

Migration and Human mobility in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda

“Follow-up and review” of a diverse and cross-cutting issue

Migration is well recognized as an important driver of development and is itself driven by many aspects of globalization. While the MDGs did not include migration, there is a growing consensus that the post-2015 Development Agenda would not be complete without addressing contemporary human mobility, for instance addressing migration’s role in decreasing inequalities, promoting the rights of migrant workers and addressing the issues of migrant smuggling and trafficking.

Evolution of migration since MDGs (2000 -2015):

- Number international migrants have increased by approximately 32% to 242 million
- Migrant remittances have increased fivefold to an expected USD billion 454 in 2015
- The number of persons internally displaced because of crisis was 56 million in 2014
- The average time for persons remaining in displacement has reached 14 years

The zero draft outcome document for the Summit on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes a target to facilitate orderly and safe migration through “well managed migration policies”. There are also targets on labour migration, human trafficking and resilience. This language is taken from the Open Working Group (OWG) outcome document from July 2014 and has remained throughout the last six months of post-2015 inter-governmental negotiations.¹

Migration related SDG targets in the Zero Draft	
<i>Lowering inequalities:</i>	<i><u>Target 10.7</u> well managed migration policies <u>Target 10c.</u> reducing cost of migrant remittances</i>
<i>Means of implementation:</i>	<i><u>Target 17.18</u> on data disaggregation in relation to migratory status</i>
<i>Economic development</i>	<i><u>Target 8.8</u> on migrant worker rights</i>
<i>Gender equality/Peaceful societies</i>	<i><u>Targets 5.2/16.2</u> on combating human trafficking</i>
<i>Cities</i>	<i><u>Targets 11.5/a</u> supporting resilience and positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas</i>

Given the range of targets relevant to migration, it is particularly important to establish strong indicators and monitoring mechanisms to guarantee effective follow-up and review of migration-related targets.

¹ Furthermore, migration is mentioned on three occasions in the preamble. Unfortunately, the zero draft fails to portray migrants as positive agents for development. Instead, migrants are seen either as victims or as part of the problem threatening the progress made on MDGs.

Indeed, the post-2015 discussions are increasingly focussing on review and follow-up mechanisms for the SDG goals and targets. In the discussions on a monitoring architecture for post-2015, the following two elements are emerging:

1. A set of indicators to measure progress (or lack thereof) in relation to the SDG targets.
2. A “review and follow-up” framework through which governments, research institutions, international organizations, specialized multi-lateral platforms and other stakeholders work together to review trends and challenges in relation to SDG follow-up and implementation..

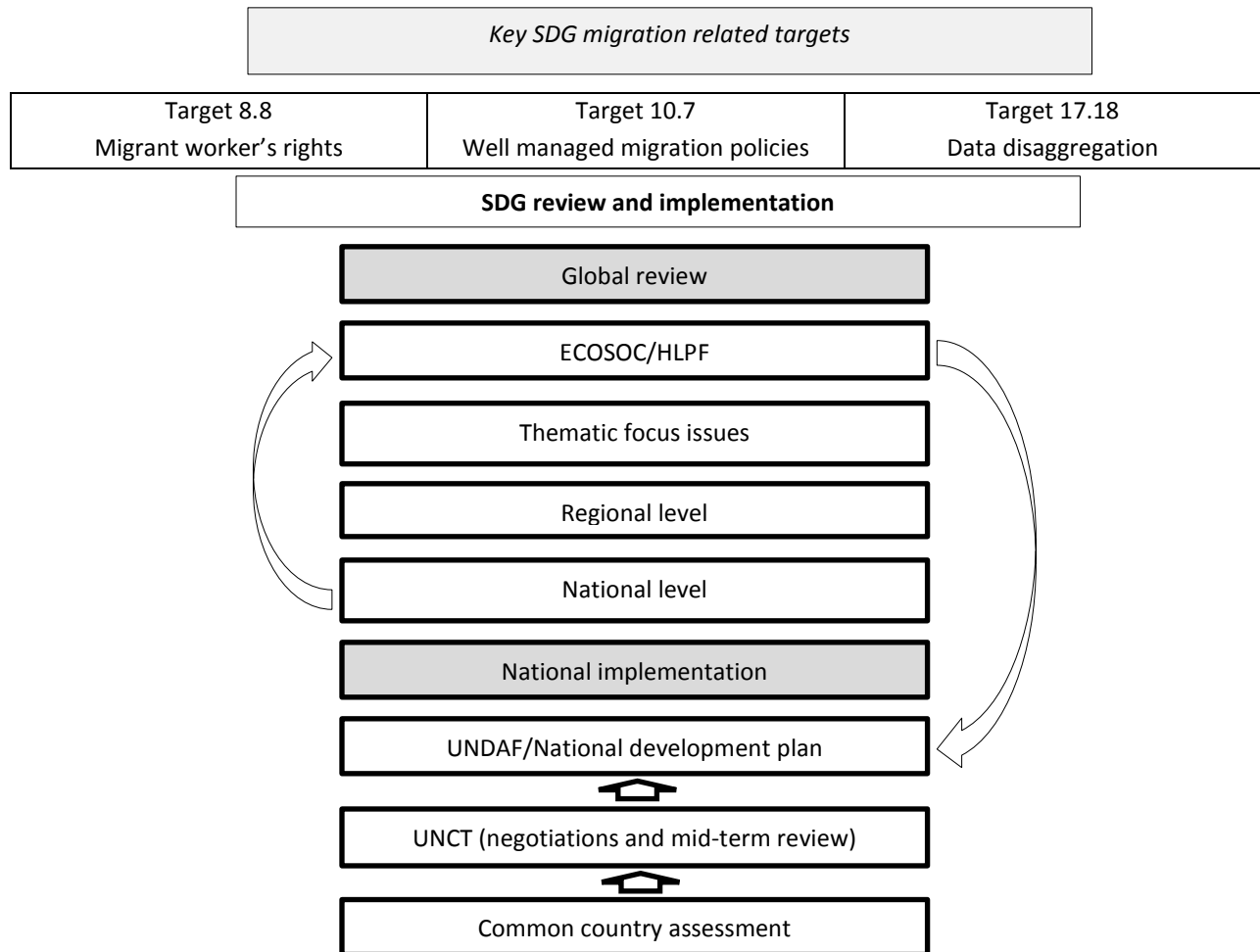
While the inclusion of migration within the SDG framework would be a significant achievement this will probably not be enough. First of all, the evolution of migration issues over the life-time of the SDGs will have to be tracked by indicators established by the international statistical community. Second, there needs to be one or several authoritative and highly visible multi-lateral forums that could analyse and synthesise migration related data and report to the ECOSOC/HLPF which will lead follow-up and review on SDGs.

What we know about migration related SDG indicators – Based on the experience of the MDGs, the international community recognizes the need for a list of clear indicators to track the progress on SDGs soon after their adoption. On 2 June, the UN Statistics Division shared with the IAEG a new “priority list of indicators” for the SDGs in which each indicator is ranked according to three tiers. No migration indicators were ranked in the first tier of this “priority indicators list”. However, a composite index on International Migration Policy is currently being developed to monitor progress made on SDG target 10.7.

What we know about the monitoring framework – In line with the UN Secretary General’s Synthesis report “The road to dignity by 2030”, the “Zero Draft on the outcome document for the UN summit to adopt the post-2015 Agenda for Development” suggests a voluntary, multi-layered approach to monitoring the SDGs. Under the proposed framework, the bulk of monitoring would take place at the national level where government statistical reports, national stakeholder reports, and existing information and data from UN agencies would constitute the main input.

At the regional level, it is proposed that existing mechanisms and multi-stakeholder processes will identify regional trends and generate solutions. Monitoring on cross-cutting issues that encompass several targets – such as migration – is likely to be conducted through thematic reviews taking place at the regional and global levels. This input will feed into the deliberations of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, which will produce an annual ministerial declaration.

Migration in SDG follow-up and implementation



In conclusion, while migration related targets remained intact from the discussions of the OWG to the Zero Draft outcome document, strong indicators and monitoring mechanisms must be put in place in order to guarantee effective follow-up and review of migration-related targets. In the coming months, the international community will reflect on what indicators and review mechanisms will best address migrants' needs and enhance their potential to contribute to development. Countries have a responsibility to ensure that these issues are well represented in the discussions of the HLPF. International organizations will work with different fora, such as the GFMD, with this objective in mind.

Guiding questions:

- What are the key platforms at the global and regional levels that can contribute to follow-up and review of migration-related targets?
- What role should the GFMD play in SDG follow-up and review?
- What would be required to ensure the GFMD's alignment with the SDG framework?
- How could the GFMD enhance its linkages with other fora to contribute to SDG follow-up and review?

References:

- OWG proposal for Sustainable Development Goals

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=1579&menu=1300>)

- Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet"

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- Report of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability - A Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development (May 2013)

(http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf)

- Secretary General's Report to the UN General Assembly on post-2015 - A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (July 2013)

(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/A%20Life%20of%20Dignity%20for%20All.pdf>)

- The Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda: "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet"

(http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/reports/SG_Synthesis_Report_Road_to_Dignity_by_2030.pdf)

- Discussion on the follow-up and review of the post-2015 Agenda

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7132Discussion%20paper%20on%20Follow%20up%20and%20Review%2012%20May%202015.pdf>)

- Preliminary Impressions on Follow-up and Review by the Co-facilitators

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7175Preliminary%20Impressions_cofacilitators.pdf