

Strengthening responsibility sharing for refugees

**GMG multi-stakeholder interactive panel in preparation for the
GA Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants**

*July 13, 10AM-1PM
Conference Room 6, UNHQ New York*

Introduction

On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly will hold a high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants (see A/70/L.34). The Global Migration Group (GMG), an interagency cooperation mechanism consisting of 17 entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is organizing a series of interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings to assist Member States and civil society in preparing for the 19 September event. The half-day meetings will feature panels of experts from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the research community. Each of the meetings will focus on a particular substantive area covered by the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the Summit. The meetings, chaired by Member States, will be informal and interactive in nature, providing ample space for an interactive dialogue with the panellists. A short report, providing a summary of the deliberations and the main findings will be made available before the 19 September event.

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The third meeting in the series will review ways for states to facilitate protection and re-affirm solidarity in sharing responsibility for refugees worldwide. The meeting will be co-chaired by the permanent missions of Portugal and Zambia and organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The **first panel** will focus on the **proposed Global Compact on Responsibility-sharing for Refugees**. A Global Compact on Responsibility-sharing for Refugees was proposed in the Secretary General's Report on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants as a means of better ensuring a holistic and predictable international response to large-scale refugee movements. As described by the Secretary-General, the Global Compact would not seek to establish new norms or legal standards of refugee protection, as these are already well-established, but rather seek to re-affirm these existing, fundamental principles and secure the necessary political commitment to ensure that comprehensive refugee responses are pursued from the outset of any large refugee movement.

The panel will begin with an overview of the proposed Global Compact, its potential impact, and key elements that it might include. This will be followed by a discussion of complementary pathways for refugee admissions, including resettlement, humanitarian admission, increased access to existing scholarship opportunities, accelerated or automatic procedures for family reunification and the creation of temporary work programmes for refugees. Finally, an overview and assessment of how comprehensive regional refugee plans have been used in the past will be provided, with a discussion of how these historical experiences might inform Comprehensive

Refugee Responses going forward, which form an integral part of the proposed Global Compact on Responsibility-sharing for Refugees.

The **second panel** will discuss ways of **promoting better coherence and joint interventions between humanitarian and development actors in the context of protracted displacement**. There have been increasing calls by governments, UN agencies and other actors for greater collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in addressing issues related to forced displacement, most recently in the Secretary General’s Report on Addressing Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees. Specific areas of attention have included: i) improved strategic planning through joint development-humanitarian assessments and multi-year planning, programming for collective outcomes; ii) reinforcement of capacities of refugees, their hosts and the national institutions that support them, including at the local level, through greater collaboration with local governments/authorities, civil society and the private sector; iii) promotion of flexible, additional and multi-year financing in support of durable solutions to displacement; and iv) supporting policy and legal frameworks to protect and foster inclusion of displaced people.

The second panel will explore these issues in more details. Lessons and experiences in implementing interventions that transcend the humanitarian and development divide will be highlighted, followed by a discussion on the new development and humanitarian financing agenda and how it can strengthen responsibility sharing for refugees. Finally, the panel will discuss how we can jointly advance our evidence base and better analyse the drivers of migration and causes of displacement and their impact on development.

Programme

10:00-10:15 Opening remarks: key concepts and aims of the discussion

H.E. Dr. Mwaba P. Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Cristina Pucarinho, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

10:15-11:15 Panel I: Increasing complementary pathways to solutions for persons in need of protection

- The Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees
Speaker: (Ninette Kelley, Director, UNHCR New York Office)
- Complementary Pathways for Refugee Admissions
Speaker: (Anna Greene, Policy and Advocacy Director, International Rescue Committee)
- Learning from Past Experiences with Comprehensive Plans
Speaker: (Prof. James Milner, Carleton University)

Moderator: Ajay Madiwale, *Delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the UN* (TBC)

11.15-11.30 Break

11.30 -12.50 **Panel II: Enhancing the humanitarian and development nexus to address protracted displacement**

- Advancing the evidence base and better analysis of the drivers of migration and causes of displacement and their development impact
Speaker: Mr. Colin Bruce, Director for Regional Integration, Africa Vice President's Office, World Bank
- Ensuring coherent humanitarian and development financing.
Speaker: Jennifer Topping- Director Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office- MPTFO
- Field experiences and lessons on humanitarian and development interventions.
Speaker: Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP and Magdy Martinez Soliman, Assistant Secretary General and Assistant Administrator, Director UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (TBC)

Moderator: Izumi Nakamitsu *Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Assistant Administrator, Crisis Response Unit*

12.50-1.00 **Concluding remarks**
Moderators