

Fourth informal thematic session  
“Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable  
development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits”  
New York, 24-25 July 2017  
Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations, 10:15-13:00

Session 1: Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development:  
the linkages between migration and development  
(**3-minute** statement from the floor)

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Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Distinguished panellists,

First, let me congratulate the co-facilitators for their excellent work in guiding these deliberations. To heed the call for a practical, action-oriented discussion, allow me to focus on the need for better migration data.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has, for decades, provided a solid foundation of data and evidence to support relevant intergovernmental discussions. This includes comprehensive estimates and projections of the global trends in international migration.,

The 2017 Revision of World Population Prospects, launched last month, indicates the world’s population will grow from nearly 7.6 billion today, to 9.8 billion in 2050.

The report paints a picture of unprecedented demographic divergence.

Between now and 2050, Africa is projected to add 1.3 billion persons to its population, while Europe can expect to see a reduction of about 25 million persons. Other parts of the world – for example, Asia, Latin America – should anticipate a rapid ageing of their populations. These trends are likely to generate a strong and steady demand for international migration in the years to come.

To seize the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity presented by the global compact, the outcome document should include a “Global Action Plan for Migration Data”.

This plan should contain three key elements.

- First, the Plan should include a list of concrete actions to improve migration data from all relevant sources ... including population censuses, administrative records, household surveys and validated non-traditional sources.
- Second, the Plan should include a commitment to strengthen national capacities and institutions responsible for generating migration data and policy analysis, and for training the next generation in this area of work.
- Third, the Plan should contain significant funding to help build the necessary national infrastructure. The financing facility, proposed by the former SRSG Mr. Peter Sutherland, should include a component dedicated to improving data, building capacities and financing research.

Following the adoption of the migration compact in 2018, it will be important to establish a set of indicators for use in monitoring the implementation of the goals and targets, contained in the agreement.

Only by placing a high priority on improving migration data will countries will be able to develop evidence-based policies on migration and development. They will be able to shift the current toxic narrative on international migration, to emphasize its many positive contributions to sustainable development.

DESA stands ready to support the co-facilitators and all Member States in the development of the global compact and in its follow-up.

I thank you for your attention.