



Ministry of Justice
Division for Migration and Asylum Policy

Thematic consultation 1: *Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance*

Panel 1: Human rights of all migrants

- The global compact on migration has the potential to improve the handling of an issue that has suffered from too little cooperation for far too long.
- In the current political context, more international cooperation, not less, is the solution to safeguarding the ability of states to determine the rules that govern migration.
- We cannot continue to let the failure to cooperate lead to inaction or violations of international human rights, including labour rights. It is crucial that human rights and gender equality feature prominently throughout the global compact on migration.
- The Global Compact should be about delivering real change on the ground. It needs to include operational commitments, be supported by measures of success and a robust follow-up mechanism.
- Sweden therefore welcomes the inter-agency brief presented by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, Ms Louise Arbour.
- Sweden appreciates the format of identifying key trends and issues as well as possible ways forward and commitments.
- Sweden also welcomes the report by Ms Arbour's predecessor, Mr Peter Sutherland and the level of concreteness of his recommendations.
- Of particular interest for our discussions today are Mr Sutherland's recommendations relating to the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations including
 - o the process towards guiding principles for migrants in vulnerable situations;
 - o enhancing consular protection and protection in transit;

- as well as the suggested efforts to reduce recruitment costs and exploitation of migrant workers.
- The Global Compact could build on such recommendations as well as those coming out of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly with an aim to make concrete commitments of operational value.

Panel 2: Social inclusion and cohesion

- In an effort to promote operational commitments, let me share some examples of relevance for promoting gender equality and inclusion in the labour market:
- First we need to acknowledge that the examination of permits for migrants must be in compliance with the rule of law regardless of gender. To work with gender equality is to improve procedural safeguards.
- Gender mainstreaming within migration policy means equal treatment, service and assessments for female and male permit applicants. Authorities must also counteract violence against women and honour-related violence.
- A well-functioning system of labour migration must include measures for preventing exploitation and other abuses against migrant workers. This calls for both control measures during the work permit process and sanctions against abusive employers. The right to organize must be safeguarded for all workers, including migrant workers.
- A national action plan for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights may serve as support for businesses in transforming the UN Guiding Principles into concrete action. This has been done by Sweden and some other countries. The successful and competitive companies of the future are those that make human rights and corporate social responsibility a part of their core business.
- The ILO and IOM initiatives for promoting fair recruitment practices, which Sweden supports, are other measures to turn the political commitment of the 2030 agenda into practice including by putting an end exploitation of migrant workers and reducing recruitment costs.
- By building on concrete examples like those just listed, the Global Compact on Migration could bring added value in terms of promoting social inclusion and operationalizing human rights commitments for migrants.

Panel 3: All forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance

- In the current political context, where xenophobia and anti-migrant sentiments are on the rise, it is crucial that the Global Compact on Migration addresses issues of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance.
- The fight against xenophobia must involve a comprehensive approach and engage a broad section of authorities and civil society.
- The Government of Sweden has adopted a national plan to combat racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime.
- The plan identifies a number of strategic areas:
 - o More knowledge, education and research;
 - o Improved coordination and monitoring;
 - o Greater support for and more in-depth dialogue with civil society;
 - o Strengthening preventive measures online; and
 - o A more active legal system.
- With operational commitments in these areas, we believe the Global Compact on Migration could make a substantive contribution to ending discrimination, xenophobia, racism and intolerance.