



**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION  
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
MC Fourth Informal Thematic Session “Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all  
dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned  
benefits”**

*Tuesday, 25 July 24, 2017*

*UN Headquarters, Trusteeship Council Chamber*

**Statement by  
Vinicius Pinheiro  
ILO Special Representative to UN and Director**

---

Distinguished participants and honorable organizers,

The ILO would like to focus this intervention on the need to guarantee social security rights beyond borders and offer some concrete suggestions for your consideration for inclusion in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The migrant's access to social protection and portability of earned benefits is one of the core commitments of the New York Declaration.

The conclusions of the 2017 International Labour Conference concerning fair and effective labour migration governance highlighted that:

"Facilitating access to social protection for migrant workers and their families, in accordance with national laws and regulations and international obligations, ensures the fulfilment of their rights to social security, creates a level playing field between national and migrant workers, and supports fair labour migration."

The International Labour Conference further requested that countries may consider the implementation of very concrete measures that could be included in the Global Compact on Migration, such as:

- (a) negotiating multilateral or bilateral social security agreements to ensure the portability of migrants' rights and benefits;
- (b) including social security provisions in labour migration arrangements; and
- (c) ensuring access of migrant workers and their families to national social protection systems, including social protection floors, which aim to ensure among other things, access to essential health care."

A mapping carried out by the ILO in 2016, including 120 countries, showed that 26 countries did not have any bilateral social security agreement and 43 countries did not have any multilateral social security agreement.

Clearly, more needs to be done to provide equality of treatment in respect of social security, and to the protection and portability of benefits.

In very practical terms, the Global Compact on Migration could suggest basic principles for shaping bilateral or multilateral social security agreements that could include:

- Equality of treatment: all workers engaged in remunerated labour should enjoy equal provisions of social security. Through the agreement, countries accept to treat migrant workers equally to their own nationals with regards to social protection.
- Portability of benefits and payment of benefits abroad;
- Determination of the applicable legislation; to ensure that the social security of a migrant worker is governed at any one time by the legislation of one country only;
- Maintenance of rights in course of acquisition (totalization); and
- Administrative assistance

As part of the global compact special attention could be given to capacity building for development and implementation of bilateral and multilateral social security agreements and to extend social protection systems to migrant workers, including through social protection floors.

The ILO is elaborating guidance on how to address the obstacles faced by migrant workers in accessing their right to social security and is ready continuing supporting governments and social partners on implementing measures to guarantee social rights beyond borders.

Thank you very much,