



RESPONSE TO THE SRSG'S ISSUE BRIEF #2

Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution

IN PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON
THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION
May 22nd and 23rd, 2017 in New York

The NGO Committee on Migration calls on States to endorse and urgently implement the action commitments spelled out in the SRSG's Issue Brief #2 on addressing the drivers of migration – including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution.

The drivers of migration of particular concern to our committee are:

- movements in response to human made crises;
- movements in response to environmental change;
- movements in response to lack of access to fundamental human rights, such as **health, food, water, and basic education**, and due to discrimination, especially **gender**, poverty, and separation from family.

We are in strong agreement that our primary focus must be to reduce the adverse factors that motivate people to move out of necessity in unsafe, dangerous, and often desperate conditions, and to enable migration to be safe, regular, and orderly, so that the impact of migration is a win-win situation for all.

As the SRSG notes, Government policy choices affect whether migration takes place through “regular”, authorized channels or through “irregular,” unauthorized channels, and these choices influence the vulnerabilities associated with migration. The more regular migration channels are restricted, the more migration is diverted into irregular, often exploitative channels

Reduction of the drivers of irregular migration will require commitments by States that enhance regular migration, as described in the list of 16 actions proposed in the Issue Brief. Our Committee urges a particular focus on the urgency of commitments to:

- prevent conflict, including by addressing the climate-conflict nexus;
- assist migrants in crisis situations, especially the most vulnerable, **particularly women and children**;
- address environmental factors, especially by strengthening engagement in disaster risk reduction and management and in global reduction of natural resource consumption;
- develop international repositories of analysis on migration drivers; and
- address poverty and discrimination, embracing sustainable development goals, with focus on facilitating Targets 10.7 and 8.8, to ensure that no one is left behind.

We also urge critical attention to the informal Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Francois Crepeau, in which he gives an overview of the main discussions at the first thematic consultation in Geneva on the human rights of all migrants, noting both the progress made in the way States have been responding to migration issues over the last few years, as well as the difficulties that remain in forming a consensus on an effective governance mechanism that protects and embraces the human rights of migrants.