

Justin MacDermott, Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration

Common Space

1. Honorable FS Haque—Chair of the GFMD, honourable Ministers and panelists, distinguished delegates, indispensable champions in civil society, pioneers in the private sector,
2. I am deeply honored and humbled to stand in front of you today. But I am even more saddened that Peter Sutherland is not yet able to engage in work since he fell ill in September.
3. This is a platform that he should have occupied, a statement he should have delivered.
4. I know Peter would have treasured the opportunity to share his ideas at the culmination of a GFMD that is so ably led by a world-renowned authority on migration (The Honourable Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh).
5. Let me therefore, on Peter's behalf, thank the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the GFMD at such a crucial point in time.
6. When he was asked to take up the position as SRSG in the end of 2005, Kofi Annan made an impassioned request for Peter, who had played an instrumental role in creating a global regime for international trade (– through the WTO –) to help lay the ground for improved international cooperation on migration – the missing link in the governance of globalization.
7. Since then, Peter has spent 11 years in relentless pursuit of this goal.
8. This Forum, his first brainchild, was the beginning, not the end of that journey.
9. Last year, Peter and his team embarked on drafting a report that we hope can serve as a roadmap for action as we continue this voyage.

10. It will be released next month, but today I have been invited to share with you an overview of the recommendations featured in this report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Much progress has been made in Peter's 11 years of service, in terms of confidence building among states, in particular through the GFMD, but also through norm development, and the inclusion of migration in national development strategies and the 2030 Development Agenda.
12. Most recently, at the 19 September Summit, we saw IOM's entry into the UN, an issue Peter has championed with passion since his first meeting with Kofi Annan in 2006.
13. World leaders also committed to develop, by 2018, two Global Compacts, respectively on migrants and refugees.

[paus]

14. Unfortunately, this progress at the international level has occurred in parallel with serious backsliding on states' commitment to international norms (refugee protection) and a surge in unilateralism (opening or closing of borders) that has fanned mistrust.
15. In the last two years, in particular, the Mediterranean crisis has catapulted migration and refugees to the top of political agendas.
16. Many governments face enormous political pressure to curb migration (under attack from populists) and are intensely focused on short-term measures, while many publics have lost confidence that their leaders are up to the task.
17. In this context, the answer cannot be more of the same. (Neither from States nor the UN.)

18. In the migration field, where a global framework has been lacking to date, the global compact presents a real opportunity to lay ground rules for international cooperation.
19. We cannot afford to spend the next two years simply renegotiating existing commitments, or on high-flying rhetoric.
20. The Report calls attention to the significance of this moment of peril and potential and charts concrete avenues for progress for states and the UN system—working closely with other stakeholders.
21. We believe these are highly relevant to the global compact consultations and negotiations and indeed for the broader international cooperation on migration, including the GFMD.

So what would an ambitious Global Compact look like?

22. The Compact should identify common goals for migration management and establish a global framework, including shared principles and minimum standards to guide future inter-regional, regional and bilateral migration agreements in key areas.
23. In order to meet the interests of all parties, it would likely need to combine substantive opportunities for legal movement with cooperation on immigration enforcement and return, and financial support for development and governance capacities in origin countries.

[paus]

24. The report identifies three essential relationships that shape migration processes. The obligations and responsibilities of:
 - States vis-a-vis migrants
 - States vis-a-vis States
 - States vis-a-vis other stakeholders

25. And it makes recommendations pertaining to five policy priorities:

- Improving protection for migrants, and coordination in crisis movements;
- Creating opportunities for labor mobility;
- Enhancing orderliness through return and reintegration;
- Promoting inclusion and development; and
- Strengthening governance capacities

In terms of protection and crisis movements, recommendations include:

26. To define who needs what kind of protections with special attention to children (develop guiding principles);
27. To strengthen capacities to assist migrants (network of assistance centers, consular cooperation); and
28. To establish a legislative framework for and agreements around legal pathways so people can move in a safe and orderly way

To promote opportunities for labor and skills mobility, recommendations include:

29. To establish a multi-stakeholder platform on skills and mobility for employment (strategies for skills development, labour and skills matching, negotiation and implementation of labour migration agreements, protection and portability of earned benefits; over time one could also foresee this developing into a platform for negotiation of labour and migration agreements based on minimum standards); and
30. To reduce recruitment costs for migrant workers by improving access to finance, advancing recruitment regulation using incentives, and promoting consolidation in the recruitment industry

To enhance the orderliness of migration, the report recommends

31. To start a dialogue to develop principles governing international cooperation on return and reintegration

To support inclusion and development, recommendations include

32. To strengthen protection of fundamental rights and access to basic social services for all migrants, regardless of migration status;
33. To facilitate portability of earned social benefits, in particular health care;
34. To improve remittance markets and financial inclusion to fight poverty (This can be done through promoting access to financial services at origin and destination; competition in remittances markets; risk-based financial regulation); and
35. To develop alternative proof of legal ID for migrants

And finally, to enhance governance capacities

36. The report highlights 5 areas where a strengthened UN system must perform better:
 - To anticipate and react quickly to movements in crisis;
 - To speak with one voice to deliver political messages;
 - To support and monitor the implementation of the SDG commitments;
 - To support “soft law” development and the formulation of common standards; and
 - To work towards the conclusion of new, issue-specific treaties

37. In addition, for effective governance recommendations include enhancing:

- Data and monitoring (through SDGs; big data; rights database)

- Financial and technical support to enable countries to deliver on their commitments (global facility)
- Support for cities and their networks: through empowerment and inclusion of them in policy deliberation at national and international levels,
- Coherence and transparency at the national level through policy coordination bodies and engagement of parliaments

In terms of the process of the Global Compact,

38. Governments need to adopt a ‘whole-of-government approach’ going forward and to bring civil society and private sector partners along if they are to succeed.
39. But as Peter Sutherland has emphasized so many times, progress must not wait for universal agreement: Small coalitions of states and other stakeholders can take things forward now, attract others, and move the consensus along.
40. In fact, many of the recommendations of the Sutherland Report could be pursued now, and be developed into well-considered, broadly consulted draft operational agreements by the time we reach 2018.
41. Working in this spirit of solving problems now is the best response to the assault on universal ideals and multilateralism that is taking place today.
42. We find ourselves at one those decisive crossroads in history when we as individuals cannot assume that others—governments, international institutions, political leaders—will quell the danger.
43. Each of us now bears the responsibility to act. The Sutherland Report offers us a roadmap for such action.
44. Thank you!