2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
VNR Lab on migration
12 July 2021, 13.00-14.30 EDT

<u>Concept note and Agenda</u>

The event will be hosted via the KUDO platform, with Arabic, English, French and Spanish interpretation
https://live.kudoway.eu/k8/240217403540/join

Introduction

VNR Labs provide an informal platform for experience sharing and reflection on the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. The Labs, held under the Chatham House rule, are open to Member States, the United Nations system and representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders. This VNR Lab on migration is being organized by the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM)[1] in collaboration with the Group of Friends on migration (GoF). The GoF is currently co-chaired by Bangladesh, Benin, Ireland and Mexico.

Objective

The objectives of the VNR Lab on migration are to:
- Assess progress made in achieving migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular in particular SDGs 8.8 (ensuring labour rights and safe and secure working conditions for migrant workers), SDG 10.7 (facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration) and 10.c (reducing the transaction costs of remittances), while highlighting the cross-cutting nature of migration in the 2030 Agenda[2] and taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Identify good practices and innovative approaches in addressing migration-related issues in VNRs,
- Explore interlinkages in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and in particular assess the role VNRs in preparing for, and following up on, the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), to be held during the first half of 2022.

---

[1] ILO, IOM, UN DESA and UNDP are co-leads for Thematic Priority 2 in the 2021-2022 Network Workplan on "Utilizing the GCM to realize the SDGs and reduce inequalities".

[2] The 2021 HLPF will review the following SDGs: 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and 17 (partnerships)

Agenda

- Opening: H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations
- Remarks: Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of IOM & Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration
- Panel 1: Integrating migration in VNRs: Country experiences, lessons learnt
  - o Moderator: Ms. Manuela Tomei, Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO
  - o Speakers
    - ▪ Mr. Oumar Alfarouk Younous, Head of the Division for Refugees and Migration-related Questions, Chad
    - ▪ Ms. Maria Fernanda Cevallos, Director of International Protection at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Ecuador
    - ▪ Mr. Omar Castañeda, Deputy Permanent Representative of Guatemala
    - ▪ Mr. Ismael Khalil Dahash, Deputy Chairman of the Organization and Government Liaison Department/Office of the Minister, Ministry of Migration & Displacement, Iraq
  - o Moderated interactive discussion / Q&A
- Panel 2: Multistakeholder panel: From the HLPF to the IMRF
  - o Moderator: Mr. George Conway, Deputy Director, Crisis Bureau, UNDP
  - o Speakers
    - ▪ Ms. Aida Ruiz, General Director of the Oaxacan Migrant Care Institute / Instituto Oaxaqueño de Atención al Migrante (IOAM), Oaxaca, Mexico
    - ▪ Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
    - ▪ Ms. Ellen Percy Kraly, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Geography at Colgate University
    - ▪ Ms. Cecilie Kern, Global Policy & Research Advocate, Mercy International Association - Mercy Global Action
  - o Moderated interactive discussion / Q&A
- Key take-away messages: Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA
- Closing: *Ireland (name tba)*

Suggested questions for panelists

Panel I
- How were you able to assess progress in implementing the SDGs with regard to migration and migrants?

- Did you focus on the migration-specific SDG targets,[3] or did you attempt to address migration in assessment of all goals being reviewed by the HLPF this year?
- Were you able to assess the impact of COVID-19 on migrants and migration?
- How were migration-related data gathered for the VNR?
- Which ministries and stakeholders were involved in providing input on migrants and migration in the VNR?
- What support was provided by the UN system, including through national UN Networks on Migration, if any?
- What challenges did you face in integrating migration and migrants into the VNR, and what lessons did you learn?

Panel II

- What progress has been made in achieving migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDGs 8.8 (ensuring labour rights and safe and secure working conditions for migrant workers), 10.7 (facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration) and 10.c (reducing the transaction costs of remittances)?
- What is the impact of migration and remittances across the other eight SDGs being reviewed by the 2021 HLPF and/or what is the impact of COVID-19 on migration and remittance flows?
- What sources of qualitative and quantitative information on migration-related issues, including remittances, are available? How can the quantity, quality and use of these sources of information be improved?
- What role did or can the GCM play in preparing VNRs? What role did or can the GCM play in the regional fora on sustainable development (RFSDs)? How can future HLPFs take into account the results of the IMRF? How can stakeholders, including civil society, academia and local governments, best contribute to the preparation of VNRs?
- How can VNRs contribute to assessing the status of implementation of the GCM? How can countries link VNRs with the GCM national implementation plans? How can migration-related SDG indicators be leveraged for monitoring the implementation of the GCM?

---

[3] In particular SDGs 8.8 (ensuring labour rights and safe and secure working conditions for migrant workers), 10.7 (facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration) and 10.c (reducing the transaction costs of remittances