

REMARKS

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“Third thematic session on “International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration”

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

INTRODUCTION

Today, we are, once again, trying to move from process to substance – – seeking practical ways to improve migration governance.

In adopting the SDG’s, Member States agreed that “safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration” can best be achieved through “planned and well – managed migration policies”.

The Global Compact on Migration is the instrument which will tell us how this is to be done.

At the first two GCM thematic sessions – – and at IOM’s “International Dialogue on Migration” in New York in April – – I heard you call for more concrete ideas to help elaborate this compact.

Here are three ideas or suggestions that IOM would like to offer in this regard:

I. First, let’s recall the road we have taken -- the guideposts that brought us to the Global Compact initiative. In other words, we don’t have to “re-invent the wheel”, to use that hackneyed but descriptive phrase.

A. States, and all of us, need, first of all, to make every effort to implement the conventions and treaties to which we agreed. For example:

- the Palermo protocols on trafficking and smuggling;
- the various Human Rights instruments.

Let's put the legislative structures in place to enforce these; and train officials to use these to protect migrants.

B. Together, over the years, we have created sound migration governance frameworks, most of which are still relevant. For example:

- ICPD Chapter 10 from the 1994 Cairo Conference.
- The International Agenda for Migration Management – – better known as the Berne Initiative.

Let's be sure these principles are incorporated into the Global Compact and then implemented.

C. There is also newer migration governance guidance. For example:

- The most comprehensive and relevant, of course, is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The Nansen Initiative Agenda for the protection of people displaced across borders as a result of disasters and climate change (now being carried forward by Germany).
- The MICIC Initiative Guidelines to Protect Migrants in Countries experiencing Conflict or Natural Disasters, one of the keys to implementing the SDG's.
- the Migration Governance Framework endorsed by IOM's Member States in 2015 (specifically focused on SDG 10.7 on planned and well-managed migration policies).

To support the coordination and coherence of all of these and other recent measures are 18 Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) established over the past 30 years, covering virtually every region and sub-region in the world – – as well as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) which, as you know, will convene its 10th session in Berlin next week under the German chair.

III. A “Whole-of-Government” — indeed, “Whole-of-Society” — approach is critical to good migration governance. For example:

A. Inter – Ministerial mechanisms can ensure that all aspects of migration policy are addressed.

B. Similar mechanisms are needed to ensure regular, sustained engagement with the critical Non— Governmental actors so key to good migration governance. For example: employer’s and recruiters of migrants; labor unions; academia; migrant and diaspora associations; and, most importantly, migrants themselves.

C. Mayors and local authorities must be at the forefront of making migration work in practice, including integration and social cohesion in particular. Their role is paramount to success. National policies need to be linked with, and informed by, local realities.

III. Enlightened global, national and local political leadership is urgently needed to counter the current context of a toxic migration narrative – – one based on historically false stereotypes of migrants and dangerous mythology.

Leaders need to improve the ways in which we collect, analyse, use and disseminate evidence, statistics and facts about migrants and migration

— To bring us back to an historically more accurate portrayal of migrants and migration, namely, a human phenomenon and reality that has been overwhelmingly positive since humankind’s earliest days.

CONCLUSION.

In implementing these three ideas, I wish to assure you of IOM’s full and continuous support in working with all of you -- Member States and partners in the UN and NGO families and beyond.