

Informal Working Breakfast on Agenda 2030
Migration and its impact on implementation of Agenda 2030
Wednesday, 8 June 2016
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120

34th of a monthly series
Co-convened by the Bahá'í International Community
and the International Movement ATD Fourth World

08:30 **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**

08:35 **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Serik Tokbolat
Representative to the United Nations
Bahá'í International Community

08:40 **Opening Remarks**

H.E. Mrs. Chulamanee Chartsuwan
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations

Mr. Bela Hovy
Chief of Migration Section
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Jimena Leiva Roesch
Policy Analyst
International Peace Institute

09:00 **Open Discussion**

Moderated by Ms. Cristina Diez
Main Representative to the United Nations
International Movement ATD Fourth World

09:55 **Information Sharing**

All participants are encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities.

10:00 **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

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Migration and its impact on implementation of Agenda 2030

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and
the International Movement ATD Fourth World
8 June 2016

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to migration with reference to Agenda 2030 and the September 19th conference. The following are highlights of the discussion:

Framing the discussion

- Migration is a global, multifaceted issue. Countries are destinations, origins and transit zones.
- Definition of migrants: any person who changes their country of residence. Purpose/ reason is not included in the definition. Main data source for presentation: population census. 3% of people are migrants.
- In the future, there will be nearly 0% population change, and net migration will not be able to reverse population decline, and is not a solution for aging societies. In developing countries, population increase is mostly due to birth/death ratio. The most mobile age group is 20-29, and most migrants move within regions rather than across regions. The SDGs have 8 goals with reference to migration-related issues (goals 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17). According to SG's report, 60 million individuals are being displaced, one-third of whom are refugees. The internally displaced are more vulnerable and have less access to services. In the first year after migration, less than 25% of international migrants are integrated into the work force of the European Union, but this percentage increases largely after 6 years. We need to share responsibility more fairly for hosting and assisting refugees.
- It is important to look at the positive impact of migration.

Migration & Agenda 2030

- How are migration flows affecting Agenda 2030 implementation?
- What resources and efforts are needed to address migration challenges?
- Need to set in place structures to implement and monitor progress of Agenda 2030
- Agenda 2030 recognizes contribution of migration to the goals, but Member States need to consider this with full respect of Human Rights
- Member States will adopt an outcome document at a High Level meeting of the General Assembly to address refugees and migrants
- We must identify a common approach in addressing the movement of migrants and refugees. This approach needs to honor the past and current reality.
- In addition to signing international conventions, also need practical terms
- Agenda 2030 calls on member states to ensure safe and orderly migration with respect for human rights.

Three major points to consider:

- Xenophobia is still an important challenge, as are refugees, and there is more the UN can do, and more we must do.

¹Permanent Missions & Government Agencies: Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Thailand. Representatives from UN: Office of the President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service. Non-governmental organizations: Armenian Relief Society, Bahá'í International Community, Care International, Congregation of the Mission, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Daughters of Charity, Fordham University, Global Action to Prevent War, ICMC/MADE network, International Council of Social Welfare, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Partnership & Development Organization, International Peace Institute, International Presentation Association, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, NGO Committee on Migration, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, SOS Children Villages International, UNANIMA International, University of Aix Marseille, WFUNA, World Council of Peoples to the United Nations, World Vision International.

- Protection of rights of migrants is critical. In practical terms we have to look at access to basic services such as health and education services.
- We need a sense of partnership and shared responsibility. We need regional conferences on migration, which is a bilateral and multilateral conversation. The international, social, and private sectors must continue to engage governments
- Everyone has a role to play in support of governments – international organizations, civil society, private sector.
- Migration is one of the oldest human activities. The migration system as we have it today is basically broken. Moving a person from point A to point B takes months. It's creating frustration, hate, and problems. Our system needs to reflect migration trends.
- In the 2030 Agenda there is no mention of current and future refugees, but in the 'leave no one behind' policy, these are the people who come first, who have literally left their countries behind. Every single target applies to them.
- 19 September Global Compact Summit - Wrapping up modalities for solution. Refugee Compact and Migration Compact. Under Paragraph 117, we need safe, regulated, orderly migration. We need to be strategic about what we can get from the September 19th summit. “We are reaffirming existing obligations”, that have not been respected. “This summit can reinforce that we need to abide by International Humanitarian Law.”
- It's good to have a framework, but it's not enough. We need a clear road-map of how to achieve our goals by 2018 or the SDGs will not be incorporated.
- The spirit of the 2030 Agenda is important and its values need to guide the conversation forward. “All these pillars that were built in previous documents need to drive our efforts.”

Migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons

- The UN doesn't produce estimates on internal migration, we do not have a definition for it. In other states the definitions of internal migration are inconsistent because they are based on different types of territories. We need to pay more attention to internal migration, because it is happening on a much larger scale and is not given nearly as much attention.
- Responsibility sharing when it comes to migration is not the same as with refugees. Many migrants have the protection of home countries, refugees do not. We need strong government framework for refugees. It is not that international migrants do not need protection and consulates abroad to assist workers overseas. Nevertheless, it is important to understand that international migration is not of the same concern to the international community.
- What is the likelihood of there being a binding compact on migration?
- Compacts as they stand are intentional and cannot replace legal instruments
- It will be difficult to adopt a compact on migration in the 19 September summit because it takes time to develop it. Partnerships between countries of origin, transit, and destination are imperative and some are already taking place. It is important that IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) remains part of the summit.
- We need to differentiate between migrants, refugees, and displaced persons. This language should extend from UN documents to media and civil society. In order to have a dialogue we need common definitions.
- Different people need different kinds of protection and treatment. 93% of immigrants residing in Thailand come to seek jobs that Thai people do not want. Thailand needs unskilled workers.
- We will need to have a common understanding and not sensationalize an issue so much. There are people who are happy to seek better jobs elsewhere. Some people can integrate; some people don't have the capacity to do so. We need to focus on the people who are in need the most. If we sensationalize too much we will lose focus.

Other questions & comments

- We should broaden the definition of migration, for borders to include those of territories, communities, cultures because immigration happens both internally and externally.
- We should differentiate between forced and free immigration to account for human rights. We should also use words such as “refugees” and “exiles.”
- On data collection: the data upon which people are considered migrants does not take into account multiplicity of experience, specific situations such as protection of rights, access to housing, justice, etc. Qualitative data is as important as quantitative data. How can we enhance partnership of migrants in data collection, and how can national capacities be strengthened for systematic and reliable data collection mechanisms?
- What do we do to counter the perspective and the language that we use. We are currently using the language of natural disasters, and we consider our countries to be 'swamped' by migrants.
- In terms of feeling swamped, we need to facilitate mobility because voters have lost trust that their governments can manage migration. For example, although it takes a long time to achieve citizen status in the U.S, in Europe there are no viable immigration programs.
- Even though the Secretary-General has a large say, member states have the ability to go above and beyond the recommendations.
- One problem is that migration is seen as a bilateral issue, but it is a global issue.
- Combatting xenophobia: this is an ideal area for public/private partnerships. We need the help of social media, television, and advertisers to work on a campaign against xenophobia.
- Usually migrants arrive in poor neighborhoods. We expect from people living in poverty that they welcome migrants and live with them, but these neighborhoods already have their own problems to deal with, and then we think people are xenophobic.
- From the economic side of migration, remittances exceed assistance funds by a factor of 3.
- Remittances are key drivers of international migration. We need to give families access to loans, etc.