

Statement on the purpose and objectives of the co-chairpersonship of the Global Migration Group (GMG) between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Geneva, 5 February 2018

FAO and IOM are co-chairing the Global Migration Group (or GMG) in 2018, a year which will see the adoption of the global compact for migration at an intergovernmental conference on international migration.

We are pleased to speak with you today, particularly because one of the central priorities of IOM and FAO as co-chairs of the GMG in 2018 is to make the GMG more useful to Member States, including through strengthening collaboration with dedicated mechanisms such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The GMG is committed to supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG target 10.7 on the facilitation of “orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”, and other relevant targets. In the words of the Secretary-General in his report “Making Migration Work for All”, we must constantly return to the SDGs and remind ourselves of the links between migration and our broader fight against inequality. In this context, FAO will draw on its central mission to achieve food security for all and ensure that the linkages between migration, agriculture and rural development are taken into consideration in the work of the GMG, so that migration is never an act of desperation.

Under the FAO and IOM co-chairmanship, in 2018, the GMG aspires to bring together the relevant expertise of the GMG entities in a range of migration-related policy fields, thus strengthening the Group’s overall support to achieving the SDGs. In 2018 the GMG also stands ready to respond to the Secretary General’s new vision on making migration work for all and to contribute to the discussions of any new coordination structures which may be proposed.

Ladies and gentlemen

Our commitment to contribute to orderly, safe and responsible migration translates to the Global Compact of Migration process.

As co-chairs, we will make sure that the GMG is prepared to support the Office of the SRSO by providing technical expertise, evidence and data on migration-related matters in a timely manner, drawing on the wide expertise of its 22 members, and in full respect of the state-led nature of the process.

We will also fully support the UN reform process, and aim to strengthen our work together globally and in the field – where facilitating delivery on the ground will be the litmus test of UN efforts, as stated by the Secretary-General in his report.

Let me conclude with a quote from Secretary-General's report, that we believe points the way for the GMG's work this year: "Negotiations on the global compact will doubtless involve many technical discussions and difficult debates, but we must not lose sight of the reality that migration is both a positive dynamic, and one that has always been with us and one that is here to stay. It is our responsibility to ensure that popular perception of migration is better aligned with that positive reality".

The GMG is looking forward to working with the GFMD, Member States and all other partners towards ensuring that this year's discussions remain firmly based on evidence and data.

Thank you for your attention.