



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 August 2017

Excellency,

I am writing with regard to the General Assembly resolution 71/280 on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, adopted by the Assembly on 6 April 2017.

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter, dated 8 August 2017, from the co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations on issues related to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, the intergovernmental conference, as well as their preparatory process, His Excellency Mr. Juan Jose Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico and His Excellency Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland. Their letter transmits the co-facilitators' summary of the Fourth Informal Thematic Session which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 and 25 July 2017.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

To all Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF MEXICO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

New York, 8 August 2017

Excellency,

We are pleased to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations on issues related to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, the intergovernmental conference, as well as their preparatory process.

In accordance with paragraph 21 of A/RES/71/280, it is our honour to herewith submit the co-facilitator's summary of the fourth informal thematic session of phase I in the preparatory process, entitled "*Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits*" which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 and 25 July 2017.

We take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their constructive participation and engagement. We kindly remind delegations to submit their written inputs to gcmigration@un.org, and encourage sharing further relevant inputs throughout the process. Furthermore, we trust that all Member States and other stakeholders will continue to participate actively in the process.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Juan José Gómez Camacho
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations

Jürg Lauber
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
Switzerland to the United Nations

**Permanent and Observer Missions
to the United Nations
NEW YORK**

“Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits”

24-25 July 2017, United Nations Headquarters New York

Co-facilitators’ summary

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I. Introduction

The fourth 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 “*Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits*”, was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 and 25 July 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, 120 Member States attended the session and made 127 interventions. Additional interventions were made by 10 UN agencies and 10 non-governmental stakeholders. Another 15 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 fourth informal thematic session was presented in the opening segment and served as a basis for the panels and the subsequent discussions.

1. Panel on contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development: the linkages between migration and development

Highlighting the multifaceted links between migration and development and the “triple win” benefits for migrants, countries of destination and countries of origin created through these synergies, panelists made a case for moving from recognition to action in leveraging these positive interlinkages. As a premise, migrants should be recognized as agents for development, a quality which should never be abrogated by vulnerabilities migrants may face. The panelists canvassed some of the barriers that can prevent migrants and migration from contributing to their full potential, including lack of political will, inadequate and inefficient policies that counteract and that undermine, rather than enhance, development. Panelists favoured mainstreaming migration into national development planning as well as multilateral development cooperation. Doing so promotes policy coherence and consequently addresses these barriers and promotes the benefits of migration by ensuring consistency between migration policies and other policy objectives. The IOM-UNDP mainstreaming programme, bilateral partnerships on migration in all its dimensions, as well as two dashboards (at national and local level) developed by the UN were cited as useful tools to integrate migration and development in comprehensive and coherent policies. There are clearly positive interlinkages between skills development and migrants’ contributions to both their countries of origin and destination. Panelists stressed that – contrary to popular perceptions – migrants are generally net contributors. Migrants’ fiscal contributions and entrepreneurial activity rises commensurate to skill level. As a concrete measure to ensure “brain circulation”, panelists cited Global Skill Partnerships that simultaneously promote “skills matching” between countries with labour needs and countries with labour force and “skills upgrading” in collaboration with the private sector. Linked to a proposal on the possible format of the global compact, panelists proposed a migration and development facility for the purpose of coordination, implementation, evaluation and oversight of the global compact.

In the discussion, the evident link between migration and development was affirmed by referring to the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in addressing drivers of migration. The role of migrant remittances was highlighted as one of the most positive and tangible examples of how migration benefits sustainable development. Meanwhile, it was noted that migrant remittances cannot replace the role of Official Development Assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment and other sources of financing for

development, which are important to reduce poverty and inequality. Member States also stated that remittances are private capital. Many delegations highlighted the need to meet commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to promote cheaper, faster and safer remittance transfers. Doing so would greatly benefit communities in countries of origin and destination. Programmes promoting greater financial literacy for recipients and access to financial services – especially for women migrants – were also highlighted best practices. However, it was stressed by numerous delegations that migrants' contributions cannot be reduced solely to a financial component. Migrants' social remittances – their knowledge and skills transfers, networks, cultural capital, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit – are significant and merit appropriate recognition. Furthermore, the role of migrants and diaspora as partners in development was discussed by numerous participants. A number of examples were put forward to illustrate how governments are building partnerships with their diaspora to promote greater investment in development activities at home. Integration and inclusion in the country of destination was emphasized as a particularly important means to ensure that migrants meet their full potential.

2. Panel on contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: enabling frameworks for contributions

Stressing the importance of enabling framework conditions, panelists highlighted the scope and magnitude of diaspora engagement for development that goes well beyond remittances and includes nostalgic trade, philanthropy, investments, entrepreneurship and social remittances, such as knowledge transfer. Through these multiple contributions, migrants and diasporas create transnational bridges. In order to fully unlock these potentials, the role of diaspora in the context of development policies needs to be acknowledged and accounted for. This includes recognizing the diaspora as development agents in national development policies, investing in data collection and analysis in order to be informed about the profile of the diaspora, and cooperation between countries of origin and destination in these regards. In order to leverage the developmental potential of the diaspora, governments should consider opportunities, drivers of migration and development challenges simultaneously. Based on existing experience, panelists further discussed success factors in mobilizing diaspora savings for investments into development. These include applying a migration corridor approach by engaging stakeholders (origin and host governments, migrant associations, private sector, etc.) along the migration trajectory and in all stages of the migration cycle; providing financial education and awareness raising on investment potentials; access to financial products, business opportunities and service providers; addressing social costs of migration, such as family separation; and granting dual or multiple citizenship.

In the discussion, there was a joint notion that migration should not only be seen as a shared responsibility but as a shared opportunity. Delegations affirmed that migrants should be recognized as agents of development beyond remittances and including with regards to entrepreneurship, investments or transnational networks. Participants discussed key elements to create an enabling environment in countries of origin and destination, highlighting practices that included access to loans, targeted development projects, healthcare assistance, and facilitation of entrepreneurship and labour market reintegration upon return. Such practices focused on encouraging and maximizing contributions of international migration and migrants to sustainable development and on empowering the experience for migrants themselves. Throughout the discussion, many references were made to the protection of migrants' rights, integration and inclusion, capacity-building of local service providers, financial inclusion and literacy, countering xenophobia, gender equality, support to migrants at all stages of the migration cycle, whole-of-society approaches, as well as innovative and flexible migration frameworks, such as circular migration.

3. Panel on remittances and portability of earned benefits

To set the scene on the impact of remittances on development and barriers thereto, panelists described the sheer dimensions of global remittances, which amount to USD \$575 billion, of which USD \$429 billion go to developing countries. Remittances impact the lives of one in seven people on earth. Therefore, panelists endorsed the International Day of Family Remittances introduced by IFAD as an opportunity to

strengthen partnerships among stakeholders. While average transaction fees have come down from 10% in 2008 to 7.32%, panelists underlined that there is still a long way to go in order to reach the 3% benchmark of SDG target 10.c. To effectively address the excess payments, panelists proposed a number of measures to reduce the transaction costs and unproductivity of remittances. On the one hand, changing the business model for sending remittances is key by introducing new technologies, for example mobile payments, as cash transfers are still predominant even though they are expensive, potentially dangerous and inefficient. As a case in point, the successful system M-Pesa developed in Kenya ten years ago was cited as well as the positive effects it has had on reducing transfer costs (average fee: 2.7%, 50% cheaper than conventional channel), capturing informal transfers, lower value of remittances sent, and increasing competition. On the other hand, a transparent, consistent and proportionate regulatory framework is needed for cheaper, faster and safer remittances. Such a regulatory framework combined with new transfer technologies has the potential to address some of the current challenges. This includes de-risking due to anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism, barriers for undocumented migrants, removing exclusivity clauses, exclusion of non-bank service providers, lack of price transparency and most importantly, limitations to international mobile money transfers. Moreover, panelists discussed the role of remittances for financial inclusion. Regarding conventional cash transfers carried out through a bank institution, remittance receivers can be educated on the benefits of budgeting, opening bank accounts and managing their financial resources. Since mobile money provides access to a basic transaction account on a mobile phone, the use of remittances is diversified beyond mere consumption and may include payment of school fees, transfer to a mobile savings account or even investment in government bonds. Panelists also pointed out that there are not only market barriers to migrants' contributions to development but that restrictive migration policies create difficult circumstances for migrants to remit. Thus, the reduction of remittance costs alone is not enough to provide an enabling environment. This should include the protection of human and workers' rights as well as the expansion and diversification of regular pathways.

In the discussion, there was widespread recognition of the global scale of remittances and their important effects on development. Meanwhile, delegations also referred to the highly varying costs involved in remittance transactions worldwide, and that the 3% target in SDG 10.c remains unattained thus far in most remittance corridors. Member States highlighted that the development impact of remittances is undermined if the framework conditions do not equally respect and promote the human rights of migrants. At the same time, several participants made the point that remittances should not replace the obligations of Member States to provide basic social safety nets, nor should remittances be a replacement for ODA. There was broad convergence that the regulatory frameworks that govern the movement of money across borders should be re-evaluated and the deployment of innovative solutions to transfer money across borders should be supported. Furthermore, many delegations addressed the potential of enhancing the development contribution of remittances through gender-sensitive financial inclusion and literacy measures. Beyond financial contributions, the relevance of social remittances of migrants was again highlighted. Delegations also broadly agreed on the importance of facilitating the portability of entitlements and earned benefits, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements at (cross-) regional levels.

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

There was general acknowledgement of the undeniable and multifaceted interlinkages between migration and development as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Besides the explicit SDG targets on migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is recognized as the overarching framework to address drivers of migration, such as poverty and inequality. Similarly, migration is seen as a factor for the implementation of the SDGs overall. Furthermore, many delegations affirmed that migration is both a shared responsibility and a shared opportunity. Safe, orderly and regular migration constitutes benefits for migrants and their communities in countries of origin and destination, and can thus be further enhanced through partnerships based on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Foster cooperation among States through bilateral and multilateral agreements, among others, with regards to development cooperation, financial cooperation, social security schemes and labour cooperation
- Recognize migrants and diaspora as actors of development, with a particular focus on the agency and the empowerment of women and girls
- Fully respect the human rights of migrants and fulfill protection obligations as a prerequisite to taking full advantage of socio-economic contributions of migration
- Acknowledge the important role of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the context of migration as a whole and in particular in the follow-up of the global compact
- Stress the importance of migration to achieve the SDGs as a whole, without focusing solely on the migration-related targets
- Combine immediate, medium and long term approaches towards migration and development in the global compact
- Build on existing mechanisms and acknowledge regional and sub-regional platforms to identify and apply best practices

b. Integrating migration and development and promoting policy coherence

There was widespread recognition that migration policies should not be addressed in isolation to other relevant policy areas. A number of delegations were in favour of factoring migration into national development planning and sectoral policies. Simultaneously, the integration of development considerations into migration policies can ensure consistency between public policies that directly affect migrants and their communities. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society at all levels of migration governance are recognized as approaches to safeguard that complementary and mutually reinforcing migration and development policies do not work against each other. Partnerships between and within governments (including with local authorities), as well as between governments and other actors were referred to as a means to develop, implement and evaluate more coherent policies in the area of migration.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Mainstream migration into policy planning at all levels in order to ensure coherence
- Encourage coherent regional development planning that looks at the various aspects of migration and sustainable development
- Promote coordination among State institutions to promote skills development of migrants living abroad
- Foster cooperation with and enhance capacity of authorities at all levels to implement effective mainstreaming of migration into development plans
- Promote, facilitate and monitor migrant investments in line with national development priorities
- Set up advisory councils nationally and internationally to encourage migrant workers and their families to participate in national development strategies of countries of origin and destination

c. Development potentials along the migration cycle

There was widespread acknowledgement that a holistic approach along the whole migration cycle from pre-departure to return must be applied to fully take advantage of the development potentials of migration. In this respect, many delegations saw potential for new or diversified labour migration schemes ranging from permanent to temporary or circular migration models that account for skills shortages and labour demands. In discussing circular migration, delegations recognized the relevance of measures ranging from pre-departure information and training, skills development, the protection of migrant's human rights and particularly labour rights, integration policies in host communities including migrants' access to basic services, adequate financial solutions, provision of consular assistance and protection, dual or multiple citizenship, innovative solutions to mitigate the effects of brain drain, bilateral and regional labour agreements, voluntary returns and well planned reintegration policies and portability provisions. Delegations stressed the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach and providing specific solutions to challenges of youth and women migrants. Additionally, delegations noted the importance of a positive migration narrative, as well as of effective measures to counter xenophobia and to change the current negative perception of migration to address irregular migration with a view to facilitating regular pathways.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Expand domestic training and education to compensate for brain drain and the departure of professionals
- Set up labour mobility initiatives, including permanent, seasonal, temporary and circular worker programmes to fill vacancies in labour markets while offering opportunities for employment, skills development and financial savings for migrant workers
- Foster, assess and monitor the potentials of circular migration by addressing issues such as multiple-entry visa
- Establish visa schemes that allow entrepreneurs and investors to work and live in a country while establishing or supporting innovative ventures
- Facilitate changes of status between different visa types to prevent irregularity and promote investment, job creation and decent work
- Enable demand driven migration policies and combine these endeavours to avoid social dumping, while ensuring the possibility to move in and out of a country without losing entry or resident permit
- Scale up Global Skill Partnerships, through which parties from two or more countries partner in an alliance of stakeholders to design training programmes in countries of origin that prepare participants for the labour markets of all participating countries
- Establish a global multi-stakeholder platform on labour skills availability
- Develop specific bilateral programmes on skills recognition, worker certification, capacity enhancement and maximization of social remittances
- Step up awareness raising efforts on the dangers of migrating through irregular routes and strengthen information on regular migration possibilities, including through national migration manuals
- Develop and foster 'Build your house' or 'Build your land' programmes to provide migrants abroad the possibility to build a house or purchase land at home, particularly through public-private partnerships
- Invest in counselling programmes for citizens abroad wanting to go back home, support them in the creation of SME and provide capacity building for entrepreneurs, including through loans
- Ensure that any return is well-prepared, including through the involvement of all relevant actors, and that it comprises accompanying measures for reintegration and monitoring, e.g. through support for employment or entrepreneurship
- Establish a financing facility for migration to channel funding and technical assistance, as per the Sutherland Report
- Draw lessons learned from the World Bank's global concessional finance facility for refugees as an innovative finance mechanism and analyze the utility of replicating it for migrant communities

d. Enabling the contributions of diaspora

The role of the diaspora as partners in development was discussed by numerous delegations. Delegations referred to the number of their citizens that live overseas, recognizing the significant potential benefits they offer in terms of their economic and social contributions to their communities, as well as remittances. Migrants spur innovation, foster entrepreneurship and are part of transnational networks. Besides the multiple economic and social contributions of diasporas to their countries of origin, the benefits of migration to the countries of destination, such as tax payments, contributions to social security, labour force and entrepreneurship, were equally acknowledged by some. Participants discussed key elements necessary to create an enabling environment in countries of origin and destination. These focused on encouraging and maximizing contributions of international migration and migrants to sustainable development and on empowering the experience for migrants themselves. A number of examples were put forward to illustrate how governments are building partnerships with their diaspora to promote greater investment in development activities at home. Activities to prepare people for migration, such as skills training and cultural preparation, were also highlighted as a means not only to promote effective integration in the destination country, but also to maintain links with the country of origin.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Establish programmes or dedicated offices to enable diasporas to share their knowledge with people in countries of origin, including through the creation of dedicated government offices or focal points
- Set up diaspora advisory boards for governments to work with them as main interlocutors regarding their contribution to the development of the country of origin
- Harness the diaspora for purposes of integration, skills transfer and communication by promoting structured networks in countries of origin and destination
- Mobilize skills of migrants and diaspora to facilitate contributions through skills and knowledge-sharing with country of origin, as well as to engage in policy implementation
- Establish globally interconnected networks of highly skilled and talented diaspora to facilitate knowledge transfer and to foster links with countries of origin
- Assign social affairs or community attachés to embassies and consulates abroad to enable greater association of diaspora with countries of origin and to drive socio-economic progress through more coordinated approaches
- Work with diaspora through a participatory approach that raises awareness for women and youth, and strengthens capacity on conflict sensitivity, results-based management and do-no-harm principles
- Recognize diaspora contributions to peace processes, social, economic and political reforms, including in post-conflict situations
- Explore mechanisms to leverage skills transfer, e.g. through the support of States to NGOs for engaging diaspora members to volunteer in their country of origin
- Support projects aiming at developing targeted sectors in selected countries by strengthening the capacity of key institutions through the engagement of their diaspora communities
- Establish programmes that assign members of diaspora to provide quality health care services in their countries of origin for a specific time period
- Improve support for diaspora to create businesses and facilitate trade, e.g. organize trade fairs on trade regulations and procedures and provide SME training tools, while highlighting the value of the nostalgic markets in migration corridors
- Set up voting registers for nationals living abroad
- Facilitate measures to maintain family links and to support families and children that remain in the countries of origin

e. Integration and inclusion

Integration in the country of destination was highlighted as a particularly important means to promote the links between migration and development. In this regard, it was recognized that promoting migrants' human rights and providing access to health, education, housing and social protection, as well as

supporting employment opportunities, are all crucial to ensuring that migrants meet their full potential. Although some noted that this can create upfront costs in the short term, it was also suggested that providing this support to migrants should in fact be considered a long term investment. Supporting the integration of migrants, including by eliminating discriminatory laws and practices, was especially stressed in the context of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Develop and promote social and productive inclusion guidelines for the global compact
- Enable policy frameworks that allow equal access to labour markets, social services, housing and education
- Provide services and assistance to migrants through consular protection and regularly update registration of nationals living abroad
- Cooperate on language and cultural training for new migrants, including in the pre-departure and arrival stages
- Empower migrants by promoting and protecting their rights as well as by recognizing existing and acquired skills
- Ensure access to decent work in specific sectors for all migrants, including undocumented migrants, to prevent trafficking in human beings
- Establish voluntary medical insurance programmes that ensure healthcare for migrants
- Regularize migrants and integrate them into health and education systems to fully harness their contributions to development in countries of origin and destination, and consider regularization of migrants as a means to promote integration and enhance economic contributions
- Develop bi-national or regional capacity-building programmes to enhance standard of living for citizens living abroad, for example through issuing consular IDs that allow, among others, access to bank accounts

f. Remittances and financial inclusion

The role of migrant remittances was highlighted as one of the most tangible examples of how migration enables sustainable development. Numerous delegations stressed that financial inclusion measures are vital to enhance the developmental impact of remittances, bearing in mind that most remittance receivers were unbanked. Financial inclusion strategies and products should recognize the particular needs as well as remittance sending and spending habits of women. There was broad agreement that the regulatory frameworks that govern the movement of small sums of money across borders should be re-evaluated, particularly regulations on de-risking, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing. The deployment of innovative solutions to transfer money across borders should be supported, such as mobile money solutions, which facilitate cost reduction, immediate access, diversified deployment, digital money saving options and transparency. Some participants mentioned a correlation between remittances and investments in nutrition, education and health, further highlighting direct links between migration and development. Public-private partnerships amongst this diverse group of stakeholders should be promoted and facilitated to discuss practical solutions for enabling environments. Some delegations addressed the role of remittances in humanitarian contexts and measures, such as waiving fees or promoting humanitarian contributions were also discussed.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Enhance effective coordination within and among governments for financial inclusion and the provision of financial services at an affordable cost
- Create a roadmap to reduce the costs of remittance transfers, developing and improving indicators to monitor commitments at national, regional and global levels
- Foster financial inclusion and financial literacy, including through supporting the work of the Global Partnership on Financial Inclusion and the promotion of the High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion

- Establish online information portals and work with consumer agencies to provide information on comparison of transaction costs, speed and other parameters that are useful for senders to identify the least costly corridor
- Facilitate partnerships between all actors in order to establish an enabling environment and to encourage their use for investment in countries of origin
- Strengthen consular support to help migrants to open bank accounts and to transfer remittances through regular channels as well as to improve financial knowledge, access to loans and foster new forms of trade
- Increase access to banking accounts and solutions for migrants, including to savings systems
- Promote the role of regional remittance institutes, such as the African Institute for Remittances and its core objective to develop capacities of African States to implement concrete policies to use remittances as a tool for poverty eradication
- Develop national remittance plans
- Introduce transnational remittance matching-grant programmes to channel funding for local public works and infrastructure through partnerships with hometown associations, such as a 'Three-for-One' programme
- Foster transparency and enhance competition of remittance transfer services and markets, including through facilitating the use of technologies such as mobile services, digital payment markets and e-banking
- Ensure sound regulation mechanisms and develop guidelines in the context of the global compact for regulating the remittance market
- Work in close cooperation with private banking sectors as well as postal operators to keep transfer costs of remittances low
- Offer financial inclusion to returnees and explore public-private partnerships in this regard
- Establish channels for remittances in humanitarian situations to support emergency needs and track impacts

g. Social remittances

It was stressed by numerous delegations that migrants' contributions cannot be reduced solely to a financial component. Migrants' social remittances, their knowledge and skills transfers, networks, cultural capital, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, are significant and need appropriate recognition. Enhancing the potential of migrants' social remittances requires that their skills are effectively recognized and utilized in more than one country. The difficulty of measuring social remittances was addressed by some delegations, while stressing that they are equally relevant given their impact on families, children or older persons that remain in the countries of origin, as well as societies at large.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Develop bilateral cooperation projects to transfer skills and knowledge of diaspora members to countries of origin, including to rural areas
- Develop social remittance indicators with the support of the World Bank, ILO and IOM and set up monitoring and evaluation systems
- Recognize the gender dimensions of remittances as a development booster for communities in countries of origin and destination
- Promote the International Day of Family Remittances as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships among stakeholders

h. Portability of earned benefits

Delegations broadly converged on the importance of the portability of entitlements and earned benefits, including unemployment benefits, family benefits, pensions, workers' compensation and health insurance. It was pointed out that losing their earned benefits could potentially push migrants and their families into poverty. Some delegations stated that acquired benefits and skills go hand-in-hand, and that it is most beneficial when the migration experience as a whole represents value-added to States, migrants and their

communities. It was further emphasized that the lack of portability of benefits could be a serious disincentive for migrants to return, potentially also negatively impacting policies that stimulate circular migration. Participants agreed on focusing on bilateral and multilateral agreements, with a number of participants sharing their countries' experiences. The question of whether and how undocumented and deported migrants could access their earned benefits was also addressed by some delegations.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Introduce bilateral and multilateral agreements for the portability of earned benefits and pensions
- Provide a framework to support policies regarding the facilitation of requests for the portability of pensions and disability benefits
- Improve existing and establish new institutions to take care of portability of benefits at transnational and national levels
- Develop global principles for bilateral and multilateral agreements including the equality of treatment with regards to social protection, portability of earned benefits, measures to avoid double coverage as well as administrative assistance
- Provide capacity-building in developing countries in the area of portability of benefits
- Include portability and social security arrangements into bilateral and multilateral trade agreements

i. Data

Once again, it was widely recognized that, while current data evidences the positive synergies between migration and development, significant gaps in comparable data remain. Therefore, the need for improved data, research and information-sharing on migration and development were underscored by many as critical foundations for coherent policy and planning. In light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, delegations acknowledged the importance of harmonized, consistent and complete national census data with relevant indicators regarding migration. Furthermore, the need for improved data on both financial and social remittances as well as mapping of demand and availability of skills were mentioned. It was stated that much of the relevant information already exists in administrative data.

Concrete issues and recommendations presented for consideration included:

- Improve data collection on migration and analyze the impacts of both regular and irregular migration on development
- Collect and use relevant data for governments to map out available skills and to positively channel it for the economy
- Collect disaggregated and comparable data on remittance transfers, including an impact mapping linked to average the costs of the transfers
- Develop standardized migration-related questions for census and household surveys, for example with regards to the country of birth and reasons for migrating
- Look at gender-disaggregated data in the context of remittances, including with regards to the use of technologies

IV. Conclusions

The fourth 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 the interlinkages between migration and development as well as the various contributions of migrants and diaspora to development, including remittances and the portability of earned benefits. It allowed for an exchange of understandings regarding priority issues and sharing of national practices, proposing concrete recommendations and identifying areas for further discussion.

While there was a strong affirmation of the evident and multifarious links between migration and development, there was convergence on the need to ensure that these interlinkages should be harnessed to create positive development outcomes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the

Sustainable Development Goals were acknowledged as the overarching political framework that has the potential and momentum to spur traction for policy development and implementation at the national, regional and global level. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not only the overarching framework to address drivers of migration, but also a means to promote the development benefits for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Despite not all delegations having the same understanding of how to translate the various implications and potential benefits of migration for sustainable development into policies and frameworks in light of differing national circumstances and jurisdictions, the notion was largely shared that in addressing the interlinkages between migration and development, a holistic approach to the whole migration cycle should be promoted through coherent policies in all sectors relevant to migration. In this respect, the potential of facilitating circular migration models and diversifying regular pathways linked to sustainable return and reintegration policies was acknowledged as an important area for further discussion, while at the same time stressing the importance of balancing innovative skills-matching schemes with measures to counter brain drain and to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly migrant worker's rights.

Another shared understanding related to the acknowledgement that migrants' contributions to development and integration are two sides of the same medallion. Economic, social and cultural inclusion constitutes the premise for effectively harnessing the development benefits of migration. A triple win outcome for migrants, as well as their countries of origin and destination, can only be achieved if migrants' human and labour rights are protected and their inclusion into societies is facilitated through enabling framework conditions. Delegations affirmed that xenophobia and negative perceptions of migration are among the greatest barriers to empowering migrants as agents of development. In this regard, achieving a positive migration narrative was considered necessary, particularly through whole-of-society approaches and the promotion of social cohesion.

While it was generally agreed that the development contributions of migrants and diasporas go well beyond remittances, the discussion about enabling framework conditions for social remittances, such as knowledge-transfer, transnational networks, entrepreneurship, innovation and cultural capital, remained at a general level and requires further reflection. Similarly, while the benefits of migration to development were widely acknowledged, words of caution were added that development could only be part of the solution to address migration challenges, but not the sole solution. Another area that merits further discussion relates to how innovation and technology, such as mobile financial solutions for migrants or technology-supported schemes for the portability of social benefits, can be leveraged to effectively reduce the costs of migration, thereby fostering its benefits for development.

ANNEX – Programme of work

Day 1: Monday, 24 July 2017

Time	Concept	
10.00-10.15	<p>Opening segment</p> <p>Welcoming remarks by the co-facilitators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 <p>Remarks by Ms. Louise Arbour, Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference</p>	
10.15-13.00	<p>PANEL 1: Contributions of migrants to all dimensions of sustainable development: the linkages between migration and development</p> <p>As Member States agreed to a number of migration-related commitments and targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this panel will provide an overview of the links between migration and development. It will highlight practical means of fostering the economic and social benefits of migration, including through the mainstreaming of migration into development policies and enhancing cooperation within and amongst states. This mainstreaming process would be based on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including through meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders. The session will also examine those barriers limiting positive development contributions, and discuss innovative policies and measures to enhance such contributions including through the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Gibril Faal, Interim Executive Director of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT) ▪ Ms. Melissa Siegel, Professor of Migration Studies and Head of Migration Studies at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance ▪ Mr. Najim Azahaf, Senior Project Manager, Bertelsmann Stiftung <p>Moderator: H. E. Mr. Hisham Badr, Ambassador, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Affairs and International Security of the Arab Republic of Egypt</p>	
13.00-15.00	Lunch	Space for side-events
15.00-17.50	<p>PANEL 2: Contributions of migrants and diaspora to all dimensions of sustainable development: enabling frameworks for contributions</p> <p>This panel will focus on the multiple aspects and concrete contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development. It will examine the key elements of enabling frameworks in countries of origin and destination to encourage and maximize such contributions. These elements include incentives to invest, diaspora bonds, support to migrant entrepreneurs, skills development and circulation, political participation of migrants, and social remittances. During this session, both economic and social contributions of migrants and diasporas will be explored including on how they can impact social inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Estrella Mai Dizon-Anonuevo, Executive Director, Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative Inc 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Manuel Orozco, Senior fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue and the Director of the Migration, Remittances and Development Program ▪ Mr. Issayas Tesfamariam, Lecturer at the African and Middle Eastern Languages at Stanford University <p><u>Moderator:</u> H.E. Mr. Nabeel Munir, Ambassador, Acting Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations</p>
17.50-18.00	Closing remarks by the co-facilitators

Day 2: Tuesday, 25 July 2017

Time	Concept		
10.00-10.15	<p>Welcome remarks by the co-facilitators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 		
10.15-13.00	<p>PANEL 3: Remittances and portability of earned benefits</p> <p>This panel will provide a concrete discussion on key economic and financial dimensions of migration and development, including remittances. The panel will highlight ways to reduce the transfer costs associated with migrant remittances as well as ways to maximize the impact of remittances on sustainable development, including through enhancing the financial literacy and inclusion of remittance recipients and their families. The portability of such benefits will also be highlighted, including ways in which to ensure such measures through various types of bilateral or multilateral agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Leon Isaacs, Joint-Chief Executive Officer, Developing Markets Associates (DMA) ▪ Mr. Oscar A. Chacón, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Alianza Americas ▪ Ms. Claire Scharwatt, Senior Advocacy & Policy Manager for the Mobile Money Programme, Mobile Money of Groupe Spéciale Mobile Association (GSMA) <p><u>Moderator:</u> H.E. Mr. Amanuel Giorgio, Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations</p>		
13.00-15.00	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Lunch</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Space for side-events</td> </tr> </table>	Lunch	Space for side-events
Lunch	Space for side-events		
15.00-17.50	<p>SUMMARY PANEL: Synopsis of the main conclusions and outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderators present the key recommendations resulting from their panels ▪ Ms. Marta Foresti, Managing Director, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), thematic expert 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		