

Summary
Third informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing
Preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
18 December 2017
Trusteeship Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

The President of the General Assembly organized the third informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing as part of the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 18 December 2017 in New York, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 71/280. Representatives of Member States, observers, civil society organisations, academic institutions, parliaments and the private sector participated in the hearing.

In the **opening segment** of the hearing, President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák emphasized that migration affects whole societies. A whole-of-society approach means partnerships between different segments of society and the need to listen to many different perspectives. He added that governments will continue to decide on the laws and policies related to migration and will be the main drivers of the negotiation process, due to start in February 2018. At the same time, stakeholders are the ones to implement these laws and policies and the future Global Compact must be implemented at all levels of society.

In her statement, Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Ms. Louise Arbour highlighted that the positive impact of migration cannot be harnessed without adequate migration policies in place that protect migrants' rights regardless of their status.

In a short presentation by civil society, John Bingham of the International Catholic Migration Commission briefed participants about the civil society stocktaking meeting that was held in Puerto Vallarta on December 2-3, 2017.

The **first panel** looked at the local perspective of the whole-of-society approach to migration. The panel was moderated by Sherwin Bryce-Pease, President of UN Correspondents Association, and panelists included Eni Lestari Andayani Adi, Chairperson, International Migrants Alliance, Deborah Valencia, Founding member, Melissa Network of Migrant Women in Greece, Onyekachi Wambu, Executive Director, African Foundation for Development and Barbara Span, Vice President, Global Public Affairs, Western Union.

The panel and the interactive discussion that followed highlighted how local actors could contribute to management of migration and integration of migrants. It also discussed the role of local authorities, and expertise and experiences from local-level implementation that can be used to inform policy-making. Speakers shared examples of how civil society, the private sector and government can work together to facilitate the integration of migrants. The experiences of many cities show that there are long-term benefits associated with immigration, particularly for cities that face a decline in their manufacturing sector.

Several speakers also highlighted the importance of bottom-up and community-based approaches to migration. The role of engaging diaspora communities was also emphasized. It was further noted that national governments must take the lead and have to ensure appropriate laws and regulations in support of local-level implementation.

The **second panel** focused on the national-level perspective on the whole-of-society approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. The panel was moderated by Sherwin Bryce-Pease, President of UN Correspondents Association, and panelists included Hon. Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández, Senator of the Mexico Senate, Tendayi Bloom, Lecturer at The Open University and Dennis Sinyolo, Senior Coordinator of Education International.

During the panel participants discussed how different actors can contribute to shaping migration policies, and examined some of the examples of successes and challenges of the whole-of-society approach to migration. The panel further highlighted how these could be reflected in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Panelists introduced several good practices that strengthen partnerships among governments, civil society, the private sector and others on the national level, including social dialogue mechanisms. The role of trade unions as important stakeholders to develop migration policies was also highlighted. Speakers also underlined the need to include migrants in a whole-of-society approach.

In the **closing segment**, the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, highlighted that the Preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a Member State-led process but inclusive at the same time. In his closing remarks, President of the General Assembly noted that whole-of-society approach to migration is absolutely necessary and thanked participants for their contributions.