

Check against delivery

Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA

HLPF Side Event

Human mobility in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda—Perspectives from the Global Forum on Migration and Development

1 July 2015, 1:15-2:30 pm., Conference Room 11 (CB)

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

The SDGs offer a unique opportunity to address the challenges and opportunities of migration in a more holistic manner. Unlike the MDGs, which focused predominantly on promoting development in the global South, the SDGs set the stage for a broader, more inclusive agenda, based on a shared vision of development.

In my opinion, this raises two fundamental “test” questions:

- First, are we strengthening the relationship between duty bearers and rights holders? Specifically, are we contributing to making the relationship between governments and their people better or worse?
- Second, are we leaving any significant group—be it social or economic— behind?

This leads me to the issue of migration. All too often, people are compelled to leave their homes due to poverty, lack of decent work opportunities, poor governance and violations of basic human rights.

I believe that addressing these root causes is one of our fundamental responsibilities. Ensuring that migration becomes a matter of choice rather than a necessity is intrinsically linked to reducing inequalities among States and promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth for all.

We also have an obligation to “make migration safer”. This means ending the abuse and exploitation of migrants on route to, or in countries of destination. It also raises the fundamental issue of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, and addressing the inequalities that affect migrants within transit and host societies.

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) has been mandated to follow up and review the implementation of the SDGs at the global level.

However, as outlined in the Secretary-General’s synthesis report, thematic platforms will have an important role to play in monitoring and advancing each respective thematic area.

These thematic platforms must fulfil a series of “quality” criteria to be legitimate and effective. These include:

- Being an intergovernmental body;
- Meeting with a certain frequency, for instance annually;
- Being inclusive and reaching out to all stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and international organisations; and
- Promoting a rigorous, evidence-based approach to monitoring, through strong ties with the scientific community and academia.

I look forward to your discussion on the potential role the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) can play in the follow-up and review of SDG targets related to migration, including target 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Thank you.
