Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

Third informal thematic session on "International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration"
19-20 June 2017, United Nations Office at Geneva

Co-facilitators' summary

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I.   Introduction

The third informal thematic session in phase I (consultations) of the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration entitled *"International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration"*, was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 19 and 20 June 2017. The session consisted of opening remarks by the co-facilitators and the Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference, three expert panels and a summary panel. In addition, the co-facilitators invited all stakeholders to an informal dialogue on the morning of the second day.

In total, 110 Member States attended the session and made 105 interventions. Additional interventions were made by 6 UN agencies and 17 non-governmental stakeholders. Another 18 non-governmental stakeholders made oral inputs during the informal dialogue with the co-facilitators before the informal thematic session resumed on the morning of the second day.

The purpose of this summary is to highlight the main aspects of the discussion on the basis of interventions delivered in the room and inputs received. It also summarizes the ideas presented and recommendations made for consideration in this and subsequent phases of the preparatory process. The contents of this summary will serve as one of the inputs for discussion at the stocktaking meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico on 4-6 December 2017.

II.   Panels

The inter-agency issue brief prepared by the Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference for the third informal thematic session was presented in the opening segment and served as a basis for the panels and the subsequent discussions.

1. Panel on international cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions

The panelists shared the view that migration governance is, at its core, an issue of national jurisdiction, while also highlighting that, by its very nature, international migration is a "multi-sovereign" issue covering two or more jurisdictions. Hence, effective governance of migration requires a global "scaffolding" for international cooperation, as well as the participation and contributions of local governments, and society as a whole. They reflected on the progress achieved in the past ten years, including through the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the recognition of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and IOM's entry into the UN system. They suggested that the international community knows what to do, but that there is less clarity on how to do it. Therefore, panelists stated that the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration could provide a roadmap. In this regard, panelists highlighted some concrete recommendations and examples, many of which stemmed from the Sutherland Report, as well as from the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, among others. They pointed to the dangers of not having a comprehensive approach to migration, which may range from unnecessary loss of life to loss of public trust in national authorities. Furthermore, States were encouraged to articulate a vision of migration in 20 years, recognizing that the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration has the potential to establish a framework for better governance of migration in the long term. In building the global compact for migration, States were further encouraged to build coalitions around certain issues and consider voluntary but binding commitments.

Member States reaffirmed that no one country can manage the multidimensional phenomenon of international migration on its own. The discussion highlighted the importance of anchoring the global compact for migration in a long-term vision, focusing on the fact that migration is a structural reality that also evolves, and thus cannot be addressed in a short timeframe. Furthermore, delegations underlined that the global compact should lead to concrete guidelines that are implementable and become institutionalized beyond current administrations. Participants reaffirmed the state-led nature of the process, and that in fact, better governance of migration is an exercise that should strengthen sovereignty and capacities. Delegations also stated that when it comes to implementation, much will be set at the local level, therefore emphasizing the need to include local governments. Moreover, the discussion focused on whether an overarching framework was necessary vis-à-vis existing mechanisms and

inducements to whole-of-government approaches. Several participants affirmed that while migration governance is framed at the national level through legislation, international cooperation is needed now more than ever. Hence, general convergence emerged in the sense that the global compact should build upon and align with the best practices that exist at the national and regional levels. In this respect, the whole-of-government approach at the national level was emphasized, as well as ensuring policy coherence across relevant ministries.

2. Panel on international cooperation and governance of migration in transit, on entry and at borders

Panelists agreed that governments face challenges in managing complex migratory movements, particularly at borders and in situations of transit. They stressed that humanitarian dimensions must be taken into account, international responsibility-sharing be strengthened and international law be respected, particularly the right to claim asylum, due process and the principle of non-refoulement. In their views, applying a human rights-based approach is a means to find the appropriate balance between legitimate national prerogatives and full respect for human rights with a view to addressing border management challenges and vulnerabilities faced by migrants in situations of transit. In this regard, issues such as family separation, administrative detention, and forced return, were identified as priorities by the panelists. They particularly stressed the importance of ensuring individual procedures, due process and legal redress, while also pointing to existing deficiencies in these areas. Furthermore, the importance of creating, expanding and facilitating access to regular migration pathways was stated as Member States were encouraged to assess the humanitarian impacts of their policies. Panelists again pointed to the benefits of policy coherence within and across borders. They stated that greater institutionalized dialogues within and across borders can have positive impacts on identifying protection gaps, enhancing State capacities on border management, and avoiding unsafe conditions that give way to migrant smuggling and human trafficking. Once again, governance at the local level was mentioned, along with regular multi-stakeholder engagement.

During the discussion, there was significant recognition of the importance of ensuring whole-of-government approaches to migration management, including the need to align policies among and between various parts of government. The value of whole-of-society approaches was also mentioned. States increasingly face the challenge of managing the competing demands of facilitating mobility on the one hand, while upholding security, facilitating trade, and exercising sovereignty on the other. Consequently, the principle of shared responsibility was cited. On multiple occasions, it was pointed out that such demands need not be mutually exclusive. It appeared that many Member States considered national policy coherence as the foundation for effective cooperation at the international level. Such approaches also need to incorporate local governments and administrations, which may be at the forefront of migration governance at certain stages of the migratory process. Several participants noted challenges faced by migrants in vulnerable situations, and the need for coordinated migration policies that seek to reduce vulnerabilities. Member States shared multiple best practices, including legislation developed at multiple levels of government. Perspectives were shared on detention and access to justice. There was a desire for greater cooperation on border management, highlighting multiple ways in which capacities could be strengthened in a holistic way to benefit the State and migrants.

3. Panel on international cooperation and governance of migration on return, readmission, integration and reintegration

Panelists pointed to existing practices in the fields of return, readmission, integration and reintegration, highlighting that while the primary responsibility for the management of these issues falls upon the State, the involvement of other stakeholders is important for effective policy implementation, including international organizations, civil society, the private sector and local authorities. They stressed the importance of upholding the non-refoulement obligation and equal treatment of migrants before the law with regards to admission and return procedures. They held the view that voluntary, safe, orderly and rights-based return as well as targeted skills development contributes to successful reintegration. It was further pointed out that reintegration programmes should be aligned with national development policies in

order to enhance their development effect. They underscored the importance of not dealing with return, readmission and reintegration from a security perspective and in isolation to other migration governance issues. In addition, panelists shared concrete examples of "win-win" bilateral and multilateral agreements, which include various stages of information dissemination, a human rights-based approach, and a high degree of predictability and certainty for all States and migrants involved.

During the discussion, delegations broadly cited the value-added of regional and sub-regional processes, including Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs), in building trust among States and developing programmes across the migration cycle, from pre-contracting, through pre-departure, to post arrival, return and reintegration. For example, RCPs have helped to implement projects and tools for Member States that promote ethical recruitment, skills recognition, orientation training and regularization of migratory movements. Several delegations cited concrete initiatives undertaken in the framework of regional cooperation mechanisms that can serve as good practices for other regions. There was general convergence on the need for acknowledging the role that these mechanisms play and some delegations specifically mentioned recommendations stated in the Sutherland Report. On the matters of return, readmission and reintegration, delegations expressed the view that these aspects form an integral part of credible migration policies, be it at national or at international level. The assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes of IOM were widely cited as favourable examples, while stating that such programmes could be further developed and their evaluation be strengthened. Member States stressed that they retain authority over admission and stay of foreign nationals, while also widely recognizing the obligation of States to duly receive their returning nationals. Participants mentioned that voluntary return is preferred in most cases, but also appeared to recognize that forced return remains a tool of the State for credibility and enforcement purposes. Many delegations emphasized that returning migrants can be agents of development, while at the same time pointing to a need for greater dialogue and cooperation in these fields to ensure dignified and sustainable return. In providing assistance for reintegration, the long term needs of returning migrants and their communities should be the guiding principle, as opposed to providing short-term incentives to return.

4. Summary panel

The summary panel, consisting of the three moderators and the thematic expert, summarized the substantive discussions held during the two-day informal thematic session. On that basis, the thematic expert identified common themes and areas for further discussion drawing from the statements made. In the ensuing discussion, delegations and stakeholders reiterated issues of priority and recommendations, provided views on the forthcoming sessions in this phase of the process and on the potential format of the global compact.

III. Areas of discussion

a. Overarching frameworks and principles

Discussions revealed an understanding that migration governance begins at the national level with each sovereign State responsible for establishing legal frameworks and policies. While this includes the sovereign right to determine which non-nationals may enter and stay within a State's territory, delegations also pointed to the responsibility of States to exercise this right in compliance with international obligations, especially international human rights law and the principle of non-refoulement. It was also recalled that the right of all persons to leave any country, including their own, must be respected. At the same time, delegations emphasized the obligation of all States, as enshrined in customary international law, to duly accept and readmit their returning nationals. As a comprehensive national migratory framework is considered a basic prerequisite for effective regional and international cooperation, delegations underscored the importance to build on policy coherence between relevant ministries, as well as on partnerships with sub-national actors, e.g. provinces, cities, communities, employers, and civil society. Such whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches were widely cited as desirable to manage migration effectively.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Reaffirm the sovereign right of States with regards to migration policies, including on the conditions for admission and stay of non-nationals
- Emphasize the obligation of each State under customary international law to readmit its own nationals
- Ensure that returns and readmissions are carried out safely and effectively, in full compliance with international law, including international human rights law, and the principle of non-refoulement, with full respect of the prohibition of collective expulsion, the right to effective remedy as well as access to information about rights and obligations
- Foster whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches on migration among and between national and sub-national actors through enhanced and regular dialogue
- Use comprehensive approaches to migration policies at the national level to maintain and improve public confidence in migration governance

b. Coherence of migration policies at national level

Discussions among delegations clearly showed that comprehensive migration governance requires the participation and partnership of relevant ministries, all levels of government and multiple stakeholders. Participatory schemes were shared, whereby governments have institutionalized various councils, working groups and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms to develop, implement and monitor policies that meet national interests and fulfill international obligations. Many delegations stated that national coherence was the basis for effective complementary regional policies. They recognized that the migration policy of one country inevitably has an effect on other countries, most notably in the case of large and mixed movements. Additional attention was also given to the need to update and review policies regularly and integrally.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Carry out a national assessment with multiple levels and ministries of government to ensure coherence internally as a basis for achieving coherence with other key national policies
- Link migration and development policies as a way of realistically addressing drivers of migration, while also taking full advantage of the economic potential of migrants
- Integrate migration into national and regional development plans
- Review regularly the impacts of migration policies vis-à-vis other national policies and vice versa

c. Role of existing mechanisms in furthering governance of migration

Delegations referred to the multiple mechanisms and international initiatives that have been developed over the years, at both the regional and global level. To date, there are over 20 inter-regional, regional and sub-regional processes in all regions of the world covering the main migration channels worldwide, including the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Asia-EU Dialogue on Labour Migration, the Colombo Process, Khartoum Process, Budapest Process and South American Conference on Migration, among others. At a global scale, the migration policy dialogue is characterized by a number of informal processes and platforms outside the UN, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), as well as specific thematic or policy-oriented initiatives, such as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC), the Migration Governance Framework (MIGOF) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD, former Nansen Initiative), among others. Furthermore, the increasing role of the UN on international migration was acknowledged by referring to such important events and outcomes as the UN High-level Dialogues on Migration and Development (UNHLD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the High-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants. In this regard, delegations also noted the recent agreement to bring the International Organization for Migration (IOM) into a closer legal and working relationship with the United Nations as a related organization, while stressing the IOM's leading role in the field of international migration, including the relevance of the IOM International Dialogue on Migration (IDM). General convergence was found around the desire to build upon existing mechanisms and initiatives, while recognizing that the diffuse and fragmented international architecture remains inadequate to holistically address all dimensions of

migration. Participants stated their preference for voluntarily acceding to commonly agreed commitments and understandings that are action-oriented and implementable, while rejecting supranational imposition with regards to governance of migration. Further discussion is needed on the precise nature and roles of mechanisms and institutions in the implementation of the global compact, including with regards to the GFMD, while the future of the GFMD will need to be discussed mainly in the context of the GFMD itself.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Make use of regional and sub-regional processes, including the RCPs, to identify and recommend common best practices and monitor their implementation
- Consider carefully, in the appropriate fora, any potential role of the GFMD in the follow-up of the global compact
- Maintain the GFMD as a separate, autonomous, informal mechanism to discuss best practices informally
- Strengthen cooperation and coherence of the UN system on international migration, particularly with view to IOM's entry into the UN and its leading role on migration, while taking into account comparative advantages of all UN agencies
- Review the role of the IOM in the context of the UN System, highlighting its important role in supporting the implementation of the global compact, and promote further streamlining and coherence among the various parts of the UN Secretariat
- Use the IOM Migration Governance Framework and the Migration Governance Index to comprehensively monitor progress of migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 10.7

d. Financing for international cooperation on migration and capacity building

Multiple delegations cited a need to build national capacities and to augment resources in order to achieve better migration governance. As a promising approach, participants highlighted bilateral and regional programmes and partnerships that provide targeted technical assistance and enhance international cooperation in general. Yet, since many countries lack trained and resourced migration agencies, some Member States indicated that adequate financing and training of personnel would be required in order to ensure effective implementation of the global compact. Others expressed that they would favour identification of gaps and a stronger role also for international financial institutions in the development of national and regional capacities on international migration, while avoiding a duplication of existing programmes of the financial institutions and respective administrative structures. There appeared to be a general acknowledgement that more and better funding is required, just as there was no common understanding of specific mechanisms or funding sources.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Establish a financing facility for migration, as proposed in the Sutherland Report
- Finance a comprehensive global study to identify gaps in migration governance
- Improve coordination and complementarity among financing mechanisms and programmes, including those of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Provide financial support to improve programmes administered by international organizations, in coordination with Member States
- Conclude bilateral or regional agreements for capacity building in migration governance at national level, including through provision of training for government officials and local authorities
- Include systematic and regular cycles of evaluation in order to inform both policy development and programme implementation as an integral part of any capacity building activities to allow for lessons learned, to determine gaps and identify areas for improvement

e. Human rights in the governance of migration

Many delegations pointed to the need for human rights-based approaches in migration policies. Furthermore, it was indicated that the safety and well-being of the individual migrant should be at the

center of the global compact discussions. It was stated that respect for human rights applies to all migrants, regardless of their status, and that States are primarily responsible for ensuring such full respect. Against this background, discussions of governance of migration need to take into account human rights, while recognizing the sovereignty of States. There was a shared understanding that these concepts shall be balanced, while not being mutually exclusive or in competition.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Mainstream migration considerations into national human rights policies and programmes, taking into account, among others, access to health, education, family reunification and access to justice
- Consider integrating relevant parts of the 2035 Agenda for Human Mobility, developed by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, into the global compact
- Involve National Human Rights Institutions by ensuring migrants' access to the services they provide
- Provide dedicated information hotlines to migrants, including on available services, rights and responsibilities
- Include humanitarian considerations at all stages of the migratory process, particularly where vulnerabilities are amplified
- Empower women migrants and women in migrant communities as agents of change, and avoid perceiving them merely as victims or a vulnerable group of persons
- Provide human rights training to public officials involved in international migration, where possible with the cooperation of regional and international organizations, and implement commitments in this regard stated in the New York Declaration
- Establish protection-sensitive entry systems that allow for due process
- Include migrant issues in bilateral dialogues with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and consider the 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration for implementation at the national level

f. Border management

It was undisputed that Member States exercise their sovereignty over their territory and that migration governance is well within the purview of national sovereign prerogatives. Delegations affirmed their right to determine the conditions under which foreign nationals may enter or remain on their territory, in accordance with international law. The right to forcibly remove a foreign national from the physical jurisdiction of a State was also mentioned, along with the recognition of a State's own obligation to duly receive its citizens in its territory. Furthermore, while it was stated that countries have rights and responsibilities when it comes to managing and controlling their own borders, shared responsibility in border management was also considered a critical factor to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. In sum, while it is very much the State's sovereign right to elaborate a regulatory framework on migration in line with its own national priorities, safe, orderly and regular migration necessarily involves some degree of dialogue and cooperation with other sovereign States. Participants commented that it is also in the sovereign prerogative of States to freely enter into agreements with each other, thus providing greater predictability to State actions. Delegations underlined that the fulfillment of international obligations, particularly with regards to international human rights law, is itself an exercise of sovereignty, and therefore not mutually exclusive. It was also stated that effective border management may impact public confidence in a government's capacity to address migration.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Conceptualize effective border management, as well as steps towards safe, orderly and regular migration as responsible exercises of sovereignty
- Train border officials in identification of protection needs and establish clear protocols for attention to vulnerable situations
- Promote exchange of information on a range of areas, including recruitment, skills recognition, and information programmes, and, to the extent possible, common biometric standards and advanced information

- Consider the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders as a tool for the implementation of protection-sensitive border management
- Encourage investment in integrated border management systems to facilitate information sharing across the migration cycle, including pre-departure, post arrival, pre-return and post-return
- Expand cooperation on intelligence gathering, improve training of officials and support capacity-building of national governments in this area, including on document fraud

g. Detention

Many delegations reiterated that migration-related detention remains an area that deserves close attention. Some participants stated that they are exploring or have implemented alternatives to detention, and shared positive results, while others indicated that they had completely ended the practice of immigration detention, through revision of national policies. A number of delegations referred to the restricted use of administrative detention, highlighting that it can be used, but generally as a last resort, with access to due process and healthcare, of short duration, and non-punitive in nature. Detention and its link to criminalization of migration, as well as detention of children and asylum seekers whose application has been rejected, also featured in the discussion.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Establish the principle of non-criminalization as underpinning the governance of migration
- Share good practices and promote alternatives to detention
- Commit to ending child detention due to their or their parents migration status, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by including a roadmap in the global compact
- Ensure that detention conditions guarantee respect for the dignity of the person by ensuring adherence to the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners and all other relevant international standards
- Avoid the use of detention as a border management and deterrence tool
- Follow the recommendations made by the Human Rights Council in the effort to prevent any form of illegal deprivation of migrants' liberty
- Establish unconditional access to medical care to migrants in detention
- Ensure accountability and effective remedy for arbitrary and illegal detention

h. Consular protection, assistance and cooperation

The discussion included several mentions of consular protection, assistance and cooperation. Delegations particularly pointed to the capacities of countries of origin to safeguard the rights of their citizens abroad. Member States cited the recommendations outlined in the Sutherland Report, also recognizing that States have obligations to allow for consular access under international law. Participants noted that the principle of shared responsibility could be applied through the strengthening of consular capacities to the benefit of migrants and Member States.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Expand access to consular support as set out in the Sutherland Report
- Guarantee consular attention focused on returnees by ensuring access to documentation, pre-departure assistance and other services
- Ensure adequate, timely and easily accessible consular documentation to all migrants, including travel documents
- Enhance the capabilities of consular officials to render assistance to migrants in need, particularly in countries of destination and transit
- Enhance consular abilities in addressing the issues of missing persons, unaccompanied migrant children, gender-specific vulnerabilities and migrants with disabilities
- Ensure the right of access to consular assistance to all migrants as part of commitments to due process

i. Return and readmission

It was widely recognized that return and readmission fall firmly within the rights and responsibilities of States. They retain authority over whom to admit and reserve the right to decide who is given temporary or permanent permission to stay. While voluntary return was stated as being preferable over forced return, the latter was emphasized as a tool used by sovereign States. At the same time, delegations expressed a desire for return to be carried out in a safe, orderly and dignified manner, taking into account due process and obligations under international human rights law. There was general convergence that well managed return and readmission could reduce irregular migration if the long term needs of returning migrants are prominently considered. If returning migrants do not find accommodating conditions, they might be incentivized to migrate again. Reintegration is therefore key and should be guided by greater international cooperation and identification of best practices.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Develop holistic policies and conclude bilateral as well as regional agreements that include return and readmission as integral parts of the migratory process and promote voluntary return in line with development considerations
- Respect international obligations to duly receive returning nationals, and cooperate on the facilitation of return, notably by swiftly identifying own nationals and issuing travel documents based on reliable means of identification, for example by adding biometric identifiers in population registers
- Define a core set of shared practices and standards on return and readmission to which countries of origin and countries of destination could subscribe voluntarily
- Establish whole-of-government policies, programmes or offices that deal specifically with the needs of returning migrants
- Allow personalized assessments in collaboration with other States and international organizations for returning migrants to uphold the right of non-refoulement and ensure a human rights-based and dignified return
- Consider funding dedicated agencies for return and readmission of migrants

j. Integration and reintegration

Many governments spoke about a whole-of-society approach to the integration of migrants. In this regard, the general public needs to be better informed about the contributions of migrants to societies of origin and destination. Additionally, the role of the private sector, unions and local governments were highlighted. In this context, multiple statements referred to access to labour markets and the role that such access plays in holistic integration and reintegration strategies. Some delegations shared their national programmes that included broad and non-discriminatory access to services. Participants recognized that readmission to the country of origin is often not enough to make return sustainable, especially if the underlying causes that motivated people to migrate remain unchanged. Hence, effective reintegration into societies, often under the paradigm of shared responsibility, could well become synonymous with sustainable return. Similarly, it was noted that comprehensive integration is a key element to take full advantage of the benefits of migration.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Inform the general public about the benefits of migration and the contributions of migrants to countries of origin and destination, including by ensuring that migrants are perceived and treated as rights holders, as people with own expertise and experiences, and by fostering an environment free from discrimination, racism, sexism, xenophobia and related patterns of exclusion
- Support and strengthen programmes, such as the IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes
- Involve migrant communities, diaspora organizations, local governments, the private sector and other stakeholders in the development of whole-of-society integration and reintegration programmes

- Encourage innovative approaches and projects on reintegration in collaboration with civil society and the private sector
- Look closely at the potential of programmes in financial literacy for the reintegration of returning migrants to fully utilise their entrepreneurship, skills and human capital
- Provide pre-departure information, language training, skills matching and access to education
- Promote database of employment opportunities to returning migrants, highlighting access through acquired skills
- Implement regular evidence-based monitoring and evaluation for integration and reintegration policies

k. Specific needs and vulnerabilities

Many delegations stated the importance of focusing on and addressing the specific needs of the most vulnerable migrants. In this regard, attention should be paid to alternatives to detention, specifically in the cases of children and youth. Some States underlined that a focus on the most vulnerable is a priority for them in the global compact. Multiple good practices were presented in this regard, signaling that there may well be an important body of practice and norms that can be built upon.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Encourage access to identification documents, including with biometric identifiers, in order to determine vulnerabilities
- Determine cases in which vulnerabilities should be addressed in terms of categories of migrants and where vulnerabilities should be addressed as a series of circumstances
- Promote migration policies that seek to reduce vulnerabilities wherever possible by identifying consequences of existing policies and their impact on especially vulnerable or marginalized migrants and communities
- Consider a differentiated approach to different migrants, especially the most vulnerable, through concrete actions, such as special health care and specific protocols in migration management
- Implement the guidelines on protection of migrants in vulnerable situations developed by the Global Migration Group

l. Data

As in previous informal thematic sessions, delegations broadly called for better data, increased capacities for data collection and analysis, and evidence-based policies. In the discussion, attention was given to the role of international cooperation for achieving better migration data. Participants mentioned the virtues of disaggregated data, as well as the challenges for coherence emanating from differentiated capacities and methodologies.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Encourage governments to consider publishing regular reports on migration data
- Improve collection and analysis of data through sharing of collection and analysis schemes and better disaggregation to reduce disappearances
- Integrate migration data in household surveys, census documents and reports on national development programmes
- Encourage States to share evidence with each other that allows for joint analysis and data of future movements

IV. Conclusions

The third informal thematic session in phase I (consultations) of the preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration served to address a wide array of issues pertaining to international cooperation and governance of migration, including at borders, on

transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration. It allowed for an exchange of understandings regarding priority issues, sharing of national practices, proposing concrete recommendations and identifying areas for further discussion.

It was undisputed that migration governance first and foremost falls into the purview of national jurisdiction. At the same time, there was general acknowledgement that coherence at national level can stimulate cooperation regionally and globally. Furthermore, there was a strong call by many that national sovereignty on issues of migration management, such as admission and return, should be exercised in full conformity with international law, particularly international human rights law. While the complementarity of national sovereignty and a human rights-based migration management was widely acknowledged, there was less common ground on how to account for both principles, but pointing to some existing practices along those lines.

Throughout the discussion on the principle of shared responsibility of States relating to return, readmission and reintegration, there was widespread agreement on the necessity of effectively facilitating return in compliance with the international obligation to admit its own nationals. However, there was also a strong call by some for the need to enhance capacities through technical cooperation in order to strengthen efficient migration governance at the national level. In this regard, opinions varied on the added-value of a financing facility for international cooperation on migration versus the need to better coordinate and foster existing financing mechanisms.

It was widely recognized that safe, orderly and regular migration requires greater international cooperation. In fact, the multitude of examples shared regarding existing collaborative agreements, particularly at the bilateral and regional level, demonstrates clearly that no one country can effectively manage migration on its own. In this context, it was stressed that migration governance would benefit from a more holistic approach to the whole migration cycle in order to maximize the development implications of migration, including of return and reintegration. While there are a number of good practices in terms of bilateral cooperation, of regional mechanisms, such as the Regional Consultative Processes, and multi-stakeholder approaches, further discussion is needed to reach a common understanding of cooperation modalities that lead to win-win outcomes. As a set of organizing principles to enhance regional cooperation mechanisms, some States proposed a framework building on three pillars: ensuring the protection of migrants; empowering migrants to fulfill their goals and aspirations; and affording migrants the opportunity to benefit equitably from the outcomes of migration.

In the discussion on the institutional architecture for migration governance, there was a common notion that whole-of-government and even whole-of-society approaches involving all stakeholders beyond the national government form the basis for comprehensive and coherent migration policies. There was a strong common understanding that governance of migration discussions have made significant progress in the past decade. While there was wide agreement that the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration should build on and contribute to the strengthening of the existing international frameworks, the views on the role of the existing platforms and mechanisms in implementing the global compact differ. As such, the implementation and follow-up and review of the global compact merits deeper reflection, as do the roles of mechanisms and fora in this regard.

Finally, participants acknowledged the wide range of mechanisms that have been created over the years to respond to the multiple dimensions of migration, and that there is a strong desire for the global compact to build upon these and strengthen the capacities of the State to accomplish well managed migration policies. Even though Member States take different approaches to international migration based on their national and regional experiences, it was clear that a series of commitments, partnerships, and sharing of best practices and understandings would strengthen national capacities for safe, orderly and regular migration.

ANNEX – Programme of work

Day 1 – Monday, 19 June 2017

Time	Concept	
10.00-10.15	**Opening segment** Welcome remarks by the co-facilitators ▪ **H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho**, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations ▪ **H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Remarks by the Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference ▪ **Ms. Louise Arbour**, Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference	
10.15-13.00	**PANEL 1: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions** To implement the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Member States have committed to contribute to global governance and enhanced cooperation on international migration. This panel will explore practical means of enhancing international cooperation and governance of migration by analysing the different institutional mechanisms that exist or could be envisaged in the future at multiple levels. Panelists will present an overview of the evolution of cooperation on international migration, identify practical and policy gaps where migration governance can enhance capacities of Member States through specific forms of international cooperation, and explore potential solutions. • **Mr. Gregory Maniatis**, Columbia University, MPI, Soros, former senior advisor to SRSG Sutherland • **Ms. Margareta Wahlström**, Chairperson of the Board, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and President of the Swedish Red Cross Moderated by **H.E. Mr. Ola Henrikson**, Director General, Ministry of Justice of Sweden	
13.00-15.00	Lunch	Space for side-events
15.00-17.50	**PANEL 2: International cooperation and governance of migration in transit, on entry and at borders** This panel will identify frameworks, policies, programmes and practices that best respond to national migration priorities as they relate to transit migration, entry of migrants, and border management. Panelists will discuss whole-of-government approaches, and the coordination mechanisms and resources needed to put in place effective migration governance policies and the implications these have within and among countries. The panelists will further explore ways to ensure effective consultations with relevant stakeholders, including migrants, and present best practices as they relate to questions of transit, entry and borders, among other issues. • **Mr. Guilhem Ravier**, Head of the Protection of the Civilian Population Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) • **Ms. Raquel Ayora**, Director of Operations, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Barcelona • **Ms. Marla Conrad**, Advocacy Coordinator, Kino Border Initiative, Mexico Moderated by **H.E. Ambassador Mehmet Samsar**, Director-General for Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey	
17.50-18.00	Closing remarks by the co-facilitators	

Day 2 – Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Time	Concept	
10.00-10.05	Welcome remarks by the co-facilitators • **H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations • **H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho**, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations	
10.05-13.00	**PANEL 3: International cooperation and governance of migration on return, readmission, integration and reintegration** This panel will examine existing bilateral, regional and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms, including Regional Consultative Processes and inter-regional fora on migration, as a means for States to share best practices and seek solutions to common migration challenges, including return, readmission, integration and reintegration. The panel will also identify gaps in areas which could benefit from strengthened bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global cooperation, and explore potential solutions. Furthermore, it will look at the roles of various levels of government as they relate to these stages of the migratory process. • **Prof. Ivan Martin**, Part-time Professor at the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the European University Institute • **Ms. Genevieve Gencianos**, Migration Programme Coordinator, Public Services International (PSI) • **Ms. Nancy Fonseca Caldera**, International Affairs Director of the Employer' confederation of Mexico (COPARMEX NACIONAL) Moderated by **H.E. Mr. Omar Abdulrahman Salem Alnuaimi**, Assistant Under-Secretary for Communication and International Relations, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation the United Arab Emirates	
13.00-15.00	Lunch	Space for side-events
15.00-17.50	**SUMMARY PANEL: Synopsis of the main conclusions and outcomes** ▪ Moderators present the key recommendations resulting from their panels ▪ **Mr. Khalid Koser**, Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and Co-Chair of the WEF Global Future Council on Migration, thematic expert for this third informal thematic session provides a short overview of the main discussions and the interlinkages between the panels ▪ Interactive exchange between the moderators, the thematic expert and Member States on the outcomes of the session	
17.50-18.00	Closing remarks by the co-facilitators	