

Data on International Migration - A Global Perspective

Preparatory (stocktaking) meeting
4-6 December 2017, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Action Group 6: Global Dimensions
Tuesday, 5 December, 15:00-18:00

Intervention prepared by DESA and IOM, with contributions from ILO, OECD, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, and the World Bank

In virtually every consultation thus far on the global compact, Member States and other stakeholders have highlighted the urgent need to strengthen migration data, training and research.

Today, allow me to highlight the necessity of a **global approach** on data and the importance of **global cooperation** on data.

Regarding a **global approach** on data:

- Although there may be national and regional specificities in migration, we should continue to apply **global standards** for data collection, and we should build **global databases** of core indicators on migration. A global approach to data is the only way to ensure the availability of consistent and comparable information on migration trends, drivers and impacts.
- In the Global Compact, we propose that there should be a chapter, or a section of a chapter, dedicated to articulating a **global vision** of how to improve the available data and evidence on migration. For example, within a chapter on implementation, there could be a dedicated section on improving migration data, training and research.

Regarding **global cooperation** on data:

- The follow-up to the Global Compact would benefit from a **global programme** for building national capacities to collect, disseminate and analyse migration-related data. Such a global programme would provide a means of addressing data gaps, assessing migration trends and monitoring the implementation of commitments.
- To ensure a baseline of **global data** on the number and characteristics of international migrants, there is no substitute for population censuses. Countries

are encouraged to include migration-related questions in their censuses during the 2020 round. The core migration questions include country of birth, country of citizenship, year or period of arrival, and reasons for migration.

- Countries should ensure the timely analysis and dissemination of census data, including data disaggregated by age, sex and migrant status. In a spirit of cooperation, countries should provide detailed information on country of birth and country of citizenship of their resident populations. Such information provides the only practical means for countries to keep track of the number of their nationals living abroad — that is, by consulting data generated by censuses and surveys conducted in other countries.
- Lastly, to promote a **global dialogue** on migration data, DESA, IOM and OECD are organizing the first-ever International Forum on Migration Statistics, which will take place in Paris on 15-16 January 2018. This Forum will provide a venue for experts, policy-makers and representatives of civil society to exchange ideas on data and evidence to improve the global understanding of migration.