REPORT OF THE
Global Migration Group (GMG)
meetings around the UN Summit
for Refugees and Migrants
This report details the main deliberations of a series of interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings organized by the Global Migration Group (GMG) in New York and Geneva to assist representatives from Member States, international organizations, and civil society in preparation for and follow-up to the 19 September 2016 High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants.

Produced on behalf of the GMG by UN Women, New York.
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In the past year, migration has moved to the forefront of international affairs, foreign policy, and the global development and humanitarian agendas. A strategic, united, and holistic global approach is needed to address the unprecedented number of people on the move. In response, the global community came together on 19 September 2016 for a UN Summit where global leaders agreed on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The Declaration is a powerful document that expresses the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility on a global scale.

This report summarizes the outcome of the rich and substantive discussions that took place in each of this year’s multi-stakeholder meetings organized by the Global Migration Group (GMG). The meetings assisted Member States in identifying priorities for the New York Declaration and its implementation, including the protection of the human rights of all people in vulnerable situations, responsibility sharing for refugees, labour market options, development approaches to migration and displacement, countering xenophobia and the role of the UN system in the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The guidance in the report will continue to be relevant as we work through the negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018.

UN Women has been honoured to chair the Global Migration Group through 2016. Our ability as the United Nations to respond successfully to the current movements of people is fundamentally a test of our humanity. Nowhere is that humanity more tested than in our ability to respond to the needs of women and girls whose
situations are often un-seen, un-heard and un-represented. Our commitment to ensure dignity and respect for women on the move is evidenced also by the energy we bring to ensuring consistent respect and protection of their rights. Origin and destination communities can be strong if they invest and enable women’s resilience, growth, recovery and contributions to collective life.

As UN Women’s term as GMG Chair comes to an end, we remain committed to working with all GMG Members to ensure that the future direction of global policies and actions relating to migrants take forward the concerns we discussed through this year, and reflect the rights, needs, contributions, voices, participation, and leadership of women and girls.

UN Women, GMG Chair 2016
UN Women, as the 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG), would like to thank Member States of the United Nations that actively participated in the seven multi-stakeholder meetings. In particular, UN Women thanks the meeting Chairs:

- H.E. Karel van Oosterom, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York;
- H.E. Virachai Plasai, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations in New York;
- H.E. Juan Jose Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York;
- H.E. Inigo Lambertini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in New York;
- H.E. Cristina Pucarinho, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in New York;
- H.E. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh;

Meeting Chairs are listed following the chronological order of the meetings they (co-) chaired.
• H.E. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York;

• H.E. Richard Nduhuuran, Permanent Representative to the UN of the Government of the Republic of Uganda

As 2016 GMG Chair, UN Women would also like to thank ILO, IOM, OHCHR, PICUM, UNHCR, UNDESA, UNDP, UNODC, and the World Bank for organising the events. UN Women, on behalf of the GMG, also thanks all speakers, moderators and discussants from Member States, international organizations, civil society and academia for their valuable contributions. The events and the production of this report would not have been possible without the financial support of Germany, kindly facilitated by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General as well as the Office of the Special Adviser on the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

UN Women also thanks Pierre Bertrand, former Director of the UNHCR Office in New York, rapporteur for the events and lead author of this report, as well as all GMG Members whose input strengthened this report. Finally, UN Women extends its thanks to Nyaradzo Chari-Imbayago and Nina Haelg of the Support Team for their support to UN Women’s work as GMG Chair in 2016, including on this meetings series.
Large movements of migrants and refugees is on the top of the global agenda, now that our world faces the biggest and most urgent migrant and refugee crisis since the Second World War. For the first time in history, on 19 September 2016, the General Assembly of the United Nations convened a High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (Summit for Refugees and Migrants). The Summit for Refugees and Migrants was a critical first step towards ensuring that as an international community, global policy responses to large movements of refugees and migrants are coordinated and collaborative, as well as people-centred, human-rights-based and gender-responsive.

The lead up to the Summit for Refugees and Migrants involved the cooperation of many key players in the global debates on migration. One of these key players is the UN system’s interagency cooperation mechanism on migration, the Global Migration Group (GMG). Now consisting of 20 UN entities, the GMG’s role is to promote the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration.

In preparation for the Summit for Refugees and Migrants, the GMG chaired by UN Women in 2016, hosted five interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings to assist representatives from Member States, international organizations and civil society:

1. Understanding large movements of refugees and migrants (25 April 2016);

2. Protecting the human rights of all people in vulnerable situations within large movements (30 June 2016);
3. Strengthening responsibility sharing for refugees (13 July 2016);

4. Responding to large movements of refugees and migrants - Human rights protection, labour market options and a Global Compact for migration (20 July 2016); and

5. Development approaches to migration and displacement – supporting national and local capacities to prepare for and respond to large movements (13 September 2016).

Subsequently to the Summit, the GMG then hosted an additional sixth and seventh meeting regarding the follow-up to the Summit and the implementation of the Summit’s commitments as outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (New York Declaration):²

6. Migration-related commitments in the New York Declaration: the role of the UN System (18 October 2016); and


The GMG’s multi-stakeholder meetings featured panels of experts from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the research community. Meetings were co-chaired by Member States and co-organized by GMG Members. This report offers a brief summary of the events, including opening statements, panellist presentations and interactive discussions that followed each panel.

FIRST MEETING
Understanding large movements of refugees and migrants

25 April 2016
First meeting: Understanding large movements of refugees and migrants

25 April 2016
10:00-13:00, Conference Room 7
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-Organisers:
UN DESA, IOM and UNHCR

Co-Chairs:
Kingdom of the Netherlands and Kingdom of Thailand

Executive Summary

The first meeting took place on 25 April 2016 and was co-organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The meeting was divided into two panels. The first panel focussed on Migration, displacement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the second panel focussed on the Impact of large movements of refugees and migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Seven Member States took the floor during the meeting: the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Kingdom of Thailand (as co-Chairs of the meeting), as well as Austria, Bangladesh, Italy, Mexico and Tuvalu (who made interventions in the course of the interactive debate).

Opening Remarks

Lakshmi Puri, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women opened the meeting, representing UN Women as Chair of the GMG for 2016. Ms. Puri
noted that despite the fact that women make up nearly half of the 244 million migrants worldwide, policy-makers continue to neglect a gender perspective in migration policy. She stated that women and girls experience migration differently than men, and policies that take these factors into consideration would help maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with migration. Ms. Puri stressed the importance of integrating a human rights-based, gender-responsive approach to migration in all key inter-governmental normative processes and called upon Member States to emphasise these approaches when making and implementing their migration policies.

H.E. Karel van Oosterom, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in New York, as co-chair of the meeting, identified three elements for the preparations of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. First, addressing the root causes of migration. Second, identifying the particular migration experiences and perspectives of vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. Third, involving all relevant actors in migration discussions because the UN cannot act alone. Amb. van Oosterom also highlighted the importance of engaging with Member States, regional actors, and civil society for migration policies to be comprehensive and he concluded by stating that peace, justice and development should guide migration policy-making.

H.E. Virachai Plasai, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations in New York and co-chair of the meeting, echoed the two preceding speakers, and added that the concept of burden sharing must be promoted because migration affects everyone. Coming from the perspective of a Member State that has hosted over one million migrants and refugees, he noted that everyone, not just neighbouring Member States to conflicts, must share the responsibility of caring for migrants and refugees. Amb. Plasai concluded by stating that the international community must identify best practices when it comes to refugee and migrant screenings.

1 The Kingdom of the Netherlands held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the time of the meeting. However, H.E. Karel van Oosterom spoke in his national capacity.

2 The Kingdom of Thailand is the Chair of Group of the 77 in 2016. However, H.E. Virachai Plasai spoke in his national capacity.
Panel 1: Migration, Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This panel provided an overview of global trends in international migration and refugee movements and the role of population dynamics as a migration driver in the context of understanding and promoting safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration. The panel also considered the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key framework as well as the impact of environmental factors and climate change on migration and displacement.

Bela Hovy, Chief of Migration at the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), opened by stating that at the end of 2015, the number of migrants worldwide reached 244 million, and that the United Nations estimates that the number will reach 578 million by 2050. He also noted that the contribution of migration to population change is likely to increase, observing that in more developed regions characterised by low birth-rates, migration will help reduce population decline. Mr. Hovy reported that regional differences in the change of working age (20-59) and youth (20-29) populations will be significant for the next thirty years. For example, migration amongst the youth cohort will primarily take place in Africa where young women and men will move in search of economic opportunities. He also stressed that responsibility sharing for refugees is currently uneven amongst Member States. Mr. Hovy concluded that refugees and migrants often have overlapping concerns, but it is important to not conflate their respective unique and specific needs.

Ninette Kelley, Director of UNHCR’s New York Office, reported that in 2014 there were 60 million people displaced worldwide. Nearly 22 million were refugees and asylum-seekers, and 38 million were internally displaced, due to ongoing and unresolved conflict, lack of solutions and growing impact of natural disasters and climate-related events. She noted that assistance remains wholly insufficient to meet current needs, and that many refugees decide to move onward due to limited livelihood opportunities, precarious legal status, and limited access to education. Current figures show that 84% of those crossing the Mediterranean in 2015 originated from the world’s top ten refugee producing countries. She concluded by conveying her hopes that Member States and other relevant actors come together and help host countries financially.
Susana Adamo, a research scientist at the Centre for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University, noted that the three main climate change impacts that are driving migration and displacement today are rising sea levels, the availability of water, and extreme weather events such as droughts, heat waves, violent storms, and floods. While climate change does not always cause forced displacement, it can deprive people of their livelihoods, their homes, and other resources. She noted that the term ‘climate refugee’ is not recognised under international law and affected populations do not welcome it either. Ms. Adamo concluded with a few reflections on important steps to reduce disaster displacement, such as: reducing vulnerability and building resilience; facilitating migration out of hazardous areas before disasters strike; conducting planned relocation when appropriate; and responding to the needs of internally displaced persons.

Michele Klein-Solomon, Director of the Secretariat of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative, identified the main drivers of migration as: lack of economic opportunities; financial crisis; conflict; climate change; increase in population; and the forces of globalisation overall. The pull factors of migration include: awareness of economic growth and opportunities in other countries; labour gaps in receiving countries (especially in agriculture, healthcare, and IT); and aging and declining workforces in developed nations. She noted that migration policy can help address these demographic issues experienced by developed nations. The biggest challenge for migration policies is how to implement them at the national level, and how to ensure that those policies help normalise migration so that migrants can be better protected. Addressing the unique vulnerabilities of migrant populations, especially in large refugee flows, is an important component of effective migration policies. Ms. Klein-Solomon urged Member States not to create policies to prevent migration, but to reduce pressures that compel forced, irregular and unsafe migration.

Lisa Simeone, Secretary of Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA), stated that migration policy should be formulated with a human rights-based approach. Ms. Simeone also noted that migration should be a choice. She recommended that Member States: (1) prioritise institutional transparency and accountability for ensuring protection of migrants; (2) systematically solicit and incorporate the perspectives of civil society and migrants in the formulation
and implementation of migration policy; (3) address gender in all aspects of migration governance; (4) emphasise both the necessity and benefits of opening legal migration channels for work; and (5) consider migrants as intrinsic to migration policy formulation.

Interactive Debate

Participants raised the challenge of managing large influx of refugees and migrants whilst maintaining a welcoming culture and addressing public security concerns in host countries. Panellists were asked about intolerance and xenophobia, and how these issues play into policy-making. Concerns that the panel had only focussed on the rights of refugees and migrants but did not discuss their obligations were also raised. Similarly, it was noted that different levels of absorption-capacities in host countries needed to be taken into account.

The UNHCR representative responded that issue of burden sharing should be framed as a matter of global public service. While the refugee population at the time of the meeting represented only 1% of the population of Europe, this contrasted with nearly 25% in other regions such as Lebanon.

Participants from the floor stressed the potential of migration to reap positive benefits for host and home countries. Although the negative aspects of migration must be addressed, this does not mean that all forms of migration should be prevented. In response, the DESA representative emphasised that the narrative should be changed from ‘burden-sharing’ to ‘opportunity-sharing’. He also noted the need to consider the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development’s focus on the root causes of forced migration. Finally, he underlined that although there are upfront costs to integration and absorption, migration has greater long-term benefits.

Concerns were expressed in relation to the low number of refugees who have been repatriated back to their countries of origin (‘returnees’) in recent times, and issues related to protracted displacement. The UNHCR representative responded that protracted refugee situations are high on UNHCR’s agenda, and that they require engagement from both humanitarian and development actors.
Regarding the potential measures to protect climate displaced persons, the IOM representative stated that climate migration should be addressed at the regional level, and ad-hoc legal protections should be created to prevent the forcible return of climate migrants to their countries of origin. UNHCR referred to the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda.

Panel 2: Impact of large movements of refugees and migrants

This second panel focussed on large movements of refugees and migrants and the integration of migration and displacement into development planning. The panel also highlighted the significant contribution of migrants and refugees to countries of origin, transit and destination, and addressed the challenges of mass population flows for women and children.

Xavier de Victor, Advisor for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank, focussed on the impact of large refugee and migratory flows in host countries. Mr. de Victor began by stating that voluntary migration tends to have a positive economic impact on host countries. He noted that voluntary migration increases the labour force and availability of skills, allows native workers to perform higher value-added tasks, improves competitiveness, contributes to mitigating the decline in working-age population in aging countries, and has a negligible net fiscal impact. In contrast, forced migration has a more complex and nuanced economic impact for host countries. People do not necessarily come to work, but to escape harsh conditions and access services. He noted that at the macro-level, the economic effect of large forced migration flows is small.

Owen Shumba, Team Leader for the Livelihoods and Economic Recovery Group at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), spoke about resilience-based development solutions for large population movements. He explained the key principles guiding resilience-based solutions: (1) creating context-specific strategies; (2) linking short and long-term plans and goals; (3) creating sustainable and cost-effective policies; and (4) engaging in partnerships. UNDP estimates that its programmes have reached 4.5 million people directly and indirectly since 2014.
Pedro Tigre de Vasconcelos, Programme Coordinator at the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD), stressed the importance of increasing the financial resources of those who receive remittances, particularly in rural areas in order to maximise the developmental impact of remittances once received and to provide migrants and their families with opportunities to invest their capital in their home communities. In order to maximise the positive impact of remittances and migration, migration policy must create financial inclusion and engage with the diaspora.

Marcy Hersh, Senior Advocacy Officer at the Women’s Refugee Commission, noted that women are affected by displacement differently to men, and that their unique perspectives are necessary in creating comprehensive policies that adequately address their needs. For example, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health care is the leading cause of death, disease and disability among refugee women and girls of reproductive age. She offered three recommendations: (1) including and encouraging participation and meaningful engagement of women and girls; (2) ensuring that refugees have access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services; (3) and providing access to safe and dignified economic opportunities.

Interactive Debate

Comments were raised regarding the need to reduce the costs of sending remittances, because of the benefits they bring for migrants and their families. Participants noted the need for more efforts towards capacity building on how remittances can be used for growth and development. Another participant stated that the narrative around refugees and migrants needs to better recognise their potential.

Similarly, the panel was asked how migration would be reflected at the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). Representatives from the World Bank and UNDP confirmed that the issue of displacement would be discussed at the upcoming WHS.
SECOND MEETING
Protecting the human rights of all people in vulnerable situations within large movements

30 June 2016
Second meeting: Protecting the human rights of all people in vulnerable situations within large movements

30 June 2016
10:00-12:00, Conference Room 5
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-Organisers:
OHCHR and UNODC

Co-Chairs:
Mexico and Italy

Executive Summary

The second meeting on 30 June 2016 was co-organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The panellists in this meeting examined the need to operationalise standards of human rights protection for all migrants. Similarly, the panellists highlighted the need to define ‘migrant smuggling’ and the importance of protection measures as part of a comprehensive approach to counter-smuggling. Further, they focussed on the critical need for evidence-based public narratives on migration that promote the dignity and human rights of all migrants and refugees without discrimination. The panellists also discussed the principles and a practical guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and in mixed and/or large movements currently under development by the GMG Working Group on Human Rights and Gender.

The Member States who took the floor during the meeting included Mexico and Italy (as the co-Chairs of the meeting), Brazil, and a group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
Opening Remarks

John Brandolino, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs at UNODC, introduced the three general topics of the meeting, namely: (1) the need to operationalise migration standards; (2) defining and understanding human smuggling and trafficking; and (3) providing evidence-based narratives to guide comprehensive migration policy in order to uphold the rights and dignity of migrants without discrimination. He noted that 2016 is another deadly year for migrants, citing the thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean due to unsafe and overcrowded sea vessels. He remarked that the vulnerability of migrants and refugees puts them at greater risk of exploitation, and at greater risk for abuse along their journeys. He concluded that all refugees and migrants are entitled to assistance, regardless of immigration status.

The Permanent Representative of Mexico, Juan José Gómez Camacho, stated that Mexico has always been at the forefront of migration issues. He underlined the need for greater efforts at the UN level in order to create concrete policy but acknowledged that migration challenges are growing in prominence. In this regard, he praised the work of the GMG and encouraged more interaction with UN Member States, building on the momentum in the lead up to the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. Amb. Camacho reiterated the need to keep human rights at the heart of migration debates and added that sharing best practices is key to the development of sensible migration policy. Finally, he emphasised the need for leadership in rejecting anti-migration and xenophobic rhetoric.

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy, H.E.M. Inigo Lambertini remarked that the main obligation of the international community is to ensure the respect of human rights of refugees and migrants, both during transit and in host countries. He noted that existing gaps in international legal framework can be filled by sharing responsibility as well as supporting countries that are most impacted by the large movements. Within the context of Italy, this means capacity building and adherence to the rule of law as it pertains to voyage across the sea. Amb. Lambertini stressed that in the first six months of 2016, Italian vessels have saved approximately 30,000 lives at sea, which represent 60% of all rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea.
Speakers

Charles Radcliffe, Chief of Global Issues and Intergovernmental Affairs at OHCHR stated that the UN was founded on human rights principles of non-discrimination, equality, justice and dignity and that these principles are important to counter the increasingly divisive nature of public discourse on migration across the world. Mr. Radcliffe raised three points for consideration in the upcoming UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants: (1) the primacy of human rights in these discussions; (2) the importance of providing protection to all migrants and refugees, especially the most vulnerable populations, such as children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and women; and (3) a human-rights based approach in Member States’ policies that address both migration and asylum. He concluded that blaming the vulnerable and voiceless for social problems is not only unethical, but also self-destructive. He stated that the international community should reject the politics of fear and commit to human rights principles.

Matteo Pasquali, Deputy Representative for UNODC in New York, stated that migration is an age-old phenomenon that has enriched societies across the globe, and it remains a key factor supporting development, provided that it is well-managed. He emphasised the need to address organised crime in the facilitation of irregular migration and migrant smuggling as part of comprehensive migration strategies. Mr. Pasquali also noted that the framework to achieve this goal is provided by the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25, entered into force on 28 January 2004, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, which seeks to prevent and combat migrant smuggling, promote cooperation to this end and protect the rights of smuggled migrants. He concluded that the integrated and comprehensive response required by the Protocol must be founded on the principle of shared responsibility, with the engagement of the entire international community.

Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General for Partnerships at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), reiterated that recent large movements of refugees and migrants reflects an enduring and long-term phenomenon.
She noted that the IFRC’s 190 national societies and thousands of branches work to build people’s resilience in their countries of origin, and their integration in destination countries. She stressed that the crossing of the Mediterranean is just one small piece of migrants’ much larger journey that can last for years, where their vulnerabilities can lead to severe exploitation. Dr. Mahmood emphasised that what is currently lacking is timely and accurate information regarding where migrants are and their specific protection needs. She noted that innovative solutions, such as the Virtual Volunteer databases in Europe and Turkey that assists migrants and refugees locate services and information, offer best practice models to develop more comprehensive migration policies.

Inkeri Von Hase, Programme Analyst at UN Women, commented on the importance of women’s empowerment within migration programmes, and providing protection that is gender-sensitive. She noted that the Secretary-General’s report identified the special protection needs of women and girls, such as in relation to gender-based violence, exploitation, family separation, and trauma. The lack of safe and regular channels of migration put women and girls at greater risk of trafficking and smuggling, as well as risks of abuse, sexual violence, forced marriage and forced labour. Ms. Von Hase therefore emphasised the need for: (1) gender-responsible services for migrant women and girls; (2) strengthening of gender-responsive programming and policies by institutionalising gendered policies; (3) increasing national capacity to respond to the needs of women and girls; and (4) collection of gender-disaggregated data in order to enhance migration policy formulation.

Sarah Mehta, Human Rights Researcher at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), explained that the ACLU’s focus is on best practices for ensuring implementation of human rights standards in migration policy. Ms. Mehta emphasised the importance of viewing the Syrian crisis as one aspect of the much larger issue of the many protracted refugee and migrant crises. She also reported that many countries across the world have experienced difficulty in complying with international law and human rights obligations, where thousands of migrants have been turned away at the borders or detained. She concluded that current responses do not adequately address the drivers of migration, and have led to a rise in anti-refugee and anti-migrant rhetoric that not only affects new arrivals, but also migrants who have become naturalised citizens.
**Interactive Debate**

The correlation between the emergence of punitive measures in destination countries and xenophobia was noted as an important element that had not been sufficiently explored at the UN. Concerns were also raised about how human rights-centred policies can be implemented at the national level in the face of xenophobia, as well as the need for advocacy campaigns to promote tolerance and to end xenophobia.

Comments noted that large movements of refugees and migrants would continue and increase as a result of protracted conflict, internal violence, and fragility and that safe, regular and orderly migration policy is important to address these large movements. It was further noted that conventional rules in Maritime Law include the duty to render assistance to those in distress, regardless of their country of origin or legal status. There was a call for the development of guidance on how to improve search and rescue capabilities and how best to detect and suppress criminal activities.

Participants pointed out that the composition of who is migrating is changing: there are now large numbers of women and children making the dangerous journeys in search of safety. Moreover, no one is immune from the effects of migration and the international community must share responsibility in addressing its consequences.

Further, it was noted that human-induced climate change is one of the biggest challenges today. The international community should make good use of technical advancements to reverse the adverse effects of climate change on the environment, and to provide adequate protection and housing for those already displaced.

Similarly, because approximately 60% of all migrants are migrant workers, their employment status and conditions can be both a problem and a solution. An ILO representative mentioned that his organization plans to introduce guiding principles on best practices for accessing labour markets before the next GMG meeting.
THIRD MEETING
Strengthening responsibility sharing for refugees

13 July 2016
Third meeting: Strengthening responsibility sharing for refugees

13 July 2016
10:00-13:00, Conference Room 6
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-Organisers:
UNDP and UNHCR

Co-Chairs:
Zambia and Portugal

Executive Summary

The meeting on 13 July 2016 was co-organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The meeting consisted of two panels and it reviewed ways for Member States to: i) facilitate protection and re-affirm solidarity in sharing responsibility for refugees worldwide; and ii) provide development approaches to address large movements of refugees. The first panel focussed on the proposed Global Compact on Responsibility-sharing for Refugees while the second panel discussed the importance of development approaches to forced displacement and ways of promoting coherent joint interventions between humanitarian and development actors in forced displacement contexts.

Six Member States took the floor during the meeting: Zambia and Portugal (as the co-Chairs of the meeting); as well as Japan, Australia, Turkey and Argentina (who made interventions in the course of the interactive debate).
Opening Remarks

Ninette Kelley, Director of the Liaison Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in New York, welcomed participants and noted that this meeting was designed to provide concrete examples of best practices for formulating responses to large refugee movements.

H.E. Dr. Mwaba P. Kasese-Bota, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zambia, highlighted that Zambia has been receiving refugees from neighbouring countries for the past fifty years. Zambia is currently implementing its “Local Integration Programme” which consists of three pillars: (1) provision of alternative legal status for long-staying refugees; (2) support for “resettlement” in designated areas and provision of land; and (3) support to host communities. The Zambian Government is now working with partners to shift from a humanitarian-centred approach towards a whole UN system development approach towards refugees and host communities. Amb. Kasese-Bota highlighted the need for shared responsibility in implementing projects such as Zambia’s Local Integration Programme, in order to ensure the respect of human rights and fulfilment of development aspirations.

H.E. Cristina Pucarinho, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal, noted Portugal’s long-term relationship with the UNHCR and that in response to the Syrian crisis, Portugal has implemented initiatives such as the Refugee Welcome Kits to facilitate successful resettlement. She further noted that refugees and migrants can be economic and social contributors to society, using Portugal’s academic scholarships for Syrians as an example. Amb. Pucarinho emphasised that political will, leadership and solidarity are essential for responsibility sharing for refugees.

Panel 1: Increasing complementary pathways to solutions for persons in need of protection

Ajay Madiwale of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) moderated the first panel.

Ninette Kelley, Director of the UNHCR Office in New York, remarked that while the world has been confronted with a
significant increase in refugees over the past five years, the global community is in fact facing a crisis of solidarity. She noted that the Global Compact on responsibility sharing for refugees proposed by the UN Secretary-General, in addition to reaffirming well-established legal standards governing the treatment of refugees, has the merits of articulating a comprehensive approach to large scale movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations. Ms. Kelley emphasised that a comprehensive response begins at the moment of a refugee’s arrival into a host country and continues all the way to a durable solution for that refugee. This includes adequate reception, the identification of specific needs, ensuring the access to food and shelter, and providing efficient assistance (such as cash assistance) and guidance on voluntary repatriation processes. Ms. Kelley highlighted the need to better assess the impact refugees may have on host countries and the environment. She concluded that the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants would enhance refugee protection responses going forward on the ground.

Anna Greene, Policy and Advocacy Director at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), stated that fifteen countries are currently providing traditional resettlement programmes for refugees, with an anticipated eleven new countries this year. She noted that less than 0.5% of the total global refugee population has access to traditional resettlement. The aim for the upcoming UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants is to reach 10%, with the support of Member States. Ms. Greene noted that the IRC supports alternative and complementary pathways to traditional resettlement, such as humanitarian-based, labour-based, education-based, and family-based programmes. She concluded that all alternative pathways need to ensure the minimum safeguards of traditional resettlement, such as the principle of non-refoulement.

Professor James Milner from Carleton University, highlighted lessons from past experiences such as the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees (CPA), the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA), and the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA). Professor Milner stressed that key lessons from these precedents show that comprehensive and integrated processes are necessary to respond to the needs of refugees, as opposed to one-off pledges. Similarly, situation-specific approaches, as opposed to general guidelines, can better inform refugee responses.
Furthermore, Professor Milner noted that the engagement of a broad range of actors, especially peace-building actors, can ensure comprehensive and inclusive policy formulation. Finally, he emphasised the importance of finding durable solutions and reducing gaps in support to provide greater predictability of policy implementation.

**Interactive Debate**

The interactive debate focused on issues of resettlement. Comments and questions considered the obstacles preventing the development of further resettlement programmes. Participants agreed that alternative pathways are important, but that they should not substitute traditional resettlement. The IRC concurred that alternative pathways to resettlement, even when temporary, need to build a foundation for self-sufficiency. Moreover, temporary protected status must lead to concrete pathways and allow refugees to access work opportunities and be self-sufficient. Ms. Kelley emphasized that the primary focus at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants should be on national actors to pledge concrete commitments to raise their level of engagement.

**Panel 2: Enhancing the humanitarian and development nexus to address protracted displacement**

The second panel was moderated by Izumi Nakamitsu, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator of UNDP’s Crisis Response Unit. Ms. Nakamitsu highlighted the timeliness of this meeting indicating the urgent need for effective and sustainable solutions. Ms Nakamitsu noted that she had just returned from Uganda where she observed progressive approaches to refugee resettlement that had the support of the UN.

Colin Bruce, Director for Regional Integration, Africa Vice President's Office at the World Bank, stated that the compact on refugees and subsequent programme development should be based on concrete data. Evidence can help better understand the development impact of large movements of refugees and migrants. Mr. Bruce highlighted that data can enable properly designed
policies and programmes. Similarly, it can help foster sound allocation of resources and monitor and evaluate effectiveness of support provides. Furthermore, more data collection is needed to help capture public perceptions and possible real or perceived social tensions. He concluded by reiterating that the compact should be explicit in its recommendations in this regard.

Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), pointed out the following steps to ensure the institutionalisation of the humanitarian-development nexus: (1) addressing the needs of both host communities and refugees/displaced persons and localizing our approaches; (2) moving towards multi-year funding and planning; (3) seeing refugees as contributors to local economy/society rather than as a burden; and (4) conducting integrated, joint assessments to better identify specific needs. Mr. Abdulla recommended that the term ‘financing’ rather than ‘funding’ should be used when discussing solutions, and that stronger cooperation between Member States, the UN system and the private sector would make responses to large movements more sustainable. He concluded by highlighting the importance of ensuring full respect of human rights in any response.

Magdy Martinez Soliman, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, stated that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should act as the main framework to address large movements of refugees and migrants and their root causes. Mr. Soliman highlighted the importance of: (1) addressing and analysing the root causes of refugee and migration movements; (2) advancing a joint evidence base on the development impact of large movements; (3) enabling voluntary return of refugees and IDPs and improving community-based re-integration; (4) supporting national and local governments in development planning, including migration and refugee issues; and (5) supporting host communities through resilience based development approaches, to enable them to better cope with and recover from the impact of large movement and protect development gains. Mr Soliman then referred to a series of examples of programme responses in which UNDP has been a key partner that apply a comprehensive, development approach including the regional strategy for the Sahel and Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP).
Jennifer Topping, Director of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), noted that while there are challenges associated with implementing multi-year funding, innovative approaches can enable more inclusive and sustainable approaches. The financial instruments currently available have different timelines and different values linked to humanitarian efforts, stabilisation, or development. This had led to fragmentation, under-utilisation, and critical funding gaps. She called for leveraging synergies between different instruments and taking advantage of innovations around pooled funding. Ms. Topping concluded that MPTFO has been working with the World Bank on mapping different instruments to identify potential entry points for more adequate funding arrangements to address large movements of migrants and refugees.

Interactive Debate

Answering a specific question from the floor about relevant financial facilities, the World Bank explained that a new financial platform would be launched at the US-led Summit on 20 September 2016. The Platform will include new concessional windows for crisis preparation, prevention and response. It will also support the collection and analysis of data regarding children and women through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

Another participant asked how to encourage the private sector to partake in resettlement programming. Mr. Abdulla responded that it was important to create a conducive environment for investment, where the situation can be mutually beneficial for all, and noted that refugees can be contributors and consumers within hosting societies. Ms. Nakamitsu concluded by highlighting the paradigm shift towards a stronger nexus between humanitarian and development responses, and “win-win” outcomes for both refugees and host communities.

Finally, it was also noted that one of the most positive results from the World Humanitarian Summit was the “Commitment to Action” signed by six UN agencies with the endorsement of World Bank and IOM.
FOURTH MEETING
Responding to large movements of refugees and migrants
- human rights protecting, labour market options and a
global compact for migration

20 July 2016
Fourth meeting: Responding to large movements of refugees and migrants - Human rights protection, labour market options and a global compact for migration

20 July 2016
13:00-15:00, PDR 1-3, Delegates Dining Room
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Co-Organisers:
OHCHR, ILO, IOM, PICUM

Co-Chairs:
Bangladesh and Switzerland

Executive Summary

The fourth meeting on 20 July 2016 was co-organised by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants.

This meeting built upon the three previous GMG meetings held in New York. Moreover, it built upon two multi-stakeholder meetings held in Geneva, on 1 June 2016 (under the auspices of OHCHR, and PICUM, with the support of Switzerland and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants) and between 5-7 July 2016 (under the auspices of the ILO regarding the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market).

Three Member States took the floor during the meeting: Bangladesh, Ireland and Switzerland shared their views as 2016 Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), co-facilitator of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, and the supporting State for OHCHR’s and PICUM’s work on the human rights of migrants.
Opening Remarks

In her opening remarks, Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, highlighted that human rights are universal and indivisible, and therefore must apply to all women and men refugees and migrants, irrespective of their legal status. In terms of the labour market options, Ms. Puri noted that in order to achieve SDG target 10.7 on orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration, the specific needs of migrants in the labour market must be addressed, pointing to women’s specific vulnerabilities in the domestic work sector.

Panel 1: Labour market options and ideas for a global compact on migration

Guy Ryder, Director-General at the International Labour Organisation (ILO), highlighted the importance of partnerships across agency lines in formulating migration policy. Mr. Ryder reported that migration is inextricably linked with work. From migrants seeking better opportunities, to refugees who find themselves forcibly displaced, everyone seeks to work, because they look for a source of both income and dignity. He noted the current nature of public debates on migration creates political and social obstacles for migrants and refugees to access the labour markets, despite the fact that international labour markets favour migration. He concluded that there are two ways to overcome this inherent contradiction: by combatting xenophobia through public education, and by bringing principles and values into our normative migration framework.

Laura Thompson, Deputy Director General of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), stated that the elements of the Global Compact for Migrants should become the normative framework for formulating migration policy. She stated three main points. First, the objective of a Global Compact should not be to stop migration, but rather to recognise that migration is a reality and should be a matter of genuine choice that is well-managed to generate benefits for migrants and the societies. Second, any Global Compact needs to look at migration holistically and not focus simply on large movements. Third, key elements of a Global Compact include: (1) protection of the human rights of migrants;
(2) expanding avenues for safe, orderly, and regular migration; promoting integration; (3) fostering positive development outcomes of migration; (4) addressing the impacts of crises on migrants; and (5) using data collection to better inform migration policies. To conclude, Ms. Thomson expressed the readiness of IOM to act as facilitator in the negotiations ahead regarding a Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration.

Panel 2: Human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and within large and/or mixed movements: protection gaps and norm-based practical guidance

Michele LeVoy, Director of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), emphasised the importance of including provisions in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants that combat xenophobia, racial discrimination, and intolerance directed towards refugees and migrants. She observed that human rights apply equally to both “regular” and “irregular” migrants. She also cited the recommendations by the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, which found in its 2012 Day of General Discussion (DGD) on “The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration” that detention of children is always a child rights violation, and never in a child’s best interest. Ms. LeVoy emphasised the importance of identifying and preventing the unique vulnerabilities pertaining to women, and highlighted the importance of access to the labour markets. She concluded by emphasising the importance of engaging with civil society in successfully achieving the refugee and migrant compacts.

Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), emphasised that the discussion on the human rights consequences of the large-scale, perilous and irregular migration is not about whether human rights apply but about how best to uphold these migrants’ rights. She also stressed that the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the global compact on migration should reflect the primacy of human rights, the importance of protecting the human rights of all people on the move without discrimination, and the need for comprehensive and human rights-based migration governance. Ms. Gilmore also mentioned the importance of the upcoming Principles and

**Panel 3: Next steps and ways forward: towards the General Assembly High-Level Plenary on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants**

**H.E. Amb. David Donoghue**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and co-facilitator of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, reported that ongoing consultations focus on the two Global Compacts proposed in the Secretary-General’s Report prepared for the Summit. Amb. Donoghue mentioned he was confident that gender-responsive programming would be included in these discussions. He noted that the outcome document would include recommendations for: (1) Member State commitments regarding the equitable treatment of migrants and refugees; (2) migrants and refugees inclusion in labour markets; and (3) the creation of opportunities for young people. He also underlined the importance of addressing concerns regarding the criminalisation of migrants, the securitisation of migration, and the lack of effort in regularising migration in the current document.

**Peter Sutherland**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, highlighted that globalisation and migration bring enormous opportunity. He drew attention to the risks associated to the prevalence of “nationalism” over “multilateralism”, as has occurred in recent times, especially in relation to trade. He noted that xenophobia and social division are creating challenges in executing migration policy that ensures the protection of human rights of refugees and migrants. Mr. Sutherland drew attention to the need to promote migration and development by facilitating the mobility of migrants, ensuring their inclusion in countries of destination, recognising all migrants’ rights, addressing the crisis dimensions of mixed migration flows, creating safe and regular migration channels, and changing negative rhetoric. He concluded by expressing hope that the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants will be successful in recognising the value of human mobility and encouraging safer pathways for refugees and migrants.
William Gois, Chair of the Global Coalition on Migration, stressed that the UN system was created to enhance freedom from fear and freedom from want, and asked the audience to reflect upon whether we are making good on those goals. He noted that discussing the rights of migrants and refugees should not be difficult, but it is becoming that way due to heightened xenophobia around the world.

Concluding Remarks

H.E. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, noted that while many Member States agree that migration is necessary, a number of them are not adequately contributing to the development of migration policies. He observed that too often Member States dictate migration policies, without consideration of human rights, and concluded that although the UN system generally agrees upon the importance of a rights-based approach to migration policy, this approach is often lacking at the regional and local levels.

H.E. Amb. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, briefly reiterated the need to address protection gaps through the two Global Compacts on refugees and migrants. He concluded that it is important to implement and affirm the SDGs in the outcome document, stressing the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

Interactive Debate

Participants underscored that the rights to movement, education, and work were often affected by legal status in host countries. For example, many Syrian children are currently not able to attend school because their parents, who are not allowed to work, cannot afford transportation costs or school supplies. Member States were encouraged to make a political commitment to stop the detention of migrants, especially children.
FIFTH MEETING
Development approaches to migration and displacement – supporting national and local capacities to prepare for and respond to large movements

13 September 2016
Fifth meeting: Development approaches to migration and displacement – supporting national and local capacities to prepare for and respond to large movements

13 September 2016
3:00-7:00 PM, Conference Room 8
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Organisers:
UNDP

Chairs:
Republic of Uganda

Executive Summary

The fifth meeting, held six days prior to the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, highlighted the importance of development approaches in conjunction with humanitarian responses to address large movements of refugees and migrants at local, national and regional levels. The meeting explored concrete examples of support offered by the UN system (UNDP in particular) to counterparts at regional, country and local levels, and advanced recommendations for the way forward.

The meeting was divided into three panels. The first panel focused on advancing a joint evidence-base for migration and displacement. The second panel reviewed ways to strengthen the resilience of local level partners for the impact of large movements. The third panel discussed means to support national level capacities and gender sensitive strategy development.

Three Member States took the floor during the meeting: Uganda as co-chair (Permanent Representative to the UN); Serbia as a speaker in Panel II (Commissioner for Refugees and Migrants); and Bangladesh (Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) as the 2016 Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and a speaker in Panel III. In addition,
there was a representative from Colombia on Panel II (Director of the CODHES – Human Rights and Displacement Consultant).

**Opening Remarks**

As moderator, Magdy Martinez Soliman, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, opened the meeting by recalling the protracted nature of current displacements trends (including irregular migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons), and urged the need for investment in longer term development approaches.

Karen AbuZayd, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, underlined that although a humanitarian approach is imperative to saving lives, long-term solutions for the 32 protracted situations worldwide, lasting an average of 26 years, are important. She noted that it is unsustainable to provide humanitarian assistance for extended periods of time, and that humanitarian assistance without a development framework does not allow for refugees to live in dignity and to develop their human potential. She concluded that we must advance evidence-based development and humanitarian planning to better address large movements of refugees and migrants, both in countries of destination and of origin.

H.E. Richard Nduhuura, Permanent Representative to the UN of the Government of the Republic of Uganda, stated that we must enable refugees and migrants to be contributors to their host countries and, to this end, integrate migration policies into development programming. He shared the view that every person must be treated with dignity and that this principle must be codified into national development plans and policies. Amb. Nduhuura specifically referred to efforts of the Ugandan Government to mainstream displaced population groups into national and local development plans, including the National Development Plan II.

Magdy Martinez-Soliman noted that while migration can be a successful adaptation strategy, it can also undermine national development if not well managed. Sudden and/or large influxes of people escaping violent conflict or natural disasters can pose
significant challenges to destination countries and communities. Sudden and/or large movements put pressure on the delivery of basic services, sometimes create (or are perceived to create) competition for jobs and diminishing natural resources, and can be perceived to be a threat to social cohesiveness.

Mr. Martinez-Soliman indicated that development projects should seek to: (1) work with partners to develop institutional frameworks that integrate migration into national and local development plans; (2) work with host communities to strengthen their resilience and sustain development gains in the context of large movements (for example, support for jobs and livelihoods, basic service delivery and access to justice); and (3) address root causes and drivers of migration and forced displacement. He emphasized that the 2030 Agenda provides an inclusive framework for cooperation and better coordination, underlined by the central commitment to leave no-one behind. Mr. Martinez-Soliman concluded that the four objectives of UNDP’s work are: (1) the creation of economic development opportunities for migrants, refugees, IDPs, and host communities; (2) the protection of their human rights; (3) the delivery of basic services; and (4) better migration governance for the benefit of all.

Panel 1: Advancing a joint evidence base for migration and displacement

As moderator, Colin Bruce, Senior Adviser, World Bank, spoke on advancing a joint and shared evidence-base for migration and displacement programming. He referred to the fact that the Bank’s increased engagement on displacement has been driven by data and evidence. In several countries, data suggests that forcibly displaced people and their destination communities are among the poorest. However, there is little comprehensive data on the socio-economic vulnerabilities and needs of displaced populations. Data from socio-economic assessments of displacement crises can usefully inform the design of recovery and development policies and associated assistance programs. For destination countries, better data is needed to inform policy solutions, including for example, possible labour market participation. He urged the international community to prioritize data collection of the needs and skills of refugee and migrant populations, as well as host communities, in order to formulate comprehensive economic and development
planning and programme development. International efforts are already underway to improve statistics on forced displacement, including work being carried out by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre with support of IOM, the Joint IDP Profiling Service, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Information Management Working Group. The World Bank Group (WBG) partners with a number of these organizations. Going forward, the WBG will be increasing its interactions with key partners to discuss progress and potential for collaboration, including UNHCR and WFP, and explore the possibility of using big data, including partnering with new organizations.

**Jason Pronyk,** Development Coordinator for the UNDP Syria Sub-Regional Facility, introduced the initial findings of the six-country economic opportunity assessments in response to the Syrian crisis. The assessment provided country-specific evidence and regional recommendations and was led by UNDP and carried out through an UNDP-WFP-ILO and UNHCR partnership as part of the Regional Refugees Resilience Plan (3RP). He noted that the massive displacement of Syrians has had a large impact on destination countries and communities, including Jordan, which now faces a 2 billion dinar financial shortfall (approximately 2.8 billion USD), decline in tourism and foreign direct investments, lack of access to fresh water, and pressure on social infrastructure. To counteract the negative consequences of large movements of refugees and migrants, UNDP and partner organisations launched the 3RP to meet refugee protection and humanitarian needs, while also responding to the needs of host communities. He concluded that the London Donor Conference, entitled “Supporting Syria and the region”, confirmed that facilitating access to economic opportunities is an essential response to the crisis. This includes locally-led initiatives, working with and through local partners, and developing private sector partnerships.

**Leontine Specker,** Policy Specialist at the UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, centred her discussion on the multi-dimensional livelihood assessments in Yemen, as a concrete example of how comprehensive data collection can be used as a basis for programme development. The assessment focused on the needs of the most vulnerable, particularly IDPs in Yemen. The objectives of the assessment were to collect comprehensive community and household level data on (1) sources of vulnerability, (2) the asset base of communities and individuals, (3) the impact
of the conflict on local businesses, (4) coping mechanisms and (5) adaptive strategies. The assessments provided a basis for evidence-based policy and programme development, and created a baseline for programme development, monitoring, and evaluation. She urged the international community to invest in data collection and analysis to improve programs. The example of the multi-dimensional livelihood assessments in Yemen have been replicated within other Governorates in Yemen and will be used as the basis to create a UNDP global toolkit.

**Niall McCann**, Lead Electoral Advisor at the UNDP Bureau of Policy and Programme Support, introduced the topic of political participation of migrants and out-of-country voting. He noted that while the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) afford political participation rights to all persons, states can impose “reasonable restrictions” on voting rights for citizens, and that there is no agreement within the United Nations on what “reasonable restrictions” can include. He encouraged these conversations to begin taking place transparently, with a rights-based approach, recognizing that all societal groups affected by conflict should have access to political processes. He cited several examples where refugees from Mali, Iraq, and the Central African Republic were given the opportunity to participate in post-conflict elections, but the refugees themselves were not enabled to run as candidates. He notes that while having out-of-country political movements may have consequences, these discussions need to be taken seriously and debated at length. Lastly, he called for more evidence regarding the feasibility of these processes to make them as cost-effective and beneficial to out-of-country residents as possible.

**Izumi Nakamitsu**, Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Administrator of the UNDP Crisis Response Unit, stressed the importance of better responding to protracted humanitarian crises. Political leaders have a responsibility to find political solutions, but humanitarian and development agencies also need to work together in new ways, using shared analysis and planning and longer-term investments. These efforts should be backed with more innovative, flexible, predictable and multi-year financing from Member States. She continued that it is important to acknowledge that there are opportunities for destination communities to thrive if they receive the right support and development investment. For example, if refugees can work legally and pay taxes, it can
generate revenue for destination communities. She concluded that we need to support localized responses which leverage the capacities in destination communities and support them to maintain basic services and cope with pressures.

Panel 2: Strengthening the resilience of local level partners for the impact of large movements of refugees and migrants

As moderator, Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Serbia, noted that migrants and refugees are different and each have their own unique vulnerabilities. At the local municipality level, this difference is essential to comprehensive and effective development programming. She continued that while the status of refugees and migrants respectively are defined at national levels, municipalities are responsible for responding and integrating these populations.

Cecile Riallant, Programme Manager of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), provided an overview of the needs of local municipalities and JMDI’s support of local governments to respond to migrants and refugees. She argued that empowering local actors is critical because they are at the frontlines of responding to large movements of refugees and migrants, and their input and cooperation is essential to development responses and programming. She cited two issues that are often overlooked in development planning: (1) there are persistent inequalities that exist among and within countries; and (2) migration dynamics link subnational territories amongst countries creating migration corridors. These realities call for a paradigm shift in development planning, necessitating new plans, tools and partnerships, especially with local communities and civil society. She concluded that data collection is imperative for comprehensive development programming and policymaking at the local level, so that local level government can better respond to large movements of refugees and migrants and better inform national policies.

Vladimir Cucic, Commissioner for Refugees and Migration in Serbia, focused his discussion on the growing numbers of refugees and migrants transiting through third countries before reaching their final destinations. These transit countries are now
depending on international funds to care for these populations. Mr. Cucic reported that refugees and IDPs constitute 12.5% of Serbia's population. Local municipalities in Serbia have not had time to develop strategies and policies to respond to these large movements. Instead, they focus on the more immediate needs such as getting more ambulances and solving waste problems. UNDP in Serbia helped provide clean water when they had to immediately respond to a water crisis. He concluded that there is a need to develop strategies and policies before large crises occur so that local municipalities are better prepared.

Sophie de Caen, Officer-in-charge, OIC Director for the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States, emphasized that the 3RP is based on national resilience plans from Syria’s neighbouring countries, noting the importance of listening to the governments’ priorities and needs. Focusing on the programs in Lebanon and Iraq, Ms. de Caen noted that 25 per cent of Lebanon’s population is now made up of refugees, and that most of these refugees reside in communities that are already amongst the poorest in the country. UNDP’s Lebanon Stabilisation and Recovery Program (LSRP) seeks to enhance basic social service delivery, livelihood delivery, social security and stability for not only refugee populations but the local communities as well. This necessitates collaboration with local authorities, civil society, community leaders, and media. Similarly, in Iraq, the Crisis Response and Resilience Program has helped to empower destination communities, refugees, and IDPs, assisting over 1.5 million persons. She concluded that humanitarian interventions are critical to saving lives but that we must increase funding for resilience activities to create more sustainable solutions.

Joanna Kazana, Head of Country Office Oversight and Liaison Unit of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States at UNDP, noted that Turkey now hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, including more than 2.7 million registered Syrians. Approximately 90 per cent of these refugees live in local communities, significantly affecting labour markets and increasing demands on service providers. Turkey has provided Syrian refugees temporary protection status, allowing them access to basic services and work opportunities. While these are positive developments, this has increased competition

2 JMDI is a program managed by UNDP, in partnership with IOM, ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA, and UN Women.
for jobs. She reported that in the next two to three years the economy of Southeast Anatolia will need 260,000 new jobs to keep unemployment levels in that region at their current level. She concluded that by using the evidence-base and properly mapping the skills in the labour force, we can develop innovative new investment strategies and create targeted development programmes that better address the needs of these communities.

Marco Romero, Director of the Colombian Human Rights and Displacement Consultants (CODHES), reported that Colombia has the world’s second highest population of IDPs. Colombia hosts 7.5 million IDPs, 500,000 refugees, as well as a growing population of migrants transiting through Colombia from other countries. For a long time, the government in Colombia denied the existence of a displacement problem, but now the UN and the government are partnering in humanitarian efforts to address the displacement crisis, especially in the rural communities. Colombia now has a registry of displaced persons and a statistical database to assist policymakers to identify the needs of the displaced population and effectively integrate these needs into the development agenda. Mr. Romero concluded that the humanitarian crisis in Colombia led to social deterioration. The country now needs lasting solutions to reintegrate displaced populations and ensure their full participation in politics and society.

Andrew Painter, Senior Policy Advisor at the UNHCR New York Office, highlighted three outcomes from the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. First, the reaffirmation of the basic principles of international law, especially that of asylum and non-refoulement. Second, the reaffirmation of the principle of responsibility-sharing, noting that 85 per cent of the world’s refugees reside in the developing world. And third, the creation of a comprehensive refugee response framework, which takes a whole-of-society approach in providing protections to refugees and empowering destination communities. The New York Declaration helps to strengthen the humanitarian and development nexus by providing a framework for lasting solutions. Mr. Painter cited Uganda, which hosts the third largest number of refugees in Africa, as an example of where the combined humanitarian and development approach has successfully integrated refugee populations and empowered destination communities through focusing on livelihoods and social service delivery.
Panel 3: Supporting national level capacities and gender-sensitive strategy development

Meg Jones, Chief of the Economic Empowerment Section at UN Women, moderated this panel.

Sadia Faizunnesa, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh, the 2016 Chair of the GFMD, stated that climate change does not respect national borders and that the international community must address this problem collectively. Bangladesh is uniquely affected by climate change and has mainstreamed climate change into its development policies. Many people affected by climate change become displaced within their own country, but a growing number are being forced to move abroad. Scientific studies demonstrate that the phenomenon of climate change is going to continue to increase in the future, and therefore increase the likelihood of climate change related displacement. She concluded that the international community must: (1) create legal pathways for people displaced by climate change; (2) integrate migration planning into national frameworks; and (3) create institutions able to adequately address the needs of those who are displaced by climate change.

Nicholas Rosellini, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific at UNDP, noted that of the 240 million migrants in the world, 60 million of them reside in Asia and the Pacific. He continued that migrants help to drive economies and GDP growth in countries of destination and also through remittances back to their countries of origin. Despite these positive outcomes, however, migrants experience a number of human rights abuses and vulnerabilities, especially those in situations of forced displacement. To safeguard against these violations, we must address the root causes of forced displacement, and formulate policies that address these specific vulnerabilities. For women in particular we need to consider the gender-specific dimensions to their vulnerabilities. He noted that together the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs provide a framework for collective action and solutions for vulnerable people, including migrants and displaced persons. Citing UNDP projects in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, Mr. Rosellini highlighted the need to address the intersections of peace, security, sustainable growth, and livelihoods in developing programming. He concluded that development partners need to increase capacity for data collection.
and analysis for root causes of migration and displacement to enable better policymaking.

David Clapp, Coordinator of the Sub-Regional Platform in East and Southern Africa, reported that the increasing scale, complexity, and protracted nature of forced displacement in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) is creating significant challenges for host communities, and creating tensions over access to livelihoods and basic services. It is estimated that nearly 3.5 million forcibly displaced people reside in the GLR. Mr. Clapp introduced the GLR Strategic Framework for 2016-2017, and focused on the third pillar of human mobility. This pillar emphasizes the need for regional authorities to partner with national governments and to strengthen the capacities for managing population movements within and across borders. Moving forward, further regional support is required in the following four areas: (1) advancing a joint evidence base at regional levels to promote a development approach to forced displacement in the GLR; (2) building capacities and exchanges at regional levels and promoting regional coordination; (3) supporting host communities with a focus on cross-border areas; and (4) enabling voluntary return and reintegration.

Riad Meddeb, Policy Advisor at the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) at UNDP, stated that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality that requires coherent and comprehensive responses. He continued that the Global South hosts 42 per cent of all international migrants and 86 per cent of the world’s refugees, therefore necessitating institutional support within those countries and the mainstreaming of migration policies into development programming. He noted that UNDP, IOM, and other GMG entities have developed a guidance note on how to integrate human mobility into UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). The guidance note is a user-friendly tool for UN country teams and governments working to link human mobility with sustainable development through its overview of applicable normative frameworks, training modules and good practice examples from around the world.

Ashraf El Nour, Permanent Representative of the IOM to the UN, building upon the presentation of Mr. Meddeb, noted that the purpose of this guidance note is to support the mainstreaming of migration and human mobility into development planning and frameworks. Mr. El Nour appealed to Member States to commit to
integration of migration policies to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. He also appealed to UN entities to use this guidance note to conduct needs assessments and development analyses. He concluded that no individual alone can solve migration and refugee crises, and that partnership are essential.

Concluding Remarks

On behalf UN Women as 2016 Chair of the GMG, Meg Jones, summarized the contributions of the three panels. She noted the creation of new tools to integrate human mobility issues into development assistance frameworks. She also welcomed the important emphasis on the need for a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach. She also noted that mainstreaming migration challenges into development will support responsibility-sharing objectives and, at the same time, identify good practices for implementing the relevant goals in the Agenda 2030 on safe, orderly and regular migration.
SIXTH MEETING
Migration-related commitments in the New York Declaration: the role of the UN System

18 October 2016
Sixth meeting: Migration-related commitments in the New York Declaration: the role of the UN System

18 October 2016
1:15-2:45 PM, Conference Room F, UN Headquarters, New York

Co-Organisers:
UN Women, World Bank, and the ILO

Executive Summary

The sixth meeting focused on the contribution of the UN system towards implementing the migration-related commitments contained in the New York Declaration. This includes the Member State-led process to develop non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations, as outlined in paragraph [52] of the Declaration. The meeting also focused on the role of the UN system in supporting the process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (Global Compact for Migration). Notably, paragraph [13] of Annex II (entitled ‘Towards a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration’) to the New York Declaration sets out the process through which the GMG will contribute to the negotiation process towards the Global Compact for Migration.

The meeting consisted of one panel discussion and one interactive debate. One Member State, namely Bangladesh (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN) as 2016 Chair of the GFMD, participated in the panel.

Opening Remarks

Christine Brautigam, Director of the Intergovernmental Support Division at UN Women, opened the meeting by recalling the GMG’s role in preparing for the Summit for Refugees and Migrants, including hosting five multi-stakeholder meetings and drafting
concept notes for the Summit's six roundtables. She observed that these inputs placed a strong emphasis on ensuring a human rights and gender-responsive approach. Ms. Brautigam pointed to three sections of the New York Declaration which set out the contributions of the UN system. First, offering inputs to the Member State-led process to develop non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations, especially unaccompanied and separated children who do not qualify for international protection as refugees and who may need assistance. Second, as articulated in Annex II to the New York Declaration, the UN system is expected to support the process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a Global Compact for Migration. In this context, she advocated seizing the opportunity to ensure that global responses to migration challenges are human rights-centred and inclusive of the rights of women and girls. Third, GMG entities, both individually and collectively, could assume a supporting role in response to the request made by Member States to the UN Secretary-General for the provision of periodic assessments on progress made in the implementing the commitments in the Declaration.

**Panel Discussion**

**H.E. Masud Bin Momen**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and 2016 Chair of the GFMD, recalled that the overarching GFMD objective is to establish migration as a transformative agenda for securing sustainable development. Taking stock of the migration challenges reflected in the Agenda 2030, the SDGs, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, he noted that the New York Declaration is the culmination of global efforts in shaping safe, orderly, and regular migration. H.E. Momen stressed the importance of upholding the rights of refugees and migrants, and the need to bolster regional, national, and local coalitions in order to better serve these populations. He stressed that the global community should work towards operationalizing existing obligations. He concluded that the UN Secretariat and IOM, jointly assuming a supportive role in the forthcoming General Assembly negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration, will bring together a diverse set of actors to help bridge gaps in understanding, and encourage consensus.
**Gregory Maniatis**, Senior Advisor at the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration, noted that much progress has been made in respect to global coordination on migration and refugees through the establishment of new processes, specific inclusion of migration in the SDGs, and the recent adoption by Member States of the New York Declaration. The challenge now is the operationalization of these commitments by way of actionable plans. Mr. Maniatis continued that while Member State leadership is paramount, Member States also need the operational and technical support of UN entities and that the UN should be more than the sum of its parts. Further, he stated that we need to involve civil society, the private sector, and subnational governments in formulating actionable plans. He concluded by warning against the rampant divide between refugee and migrant advocates, noting that they should seek to work together on resolving common problems.

**Vinicius Pinheiro**, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the ILO Office in New York, noted that the New York Declaration makes strong calls to fully respect the human rights of migrants and rightly recognizes employment as one of the root causes and drivers of migration. The New York Declaration calls for the ratification and implementation of several ILO Conventions regarding the protection of the legal rights of migrant workers, including women migrant workers. The fact that labour rights have emerged as a prominent theme in the New York Declaration must be seen as a major achievement. Mr. Pinheiro noted that ILO Conventions regarding migrant workers and the ILO’s Multilateral Framework for Labour Migration already contain indispensable standards and guidelines on migration, and that new initiatives and instruments should not overlook them. Mr. Pinheiro also observed that labour ministries, as well as workers’ and employers’ organizations, the private sector and regional actors all have an active and important role to play in developing the Global Compact for Migration, and that ILO is well-positioned to bolster and guide such cooperation. Other areas of the New York Declaration where ILO has a special role to play include non-discrimination, forced labour, other forms of labour exploitation, skills mobility, job creation and social dialogue. Specifically, he pointed to the relevance of two new ILO tripartite initiatives, namely the ILO’s Fair Recruitment Initiative and its guiding principles on the access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the
labour market. He concluded that now more than ever, migration governance requires firm leadership, and that partnerships and full participation of stakeholders is paramount.

**Dilip Ratha**, Head of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) at the World Bank, began by noting that there are over 250 million migrants worldwide, of which 16 million are refugees. He reported that economic migration constitutes 92 per cent of the total international migration population. He also noted that South-to-South migration is larger than South-to-North migration. Mr. Ratha took stock of the drivers of migration, namely income inequality, demographic pressure, and climate change. It is against this backdrop in which the Global Compact for Migration is situated. He noted a series of challenges for the Global Compact for Migration to address: (1) risks to health and trafficking; (2) xenophobia; (3) family separation; (4) loss of skills; (5) creation of job competition; (6) increase to social services; (7) national security; (8) formulation of national identity; (9) and negative public perceptions. The global community must grapple with these challenges and respond to them effectively and quickly. Finally, in terms of a roadmap for Member States, Member States should leverage the GFMD and regional communities and process, differentiate, coordinate, and accelerate their approaches to migration, and implement ‘game-changing’ ideas.

**Ashraf El Nour**, Permanent Observer for IOM to the United Nations, noted that we need to start looking for solutions in places where we have not looked for them before, and expand participation to include a diverse set of actors. He further stated that we need to ensure that migration becomes a part of development planning at national levels. He commented that the integration of the IOM into the UN system could not have been timelier given the current state of migration, noting that the IOM will be indispensable in formulating policy and operationalizing actionable plans. He continued that in order for these policies to be meaningful and well-received, we must adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach that brings in unique perspectives from all interested stakeholders, especially receiving, sending, and transiting countries. He emphasized that all of these policy formulations must keep the interests and human rights of migrants at the centre. He concluded by warning that xenophobia is both toxic and counterproductive.
Interactive Discussion

Two members of civil society were invited to introduce the debate. **Anu Madgavkar**, Partner at the McKinsey Global Institute, commented that facts and evidence are paramount in informing and shaping migration and refugee narratives, which in turn help to inform actionable plans for the Global Compact for Migration. **Eva Richter**, Treasurer of the NGO Committee on Migration, raised concerns about the implementation of the New York Declaration, requesting more concrete and specific proposals be translated into national policies and practices. She continued that we must enhance the protections for women and children, and expressed concern that the New York Declaration does not go far enough in denouncing the detention of child migrants. Both speakers also emphasized the need to engage with civil society at every step in the policy process, from formulation to implementation and monitoring.

One question was raised regarding protections available to migrant workers, in particular women and girls, working in the tourist industry. In response, **IOM** noted that we must create specific guidelines and policies to address the needs of vulnerable populations. The best way to do this is by including a gender dimension in existing frameworks. **ILO** added that it has a dedicated entity on the hotel, catering, and tourism sector that addresses this issue. Relevant labour protection standards are also enshrined in ILO Convention No. 172 and its associated Recommendation 179. The UN system should seek to build upon these frameworks going forward. **UN Women** noted that even if this issue is not mentioned in CEDAW, the problem has come up quite regularly in countries where tourism is a large component of the economy. It is a matter that the CEDAW Committee could potentially address.

A question was then raised on the divide between refugee and migrant advocates. The panelist from **SRSG’s** office noted that both groups are motivated by the same spirit and observed that respective operational actors on behalf of refugees and migrants often work well together in the field. He emphasized that the focus at this juncture is in recognizing the problems encountered by both groups and then focusing our energy in solving these challenges together.
A further question was raised regarding how international migration efforts impact relevant domestic actors. The panelist from the SRSG’s office as well as UN Women agreed that the UN needs to engage with all relevant actors, especially local authorities, in the formulation of migration policies.

A further question was raised regarding the role of the Global Compact for Migration in exploring a willing coalition of countries at the regional level, leaving open the possibility for other States to join in when ready to engage. Another comment was raised from the floor that migration is both bilateral and regional, and that we must form strong partnerships with local partners. Noting that implementation of these policies can be better informed by data and research, it was noted that UN DESA offers expertise in these areas through its annual coordination meetings. The commenter concluded that we need to approach the migration/development nexus by examining a range of related topics, including international trade markets, financial flows, and equity issues.

Concluding Remarks

David Malone, Rector of the UNU and 2017 Chair of the GMG, closed the meeting by noting that migration is a global phenomenon and a difficult one. He observed that migration is not easy even for his country, Canada, which is built on migration. He singled out the importance of economic considerations in the development of migration policies. He highlighted the important role played by the SRSG in setting migration as one of the top priorities of the UN System. He further welcomed IOM’s entry into the UN System as an opportunity to reflect on how the GMG can refocus its activities to be more purposeful for Member States and other stakeholders. Moving forward for next year, UNU, as Chair of the GMG, will encourage discussions on the GMG’s contributions in the implementation of the New York Declaration, and to support Member States in their negotiation of a Global Compact for Migration. He continued that facts and evidence are imperative in formulating actionable migration plans. He concluded that civil society has a tremendously important role to play in the reception, settlement and inclusion of migrants, and that this partnering role in managing migration should be understood and respected by GMG and other actors on migration.
SEVENTH MEETING
The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: implementation of commitments to counter xenophobia

31 October 2016
Seventh meeting: The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: implementation of commitments to counter xenophobia

31 October 2016
1:15-2:45 PM, Salle XI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Organized by:
UNHCR

Executive Summary

The seventh meeting focused on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the implementation of commitments to counter xenophobia. Participants discussed the commitments made in the New York Declaration designed to address these shared challenges, including a commitment by Member States to counter xenophobia. Paragraphs [14] and [39] of the New York Declaration recognize that xenophobia undermines the tolerance and solidarity that is needed to address large movements of refugees and migrants. The Declaration welcomes the global campaign to counter xenophobia proposed by the UN Secretary-General, and commits Member States to combatting xenophobia, including through measures that improve integration and inclusion, and combatting racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and intolerance. In this context, this event provided an opportunity to review examples of good practice, discuss opportunities for joint action, and identify possible ways to counter xenophobia against refugees and migrants. The meeting consisted of one panel discussion and one interactive debate.

Opening Remarks

Vincent Cochetel, Director of the Europe Bureau at UNHCR, underscored the importance of the New York Declaration and its Annexes in detailing the commitments made by Member States to address challenges facing refugees and migrants in large movements. He highlighted the shared challenge of xenophobia and commitments relating to xenophobia. Mr. Cochetel emphasized
that combatting xenophobia must entail: (1) addressing human trafficking, (2) protecting human rights and fundamental freedom of all refugees and migrant children, (3) improving data collection; (3) increasing the predictability of humanitarian financing; and (4) promoting alternatives to detention. In this context, he called on all stakeholders to identify areas for joint action. He identified possible next steps in operationalizing the commitments in the Declaration to counter xenophobia against refugees and migrants, including the provision of measures to improve the integration and inclusion of refugees and migrants and the introduction of national policies relating to integration and inclusion. He also drew attention to the need to counter ‘anti-foreigner’ rhetoric. He noted the UN's anti-xenophobia campaign “Together” and UNHCR’s #WithRefugees campaign and petition, which aim to mobilize the public to stand in solidarity with refugees and increasing empathy, understanding, and respect. He further pointed to the need for local approaches, the inclusion of local interlocutors, and identifying good practices.

**Pannel Discussion**

**Bruce Scoffield**, Minister-Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva, noted that diversity in communities and countries can lead to higher rates of economic growth, better social cohesion, and tremendous cultural and civic benefits. He added that Canada's path to inclusion has taken years of hard work and was a product of series of deliberate choices. He stated that Canada, as a nation of migrants, is comprised of more than 200 different ethnic groups, where 1/5 of the population is born overseas. Therefore, Canada prioritises the effective integration of newcomers. Integration entails the active engagement of key players such as the federal government, provinces and territories, municipal governments, as well as civil society, employers in the private sector, educational institutions, and regulatory bodies. He noted that successful integration requires effort and resources and is part of a process that begins prior to a migrant's arrival in Canada and continued post-arrival through tailored support. This support includes language training, labour market access, fostering connections with the broader community, and specialised support for refugees through government assistance, community support, and private sponsorship from various organisations. He noted that Canada's approach to inclusion encourages and facilitates naturalisation.
whilst also celebrating multiculturalism. Multiculturalism was adopted as an official policy, and then was subsequently enshrined in Canadian legislation. In this regard, 85 per cent of migrants and refugees become Canadian citizens. He closed by emphasizing Canada’s strong focus on human rights both at home and abroad. He noted Canada’s commitment to working with the UN Secretary-General, and other actors to combat xenophobia by shifting the narrative surrounding global migration and championing values of peaceful pluralism, diversity and inclusion.

Peggy Hicks, Director of Thematic Engagement in the Special Procedures and Right to Development, Division of OHCHR, recalled statements made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights about the dangers of those who seek to gain or maintain power by wielding prejudice and deceit at the expense of the most vulnerable. In so doing, these people threaten our future by limiting our ability to address challenges such as sustainable development, climate change, and violent extremism. Ms. Hicks added that the tools to respond to and address these issues are found within our diversity and the collective strength we have together. She pointed to the lack of a clear legal definition of “xenophobia,” even though it is generally understood to encompass attitudes, behaviours, prejudices, perceptions and practices that discriminate against non-nationals. She also pointed to difficulties with the definition of the word “migrant”. Ms. Hicks highlighted the importance of changing the migration and refugee narratives from the negative to the positive, including through investing in long-term measures that shift perceptions and attitudes. She further emphasized the importance of developing tools to counter xenophobia, including strengthening law enforcement and justice delivery systems, data collection, integration of local solutions and strategies, and awareness raising of universal rights through, for example, the UN “Together” campaign and other broad-based inclusive campaigns.

Gervais Appave, Special Adviser to the Director General of IOM, and Leonard Doyle, Director of the Media and Communication Division of IOM, delivered a joint presentation. Mr. Appave noted that the New York Declaration used the term “xenophobia” five times – three times in paragraph [14], once in paragraph [39], and once in paragraph [8(u)] of Annex II. In all instances, the Declaration invites the international community to strongly condemn and combat xenophobia in all its manifestations. He identified the criminalization of xenophobia as an important legal
fence as well as other measures that promote positive relationships between the migrant and refugee communities and destination communities. He emphasized the importance of understanding xenophobia beyond the often limited textbook definitions and explained that xenophobia is not just a dislike or prejudice towards people considered to be different, but is a fear of the “other” that needs to be understood in order to be effectively addressed.

Mr. Doyle gave a visual presentation of the challenges associated with the media, noting that in many places, the media is dominated by negative narratives about migrants and refugees. He noted there is an influx of negative and false messaging which exploits the difficult position of the working poor in the developed world. He noted that the narrative of patriotism has in many instances been ceded to the extreme right. He underscored the importance of developing a more balanced and inclusive story. Mr. Doyle noted that IOM’s “I am a Migrant” campaign aims at developing more rounded and context-specific narratives about the millions of people on the move. He also pointed to the Scouts as Messengers of Peace movement as an example of good practice, noting how their blueprint could be a useful means of helping communities to overcome xenophobia in real, practical ways. Mr. Doyle concluded that there was need to spark a movement that captures the imagination of the youth as global citizens. He noted that collaboration amongst various actors involved in the “Together” campaign is an important first step.

David Fisher, Manager of the Policy and Diplomacy Unit of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), noted that the language in the New York Declaration is strong and that the challenge now is to implement this language practically, which requires strong government leadership. He suggested that the fear associated with xenophobia distinguishes it from racism and hate crimes, even though these terms are often used interchangeably to refer to xenophobia. He continued that the Global Compact for Migration could develop a definition of xenophobia which moves beyond rhetoric towards action with concrete goals and targets to reduce the deaths of migrants and refugees and incidences of hate crimes and xenophobia. He observed that in looking at the barrage of negative media, it is easy to lose sight of some of the positive developments, including more than 100,000 volunteers working in service with the IFRC and its initiatives. Mr. Fisher opined that while people are entitled to their
own opinions, they are not entitled to their own facts. He added that beyond facts, there is a need to motivate people by changing their attitudes. He referred to an IFRC video campaign involving children which addresses hateful rhetoric and highlighted the importance of children and youth as agents of change. He concluded that it is also important to address the circumstances that migrants and refugees often find themselves in, which fuels public fear and further limits their potential to participate in labour markets.

**Interactive Discussion**

A concern was raised from the floor about the challenges of social inclusion and resettlement programmes in countries of transit and the significant problems posed by smugglers, human traffickers, and organized crime networks targeting migrants. Another comment was also made regarding the lack of adequate border control measures by neighbouring countries and the failure to distinguish between bona fide refugees and migrants using transit territories as stepping stones to countries of destination. Another point was raised concerning the challenges of balancing the right to freedom of expression of the media with the importance of countering xenophobia and hateful or offensive narratives about migrants and refugees. Yet another comment was raised regarding the potential impact of criminalizing xenophobia.

One commentator likened the discourse on migration to free trade, because in both issues there are strong voices for and against it. Similarly, in relation to both there is a need to put in place mechanisms that more equitably share the benefits and costs.

A question was also raised concerning the kind of social contract needed to regulate migration and attitudes towards migrants in traditionally homogenous societies with no experience of migration. In response, Canada noted that a social contract is an important starting point that needs to evolve organically and pointed to the fact that there is a positive role for migrants to play even in transit countries.

Another audience member echoed that multiculturalism requires time and resources in order to be viable and added that the celebration of diversity in dedicated holidays is an example of a good practice that could be used as a means to avoid complacency about diversity.
In response, IOM called for more opportunities for exchanges in defining and refining the global compacts, encouraged stakeholders to develop multi-dimensional approaches to address the often complex societies we live in, and called for the prevention of complacency as well as the harnessing of the dynamic vehicle of social media in countering xenophobia.

A further comment underscored the importance of distinguishing between refugees and migrants and the respective protections accruing to either group. The representative from OHCHR observed that the term “migrants” does encompass a range of people, including those present at the debate, and refugees. She underscored the often changing status of people on the move who may start off as migrants by choice but end up, due to a set of challenging circumstances, as persons with special needs. Therefore, there is a need to respond to the various needs of all the people on the move. IFRC added that it was important to respect the fundamental human rights of both refugees and migrants without distinction and highlighted IFRC’s humanitarian imperative in prioritizing needs-based responses. UNHCR said that while definitional issues and legal status are important, xenophobia affects both refugees and migrants.

**Concluding Remarks**

Mr. Cochetel concluded the meeting by noting that xenophobia has a tremendous negative impact on the lives of refugees and migrants, and requires the concerted effort of all stakeholders. Joint efforts are essential in addressing concerns about security, integration capacity, promoting diversity, and combatting racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms.
Appendix 1: About the GMG

The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalising upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration. The GMG was established by the United Nations Secretary-General in early 2006 in response to a recommendation of the Global Commission on International Migration for the establishment of a high-level inter-institutional group of agencies involved in migration-related activities. The GMG was created by building on an existing inter-agency group with a more limited membership, the Geneva Migration Group, which was established in April 2003. As of December 2016, the Group is comprised of 20 entities. Apart from sustaining the inter-agency cooperation in the field of international migration, the Group also contributes to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), an intergovernmental process that emerged after the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. The GMG meets at regular intervals. The Chair is held on a rotating basis by the executive heads of its member organisations. The GMG Chair in 2016 is UN Women, and the Chair in 2017 will be UNU.
Appendix 2: Members of GMG

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Regional Commissions United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

UN Regional Commissions

United Nations University (UNU)

World Bank

World Health Organisation (WHO)

World Food Programme (WFP)