

PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS AND IN LARGE MOVEMENTS

GMG multi-stakeholder meeting in preparation for the
High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of
refugees and migrants

30 June 2016, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Conference Room 5

Concept note and programme

Introduction

On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly will hold a High-level Plenary Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants (A/70/L.34). The Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency cooperation mechanism consisting of 17 entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will organize a series of interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings in order to assist representatives from Member States, international organizations, and civil society in preparing for the 19 September 2016 event. The half-day meetings will feature panels of experts from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the research community. Each of the meetings will focus on a particular substantive area which is contained in the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the high-level event. The meetings will be informal in nature, providing ample space for an interactive dialogue with the panellists and the audience.

Protecting the rights of migrants in vulnerable situations and in large movements

All migrants and refugees are entitled to the respect, protection and full enjoyment of their human rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the core international human rights treaties, the 1951 Refugee Convention, as well as other related bodies of law, on the basis of non-discrimination and regardless of their migration status.

Speakers in this interactive, multi-stakeholder meeting will examine issues relating to: the need to operationalise the standards of human rights protection to which all migrants moving in large numbers are entitled; defining what is migrant smuggling and highlighting the importance of protection measures as an essential component of a comprehensive approach to counter-smuggling; and the critical need to work towards evidence-based public narratives on migration that uphold the dignity and human rights of all migrants and refugees without discrimination. This meeting will also discuss the development of a set of Principles and Practical Guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations and in mixed and/or large movements that is currently being developed by the GMG Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality.

The meeting will be organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The panel discussion will be led by a moderator who will pose questions to the panellists to ensure an interactive discussion, which will include an opportunity for those attending to comment, pose their own questions and engage in dialogue with the panellists.

Participants

Moderator

- John Brandolino, Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Opening Remarks

- H.E. Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in New York
- H.E. Ambassador Juan Jose Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York

Speakers

- Charles Radcliffe, Chief Global Issues and Intergovernmental Affairs Section, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Matteo Pasquali, Deputy Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Meg Jones, Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women
- Alasan Senghore, Permanent Observer, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Sarah Mehta, Human Rights Researcher, American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU