

Roundtable 2 – Sociology of Migration and Development

Report by the General Rapporteur

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Roundtable 2.1: Migration, diversity and harmonious societies

The Roundtable was co-chaired by two very able Chairs: Greece and Morocco.

Morocco mentioned that a migrant is not just labour, he is a social actor. Very importantly he emphasized that integration requires a two-way effort – from migrants and from the receiving society. But, the integration process needs rules, based on the respect for human rights. Role of cities, local authorities, civil society is crucial.

Greece mentioned that many societies hosting migrants are themselves multi-ethnic. Harmoniousness depends on social inclusion of migrants.

Main social inclusion models:

- assimilation, that could eliminate differences
- multiculturalism – based on respect for diversity, but could lead to parallel societies
- Integration, as a two-way process – most recent model to be applied

The Co-Chairs mentioned the following Tools:

- inter-cultural dialogue, which is akin to the democratic dialogue between citizens as the basis of democracy; on rules, rights and governance of the state. Providing opportunity to migrants to be part of this dialogue, which includes:
 - Access to the labour market for all. Recognition instead of ‘tolerance’ of cultural diversity.
 - Recognition of contributions of migrants – social, economic, cultural, which leads to social cohesion.
 - Policies and measures: sound legal framework against racism, xenophobia; access to services and decent work; adoption of an ethical code for politicians and media; cities and local communities, civil society and private sector.

If this is not achieved, migrants would be socially excluded, violence and radicalization could also be a consequence.

Social inclusion not just about coexistence of native populations with migrants, needs a whole of society approach.

The Co-chairs lay down some guiding questions on legal, institutional and practical measures in place to ensure a peaceful, non-discriminatory and inclusive society, cooperation and collaboration of regional and international institutions and processes for inclusive and harmonious societies; creating an enabling a safe environment for migrant; promote broader appreciation of co-existence of different cultures and

counter xenophobia and negative perception of migrants; supporting cultural and social cohesion, human rights and gender equality and addressing the perception challenge in collaboration with governments, media, civil society and the private sector. They talked about preventive policies or measures to address security concerns and prevent violent extremism.

On the discussion, Moldova projected their partnership with the EU for integration. They presented a societal cohesion case study of the settlement of Transnistrian conflict involving citizens and migrants.

Francois Fouinat in his capacity as member of the UN Advisory Board on human security focused on a Human security approach, to be people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific. He emphasized on concepts of protection and empowerment.

Thibault Chareton, from UNAOC mentioned that Education, youth, migration and media are 4 pillars of UNOAC. He mentioned that Soft power tool of dialogue is at the centre of their mission. UNAOC tries to change the narrative on migration and the discussion to a more positive discourse. Last year they launched a hate speech project.

The main issues discussed were:

- Access to services, political participation and other measures of integration
- Addressing negative perception of migrants
- Preventing violent extremism

Main means of implementation mentioned were:

- Measures by cities and other local authorities
- Legal, institutional and administrative measures
- Regional processes and international initiatives

On the rest of the discussion, Philippines emphasized on the role of countries of origin. Egypt focused on addressing the needs of youth and other vulnerable groups and importance of opening legal channels of migration. Australia noted the need for balance of rights and responsibilities. They emphasized on orderly and regular migration, as well as strong border management policies. Guatemala questioned how cities assist migrants who are in the shadows. Greece presented their experience on a Framework for integration, which includes Greek language classes, assistance in access to labour market, and training on communication for police officials and civil servants who interact with migrants. Bangladesh questioned what are the responsibilities of the host country to offer support to undocumented migrants. It emphasized on importance of Social, economic and cultural cohesion and the Two-way responsibility between migrants and host societies. Lesotho referred to integration in accordance with a human rights approach and opposed detention centers. The US presented their initiatives like the Task Force on New Americans and Welcoming Communities Programme reaching out to cities and localities. Tunisia and Switzerland emphasized on the need for evidence and the role of Civil society. Cyprus – on the need to concentrate on implementation of the existing law. Zambia on local integration. Brazil mentioned that it is engaged in resettlement and want to involve civil society. Algeria mentioned that yesterday was Human Rights Day, which is the main and most important legal framework for migrants. France also referred to a two-way process for integration. Bulgaria on the importance of circular migration and ensuring social security. India on how it has successfully managed diversity, having Migrants enjoying freedom of religion and equality before the law in India. OIC mentioned its activities to combat discrimination and counter violent extremism. Indonesia, in its written statement emphasized on principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Round Table 2.2: Protection of migrants in all situations

The Roundtable was co-chaired by El Salvador and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Chair invited the governments to make comments on measures at national and regional level on services, education, employment, justice, health, and other rights, adopting a rights based approach, Protecting the rights and opportunities of migrants. Sri Lanka also referred to the forthcoming negotiations of the global compact and the need to reduce migrant vulnerability. The Minister of El Salvador introduced the panel and the rules of debate.

The Honourable Minister of Qatar presented a wonderful video on the actions taken by the state of Qatar for the protection of migrants in Qatar highlighting the provisions provided to migrant workers, evaluating recruitment agencies, banning confiscation of passports, promoting access to justice, better working conditions, and education to workers to know their rights. He also presented a project to train workers and to help them to return to their homes upon completion of their contracts. **He emphasized on** recruitment mechanisms, remittances, cooperation between countries of origin and countries of destination, again, the two-way approach, access to interpreters and legal help to migrants. **Morocco emphasized on 2** main points: mobility related to climate change; and the Moroccan policy on migration. He referred also to the right of migrants to vote locally.

The chair of the **Committee on Migrant Workers requested member states** for the ratification of the convention of the rights of migrant workers and their families. He emphasized on Protection of migrants workers during the entire migration process and regardless of their status. He hoped that UN Global Compact on migration sets up an agenda to facilitate human mobility. He emphasized on strengthening the monitoring of recruitment agencies with provisions for penalty and on complete ban on detention of children.

OHCHR mentioned that migration has both lots of benefits, but also disadvantages. States have responsibilities to protect rights of migrants under international law. OHCHR mentioned that recognizing our shared interests, we can fight against xenophobia.

The countries that took floor during this dialogue:

- **Sri Lanka**, mentioning Climate change, north south cooperation, important role of Countries of Destination, importance of leadership and Protection of migrants from violence and vulnerabilities.
- **Guatemala:** on return to countries of origin, of trafficking; attention to victims in relation to consular assistance.
- **Greece** : Questioned the commitment of countries with regard to the Convention on Rights of Migrant Workers and their families. They emphasized that access to labour markets and stopping exploitation is applicable to all.
- **Colombia:** on access to justice, mentioning that 2030 Development Agenda recognizes migrants as a vulnerable group and their rights are to be protected.
- **Morocco:** on political will of countries; the need to implement migration policy and shared responsibility.
- **Germany** mentioned that migrants face problems throughout the whole process of migration, the whole journey, and referred among other important issues, return policy within the framework of international law, importance of voluntary return, need for data, and the Need for more cooperation.
- **Chile:** on importance of adopting towards an international law on migration.
- **Senegal:** mentioned that Protection is a focus is already there in existing conventions, but he emphasized on the need for the Global Compact in bringing more protection to migrants.
- **Argentina:** on national actions on migrants.

- **Zimbabwe:** questioned how would Global Compact change mindsets.
- **Finland:** on Implementation of 2030 Agenda, existing international frameworks should guide our policy and implementation, human centered approach and address development challenges, Identifying drivers of forced displacement.
- **India,** finally, talked about challenges faced by International migrants throughout the migration journey, which can be exacerbated with Climate Change. Also about India's action on Pre departure trainings and education, evacuation of their nationals and also nationals of other countries during crisis and migration and women, migration and gender.
- **Sudan:** referred to Ethical and practical responsibilities.

Over all main issues that were repeatedly emphasized were:

- Implementation is the main concern
- Climate Change is an issue of concern in terms of protection
- Human Rights of migrants , and:
- The implementation of existing conventions

In this short report, not all important contributions can be reflected, I apologize for that. I thank the note-takers and rapporteurs for their work, and that will conclude my report. Thank you Chair.