

To check against delivery

STATEMENT

William Lacy Swing, Director General

International Organization for Migration

Thematic session 2: Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crisis, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication conflict prevention and resolution.

Panel 1: Sustainable development and poverty eradication

22 May 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

Co-facilitators, distinguished panelists, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to participate in this interactive debate.

The degree to which the world is inter-connected was unthinkable even a short time ago, and in today's global economy the movement of goods, capital, and ideas across borders is both common and faster than it has ever been.

It should therefore come as no surprise that – while migration has been a constant since the beginning of time - with profound revolutions in transportation and communications making it easier and cheaper to know about and access opportunities abroad, movements of people are taking place that correspond with the realities of a more globalized world. The vast share of this migration is safe, legal, orderly – and is not only inevitable but beneficial; the lives of countless migrants, their families and home and host communities are the better for it.

IOM strongly believes that we should embrace this reality, and together seek ways to positively leverage the benefits of migration. That is, we should not focus efforts on trying to stop migration, but rather on creating conditions in which migration is a choice and not a necessity, takes place along legal channels and acts a catalyst for development.

This panel has ably examined the ways in which the potential of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be realized for migrants and communities, and – vice versa - how migration can become an enabler of sustainable development.

I would like to make three concrete suggestions toward ensuring that the GCM will be used as a catalyst to accelerate the implementation of ALL migration aspects of the SDGs

- 1. The GCM is an opportunity to develop an action oriented roadmap to achieve migration aspects of the SDGs**

To check against delivery

The implementation of this roadmap will only be made possible through whole of government – indeed whole of society – approaches and establishing inter-ministerial mechanisms.

2. The GCM should develop a strong follow-up and review mechanism that does not duplicate, but rather complement the one put in place for the SDGs

The GCM is an opportunity to develop and improve capacities on the way we collect, analyse and make effective use of migration to be able to track progress, but also inform the types of actions that are required to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration – this common thread between the GCM and the SDGs.

3. The GCM will foster greater partnerships for the Goals

Given the cross-cutting nature of migration, the Global Compact brings the opportunity for all of us to strengthen our cooperation and further invest in ensuring that migration policies contribute to alleviating poverty and reduce inequalities – thus realizing the development potential of migration.

It is also an occasion to empower subnational governments, civil society and private sector partners to strengthen integration and social cohesion, provide services to migrants and their communities, and to maximize the economic and other benefits brought by migration, both to the host community and to development in migrants` home countries.

Thank you