



PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration in New York and has the honour to refer to latter's Note Verbale dated July 21, 2017 and September 11, 2017 requesting inputs for the preparations of the Secretary-General's Report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of India has the honour to send Government of the Republic of India's inputs for the Secretary-General's Report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as following:

**Begins**

**A. Structure and elements of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration  
(Purpose, goals, challenges, opportunities)**

**i. Underscoring the Developmental dimension of International Migration:**

International migration is an important component of an ever closer integration of economies and supply chains. The report by former SRSG on Migration, Peter Sutherland, has made a strong case for mainstreaming developmental and economic aspect of migration and has several useful points to improve governance of international migration.

The integration of modern global economy and business, facilitated by ICT, relies on the easy mobility across borders of capital, technology, goods and services. Equally, it also relies on mobility of workers, which, however, faces resistance. Mobility of labour is required for businesses and economy in view of shortage of skilled workers, professionals, researchers as also the need for young workforce in countries with ageing populations.

The Compact should provide a framework of international cooperation premised on development paradigm that seeks to maximize its specific advantages to both source and destination countries leading to the global achievement of Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals while being sensitive towards vulnerable groups like women and children.

**ii. A separate, distinct and independent Compact:**

The General Assembly in New York Declaration on Refugees & Migration had clearly distinguished between the two processes leading to separate, distinct and independent global compacts, one on refugees and the other on migrants, while recognizing that there may be some cross-cutting themes.

The Compact on Migration must retain focus on the phenomenon that is intrinsically linked to globalization without allowing the concerns about large scale movement of refugees to cloud the discussion. Refugee and migrant flows have separate causes and motives and are governed by different legal frameworks.

Similarly, the issues of Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) must not find any place in this discussion on evolving governance norms for transnational migration.

iii. **Fostering genuine international cooperation:**

Since it is clear that mobility of labour is an integral component of the global economy that contributes to overall prosperity, there is a need to clarify and promote its importance and utility.

The discussions on a global compact, while reaffirming the sovereign rights of states to manage migrants, should foster an environment of trust and understanding without letting perceived concerns on large movements of refugees impact it. The compact should make clarity between legal and illegal migration.

The compact should respect the established international mechanism and conventions under UNTOC and its three protocols for dealing with cases of trafficking in migration and illegal migration.

**B. Actionable commitments that may be included in the Global Compact on Migration**

- i. Incorporate movement of natural persons (short term movement of specialists) under Mode-4 of GATS and integrate it as part of cross-border movement of services.
- ii. Create a framework for recognition of foreign qualifications, education and skills.
- iii. Introduce bilateral and multilateral arrangements for portability of earned benefits and pensions.
- iv. Create multiple labour migration opportunities, including for low-skilled migrants, to incentivize their use of regular migration channels, by establishing common and accessible visa and work permit regimes.
- v. Promote the financial inclusion of migrants, for example, by lowering the costs of remittances and promoting digital financial services, and provide incentives for migrants to engage in trade between countries of origin and destination
- vi. Facilitate consular support to help migrants open bank accounts and to transfer remittances
- vii. Keep a check on additional barriers to economic migration and try to maintain a balance of responsibilities between the origin and destination countries, while keeping the interest of the migrants at the centre.

viii. Ensure that malpractices by unscrupulous employers who provide miserable conditions of work or illegally seize travel document of workers are curbed, and wage structures are linked to the cost of living index.

**Ends**

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for International Migration in New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

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for International Migration**

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