General Assembly 3 – Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural

Effectively managing migration to support sustainable development

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Introduction

According to the IOM, one in every twelve persons on this planet is a migrant worker. The IOM wholeheartedly believes that migration is a key component of sustainable development if organized effectively and efficiently. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, migration has been explicitly associated with many of the goals such as decreasing of inequalities, fair labor, gender equality, and peaceful societies. Migration and human mobility are included in four of the 17 Sustainable Development Goal targets, correcting its absence from the Millennium Development Goals. This issue not only consists of international migration but also internal migration. That opens the issue to more phenomenon's such as urbanization and globalization. The issue truly comes down to the fact that the achievement on effectively managing migration has been slow and at times ineffective. Furthermore, unlike other global phenomenon migration is difficult to regulate internationally. There are no binding multilateral treaties that have been signed on this issue. Few countries have prioritized efficient migration or placed them in their plan for national sustainable development.

The issue of migration or the refugee situation has been widely misunderstood in its importance of sustainable economic, social, and even environmental development. In recent years with the refugee crisis in full swing, countries close its boarders in fear of the migrant workers. Moreover, migration has often been depicted in a negative light and the focus has been placed on human trafficking, the spread of disease, the scarcity of resources, increased poverty and slum-dwelling, and criminal activity. This fortunately is not the whole story. The IOM deems that it is imperative that governments and its civilians realize the interdependence of migration and sustainable development. The IOM believes that it is "especially relevant now, in this era of unprecedented mobility."

Furthermore, it is vital to understood that a migrant worker is not equal to a refugee as a refugee hopes to seek protection in another country while a migrant is seeking job

opportunities. The intent or motive of a migrant worker is different compared to a refugee, as it is strictly economic when the motive of a refugee is often to find asylum and is therefore social or environmental.

Definition of Key Terms

Migrants

The definition of a migrant is a person who goes from one place to another to find work opportunities. This is different than an immigrant as the purpose of the move is to find work meaning that the motive of a migrant is usually economic rather than social or environmental.

Sustainable Development

The World Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development as: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. This definition is applicable in three main areas, social, economic, and environmental.

Remittances

In a simple definition, a remittance is an amount of money that is sent as a payment for something. In this context, a remittance is a transfer of money from a foreign or migrant worker to an individual in his or her home city or country. This occurs when one member of the family works in a different city or country and sends money home to sustain their family. Money sent home by migrants is one of the largest financial inflows to developing countries and are a significant part of international capital flows. According to the World Bank, in 2015, global remittances totaled $583 billion.

Forced Migration

Deracination can also be called forced migration or forced displacement. According to the World Bank, displacement can have negative development impacts, affecting human and social capital, economic growth, poverty reduction, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and environmental sustainability. Causes for forced migration can any of the following: natural disaster, wars, slavery/human trafficking, and fleeing persecution.

Voluntary Migration

This means that the person or people are relocating in accordance with personal desires. These desires can be motivated by a large number of reasons, but those who voluntarily migrate are often motivated through economic reasons, searching for a better life.

Refugee

A refugee is someone who is forced to leave a country because of war or political reasons. These refugees cannot necessarily be called migrants, as their intention is not to find work but rather find asylum.

Internally displaced person (IDP)

An internally displaced person (IDP) is someone who is forced to flee his or her home but who remains within his or her country's borders. They are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fall within the current legal definition of a refugee

General Overview

Historical Example

Voluntary human migration on a global scale has not only been taking place in the past years, but has its roots in our history. An example for this type of migration are the mass migrations of Europeans, which took place between the 16th and the 20th century to the Americas, Australia, Oceania and Asia. The most impressive and largest migration wave happened between 1880 and 1910, when 17 million people from East and South Europe migrated to the United States of America. Approximately during the same time, between 1910 and 1920, another considerable number of 1.5 million Mexican people migrated to the United States as well, in the search of stability and jobs.

Voluntary International Migration

Many of the international migrants are low or semi-skilled workers whom at many times have irregular status in a country. They can contribute to the rise in non-standard job contracts or the growth in illegal employment. These workers can be subject to human rights violations and exploitation. Another pattern in international migration is the phenomenon of "brain drain", this occurs when a migrant worker is working in a job for which they are overqualified. This can economically and socially deter the origin country as they are loosing high skill workers.

International remittances are the key to sustainable development in the origin country. The global volume of international remittances from migrants to their families is now greater than foreign direct investment and ODA, official development assistance. These payments aid in reducing poverty as they can provide extra income that the family can spend on consumer goods. Remittances can further be used to finance the community such as with schools or hospitals. These payments can also further lead to the decline in child labor and help communities be better prepared for environmental phenomenon and disasters. One

study performed by the UNFPA demonstrated that on average, a 10 per cent increase in the share of international remittances in a country's GDP will lead to a 1.6 per cent decline in the share of people living in poverty.

Voluntary Internal Migration

This refers to the movement of migrants within the borders of a single country. This is primarily encouraged by the search for better opportunities and economic and social causes. Whilst those are often the causes, environmental change is increasingly influencing movement. Many workers are moving into urban areas in search for more labor opportunities with higher wages. Rural-urban and urban-urban migration is one of the large contributions to the significant urbanization of Asia and Africa in coming decades. An increase in an urban population may lead to more opportunities for reducing poverty and development. The attraction of migrants for employment can lead to a positive spillover as it can concentrate ideas, skill, and capital, which can in turn make health, finance, education, and other services more accessible. Without effective and efficient managing however, fast growing urban areas may lead to rapid slum growth and can lead to structural and underemployment if there is an excess demand in urban centers.

As with international remittances, internal remittances can benefit the social and economic state as a whole. Studies in India, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Mexico, and Indonesia, have found poverty 2 rates in households with a migrant fall by as much as 50% due to remittances. These payments may again be spent in ways that can further generate local employment, expand businesses, or lead to improved health care and education of the migrant workers' family. Remittances can help lift families out of poverty in their original communities.

Globalization

Globalization is the process of international integration stemming from the swapping of cultures such as worldviews, customs, products, behaviors, and ideas. The international migrants are the core of the ongoing process of globalization. Voluntary migrants relocate and have a larger impact than merely on those who are directly involved. More broadly, migrants contribute to a "more efficient allocation of resources" and become a large factor of "knowledge transfer and technological advancement". Hence, more international migration will lead to more knowledge and cultural transfers, which in turn will lead to globalization. Globalization can have create a better economy, higher living standards, better trade, and have an impact on countries' politics.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Migration is now officially included in four of the seventeen new goals for the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The SDGs, or sustainable development goals, include specific targets to ensure orderly, safe, and regular migration. They believe that more effective management can be related to the targets of gender equality and empowerment, economic growth and decent work, lowering inequalities, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, and data, monitoring, and accountability.

The IOM hopes that with this addition to the SDGs, that action will be taken rather than only verbal discussions.

Difficulty

Achievements in this area have been slow and difficult as stated in the introduction. The knowledge about migration has significantly increased since 1992 however it has been restricted due to the lack of a common definition. Migration is also difficult to govern internationally as there is no coherent mechanism. Migration issues are often overlooked as vital in developments are remain conceptual rather than practical.

The perception of migration has often been skewed as it has been painted in a negative light. Many countries, especially regarding the recent refugee crisis in Europe, have been limiting irregular migration and have been increasing their restrictions, strengthening customs services rather than seeing the full range of benefits migrants can provide for development.

Many migrants face and encounter problems when moving to a new country, especially when they are from a low-income background. Migrants may face issues with access to housing, education, or healthcare, issues with language, affording accommodation, difficulty finding work, facing discrimination, being misinformed of their rights, and having feelings of fear and uncertainty about living in a new place. These issues can cause migrants to have a difficult time when moving from their country of origin to their new temporary or permanent home.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

IOM

The IOM, or the International Organization for Migration, is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951. The IOM states that "The objective of IOM's migration and development program is to contribute to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development in order to harness the development potential of

migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction." The IOM implements projects and programs which benefit potential and returning migrants in their families, governments (national, regional, and local), communities, and the private sector.

Some examples of projects that have been implemented by the IOM are The Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) which is comprised of multiple agencies including, UN Development Programme in Brussels in partnership with the EU, IOM, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Population Fund and the International Labor Organization (ILO). Another project is Migration for Development of the Western Balkans (MIDWEB) – Promoting Labor Mobility for the Benefit of All. Lastly, one of the projects is Remittances to Benin – Research on the Socio-economic Impact of Financial Resources of Migrants.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is one of the main countries that receive migrants. The Conservative party in England has previously targeted to reduce net migration has been reflected in stricter policies for admitting non-EU students, family members and workers. They have also proposed a Migration Control Commission that will aid in decreasing the amount of migrants flowing into the country. In June of 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, in part due to the EU regulations regarding open borders to migrant workers. Many in the UK hope to be able to enact stricter border regulations after it's depart from the European Union.

United States

The United States receives the most migrants out of any country around the entire world. The American people are divided in their opinion on immigration. Immigration became a major issue again from the 1990s until this day, with increasing rates of illegal immigration, particularly Mexicans crossing the Southwest border. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 provided an amnesty but had no lasting impact on the flow of illegal immigrants. The conservatives or Republicans are often against immigrants whilst the liberals or Democrats are more open to them.

European Union

Immigration in Europe is one of the main policy disagreements in many European countries as well as in the European Union itself. The reasons for anti-immigration are nationalist, cultural, and economic. Opposition to migrants have mostly been prompted by right-wing conservative government parties and have entered the governments in Denmark, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Austria and have become

large factors in English, Swedish, French, and German politics. The issue flared up with the migrant crisis in 2015 when large numbers of migrants tried to enter the EU originating from the Middle East and Africa.

Timeline of Events

1801-1914	7.5 million people move from European to Asiatic Russia
1840	Great Atlantic Migration, a mass movement in Ireland and Germany
1880-1910	17 million Europeans enter the United States
1910-1920	The Mexican Revolution, around 1.5 million Mexicans voluntarily migrate to the USA for jobs and stability
1918-1933 (Interwar Period)	6 million move from European to Asiatic Russia
1929	The Great Depression, enterprises collapse and the need for foreign laborers decrease, hence immigrants in the USA become jobless
1945	End of WWII and Potsdam agreement, 20 million people are resettled in Europe
1947	Partition of British India, due to religious differences 14,5 migrate to within the regions of Pakistan and India
1960-1980	13 million immigrants receive permanent residency in Europe, 10 million enter the US legally
1961	Aborted invasion by Cuban exiles in the Bay of Pigs, First wave of mass movement Cuban immigration to the USA
1965	Cuban government under Fidel Castro allows Cubans to reunite with their families in the USA, second wave of Cuban immigration to the USA
Dec 2005	Germany announces its "serious shortage of IT specialist", hereby calling for international staff

July 31, 2006	European Court of Justice closes permanent contract loophole and replaces it with short-term contracts. (Permanent contracts allow obtaining residency.)
Sep. 7, 2006	Survey by Maurice Hond in the Netherlands depicts that 68% is "tired of the integration issue"
2010-2013	Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) and Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico (OCDE) announce that during this period interregional migration within Latin American countries increases yearly by 5.0
April 2011	Refugee crisis in Syria commences
2014	Beginning of the ISIS refugee crisis

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 18 December 1990 **(A/RES/45/158)**

- Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1 July 1949 (**C97**)

- Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers, 24 June 1975 **(C143)**

- General Assembly Resolution 17 December 1979 **(A/RES/34/172)**

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Integration

International Migration has existed ever since borders defined regions and human trespassed these. This shows that migration is unstoppable and will continue to be that way. However, the majority of migrants live under lower conditions than old residents. This leads to the development of ghettos, segregation, and racial discrimination. An example is the wage gap, a Hispanic man in the United States only makes 67 cents for every dollar that a white man makes.

In order to stop this unjust consequences for migrants, many member states have worked towards integration programs. The Migration Integration Policy Index ranks the best migration policies according to the following paradigms: Labor Market Mobility, Family Reunion, Access to Education, health, political participation, permanent residency, access to nationality and anti-discrimination. According to the Index, Sweden seems to have the best migration policy, followed by Portugal and New Zeeland. The categories listed constitute a utopian vision of integration.

In Sweden for instance, all legal migrants are granted an introduction dialogue. Hereby, they are informed of where their qualifications and skills are needed. Apart from that, all adult migrants are entitled a basic language education. After that, their knowledge is evaluated in the form of exams. In October 2008, Sweden established the Swedish Schools Inspectorate in order to supervise Immigrant language education. Universities and other higher education institutions include supplementary courses for foreign qualifications.

Anti-discrimination initiatives play an important role in integration. While countries such as Canada score high in the evaluation of anti-discrimination campaigns, some extremist politicians gain votes with discriminatory policies. Thanks its strong anti-discrimination legislation, Canada can enforce protection in all areas of public life.

Resettlement

This measure has been not only implemented to combat the current refugee crisis, but also to allow prevent migrants from working at jobs where they are over-qualified. The best resettlement program for international migration is implemented in Sweden. Legal migrants and their qualifications are saved in a data-base, which later suggest where their skills are needed most within the country. For instance, a doctor receives an overview of where in the country there is a shortage of medical staff. As stated above this measure aims to tackle the issue of overqualified staff.

Rural and Local Employment

One of the biggest causes of internal migration is urbanization. Over the next 25 years, 345 million Chinese are expected to move from rural areas to the cities. That is why the ILO Rural Employment and Decent Work Programme promote employment in rural areas. The program aims, among others, to decrease the unpopularity of rural employment and to improve the working conditions in rural areas. This NGO initiative is not the only one to have come up with this measure. In 2005 India launched Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). In 2009-2010 the program reached its peak, but since the

program's effectiveness has decreased. The reason might have been the following two characteristics for which the program is criticized. First, the allegations of corruption assume that individuals have been paid for work they have only done on paper. Secondly, the fact that less farm work is available for several months, hence many landless laborers remain jobless.

Possible Solutions

Friendly Migration Policies

Very often, policies in countries make migration very difficult. For instance, the transfer of money to the home country is very expensive to migrants, the legal stay and work status are hard to obtain and the recruitment policies of very skilled people from LEDC have been criticized.

More friendly migration policies would undoubtedly be beneficial for both the hosting country and the migrants. Improvements to the policies could include the implementation of short-term visas, which would grant migrants their legal stay and working status and the use of transferable pension, which would encourage return migration. This, of course, would mean that more experienced professionals return to the home country would more money.

Binding Documents

The UN has created documents with regards to the rights of migrants, as well as reports concerning the movement of refugees and migrants, however, the IGO has never adopted a binding document on how to ensure effective migration, in order to support a sustainable development. A document as such could provide all nations with guidelines on what measures they can implement in their country. This would also make sustainable development on a global scale even more successful.

Raising Awareness

Many people tend to have a misperception regarding migrants, which is very detrimental to the social dimension of sustainable development. Informing the locals about the benefits, which come with the presence of migrants is vital, as this can ensure the wellbeing of the community as a whole. This can be done through various means. For instance, campaigns could be created or discussions on TV, social media and in schools could be encouraged.

Support for Migrants

As already established migrants can bring many benefits to a country, however, too often their migration cannot be as sustainable as it could be upon their arrival, due to a lack of support. The international community could therefore establish schemes for the sending and receiving countries, which would ensure that migrants receive support concerning job opportunities, housing and education possibilities etc. These schemes could include information centers for migrants, embassy projects or other measures.

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