Thematic Workshop on Migration for Development: a roadmap to achieving the SDGs

18 April, 2018 Rabat Convention Center Mohammed VI, Skhirat, Morocco

Statement on behalf of the Global Migration Group (GMG)

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Global Migration Group (GMG). We have been asked to share the GMG's perspective on migration for development, in particular on the links between the migration-related commitments in the SDGs and the GCM process.

The GMG is fully committed to supporting Member State-led efforts to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration through the Global Compact on Migration process, mobilizing the existing expertise of its members. Quoting the current draft of the Global Compact, it "is a milestone in the history of the global dialogue and international cooperation on migration. It is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development adopted in October 2013."

The GMG is an inter-agency group bringing together 22 UN entities, including Regional Commissions. It aims to promote the wider application of relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration in a manner that is human rights-based and gender-responsive. It further aims to provide leadership for the improvement

of the overall effectiveness and coherence of normative and operational response by the United Nations system and the international community to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration. In that sense, the GMG is committed to supporting both the GCM process and the achievement of the SDGs, and we see our role in articulating the close links between the two in making migration work for development.

In 2013, the GMG supported Member States in the adoption of a Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. In this Declaration, Member States recognized that international migration is a multidimensional phenomenon of major relevance for the development of origin, transit, and destination countries, and in this regard recognized that international migration is a crosscutting phenomenon that should be addressed in a coherent, comprehensive, and balanced manner, integrating development with due regard for the social, economic and environmental dimensions of migration and in full respect of the human rights of migrants.

In 2015, the GMG again supported Member States to adopt a global development framework that explicitly refers to migration. The landmark Agenda 2030 recognizes that reducing inequality within and among countries is a key target of sustainable development, and that this should include facilitating opportunities for orderly, safe, and regular human mobility, including through the implementation of well-planned and well-managed migration policies.

The links between migration and sustainable development can be seen in the specific reference to migration in SDG 10.7 and in the focus on reducing inequalities for migrants across several other targets and indicators, for example in the fields of social protection, decent work, education, remittances, and climate change, among others (notably 8.5, on remittances, 8.8, on decent work, 10.1, 2, 4, on remittances, education, and social protection, 3, on health, 11, on sustainable cities and communities, 12, on responsible consumption, 13.2 and 3, on climate change and migration, 16.2, on eliminating child labour, exploitation and trafficking, or 17.8 and 17.18, on migration data and migration health). Migration also plays a key role in working to achieve SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Maximizing the development impact of migration means enabling migrants to have access to decent work, equitable healthcare and health services including for sexual and reproductive health. It further means that migrants can make use of social and education services, and have family members join them in doing so. This maximizes the contributions migrants make, reduces racism, discrimination and xenophobia, and fosters respect and social cohesion. Empowering migrants as development actors can take a number of forms, including: dual or multiple nationalities, multiple entry visas, access to out of country voting and other forms of diaspora engagement, mechanisms for the recognition of skills and qualifications, not just of those going abroad but also of those returning home with skills acquired while abroad.

Migration governance therefore necessitates a whole-of-government, whole-of-UN, and whole-of-society approach. At the core of this approach should be efforts consistently and systematically to consider the effects of human mobility and the needs of migrants and displaced persons through a human rights-based and gender responsive approach in all areas of policy development and programming at both national and sub-national levels.

The term 'mainstreaming migration into policy planning' implies the careful consideration of, among other aspects, the differing situations of male and female migrants, migrant stocks and migratory trends, or the skills and education levels of migrant workers, when designing policies or legislation in individual policy sectors. This could be relevant, for example, in the area of labour market planning, or when formulating public health or education policies, as well as sectoral policies, like agriculture, and local development plans.

The GMG has considerable experience in the area of migration mainstreaming; for example, the GMG established a Working Group on mainstreaming migration into national development strategies, to facilitate enhanced inter-agency coordination at the country level. In 2010, the GMG published a Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning, which has been widely used by governments worldwide, as they seek to maximize the potential of migration for the development of the countries of origin.

The 2017 GMG guidance note on mainstreaming migration into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) highlights the need for policy coherence and the consideration of migrants and migratory trends in both national and local policy planning, as governments strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Several GMG members have also been implementing global and regional joint programmes to support both national and local governments mainstream migration into their policy planning. Noteworthy examples are the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative and the Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies programme. These initiatives have supported governments to put into place a nuanced and responsive migration governance framework. The compilation of a wide variety of good practices and lessons learnt worldwide in turn informed the creation of further tools and guidelines on harnessing the benefits of migration for development, which are aligned with the SDG framework. All of these tools are now being used in capacity building initiatives by our member agencies, as they work within UN Country Teams to provide technical assistance to governments in working towards reaching the SDGs. They provide a useful methodology and valuable lessons learned that could be used more widely by other governments as well as local authorities.

The GMG stands ready to continue to provide and enhance its support and expertise as needed, to contribute further to the inclusion of all migrants and migration issues in policy planning processes, to ensure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind, and in support of whatever states agree in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Thank you for your attention.

Tools developed and published in the name of the GMG since 2008

- GMG Handbook for Improving the Production and Use of Migration Data for Development (2017).
- Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations (2017).
- Paper on Migration, Remittances and Financial Inclusion: Challenges and Opportunities for Women's Economic Empowerment (2017)
- Report of the GMG Multi-Stakeholder Meetings in Preparation for the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (2016)
- Stocktaking Report on Protection-at-Sea (2015)
- Stocktaking Report on Crisis-Related Migration (2015)
- Conference Summary Report on Harnessing Migration, Remittances and Diaspora Contributions for Financing Sustainable Development (2015)
- Discussion Paper on Realizing the Inclusion of Migrants and Migration in the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda (2015)
- Migration and Youth: Opportunities and Challenges (2014)
- Thematic Paper on the Exploitation and Abuse of International Migrants, particularly those in an Irregular Situation - A Human Rights Approach (2013)
- Symposium Report on Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development (2011)
- Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners (2010)
- International Migration and Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2008)

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