



STATEMENT DELIVERED BY FAO

**Preparatory stocktaking meeting
Action Group 3- Local/Subnational Dimensions**

5 December 2017, 10.45 – 13.00

STATEMENT

- First of all, allow me to thank the Moderator for giving me the floor.
- I am intervening on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UN Women, and WHO.
- **Migration has a major local dimension: sub-national and local institutions are those at the forefront.** They are the ones who deal on a daily basis with the direct causes and consequences of migration in terms of local development.
- **Sub-national and local institutions are key players in developing and implementing innovative mechanisms.** In areas of origin of migration, they play a key role in addressing the drivers of migration, while in areas of transit and destination of migration, they have a major role in fostering social cohesion. Moreover, we should put particular emphasis in harnessing the development potential of migration at local level for both areas of origin, transit, and destination.
- **In particular, local institutions in rural areas have a key role to play,** as a large share of migrants originate from rural areas and three-quarters of the extreme poor base their livelihoods on agriculture and other rural activities. Food insecurity in these rural areas may be the norm and have a significant impact on the health and well-being. Moreover, rural towns are welcoming large shares of migrants, considering the large share of migrant workers in agricultural-related activities. In countries of transit, the participation and engagement of rural host communities is essential for a more sustainable management of natural resources. In these communities, migrants may work in precarious conditions and may have limited access to health services.
- **Policy coherence between migration and sectoral policies at local level, such as agricultural and rural development ones, is essential,** considering the direct role of local and sub-national entities in both migration management and development. Regular consultations should be held with local actors, and in line with the New Urban Agenda.
- **Partnerships and platforms for coordination among local institutions, civil society and the private sector are essential. A wide range of actors should be involved to work with local governments,** such as: Farmers' Groups, Youth organizations, Workers Unions, Diaspora Organizations, Migrants Associations, women's organisations etc. All those actors should benefit from tailored, gender-



responsive and rights-based capacity development and being involved, through participative approaches in mainstreaming processes, anchored to local realities, and their respective to local challenges and opportunities. To counteract discrimination, racism and xenophobia, it is important to work with local media to develop means for regular transmission of positive narratives about migrants and migration.

- **Thanks again for allowing us to take the floor. [We will share these inputs with the moderator and rapporteur for their reference]**

KEY MESSAGES

- Local dimensions are essential for the Global Compact for Migration. For a Global compact lead us towards is our collective opportunity to operationalise the New York Declaration and agree on a long-term human rights-based and gender-responsive framework for migration and actionable commitments. We need practical actions, innovation, and coordinated solutions among a wide range of stakeholders, not only at national but also at **local level**.
- **Sub-national and local institutions are those who deal with the direct causes and consequences of migration in terms of local development.** Sub-national and local institutions are therefore the key players in developing, testing, and implementing innovative mechanisms to address the root causes of migration and harness the development potential of migration for areas of origin, transit, and destination.
- Mayors and local actors are at the forefront interacting with migrants and their families on the ground on a daily basis and have developed innovative measures to manage migration and social inclusion at the local level. For example: Cities have provided all citizens regardless of the immigration status with proof of their legal identity – allowing them to participate in local live them to open bank accounts, access education and enter federal buildings.
- The GC/M should recognize the role of local economic development in **addressing the drivers causes of migration**, especially those linked to poverty, gender inequalities, food insecurity, health, lack of employment, and the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. As discussed during the second informal thematic session, many individuals and families migrate from rural areas as they see no other choice or viable option for moving out of poverty within their own communities. In particular, local rural institutions have a key role to play, as a large share of migrants (internal and international) originate from rural areas and three-quarters of the extreme poor base their livelihoods on agriculture and other rural activities
- The GC/M should include specific commitments for **local policy makers to provide their people with sustainable alternatives to migration**, by creating decent rural employment and entrepreneurship opportunities that match their



needs— and especially those of women and youth – with local labour market needs; improving food systems dynamics; promoting sustainable agriculture practices, as well as access to social protection and social essential services such as health and education.

- Moreover, rural areas are also welcoming large shares of migrants in countries of destination, considering employment of migrants in agricultural-related activities. In countries of transit, often times, migrants may be located in rural areas, and if especially if a large inflow of migrants is sudden, it becomes essential that any settlement solution counts with the participation and engagement of local host communities. Not only for social cohesion, but also for a sustainable management of natural resources in the receiving context, and thus prevent the degradation of forests, land and water, but rather promote more sustainable practices among both migrants and host communities.
- To support and also learn from their work there is a need to institute and maintain regular consultations with local authorities on migration issues and policies, including at the national and transnational levels, consistent with the recommendations in the New Urban Agenda.
- **Policy coherence between migration and sectoral policies at local level, such as agricultural and rural development ones, is essential**, considering the direct role of local and sub-national entities in both migration management and development. National and local policies on sustainable development and climate change adaptation, as well as sectoral policies (e.g. education, agriculture and rural development, employment, health, social protection), need to include a review of their sensitivity to migration dynamics and migration needs to be streamlined in national development policies. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is key to create decent jobs for migrants and local communities.
- To counteract discrimination, racism and xenophobia, it is important to work with local media to develop means for regular transmission of positive narratives about migrants and migration.
- Traditionally, programming and policy interventions related to human mobility have focused on the national and international levels. However, local governments, including cities, have a key role to play when it comes to public policies and migration. By 2050, two thirds of the planet will live in urban areas. Cities are magnets for many different flows of people and at the forefront of integrating newcomers, including labour migrants, transit migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The GCM is encouraged to link up to existing structures such as the Mayoral Forum on Migration which supports new approaches to urban governance and the implementation of migration policies for inclusive growth, in line with the New Urban Agenda.



- Municipal governments often have more direct exposure to human mobility and its impacts. Their experiences are important for well-informed national policies that affect human mobility. Member States are encouraged to mainstream efforts at both national and local levels for enhanced vertical policy coherence in migration and development. Mayors and local leaders need competences, capacities and resources to integrate migration in sectoral development plans and policies, such as agricultural, health, gender equality, investment and education plans, as well as in territorial planning instruments, such as regional and municipal strategies. When cities and territories input their knowledge and experience into national development planning, it creates more applicable and responsive national policies that can be more successfully implemented at the local level, in line with the objective to localize Agenda 2030.
- As inflows of people can affect the social cohesion and stability of municipalities, it is important to promote the social integration of newcomers, build intercultural capacities and advance good governance structures to strengthen dispute resolution and to prevent xenophobia and discrimination. It can be a foundation of many activities carried out with the municipalities, including the establishment of dialogue platforms and participatory planning and improve public perception. Adequate resources to cope with the impact of massive migration on local labour markets, housing needs, health systems, education, institutions and other services, are equally important.
- Considering the direct role of local and sub-national entities in both migration management and development: the GC/M should commit to establish **partnerships among local institutions, civil society and the private sector** in order to enhance policy coherence between migration and sectoral policies, which is essential to address the root causes of migration and harnessing its development potential. Ultimately, such coherence at local and sub-national level is an essential component for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- The GC/M should include a **commitment to promote cooperation platforms for local administrations** that recognize their abilities to develop innovative policies to strengthen social cohesion, provide services to migrant communities, and to maximise the economic benefits brought by these communities and diaspora communities abroad.
- **A wide range of actors should be involved in collaborating with local and subnational governmental institutions**, including: Farmers' Groups, Youth organizations, women's organisations, Workers Unions, Diaspora Organizations, Migrants Associations, Private Technology firms, etc. All those actors should benefit from tailored gender responsive and human rights based capacity building and being involved, through participative approaches in mainstreaming processes, anchored to local realities and responding to local challenges and opportunities. To counteract discrimination, racism and xenophobia, it is important to work with



local media to develop means for regular transmission of positive narratives about migrants and migration.

- Strengthening local governance and facilitating the virtual networking and platform for exchange among farmer organizations, rural youth, and migrant associations, can foster new alliances and joint actions, promote sharing of information, knowledge, lessons learned and best practices. Especially women and youth in rural areas and their organizations should be engaged in policy dialogue and local development, be given more voice and made aware of their rights.
- Local institutions should seek to cooperate with the private sector to **support joint initiatives to enhance safe, orderly and regular migration**, by providing gender-responsive pre-departure training on the rights, risks and opportunities associated with migration and the opportunities and related required skills both in the areas of origin and possible destination. It is important that such training is also conducted in rural areas, as migrants working in the agricultural sector are often at risk of exploitation.
- **Partnership among local institutions, civil society and the private sector is needed for having concrete actions and investments tailored to the specific needs of rural communities.** The GC/M could foresee a commitment to increase the collaboration between sub-national and local institutions with the private sector for its contribution to increase the access to financial services, technical training and social protection in rural areas, as well as to create decent work opportunities, both on-farm and off-farm. **Public-private sector partnership** is an important tool to improve skills in local dimension according to the market needs, and entrepreneurship is a complementary tool to boost local economic development in local and sub-national dimension.
- The GC/M should also recognize the key role that local institutions play to create an **enabling environment for remittance transfers, especially to rural areas**, by improving the access to safe, reliable and affordable remittances' services, and increasing financial literacy among their people.