

Fourth informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing
Preparatory process for the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and
the intergovernmental conference on international migration

21 February 2018
UN Headquarters, New York

Facts instead of perceptions:
Promoting an evidence-based discussion on migration

Theme:

The fourth multi-stakeholder hearing will focus on the importance of a fact-based narrative around migration. In recent years, migration has often dominated news headlines and public discourse around the world, in particular in the context of large movements of migrants and refugees. In many instances, the issue has been framed through misperceptions, ideology or fear. In his latest report, the Secretary-General noted with concern the spread of xenophobic narratives about migration.

A public debate that is based on facts rather than perceptions will promote evidence-based policies on migration. In the New York Declaration, Member States condemned acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and “related intolerance against refugees and migrants, and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief.” During the consultation phase of the Global Compact, Member States and other stakeholders have repeatedly called for more disaggregated data on migration to support policy development.

Political leadership is imperative to promoting a fact-based public debate on migration but is not enough in itself. Governments, parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society, migrants and other relevant actors must all work together to achieve this common objective.

The hearing will explore the role of governments and other stakeholders, including civil society, parliamentarians, the private sector and media in promoting an evidence-based discussion around migration. It will provide an opportunity to discuss ways to cooperate and identify concrete recommendations, to ensure a fact-based discussion around migration.

Provisional agenda:

Time	
10:00-10:20	Opening of the multi-stakeholder hearing Opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák Remarks by Ms. Louise Arbour, Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference to adopt the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration
10:20-11:45	Panel I: From fiction to fact: the case for quality data The panel will focus on the importance of quality and disaggregated data. This includes looking at the common misperceptions around migration including the use of facts and how migration is being portrayed. <i>Guiding questions:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of data in the migration debate? What can stakeholders do to improve the availability of data on migration? • How to address data collection in the Global Compact? <p>Panellists and moderator (tbc)</p>
11:45-13:00	<p>Panel II: The challenge of inaccurate narratives about migration</p> <p>The panel will focus on the role of media and the need to work in partnership to encourage an evidence-based debate about migration. The discussion will consider practical ways the media can contribute to shaping the debate around migration. Discussion will include ideas on how stakeholders can cooperate to avoid misinformation.</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of media in shaping public narratives around migration? • What can stakeholders do to avoid the circulation of misinformation? <p>Panellists and moderator (tbc)</p>
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:15	<p>Panel III: Combatting xenophobia and stereotypes with evidence-based narratives</p> <p>The panel will focus on the role of public officials and civil society in combatting racism, xenophobia and stereotypes. It will discuss the need for evidence-based narratives around migration and the importance of ensuring that migrants' voices are included in policymaking.</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the best practices to combat racism and xenophobia against migrants? • How can better data support this goal? <p>Panellists and moderator (tbc)</p>
16:15 -17:45	<p>Follow-up and review of the Global Compact</p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to discuss ideas for the follow-up and implementation of the Global Compact</p> <p>Panellists and moderator (tbc)</p>
17:45 - 18:00	<p>Closing of the the multi-stakeholder hearing</p> <p>Remarks by co-facilitators (tbc)</p> <p>Closing of the multi-stakeholder hearing by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák</p>