

**Intervention by Khalid Koser at the Global Compact on Migration Thematic Session on
'International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders,
in transit, and on entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration**

Speaking Notes

Preamble

- Thank the co-facilitators and SRSG for invitation, congratulate Secretariat on well-organized thematic session, note full attendance throughout two days.
- This format makes genuine dialogue difficult, but found this session more productive than many other similar sessions – comprehensive, substantive, inclusive.
- Structure brief intervention in two parts – first reflect on areas of convergence/divergence over last two days, second reflect on consultation process itself.

Areas of convergence

1. Consensus that international cooperation is essential – significant step forward from 5-10 years ago when still contested
2. Global Compact must respect national sovereignty
3. Global Compact must respect human rights – which are not incompatible with national sovereignty or national security
4. Expectation that the Global Compact will be practical and operationable, not conceptual
5. Consensus that the Global Compact should build on existing legal, normative and institutional frameworks rather than propose new ones; but equally recognize that current frameworks do not always work as well as they should
6. Emphasis on capacity-building – not just in countries of origin and transit, but also destination
7. There is a significant amount of best practice in international cooperation – and lots of good examples provided at this meeting – need to compile and learn from existing practice
8. General consensus that better data, evidence and analysis are required to inform policy
9. International cooperation 'starts at home' – states need coherence across government and consultation with other national stakeholders to provide a firm basis for international cooperation
10. IOM will be a critical actor (note the presence of DG and /or DDG throughout meeting)

Areas of Divergence

1. Lack of clarity over time horizon for Global Compact – need to resolve responding to immediate needs with setting out longer time horizon that overcomes political constraints
2. Agreement that more funding is required both for the Global Compact process and its implementation, but lack of consensus over what the source of funding should be, how it should be managed and where it should be disbursed
3. Lack of clarity over whether and how the Global Compact on Migration should consult with the Global Compact on Refugees – need to ensure complementarity and beware of populations falling into a gap between the Compacts

4. Some debate about the validity of the concept 'vulnerable migrants', and whom the concept covers. A good example of the need to align with the Global Compact on Refugees.
5. Division over the significance of terminology – for some critical to get it right, for others a distraction
6. The absence of discussion on irregular migration striking, and no clear indication of whether/how it will be dealt with in the Global Compact
7. Should the focus be migration, or migration in the context of mega-trends like climate change, urbanization or mega-processes like SDGs?
8. Convergence around not developing new legal, normative and institutional frameworks notwithstanding, some strong opinions that current frameworks are failing
9. For some disappointment that the intention is that the Global Compact will be non-binding – must make sure that the process does not replace the outcome
10. Will the Global Compact attempt to prioritize the many issues, opportunities and challenges – is there a logical sequence – need to address (a) before (b) and (c) etc. Impossible to address them all at the same time – financial, capacity and political constraints

Consultation Process (SWOT Analysis)

Strengths

- Effective in generating significant consensus
- Genuine consultation with civil society
- Generated concrete and practical recommendations

Weaknesses

- Disappointing representation from sub-Saharan Africa
- Unconvincing engagement with private sector (note WEF proposal)
- Format does not allow for genuine exchange of viewpoints

Opportunities

- Opportunity to learn from other spheres of public policy (for example on retaining public confidence)
- Sense of real appetite for change and innovation in the room
- Opportunity to build on momentum – but time-frame for consultation/negotiation will make this challenging

Threats (not really the right word)

- Preaching to the converted in NYC, Geneva, Brussels – need to engage with other parts of the world and other perspectives
- Risk of raising expectations – lots of stakeholders with lots of demands
- Focus on international and national, not enough on sub-national especially cities

Conclusions

Convergence to build on; divergences to address; robust process to continue to improve...