by speakers and participants to propose concrete climate actions towards this end. Some examples include:

► Investing in adaptation and mitigation to prevent losses and promote the creation of new green and decent jobs that are localized and contribute to low-carbon development and resilience of communities at risk. Every young person who gets such a job as a result of these investments, be it in renewable energy, coastal protection or otherwise, is a proud contributor to their community and its chances to preserve itself better in the midst of the climate crisis.

► Investing in education on climate change, coherently funded and systematically introduced in curricula to develop a "green civic spirit" to mainstream environmental care and awareness from childhood onwards and as precursor to young people taking up green careers.

► Making green jobs available for youth, especially migrant youth and their host communities.

► Empowering small and intermediate-size landowners in the agricultural industry, rather than supporting large-scale and non-locally owned agricultural businesses.

► Noting the potential stress to infrastructure caused by rural to urban migration, investing in good urban planning can mitigate this stress and promote open spaces for positive interaction.

► Conducting greater analysis of how energy projects affect host communities, considering how the green energy sector has often displaced people (for example in the case of hydroelectric dams).

► Scaling up the prosperity plans made by national governments in collaboration with international organizations.

► Investing in skills transfer programmes that allow migrants to put their educations to use in local economies and green projects in countries of destination.

► Promoting a coherent, flexible policy framework on green jobs co-created by youth for youth and rooted in local realities, comparative advantages and development challenges, bringing youth expertise into the process from the beginning.

64

7. Thematic area 4: Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and for greening the economy

7.6   Links with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration

Many more people will be on the move within their own countries and internationally because of the adverse effects of climate change, increasing children's and youths' risks and vulnerabilities. Youth can be effective partners in addressing climate change-induced migration, if the right conditions are in place. The need to take more action to fight climate change and deliver on the promises of achieving the 17 SDGs goals of the 2030 Agenda is urgent.

This priority is reflected by IOM acceleration point 8, connected to SDGs, 7, 8, 13 and 16, as well as Global Compact for Migration objective 2, which calls for minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, including natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

8. THEMATIC AREA 5: BUILDING RESILIENT AND PEACEFUL CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

8.1 Overview

The global domain faces many critical issues that significantly undermine future peace and security. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the essentiality of fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies free from fear and violence, which are embedded in human rights (including the right to development), the effective rule of law and governance at all levels. To this aim, more resources must be invested into peacebuilding, support for conflict prevention and reduction of global security threats, in alignment within the framework of peace and sustainability.

Some 56 per cent of the world's population lives in cities and, over the coming decades, this trend is expected to continue, with the urban population more than doubling its current size by 2050.[25] Cities can be hot spots of growth and prosperity, where development gains benefit millions of people; at the same time, they can be places where poverty and inequality, criminal violence, conflict and disaster risks concentrate.[26] Within cities, the interplay of risks and vulnerabilities is particularly

---

[25] See www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html.

[26] See https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/how-reducing-inequality-will-make-our-cities-safer.

complex, and when these spill over into urban crises, cities can work as an amplifier challenging traditional models of humanitarian response and playing a dynamic role in crossing the humanitarian–peace–development divide through innovative, community-led solutions.

In climate-vulnerable and conflict-affected and fragile countries, climate change and disasters are placing additional pressure on cities. Rural–urban migrants, IDPs, people displaced across borders and international migrants may end up living in peri-urban informal settlements with limited access to services, infrastructure and systems. In turn, urban sprawl puts pressure on land and natural resources, resulting in undesirable outcomes. Cities currently represent two thirds of global energy consumption and generate more than 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions.[27] As urbanization continues, climate-resilient infrastructural investment grows ever more critical.

Cities must develop sustainable mechanisms that are resilient and adaptable to these growing and interlocking challenges. Cities and communities are already on the front lines of inclusive, people-centred responses to these challenges, establishing policy and practical solutions that create opportunities for everyone to thrive, as called for by SDG 11, with related multiplier effects throughout all 17 of the SDGs. Community-driven models that put people at the heart of urban governance, regardless of migratory status, gender, ability, ethnicity, age or any other factor, can be inspiring pathways that national governments and the international community can learn from, emulate and solidify into longer-term policies and approaches.

Based on the understanding that communities can be drivers for their own care and change, they should be meaningfully involved in all stages of policymaking for sustainable development. Using community-based approaches facilitates families, groups and communities to foster social cohesion and integration and encourage recovery and resilience. These approaches also contribute to restoring collective structures and systems essential to daily life and well-being. This is of particular importance in contexts impacted by ongoing security threats and high levels of mobility, where migrant and host communities may compete for the same scarce

---

[27] See https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/cutting-global-carbon-emissions-where-do-cities-stand.

resources. Intercommunal tensions can be reduced by building on existing community resources, being inclusive and by meaningfully involving communities in finding solutions to existing problems.

The overlapping global crises require the integration of more comprehensive approaches, such as community-driven ventures that promote reintegration, integration, resilience and community security programming. Interconnecting the central role of communities in the peacebuilding and reconciliation processes facilitates the process of addressing the different dynamics of (re)integration and resilience of different target groups, including migrants and receiving communities.

Objective
To identify and address the challenges in fostering and enabling environments to promote the integration and inclusion of migrants towards a sustainable peace in an era of rapid urbanization.

8.2 Summary of main discussion points

- **Community engagement (including of migrants and citizens) and community policymaking** are complementary concepts that work together to create peaceful and inclusive cities.

- Through community engagement, communities feel empowered to make positive changes in their neighbourhoods. By empowering **communities to take ownership of public safety and building trust,** a shared sense of responsibility for community well-being can be created.

- **Migrants need to be integrated in communities** through better access to education, language training, organizing housing and social networks. Migrants are partners and problem solvers, and contribute to practices that are beneficial for the overall community's well-being.

- Sustainable **development of secondary cities and rural areas** is needed to provide economic opportunities for youth who may otherwise leave, and for migrants who would otherwise gravitate to megacities where living conditions are challenging.

- Some **good practices** include community-based models that are people-driven and inclusive of migrants and other minorities; provision of psychosocial support and of skills and language training can help migrants integrate and contribute to sustainable development in their host community.

- Joint initiatives between migrant and host communities that pursue common interests **can foster a sense of community**, the modernization of labour laws can contribute to migrant workers' rights and protection, plans and programmes to combat racial discrimination and xenophobia are essential.

8.3   Shared challenges

There was consensus on the fact that although progress on inclusion is evident, more efforts are needed at a faster pace in order to achieve "Leave no one behind" effectively and build peaceful communities for all. There was a common agreement on the need to establish a sense of esprit de corps and belonging for migrants in host communities and provide them with the opportunity to influence urban governance.

There was also the collective understanding that cities, societies and communities must be safe, inclusive and sustainable, and address factors that cultivate exclusion; this work requires a preliminary consideration and assessment of "who is currently excluded". Women's and children's vulnerabilities in urban areas remain issues of concern for many communities. Access to essential services and resources such as health care, safety, housing and work opportunities for migrants in host communities is often lacking or limited. Two of the main barriers to healthy, resilient cities that were mentioned are (a) problems of mental health and psychosocial well-being, with which we all became familiar during the COVID pandemic, and (b) intercommunal conflict in times of mobility that can pit migrants against hosts and animate further conflict.

Climate change has severely impacted cities and communities that are geo-strategically more vulnerable, prompting migration. Some countries experience specific challenges, due for example to their size and diversity, such as Brazil, which with 5,568 cities over an area of 8.5 million square kilometres faces the challenge of facilitating sustainable migration policies that cover all sectors and regions within the country. Bangladesh faces not only climate change challenges from flooding, growing population density and periodic cycles of rising sea levels, but also hosts millions of political migrants from Myanmar, who live in a climate-vulnerable coastal area. Civil society representatives from Latin America raised the issue of inequality and violence, and increasing demands to build social justice, especially for women, who are often the subjects of violence, trafficking and murder.

8.3.1 Good practices

Several good practices were presented, which can represent interesting case studies for adaption and inspiration. Some of these good practices relate to **migrants' inclusion**, as in the case of Bangladesh, which has launched a programme in multiple cities where migrants are given paths to citizenship to be harmoniously integrated, welcomed into their respective communities and treated as fellow citizens by local populations. Also in Bangladesh, climate-conscious and sustainable infrastructure and design are considered in constructing migrant facilities (e.g. health-care centres in Bangladesh being rebuilt on stilts, with solar panels).

Along similar lines, Brazil is developing new **comprehensive national migration policies** achieved through inclusion and plural debate across all levels of society and government that conjure unique perspectives on migration issues. South Africa has developed a national plan in close cooperation with the IOM to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. South Africa also advocates for the need to strengthen the provision of legal documentation and civil registration; in this sense, capacity-building and technology transfers between countries are essential. In 2018, China established immigration centres in areas where foreigners are more concentrated, as well as service platforms consisting of multilingual portal websites that provide essential information regarding immigration news, laws, policy interpretation and services in English.

Others practices relate to **women's and youth empowerment.** Honduras recently passed a law that will accelerate women's participation in local councils, to encourage women and young people to participate in community decision-making and local governance.

It was also mentioned that **Peacebuilding Funds** have greatly contributed to providing support to returning migrants in El Salvador by ensuring their access to education and economic opportunities.[28]

---

[28] Peacebuilding Funds are financial instruments developed by the United Nations and other organizations that are part of the United Nations System to support countries at risk or affected by violent conflicts. The United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, for instance, has allocated nearly USD 1.67 billion to 65 recipient countries over 2006–2021 to support peacebuilding initiatives.

The project "**Community policing without borders**",[29] implemented by IOM in Belgium and Luxemburg, was also referenced; this strives to promote representation through better recruitment, better complaint mechanisms for crimes that affect the most vulnerable, and better access to justice and services, creating structural cohesion within communities.

---

[29] See https://belgium.iom.int/community-policing-without-borders.

8.4   Recommendations

Panellists highlighted that through community engagement, communities, including migrants, feel empowered to make positive changes in their neighbourhoods and create more peaceful and inclusive cities where everyone can thrive.

Speakers and participants shared several important recommendations and suggested actions to work towards more cohesive and peaceful communities, in recognition of the fact that resilient communities, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked. These include:

► Invest programmatically in sustainable peacebuilding and social cohesion, not just humanitarian interventions, and increase the understanding of peacebuilding interventions' outcomes, in order to demonstrate their impact and mobilize additional support.

► Create welcoming national migration policies; include migrants in decision-making on policies at the local level; migrants need to be considered as co-problem solvers who can construct practices that are beneficial for the overall health of communities.

► View migrants not only as beneficiaries, but as co-partners to establish coherent cooperation.

► Promote intentional community-level design to prevent competition (and violence) between migrants and host communities over scarce resources and to promote social integration and establish mutual trust between governments and migrants.

► Promote joint initiatives where migrants and host communities share a common interest, such as children's well-being (e.g. playground design, construction and supervision), which develops trust and a sense of community in other dimensions as well.

► Ensure proper service delivery and access to migrants, such as physical and psychosocial support, as well as skills and language training that can help migrants integrate and contribute to sustainable development in their host community.

► Establish effective links, networks and transportation hubs between rural and urban societies to enhance possibilities of inclusion for migrants. Sustainable development of secondary cities and rural areas is needed to provide economic opportunities for youth who may otherwise leave, and for arriving migrants who would otherwise gravitate to megacities where living conditions are challenging.

► Promote community-driven modules to invigorate cohesion and a sense of belonging; these promote resilience through collective community security programmes, which can be achieved by providing the people with collective ownership of public safety. By investing in the integration and active participation of migrants in communities, they are more likely to participate in initiatives that will improve their neighbourhoods.

► Endeavour to increase representation of minorities in law enforcement and develop complaints processes that are accessible and welcoming to migrants, while also addressing the underlying causes of crime and disorder to establish secure and safe communities.

► Invest in community-based models at core levels of governance that are driven by people, regardless of migration status, gender, ethnicity, age, religion or other factors; these models can nurture stimulating pathways for governments to learn from, emulate and solidify into longer-term policies and approaches.

► Establish safe spaces for migrants, women and children so that they can thrive in their respective communities, reduce host–migrant tensions and increase social cohesion through mingling.

► Establish a community-based approach between migrants and host communities to construct climate-friendly cities and infrastructure to ensure resilience to climate change.

► Modernize labour laws to promote the rights and protection of migrant workers.

► Strengthen capacities of local organizations and civil society.

► Question and counteract models of exploitation that promote violence, hunger, pain and suffering, and therefore exacerbate the forced movements of women and children.

8.5 Links with the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration

For peaceful, just and inclusive societies free from violence, embedded in human rights (including the right to development), with effective rule of law and good governance, resources must be invested into peacebuilding, conflict prevention and reduction of global security threats, in alignment with the framework of peace and sustainability. The overlapping global crises require the integration of more comprehensive approaches, such as community-driven schemes that promote reintegration, integration, resilience and community security programming, inclusive of both migrants and host communities, especially at the local level.

This priority is reflected by IOM acceleration point 8. It is in line with the SDG targets 16 and 11, and is connected to several Global Compact for Migration objectives, including 12 and 19.

9. CONCLUSIONS
   AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

During the final session, main takeaways were outlined and tangible recommendations on the five prioritizing acceleration points covered during the IDM New York session were drafted, in a way that also intends to feed into the upcoming HLPF and UN-HLM on UHC.

Speakers and participants reflected on the critical role of migrants, diasporas and internally displaced persons in promoting sustainable development and achieving the 2030 Agenda, recognizing migration as a cornerstone of development, prosperity and progress since the dawn of time and mobile populations (one in eight people in the world) as part of the solution; in this sense, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will not be achieved without due consideration of human mobility. The Global Compact for Migration and the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement offer a vision to optimize the overall benefits of migration, and to prevent and resolve situations of displacement.

Participants reviewed the importance of empowering and including young people, women and girls as agents of social change and in sustainable development and social justice efforts. The essential role of migrants in community development and the importance of welcoming and inclusive policies, processes and programmes was emphasized, in line with the SDGs' commitment to "leave no one behind". The need for increased quality and quantity of disaggregated data on international migration policies and programmes was reiterated. Since international migration highlights the positive role that migrants play in sustainable development, data quality and analysis should be improved, so that such insights draw the focus to actions that will accelerate sustainable development. The need to develop safe and regular migration pathways across borders was

shared, as well as the necessity of supporting and leveraging remittances and inclusive financial systems. The importance of integrating migrants' and diasporas' human and financial capital in trade systems to boost global value chains and the green economy was also stressed, as was the importance of leveraging the role of mobile populations for climate action and preparedness. The need for universal health care as a benefit for all, with no exclusion or discrimination, was acknowledged to reduce inequalities and vulnerabilities and enable migrants' active participation and contribution to societies. Multi-government, multisector, and multi-stakeholder partnerships are key to advancing a human rights-based approach to migration management.

The need to reduce the digital access gap for people on the move and to use digitalization of economies effectively to leverage migrants' and displaced persons' innovation for the green transition and climate action was recognized, as was the importance to invest in the integration of human mobility in national adaptation plans and preparedness to address loss and damages, reduce climate-induced displacement and build resilient and peaceful cities and communities. It is critical to prioritize the inclusion and empowerment of all young people, particularly those who are most vulnerable and marginalized, including gender-diverse people, the LGBTQIA+ community, youth with disabilities and those belonging to indigenous communities. By creating policies that prioritize the well-being of all through an intersectional lens, the achievement of the SDGs can be accelerated. In addition, the call for inclusion of migrants and human mobility-related issues raised by Thailand and Morocco – as the co-facilitators for the 2023 General Assembly High Level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage and on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, respectively – was encouraging.

The dialogue has presented us with a number of accelerations points where human mobility can be leveraged to attain the SDGs. Additional concrete suggestions are outlined below:

Improvement of Data Quality and Analysis:

- All speakers underscored that improving data availability, quality and analysis is critical to supporting evidence-based policymaking. While there has been remarkable progress made in the availability and quality of data on international migration, the data are still incomplete and out of date.

- More disaggregated data are needed–statistics on migration by gender, age, territory of origin, destination and more, as well more extensive data on migratory routes worldwide.

Reduce Remittance Transaction Costs:

- Throughout the IDM, speakers acknowledged the importance of remittances in sustainable development. In 2021, a record USD 605 billion in remittances was sent by migrants to low- and middle-income countries; remittances will continue to play a key role in the progress towards the SDGs.

- Remittance transaction costs must be significantly reduced. Currently, worldwide, the average fee for remittance transactions is 6 per cent. Remittances in African countries have a 7.8 per cent fee on average. The goal is to reduce this to 3 per cent.

Promote the Inclusion and Empowerment of Women and Youth:

- Women and girls make up a significant portion of today's migrants – 56 per cent of the total migrant population. The interaction between gender and migration is a complicated and ever-evolving issue. During conflict, it is well documented that women and girls are more likely to be displaced.

- When empowered, they can help create a more sustainable and inclusive world. We must leave no one behind and ensure that the rights of women and girls are at the forefront of our sustainable development efforts and social justice movements. We must

recognize the intersectionality of gender and migration by creating policies that prioritize the well-being of women and girls.

- The critical role that the youth play in advancing the SDGs needs to be recognized and the youth need to be more meaningfully engaged in decision-making and implementation.

Increased International Cooperation:

- International cooperation is critical to leveraging migration as a driver of sustainable development and the SDGs.

Develop Safe and Regular Migration Pathways Across Borders:

- Safe, orderly and law-abiding migration is a crucial element of completing the 2023 Agenda. To this end, we must develop safe and regular migration pathways across borders.

Continue Research on Root Causes of Migration:

- There are also critical gaps in knowledge regarding the drivers of migration and human mobility (e.g. how many migrants are driven out from a lack of opportunity, political instability or climate change?)

- These gaps in understanding often lead to poor decision-making and mistrust. We have a responsibility to encourage governments and civil society to narrow this gap in knowledge.

- When we discuss the drivers and roots of migration, we are really talking about development and the challenges to promoting development. We are at the very core of the SDGs. This is a cross-cutting issue!

9. Conclusions and key takeaways

Improve Health Care of Mobile Populations:

- We must advocate for the right to health care for people on the move, with specific focus on women, youth and other vulnerable groups. This is key to reducing inequality.

- For instance, consider the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fundamental right to health care is not just in the interests of migrants, but in the interest of all communities where migrants are present.

The list below shows the correspondence between the acceleration points prioritized by IOM, the corresponding SDGs and how the IDM New York session was able to highlight some of the progress made to date to advance the diverse agenda points forward towards the achievement of the SDGs. In light of the forthcoming SDG Summit (September 2023), which will mark the midway point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and provide an opportunity to assess progress towards the SDGs, this list will prove helpful. The list is not exhaustive, however.

IOM Acceleration points prioritized and SDGs	Best practices/ Progress made by region
5. Empower diaspora groups, migrants and displaced persons, through financial inclusion SDGs associated **5 8 9 10 17**	**Asia** • Bangladesh's whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to tackle migration management. • The Central Bank of Bangladesh's cash incentives scheme, whereby remittances beneficiaries received a 2% bonus on transfers up to USD 5,000. • Bangladesh's "wage earners' development bonds" purchased against foreign currency. • Bangladeshi diaspora's campaign #BacharLorai (Fight for Survival) to mobilize funds to distribute food supplies to tens of thousands of people. • Bangladesh's Expatriate Welfare Bank, which works as a link between the diaspora and the country. • The Philippines' law to protect the rights and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), regardless of status, and of the means of entry into the country of destination; representing a progressive realization of the 23 objectives of the Global Compact for Migration. **Europe** • Platforms to collect diasporas' fundraising efforts, like United 24,[30] which allows donations to Ukraine and collaboration between diaspora, charities, partners and donors worldwide. • Portugal's work to support migrant organizations and empowering diasporas in policies and programmes as a way to further social inclusion. **Africa** • OACPS's engagement platforms that allow direct contact, integration and exchange among diaspora groups worldwide. • The "Year of Return" in Ghana, to promote Ghana as travel destination for African-Americans and the African diaspora, in a way in which tourism also supports business and development.[31]

---

[30] See https://u24.gov.ua.

[31] See www.yearofreturn.com/about/.

9. Conclusions and key takeaways

IOM Acceleration points prioritized and SDGs	Best practices/ Progress made by region
	• The African Union Commission's Migration Policy Framework for Af-rica (MPFA) and its Plan of Action, which provides the umbrella policy guidelines for African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
	Americas
	• The initiative "Welcoming America", which advocates for welcoming communities and promote inclusive narratives around migrants.

7. Empower local governments and include migrants / community-approach/ resilience and peace and security

SDGs associated
16 **11**
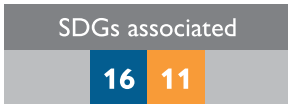
Asia
- Bangladesh's cities' programme, where migrants are given paths to citizenship and are welcomed into their respective communities.
- Bangladesh's climate-conscious and sustainable infrastructure and design in migrant facilities.
- China's immigration centres and service platforms with multilingual portal websites that provide essential information on immigration news, laws and policies

Americas
- Brazil's new comprehensive national migration policies achieved through inclusion and plural debates across all levels of society and government that create unique perspectives on migration issues.
- Honduras' law to accelerate women's participation in local councils, to encourage women and young people to participate in community decision-making and local governance.
- Peacebuilding funds that contributed to providing support to returning migrants in El Salvador by ensuring their access to education and economic opportunities.

Africa
- South Africa's national plan to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.
- South Africa's advocacy to strengthen the provision of legal documentation and civil registration for migrants.

▼
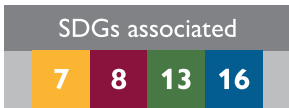
IOM Acceleration points prioritized and SDGs	Best practices/ Progress made by region
	Europe • The project "Community policing without borders," implemented by IOM in Belgium and Luxemburg to foster connections between communities and policing, and promote better access to justice and services.
8. Effectively connect recovering with greening the economy and climate action SDGs associated **7 8 13 16**	**Global** • The collaboration between countries that are especially vulnerable to a warming planet through the Climate Vulnerable Forum as a South–South cooperation platform for governments to act together to deal with global climate change, promote climate prosperity plans and produce publications like the V20 Climate-Vulnerable Economies Loss Report. The same forum foresees direct funding for climate-driven loss and damage and a programme to empower youth for climate diplomacy. • The Loss and Damage Fund, which allows those who are most affected but least responsible for climate change to receive some compensation. **Asia** • The initiative Migrants for Climate led by Bangladesh at COP 27, which includes funding and an award for best practices developed by migrants and diasporas. **Africa** • Ghana's policy of a five-year tax holiday that allows young people to invest fully in communities, education and projects, and the availability of green bonds for youth. • The regional collaboration centres sponsored by UNFCCC and East African Development Bank to integrate efforts between intergovernmental organizations and development banks to support national climate action through capacity-building, technical assistance and strategic networking.

▼

IOM Acceleration points prioritized and SDGs	Best practices/ Progress made by region

10. Ensure equitable access to services to recover-health

SDGs associated
3

Global
- Cross-border collaboration between multiple sectors for health emergency preparedness;
- Practices to address the unique health needs of migrant women, children and adolescents;
- The power of community engagement and leadership in health programmes;
- Generation and sharing of data on health outcomes;
- The work of health professional diaspora in both sending and receiving communities;
- Durable solutions in health for internal displacement;
- The call for inclusion of migrants and human mobility considerations from Thailand and Morocco, as co-facilitators for the 2023 General Assembly High-level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage and on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response.

Africa
- Morocco's National Health Immigration Plan 2021–2025 to guarantee access to health services for migrant populations regardless of their status, which contributes to the reduction of specific vulnerabilities impacting the health of this population.

11. Strengthened data, research and analysis on the interlinkages between migration and sustainable development

SDGs associated			
3	**10**	**16**	**17**

Global
- UNODC's guidelines on sharing data to facilitate prediction and planning related to migration, and the development of an online observatory on smuggling that collects and disseminates data on smuggling of migrants and related crimes, to protect the human rights of people who are smuggled.
- UNODC's and IOM's coled workstream on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- The UNODC 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which features key patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and global levels.

IOM Acceleration points prioritized and SDGs	Best practices/ Progress made by region
	• The report on "Migration and the SDGs: measuring progress," which establishes the state of the art on data collection issues involved in measuring migration and the SDGs.
	• The International Data Alliance for Children on the Move (IDAC), which drives data improvements in upholding children's rights in the migration and displacement context.
	• The initiative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and IOM-GMDAC to produce guidelines for countries to use when implementing migrant surveys.
	• The Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP) to uphold the right of youth engagement in matters that directly affect them by establishing a partnership with IDAC.
	Americas
	• Regional collaboration between Mexico, Colombia and Chile to spearhead data collection on migration with a regional perspective.
	• The 2020 Mexico census with disaggregated indicators to capture migration-related data points, performed in collaboration with the Dominican Republic and IOM.
	Africa
	• The development of the forthcoming African Union observatory on migration.
	• South Africa's introduction of migration modules into key surveys, such as labour force surveys.
	• South Africa's National Migration and Urbanization Forum, which provides a platform for research and data to create a space for evidence around migration debates to be shared.
	• Morocco's and South Africa's pilot modules to address indicator 10.7.2, which deals with recruitment costs.
	Europe
	• European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) Data Portal as a single-entry point to data and knowledge on migration and demography relevant to European Union policies.

ANNEX 1:
PARTICIPATION AND EVALUATION

The IDM was held in person on 30 and 31 March 2023 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The forum was also transmitted online via Zoom and UN WEB TV. The estimated in-person attendance was of **230 participants (Day 1)** and **125 participants (Day 2).**

During the IDM, **41 panellists and moderators** (of whom 51% were men and 49% women) attended the seven sessions, including the five thematic panels and opening and closing sessions. The geographical distribution of panellists is indicated below:

Figure 3: Geographical distribution of panellists
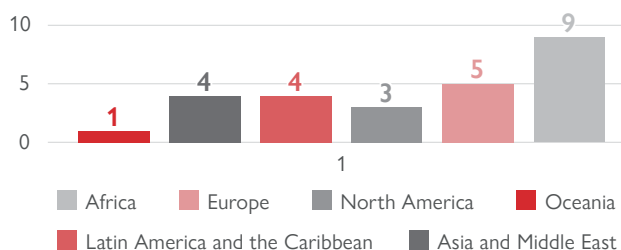
The majority of the panellists were from Africa (22%), followed by Europe (five panellists or 12%). Panellists from Asia and Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 9.7 per cent each. There were three panellists from North America, representing 7.3 per cent. Oceania was underrepresented in the IDM, with only one panellist (2%). Among the panellists, 50 per cent represented governments and other entities, 20 per cent represented the United Nations System, followed by 17 per cent of IOM staff and 12 per cent of youth representatives, as indicated below:

Figure 4: Distribution of panellists per sector
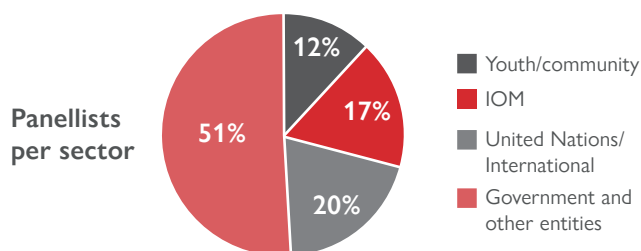
The IDM had 709 participants registered from over 130 countries. As shown in the graph below, over 41 per cent of the participants (288) were government representatives, followed by IOM staff (31%) and non-governmental organizations (15%). A total of 56 representatives came from within the United Nations system (8%), distributed over 19 agencies, programmes and specialized offices. Representatives from intergovernmental organizations and other entities comprised 3 per cent, while academia represented 2 per cent.

Figure 5: General distribution of participants registered by sector
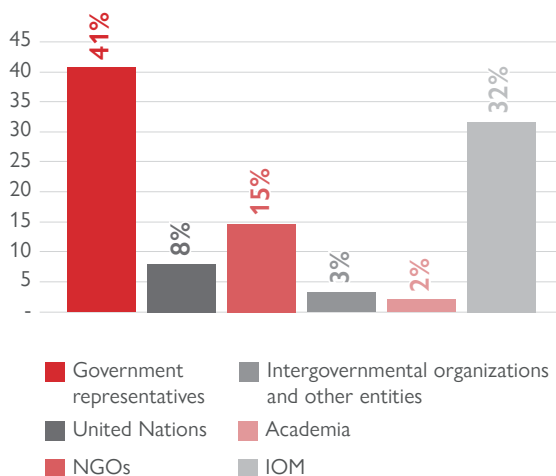
The 709 participants who registered in the IDM represented 242 entities, including 116 IOM Member States, observers and other governments (48%); 36 international, regional, national and local NGOs (36%); 19 agencies, programmes and offices within the United Nations system (8%); 11 academic institutions (5%); and three intergovernmental organizations and other entities (3%).

Out of the 175 IOM Member States, 108 (61.7%) registered at the IDM and among the eight IOM Observers, 50 per cent (4) were registered. There were also two non-Member States: Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The general geographical distribution of 112 Member States and Observers is indicated below:

- Over 27 per cent of the Member States are from Asia and the Middle East, followed by Africa and Europe (23%), Latin America and the Caribbean (19%), Oceania (3%) and North America (2%).

- Among the 41 Member States that will be presenting their Voluntary National Reviews in 2023, 23 (56%) registered at the IDM.

Figure 6: Geographical distribution of Member States and Observers registered at the IDM
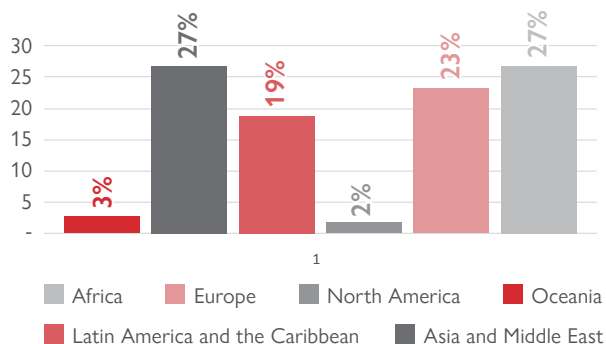
Over 100 representatives from international, regional, national and local non-governmental organizations from all continents engaged in the IDM. Regional, national and local NGOs had the greatest share of registrations, representing 73.5 per cent of the total of NGOs. NGOs from Latin America and the Caribbean represented 65.6 per cent. Over 12 per cent of organizations were from Asia and the Middle East. NGOs from Europe and Africa represented, respectively, 7.8 per cent and 6.3 per cent of the total of regional, national and local NGOs. Organizations from North America represented only 2 per cent.

Data collected from a rather small sample of participants (11) showed that all sessions were useful ahead of the SDG Summit, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the United Nations High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC-HLM) and the Summit of the Future. Participants also reported that the Conference well highlighted existing gaps in knowledge and capacities related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION SESSION 2023

Leveraging Human Mobility in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals

30–31 March 2023
New York, United States of America
Trusteeship Council Chamber,
United Nations Headquarters

10:00 – 18:00 (GMT-5)

AGENTA³²

AGENDA[32]

IOM
UN MIGRATION

Day 1, 30 March 2023	
10:00 – 11:30 New York Time	**OPENING REMARKS: Ensuring human mobility is leveraged as a crucial component to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

Context

As defined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, "migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone." Consequently, IOM applies an integrated approach to migration governance, aiming to ensure that migration and migrants' needs are pondered across all policy areas, laws and regulations, from health to education and from fiscal policies to trade.

It is important to recognize that to recover from COVID-19, the global economic downturn and climate change disasters, and achieve the SDGs, well-managed human mobility and the effective inclusion and protection of migrants becomes a fundamental pillar. This collective action must include leveraging human mobility within all policy areas under review at the 2021 HLPF, including poverty alleviation (SDG1), no hunger (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships (SDG 17).

Objective:

Analyse the interlocking factors that are hampering the strengthening of human mobility for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Master of Ceremonies:

Mr Pär Liljert, Director of the International Organization for Migration's Office to the United Nations in New York

Master of Ceremonies:

Mr Dejan Keserovic, Head of the Governing Bodies Secretariat, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

---

[32] Updated on 23 March 2023.

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
Mr António Vitorino	Director General	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Welcome remarks	In person
Ms Amina Jane Mohammed	Deputy Secretary-General	United Nations	Prerecorded message
H.E. Mr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti	Secretary General	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)	Online
Mr Stefano Sannino	Secretary General	European External Action Service, European Union	Prerecorded message
Mr Marcos Palacios	General Secretary, National Migration Institute (INM)	Republic of Honduras	In person
Mr Eduardo Paes	Mayor, Rio de Janeiro	Federative Republic of Brazil	Prerecorded message
Ms Mayada Adil	Young leader, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	United Nations	In person
11:30 – 13:00 New York Time	**PANEL 1: Strengthening migration data for action, insight and foresight**		

Context

The inclusion of migration in the SDGs was a unique opportunity to improve migration data. For instance, SDG target 17.18 calls for greater support to developing countries to increase the availability of "high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity and migratory status". This reflects a growing understanding that strengthening migration data is an important way to facilitate safe, regular migration pathways and durable solutions, ensuring no one is left behind in the quest for sustainable development. However, significant data gaps still exist in all areas of the SDGs in terms of geographic coverage, timeliness and level

of disaggregation. More action is needed to translate SDG data frameworks and Global Compact for Migration objective 1 into durable solutions and safe, regular migration pathways. Therefore, strengthening migration data remains crucial to developing evidence-based policies and programmes that enable safe, regular migration pathways and durable solutions in the context of sustainable and climate-resilient development.

Objective:
Through data, this session will illustrate the compelling positive role that migrants and diasporas play in sustainable development. The session will highlight data-driven approaches to strengthen durable solutions that are aligned with the 2030 Action Agenda and SDGs, the IDP Action Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement, and the Global Compact for Migration, among others.

Moderator:
Ms Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Co-Moderator:
Ms Koko Warner, Director, International Organization for Migration's Global Data Institute

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
Ms Adriana Oropeza	Technical Coordinator, Vice Presidency of Sociodemographic Statistics	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) Government of Mexico	Online
Ms Ann Singleton	Reader in Migration Policy	University of Bristol	In person
Mr Diego Iturralde	Chief Director, Demography Unit	Statistics South Africa, Republic of South Africa	Online
Ms Milena Franke	Youth Forum Programme Manager, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)	In person

15:00 – 16:40 New York Time	PANEL 2: Empowering diasporas, migrants and displaced persons as development agents

Context

When engaging in humanitarian and development activities, diasporas face multiple challenges in terms of building trust with key actors, seeking funding to sustain their initiatives, and ensuring the existence and sustainability of their projects. These challenges depend on establishing adequate conditions to facilitate their successful engagements. To ensure prosperity, it becomes essential that stakeholders systematically work together to recognize diaspora contributions, capital and potential, while strengthening the capacity-building of diaspora organizations, particularly in financial and organizational management. Moreover, key actors that engage in transnational operations should further institutionalize their communication channels and expand their areas of collaboration targeting specific populations and locations. Allowing migrants and diaspora to maximize their economic contributions to development requires their enablement. Such support may constitute stabilizing the employment opportunities of migrant workers in host countries, supporting returning migrants, improving access to financial inclusion in developing countries, providing an enabling regulatory environment, reducing remittance costs and improving the data related to transaction costs.

Objective

Provide a platform for migrants and diasporas to share their experiences and views on how to strengthen diaspora contributions in development.

Moderator:

Ms Aissata Kane, Senior Regional Adviser for sub-Saharan Africa, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Co-Moderator:

Mr Henri Dommel, Director of Inclusive Finance, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
Mr Masud Bin Momen	Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	In person
Ms Betty Mupenda Wangozi	Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO)	African Union Commission	Online

Dr Ibrahim Norbert Richard	Deputy Director General	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)	Online
Ms Varaidzo (Vee) Kativhu	Founder	Empowered By Vee, Youth and diaspora empowerment	Online
Dr Rana Dajani	President	Society for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Arab World (SASTA)	In person
Ms Rachel Perić	Executive Director	Welcoming America	In person
16:40 – 18:00 New York Time	**PANEL 3: Towards the acceleration of SDG 3 implementation: ensuring an inclusive Universal Health Coverage agenda**		

Context

The proposed IDM Session will provide the space for Member States and key stakeholders to discuss how migration can be included in these UNGA HLM discussions and outcomes, and to identify the opportunities to promote the health and empowerment of refugees and migrants therein, including in terms of disaggregating development data and outcomes by migratory status, age, sex/gender, disability status and other dimensions. The discussions will also bring forward the outcomes of the recent IMRF and garner interest from Member States to reinforce further the importance of ensuring health for migrants and equitable access to health services to recover from public health emergencies, to be featured in the political declaration, the outcome document of the SDG Summit and plans for the upcoming third global consultation on health of migrants and refugees, where monitoring health outcomes and a global research agenda on this topic are proposed for discussions. This will also result in recommendations that will feed into the IOM inputs to the SDG Summit and relevant ongoing work through the United Nations Network on Migration.

Objective

Identify the opportunities to promote the health and empowerment of refugees and migrants therein.

Keynote speaker:

H.E. Dr Suriya Chindawongse, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

Moderator:

Dr Poonam Dhavan, Senior Migration Health Policy Advisor, Migration and Health Department, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
Dr Abdelkrim Meziane Bellefquih	Secretary General at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection	Government of the Kingdom of Morocco	Online
Ms Vivian Lopez (on behalf of Ms Helen Clark, Board Chair of the PMNCH)	Team Lead Global and Country Engagement	Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)	In person
Dr Girum Hailu	Regional Health coordinator, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	Online
Dr Gwendolyn Pang	Secretary General of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC)	Philippine Red Cross Society	Online

Day 2, 31 March 2023	
10:00 – 11:30 New York Time	**PANEL 4: Engaging youth to capitalize on the potential of human mobility in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and for greening the economy**

Context

Migration can offer young people new opportunities and horizons, such as the chance to improve skills, access alternative livelihoods and pursue education, and the opportunity to use it as a strategy to adapt to the changing climate. Where possible, migration must be a choice, especially for youth to explore their full potential. However, climate change impacts, especially in rural areas, can lead to a decline in youth employment opportunities, which in conjunction with other drivers can increment youth movement from a rural area to an urban one. At the same time, climate change and the environment can influence the ways we work and deliver research, showing the importance of skilled workers and their significant impact on innovation and research and development in destination countries, if adequate migration policies are in place. Youth can be effective partners in addressing climate change-induced migration, recovering the rural areas and engaging in local responses in cities, among other things. However, for them to engage in policy development, there is a need to ensure access to quality education and dignified employment opportunities, to equip them with skills and knowledge in order to adapt to a changing world and climate.

Objective:

Explore how to foster youth engagement in green activities that can build their resilience, accelerate climate action and contribute to addressing the environmental drivers that compel them to move.

Moderator:

Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
H.E. Mr Ambassador Harold Agyeman	Permanent Representative	Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations	In person
Mr Vladislav Kaim	Board Member	Care About Climate	In person

Ms Krystel Sil Sikana	Adviser	African Union Diaspora Youth Initiative	Online
Mr Jyri Jäntti	Climate Change Specialist	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) in Kampala	In person

11:30 – 13:00 New York Time	PANEL 5: Building resilient and peaceful cities and communities

Context

This panel is based on the understanding that communities can be drivers for their own care and change and should be meaningfully involved in all stages of policymaking for sustainable development. Using community-based approaches facilitates families, groups and communities to foster social cohesion and integration and encourage recovery and resilience. These approaches also contribute to restoring those collective structures and systems essential to daily life and well-being. This is of particular importance in contexts impacted by ongoing security threats and high levels of mobility, where migrant and host communities may compete for the same scarce resources. Intercommunal tensions can be reduced by building on existing community resources, being inclusive, and by meaningfully involving communities in finding solutions to existing problems.

The overlapping global crises require the integration of more comprehensive approaches, such as community-driven strategies that promote reintegration, integration, resilience and community security programming. Interconnecting the central role of communities in the peacebuilding and reconciliation processes, there is a need to address the different dynamics of (re)integration and resilience processes of different target groups and sending and host communities.

Objective:

Identify tangible actions that would foster and enable environments in the integration and inclusion of migrants towards sustainable peace.

Moderator:

H.E. Mr Alhaji Fanday Turay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations and Current Africa Group Chair

Co-Moderator:

Ms Ugochi Daniels, Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
Ms Roselyn Akombe	Chief of Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships at the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	United Nations	In person
H.E. Mr Augusto de Arruda Botelho	National Secretary	Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Federative Republic of Brazil	In person
Dr Mike Wessells	Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health, Program on Forced Migration and Health	School of Public Health, Columbia University	Online
Dr Saleemul Huq	Director	International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)	Online
Mr Olivier Slosse	Head, Police Zone in Brussels North (and Champion of Community Policing Initiative)	Government of Belgium	Online

15:00 – 16:30 New York Time	CLOSING REMARKS: "Key actions to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals"

Objective:
Draft tangible recommendations on the five prioritizing acceleration points covered during the IDM New York session, towards the HLPF and UN-HLM on UHC.

Master of Ceremonies:
Mr Pär Liljert, Director of the International Organization for Migration's Office to the United Nations in New York

Speakers			
Name	Title	Organization and level of participation	Modality of participation
H.E. Mr Csaba Kőrösi	President	77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA)	Prerecorded message
H.E. Ms Lachezara Stoeva	President	United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	In person
Ms Yasmina Benslimane	Gender Specialist, Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP)	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)	In person
Mr António Vitorino	Director General	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	In person

Agenda

International Dialogue on Migration Series