



Common Space

Saturday 10 December 2016
(11h00 – 13h00; 14h30-17h30)

Introductory note and Guiding Questions

Time to Act – Compact for Governance of Migration

The 2016 Global Forum on Migration and Development is taking place just months after the first-ever UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The Summit produced the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), a wide range of commitments through which 193 UN Member States unanimously expressed the political will to save lives, protect rights and share responsibility for migrants and refugees on a global scale.

One of the principal commitments in the New York Declaration was to adopt a *Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration* by 2018. This commitment picks up directly on another unanimous agreement by 193 UN Member States: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal 10.7, in which states had agreed, in almost identical language, that facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration was also important to reduce inequality and for transformative development.

Both the New York Declaration and sustainable development goal 10.7 drew inspiration and convergence from the series of GFMD meetings since 2007 and the two UN High-level Dialogues on International Migration and Development (HLD) in 2006 and 2013. In all of these meetings, states, international organizations and civil society actors looked at challenges in contemporary realities and governance of increasing human mobility. In the context of the New York Declaration and SDG 10.7, it is natural that the GFMD takes up the focus again this year, with special attention among the full complement of GFMD participants meeting together in Common Space.

Accordingly, the 2016 GFMD Common Space is entitled “**Time to Act – Compact for Governance of Migration**”. The objective is to seize this “first” great occasion after the Summit to deliberate together on expectations and possibilities for such a compact. Where Annex II of the New York Declaration describes a non-exclusive list of twenty-four elements that might be considered for the Compact, break-out sessions of Common Space here will focus in particular on cross-cutting questions of global governance, social governance and labour market governance. Each of these is described further below.

Connecting the GFMD Civil Society Days (8-9 December), with the Government Summit (10-12 December) Common Space will take place on the morning and afternoon of 10 December. This Space provides a primary opportunity for government delegations and civil society representatives to discuss recommendations and actions to move the migration and development agenda forward.

The 2016 Common Space will be structured around:

- (i) An Opening plenary, with a key note address a panel discussion with representatives from governments, civil society, the UN and the private sector, and interaction with participants ;
- (ii) three parallel break-out sessions with discussion starters from all sectors;
- (iii) a Concluding plenary, with reports back from the rapporteurs of the break-out sessions and closing remarks.

Opening plenary: Time to Act – Compact for Governance of Migration

The Opening plenary discussion will be an interactive Davos-style panel discussion among panelists and with the floor about the commitment made in the New York Declaration towards development of a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Possible questions to discussants are:

1. What is the common ground and shared interest among states and civil society to achieve the Summit commitments, including the Global Compact on Migration?
2. What is a “Compact on Migration” – what will “success” look like?
3. What actors and processes can make a particular difference on it, and what role if any can the GFMD play in this?
4. What is needed to ensure coherence with the Compact on Refugees?

Break-out session 1: Cooperation in global governance

Towards an ambitious Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: achieving Summit commitments and 2030 Agenda target 10.7

Through the 2030 Agenda, governments universally agreed to **reduce inequality** within and among countries (Goal 10). As part of this equality-agenda, in target 10.7 the commitment is made *‘to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of well-managed migration policies’*.

Building upon this pledge the 2016 New York Declaration includes numerous commitments to protect the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, including through the promotion of ethical labour mobility, access to education for migrant children, more search and rescue mechanisms to save lives and many more. Notably, the Declaration commits to a *“process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration [...] in 2018.”* (par. 63). This Global Compact will make *“an important contribution to global governance [...] and] “would deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects”* (Annex II, par.1).

Annex II of the New York Declaration presents a fairly comprehensive—but not exclusive list—of twenty-four “elements” that UN Member States agreed the Global Compact “could include”, ranging from addressing root causes to regularization, return and readmission. One suggestion that has emerged for organizing cooperation, political will and results around such a list and Compact would be for it to take an “SDG-approach” to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration. That is, setting goals, targets and

indicators on a clear timeline, with different goals and targets possibly graduated for achievement, e.g., over 2 years, 5 years and 15 years.

This session invites participants to exchange perspectives on what the Compact might look like and address, and how it can go forward. Some questions that will guide the conversation in this session are:

1. What can a Global Compact on Migration “look like”, in form and in focus?
2. What steps are you or others taking now to implement target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda that may inspire elements of the Compact?
3. What is the most productive relationship of the GFMD to the Compact, both in its development these next two years, and beyond?

Break-out session 2: Cooperation in social governance

Implementing successful campaigns for social inclusion and against xenophobia and discrimination: achieving Summit commitments and 2030 Agenda goals

The 2030 Agenda envisions “*a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity*” (par. 8), and sets a goal to promote **peaceful and inclusive societies** for sustainable development (Goal 16). Yet, in many countries and regions across the world manifestations of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance are on the rise.

The New York Declaration takes this concern forward emphatically, with repeated—and strong—references to the urgency of combating xenophobia and building social inclusion (e.g., par 39). Further, Annex II of the Declaration includes “*promotion, as appropriate, of the inclusion of migrants in host societies, access to basic services for migrants and gender-responsive services*”, and “*combating racism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance towards all migrants*” as two of the elements that could be included in the Global Compact on Migration.

Concretely, Member States pledged support in the Declaration to the global UN-led campaign to “*change the toxic narrative on refugees and migrants*” (par 14.) It has been suggested that to be effective, campaigns also need to be local and national, with context and culture-specific approaches, and accompanied by leadership and change at the policy level, not simply change of *public* perception.

This session will seek to consider how these commitments can be made a reality. Some questions that will guide the conversation in this session are:

1. Are campaigns effective tools to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination against migrants? If so, can you share an example of a campaign that has worked or is working now, in particular on a local or national level?
2. Beyond campaigns, what kind of policy actions have been effective or are needed, in your country, regionally and/or globally, including within the Global Compact on Migration?
3. What is the role of the GFMD in these campaigns or policy actions?

Break-out session 3: Cooperation in labour market governance

Ensuring decent labour and recruitment practices: *achieving Summit commitments and 2030 Agenda target 8.8*

The vast majority of international migration is driven by the search for better employment and better livelihoods, whether due to a lack of decent jobs at home and/or motivated by the prospect work opportunities abroad. Since 2006, the call to better organize labour migration and protect migrant workers has featured every year in the GFMD and HLD processes. These processes contributed directly to important commitments that UN Member States made unanimously in this regard in the SDGs and New York Declaration.

Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda promotes **employment and decent work for all**, and set forth as target 8.8 to “*protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment*”.

In the New York Declaration, governments “*commit to reducing the costs of labour migration and promote ethical recruitment policies and practices between sending and receiving countries*” (par. 46). The Declaration also calls upon governments to consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and relevant International Labour Organization conventions (par. 48). Annex II of the Declaration further includes “*protection of labour rights and a safe environment for migrant workers and those in precarious employment, protection of women migrant workers in all sectors and promotion of labour mobility, including circular migration*” as one of the elements that could be included in the Global Compact on Migration.

This session invites participants to review gaps in and avenues for international cooperation on decent work for migrant workers, and in particular ethical recruitment practices for foreign workers. Some questions that will guide the conversation in this session are:

1. What progress has been made since the HLD in 2013 on improving recruitment, placement and employment practices for migrant workers, e.g., from the perspective of migrants, employers, communities and governments?
2. Are concrete next steps within reach on which governments, international organizations, businesses, labour unions and civil society can collaborate—now—to improve migrant recruitment and employment practices?
3. How can the Global Compact on Migration help to better facilitate cooperation in labour migration governance and compliance with international labour rights and standards?