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IMRF Stakeholder's Meeting Talking Points
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Disclaimer: *The views expressed here are Dr. Goldenziel's own and do not represent those of every member of the Academic Council on the United Nations System nor any arm of the U.S. Government.*

Moderator Question: Do the priorities in the Secretary General's report reflect the key gaps and challenges in the implementation of the GCM? What is missing or requires further attention and what role can academics lay in bringing this to light and finding ways forward?

- Yes, research suggests that the priorities reflect key gaps and challenges in the implementation of the GCM—but much more research is needed.
- Today, I'll present some conclusions from academic research briefs on 7 recommendations from the SG's report.
- I worked on these for UNNM together with Professors Kevin Cope of the University of Virginia School of Law and Stella Burch Elias of the University of Iowa School of Law, and a research assistant team at The University of Virginia School of Law.
- The recommendations we studied were:
 1. Access to healthcare
 2. Inclusion of migrants in COVID-19 recovery and development
 3. Integrating migration into national development frameworks
 4. Expanding legal migration pathways
 5. Border Management
 6. Stopping the criminalization and obstruction of humanitarian efforts
 7. Consequences of restrictive, deterrence-based migration laws
- For each, We discussed the state of research on each recommendation, identified research gaps, and made policy recommendations.
- The reports are available on the Migration Network Hub.

Today, I will present 4 cross-cutting conclusions:

Conclusion #1: Migrant health is public health.

- Migrant access to healthcare has been a critical concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many migrants were especially vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Migrants do not have access to national healthcare systems in many UN member states.
- Even when migrants do have healthcare access, many are afraid to seek healthcare for fear their data would be given to law enforcement.
- Even in countries that have firewalls between healthcare law enforcement, many migrants do not trust them.

- Data is limited on the effectiveness of firewalls.
- It is too early to know all of the impacts of COVID-19 on migration, and migration on COVID-19. But we must learn and apply the lessons of the pandemic in order to improve public health outcomes—now and in the future.

Conclusion #2: Sector-specific and collaborative migration policies should be encouraged.

- Sector-specific migration can address critical labor needs in fields like healthcare and can address critical development needs when incorporated into national and regional development plans.
- Migrants can help rebuild economic sectors damaged by the pandemic.
- The Global Skills Partnership and partnerships between states that match migrants with certain skills to labor migration pathways may be models for future frameworks.
- Such policies can be used to increase regular migration pathways.

Conclusion #3: Restrictive, Deterrence-Based Migration Policies Don't Work

- Starting well before the pandemic, many states adopted increasingly restrictive border practices and deterrence-based migration policies.
- Externalization of migration is also increasing, such as sending migrants to 3rd countries.
- Overwhelmingly, research has shown that these policies do not deter migration. They simply force migrants to choose irregular migration pathways.
- Many of these restrictive policies have involved severe human rights abuses. This must stop.

Conclusion #4: We need more data, and more research.

- Most research on migration policies that is available in English focuses on a small number of regions and countries—especially the US, EU, Australia, and Israel. Research is needed in additional countries and languages across a wide variety of issues.
 - Data on irregular migration pathways – including smuggling and trafficking – is especially difficult to gather. We need migrants to trust that it is safe to tell their stories.
 - Good data informs good policy. We need improved, disaggregated data to create the evidence-based policies that are at the foundation of the GCM.
 - And as the GCM matures, we need more research on the effects of the GCM itself.
 - Every stakeholder in this room—and every member state—must make research a priority. Academics can help you. Please let us.
 - The progress of the GCM depends on the progress of migration research.
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