

Roundtable 3 – Governance of Migration and Development

Report by the General Rapporteur

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General summary

The third set of roundtables was about the governance of migration and development. They took their departure in the on-going displacement crises and explored i) how protection can be enhanced for migrant women and men in situations of crisis and ii) how existing institutions and processes governing migration could be enhanced to improve the effectiveness of generating collective action on migration for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Roundtable 3.1 on the *Migrants in situations of crises: conflict, climate change and natural disasters* was co-chaired by the Philippines and Ethiopia. Morocco was the rapporteur.

This Roundtable built on the outcomes and recommendations of RT 3.1 in Istanbul. A lot of progress has been achieved since 2015. There was a clear consensus on the importance of the topic of RT 3.1. It was underlined that no country is immune to crisis.

The perspectives of different actors were presented: governments of countries of origin, transit and destination, but also the private sector, the civil society and migrants themselves. Discussions can be summarised under 5 key points:

1. **Awareness-raising and training:** need to raise-awareness about the needs, vulnerability and agency of migrants in times of crisis. Need to train responders such as consular officers.
2. **Cooperation:** All the discussants and interventions highlighted the importance of building multi-stakeholder partnerships to protect and assist migrants in times of crisis. The roles of the private sector and the civil society were particularly underlined.
3. **Emergency evacuation:** importance to ensure that migrants can reach safety, regardless their status, in times of crisis. Need to develop legal mobility channels in this regard.
4. **Research:** need to further conduct research to develop the evidence-base.
5. **Long term needs:** long term needs of migrants in the post-crisis phase need to be taken into account so they can return and be reintegrated in their country of origin or be redeployed abroad.

Several concrete examples of intervention at all levels from which we need to draw lessons were highlighted: such as the white helmets in Argentina, the initiatives in the field of education in Portugal, the creation of a ministry of migration in Iraq or the crisis alert system in the Philippines. Just to mention a few.

The MICIC Initiative and the Platform for Disaster Displacement support these efforts by providing guidance and highlighting effective practices. There was a call to fully integrate their principles in the Global Compact on Migration and be practical (concrete recommendation of this roundtable).

Finally, most importantly, we heard messages of hope. Hope to further take forward ongoing efforts and to join forces to better protect migrants in the event of a crisis and prevent forced displacement.

Roundtable 3.2 focused on *principles, institutions and processes for safe, orderly and regular migration*. It was co-chaired by Mexico and Sweden. Canada was the rapporteur.

Participants recognized that migration is a megatrend of the 21st century, with more people living away from the places of birth than ever before. As the drivers of migration including demographic trends and disparities, poverty, crises and globalization are unlikely to change in the near term we need to recognize migration as a reality to be managed.

Participants stressed that we must place migrants as human beings at the center of our efforts, and address migration comprehensively in all of its dimensions, including the human rights, development, economic, climate change and peace and security elements. We have a historic -- indeed once in a generation -- opportunity to work to facilitate international cooperation to promote safe, orderly and regular migration and human mobility with the adoption of the SDGS, and the NY Declaration and its commitment to develop a global compact on migration over the coming two years. While we must do so in the face of the reemergence of widespread xenophobia and discrimination against migrants and migration, this is the chance we have and must use it to positive effect. We must build on the tremendous momentum we have now at the global level, including with two major developments: the bringing of IOM into the NY system and family, and the opportunity before us provided by the NY declaration and the commitment of 193 heads of state and government to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Several recommendations were made by member states:

- Making it easier for migrants to move inter alia for labour migration at all skills levels, education and family reunification purposes;
- Reducing incidence and impacts of irregular migration, including trafficking and smuggling inter alia through border management carried out with full respect for human rights of migrants and facilitating return, readmission and reintegration;
- Enhancing socio-economic development of migration, including by reducing the costs and risks for migrants; enhancing the role of Diaspora;
- Ensuring that migrants' human rights are protected, including in situations of vulnerability and transit, with particular attention to women and children and those subject to exploitation and abuse, especially victims of trafficking; as well as by identifying relevant norms, guidelines and conventions and advocate for their implementation; Respect for human rights laws, humanitarian laws;
- Addressing crisis related movements, including in relation to conflict, natural disasters and climate change;
- Promoting migrants integration and social inclusion, including efforts to counter discrimination and xenophobia as well as through access, especially health and education; and
- Improving governance of migration, at local, national, regional and global levels, and strengthening the UN capacity to manage this issue.

In addition to the substantive elements to be included in the Global compact, participants stressed the need to have inclusive consultations over the course of 2017 and perhaps part of 2018 are needed before moving to negotiations.

Participants said we should not start from scratch as there is already a wide set of norms, guidance and existing frameworks to draw upon. We should not reopen existing norms and principles but find practical means to ensure their effective implementation. The SDGS, NY declaration, HLD declaration of 2013, IOM's Migration Governance Framework and Migration Crisis operational framework, the Bern Initiative, the Migrants in Countries in crisis guidelines and the NaNsen initiative protection agenda already point the way ahead. While the migrant workers convention is not widely ratified by migrant receiving states, some of its key principles can usefully inform the development of the compact. The report of SRSG Sutherland to be released next month identified 5 key areas where progress could be pursued now, and not wait for 2018 and the negotiation and adoption of the Global compact. These include improving protection of the rights of migrants including in crisis situations, facilitating more opportunities for labour mobility, working to ensure orderly return and reintegration, enhancing the contributions of migration to inclusive and sustainable development, and strengthening governmental and governance capacities.

We need to move away from unilateralism -- individual states acting on their own and states collectively acting on their own -- and bring in all key stakeholders to make progress, through genuine multistakeholder cooperation. To do so, we must identify common interests -- and there are many -- as well as common threats. We can and should break off bite sized pieces and make progress on them, recognizing that global governance of migration is most likely to emerge as a patchwork, and not in whole cloth. We must improve existing institutions and mechanisms, and persevere in our efforts. We must take a long term view of cooperation to promote global governance, and recognize that while it is likely to emerge at different paces and through different steps on different aspects, it will eventually emerge because the gains are too great not to have it happen.

Participants stressed the value of the GFMD as a critical platform and space that is multi-stakeholder and has built trust over the past 9 years. In the coming two years, it can and should be used to focus on the key themes for the global compact and identify best practices as well as areas of consensus.

Participants also stressed that while many entities or organizations have important contributions to make, IOM is the key institutional actor and it needs to be empowered in Geneva and NY - through the modalities, process and content-development for the global compact -- to play the leadership role expected of it. IOM has unparalleled operational and policy expertise that needs to be brought to bear, and to help Member states and migrants ensure truly beneficial migration for migrants and societies.

Let's put migrants at the center of our efforts, and build on the regional economic communities, regional consultative processes on migration to take account of regional and country differences, and the GFMD platform and IOM to move forward urgently to create more opportunities for regular migration and mobility, protection of migrants rights, and shared prosperity through genuine cooperation.