



Remarks by Ms. Amy Pope, Director General of the International Organization for Migration,
Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
From the SDG Summit to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions
Monday, 8 July 2023, 11.00am – 1.00pm
General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, New York

582 words, 5 minutes

Moderator's question: How can the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration help accelerate SDG progress?

363 words, 3 minutes

It's an honour to join you here, representing the UN system through the Network on Migration.

The world is experiencing profound global transformations, and an unprecedented set of mutually reinforcing challenges. To address such phenomena as demographic change, digitalization, poverty, instability, and climate change, migration should not be seen as a problem but rather as part of the solution.

Migration is a driving force for economic growth, innovation and sustainable development. Migrants' contributions in the form of skills, remittances, investments and cultural diversity enrich our societies every day.

This is recognized by the 2030 Agenda and in the SDG Summit's Political Declaration. It is also a reality backed by compelling evidence.

But to unlock its transformational power, migration needs to be well-governed. Further, prosperity cannot be the preserve of only a few. Above all, every person matters, every person's rights must be protected, inequality – within and between states – and discrimination must be effectively tackled.

Delivering on this requires partnerships; no-one can do it alone.

This is what we have learnt at the UN Network on Migration. Through mobilizing system-wide efforts, we support whole-of-government and whole-of-society solutions to advance the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, rooted in the 2030 Agenda.

Partnerships are strengthened through dialogue. We are bringing together countries across regions in the GCM regional reviews, GCM Champion meetings and peer learning discussions in areas such as alternatives to detention, green skills for youth and bilateral labour migration agreements.

Partnerships strengthen effective linkages across policy areas and help identify regular pathways for safe and orderly migration. Through the GCM capacity-building mechanism, the Network supports:

- UN Country Teams embedding the GCM into their development planning, working alongside national partners; as well as,
- Governments in establishing national systems for safe, orderly and regular migration, such as those launched in Ghana and Kenya, last year.

These initiatives foster coordination and coherence across diverse policy areas that have a direct effect on migration governance.



The Network is also developing guidance for governments to integrate their GCM achievements into SDG Voluntary National Reviews, thus building greater synergies between the GCM and other frameworks.

Moderator's follow-up question: What can we do better to address the challenges of migration to ensure positive development outcomes?

227 words, 1,5 minute

Partnerships on migration demand that we work more closely with migrant communities and those hosting them to achieve sustainable outcomes for all.

Through the Migration Multi-partner Trust Fund, we have, to name just a few areas of work:

- Supported families left behind in Tajikistan;
- Strengthened cities' responses on socio-economic integration of migrants in Latin America;
- Involved community leaders in combatting hate speech in South Africa; and,
- Assisted communities in east Africa in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

But we need to do more. The demand for financing through the Fund cannot be met by its current resources. The Migration MPTF is the only development pooled fund established by the General Assembly. My plea to you is to take this Fund – the embodiment of the spirit of partnership and cooperation – to the next level.

Finally, we must tell the story of migration as it is: the story of women, men and children moving in search of better opportunities and who, through doing so, transform their lives, those of their families and communities for the better.

While we in this room know this, we need to better explain this story to combat anti-migrant sentiments, unmoored from reality, which no corner of the globe is, sadly, free from.

Let's work to further these efforts to meaningfully involve migrants and communities in discussions that directly affect them.

Thank you.