



## United Nations Network on Migration

### Contributions to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the SDG Summit

#### Introduction

This note outlines the contribution of the United Nations Network on Migration to the High-Level Political Forum in July 2023<sup>1</sup> and the SDG Summit in September 2023 as endorsed by the Principals of the ten UN entities that compose its Executive Committee<sup>2</sup>.

#### Background

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as one of its ten guiding principles,<sup>3</sup> recognizes that well-governed migration contributes to positive development outcomes in countries of origin, transit and destination, and affirms the 2030 Agenda's principle to leave no one behind. The GCM acknowledges that migration is a cross-cutting issue that is critical to the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Furthermore, the Progress Declaration of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) calls for strengthening the linkages between the GCM and the 2030 Agenda including through inviting the Network Coordinator to report on the linkages between the implementation of the GCM and the 2030 Agenda at HLPFs<sup>4</sup>. Similarly, the General Assembly has called for Member States to give due attention to migration when preparing their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in the context of the HLPF<sup>5</sup>.

The Progress Declaration also called on the Secretary-General, with the support of the Network, "to propose, for the consideration of Member States, a limited set of indicators, drawing on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda" (paragraph 70) in its workplan. To deliver on this, a Network workstream, under co-leadership of DESA and IOM, will lead consultations with Member States, stakeholders and the UN system, with a view to having a draft set of indicators to review by mid-2024. This will bring the SDG and GCM reporting one step closer together.

In addition, the Progress Declaration also recommends providing all migrants with safe access to basic services, regardless of their migration status, in line with universal health coverage, to ensure that no one is left behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda (paragraph 51).

During the first four years of the GCM's implementation, progress has been made on a number of fronts to deliver on strengthening these linkages between the GCM and the SDGs. For example, an increasing number of Member States are mainstreaming migration into

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<sup>1</sup> This year the HLPF will focus on the following SDGs: 6 (Clean water), 7 (Clean and Affordable Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

<sup>2</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), The World Bank (WBG).

<sup>3</sup> [paragraphs 6.15\(e\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [paragraph 75](#)

<sup>5</sup> [A/RES/77/176](#), paragraph 14



development plans at the local, national, regional and global levels, as called for in the GCM. This includes its integration into climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as public health and pandemic response plans.

The Network has taken various initiatives to strengthen the linkages between the GCM and the SDGs, including by establishing over 80 country and regional Networks in UNCTs, implementing 15 joint UN programmes funded by the Migration MPTF and supporting [UN country teams and country Networks to integrate migration into planning at country-level](#) in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks<sup>6</sup>.

### Key messages to include migration in the preparatory process of the HLPF and the SDG Summit

Acknowledging the importance of the September 2023 SDG Summit, the Network calls on Member States to consider the inclusion of the following key messages in the outcome declaration of the SDG Summit to further align the GCM with the 2030 Agenda:

1. To realize the 2030 Agenda the human rights of migrants must be protected, respected and fulfilled at all times, regardless of migration status and across all stages of the migration cycle.
2. Migration is an accelerator of inclusive growth and sustainable development, enriching societies through human, socio-economic and cultural capacities, and in the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this is only possible when migration is well managed, and governments ensure migration policies and practices are rights-based, and coherent with existing legal frameworks including international human rights law and international labour standards and forward/looking towards healthy and prosperous societies;
3. When enabled to do so including through decent work, migrants are key contributors to sustainable development, often acting as agents of change driving innovation;
4. Cities are on the frontline of migration and sustainable development, and are critical partners in GCM implementation and the 2030 Agenda;
5. Addressing the specifics of gender, age and diversity is central to achieving safe, orderly and regular migration, and this must be reflected in policy and practice;
6. Member States are encouraged to integrate migration as a cross-cutting issue in national development plans and VNRs to leave no migrant behind in national planning, unlock the full potential of migrants' contribution to societies and ensure migrants' human rights are realized;
7. The need to better integrate migration into national and local development plans and programmes is even more pressing given the climate emergency. We call on states to incorporate mobility considerations and the human rights of migrants in climate change policy and action as a means of strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards in all countries; and
8. Ensure that efforts to enhance safe, regular and orderly pathways for migration are aligned with and build on efforts to better understand both the positive and adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to move. This can help accelerate inclusive growth, strengthen decent work while bridging labour gaps and foster sustainable development while adjusting to the increasingly complex human mobility dynamics being affected by climate, conflict, digitalization and urbanization.

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<sup>6</sup> So far 10 workshops have been carried out for UN country teams in Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Thailand, Ukraine, with another 17 country team requests in the pipeline. These trainings help UN partners better engage governments and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the GCM.