



# GMPA

**Global Migration Policy Associates**

*An International research, policy development,  
advisory services and advocacy group*

**United Nations, Executive Office of the Secretary General  
General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/280, Global Compact on Migration  
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## Remarks

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA), a member of the Global Coalition on Migration and the Women in Migration Network. We are an international organization of experts fostering a consultative, research and rights-based approach to international migration governance. We are concerned that the Global Compact is itself limited in its capacity to tackle the complex interaction effects driving migration, and that where it attempts to do so, it is likely to duplicate other efforts. We urge states to develop an approach that consistently and coherently articulates with existing policy frameworks - including the full range of human and labor rights, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

The SDGs represent an unprecedented opportunity to address the challenges facing migrants and refugees as part of a global “call for transformation” that takes into consideration not only the economic, but also the social and environmental dimensions of human life on earth. Yet discussions surrounding the Global Compact have generally focused thus far on target 10.7 - “facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration” – to the exclusion of other Goals and targets that also impact migration. For example, a broader look at Goal 10, Reducing Inequality Within and Among Countries, presents a very different picture from 10.7 in isolation. Goal 10 reflects the spirit of global solidarity with respect to a wide range of causal factors, including but not limited to the distribution of wealth. There is also an emphasis on countering discrimination and reforming institutions to promote greater equality.

In addition, Member states’ contradictory policies of military intervention, arms exports, and border control run counter to Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – in ways that exacerbate migration pressures. Addressing root causes of displacement implies reducing, if not stopping, the flow of arms to regions and countries in conflict, and reconsidering whether potential military interventions will do more harm than good. In order to be consistent with Goals Number 1 and 8, No Poverty and Decent Work, plans to combat smuggling must incorporate conflict prevention and poverty reduction, permitting sustainable living conditions and livelihoods. Along the same lines, detention and return policies must take into account not only the human rights of the individual migrant, but also the impact of such interventions on the communities in which migrants are embedded and into which they are likely to resettle. Measures intended to increase security may have destabilizing effects that drive rather than inhibit further migration.

Other Goals highly relevant to human mobility include those focused on good health & well-being; quality education; the empowerment of women and girls; sustainable cities; climate action; and partnerships between governments and civil society in achieving these objectives. In its work in

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progress, GMPA has identified no less than 44 targets across 15 of the 17 SDGs applying directly to current and potential migrants, refugees, and returnees. A whole-of-system approach must consider migrants and refugees as intrinsic to broad-based investments in food security, physical and mental health, education, and general well-being in both sending and receiving contexts. Thinking through and operationalizing linkages among frameworks will be essential as states and other stakeholders work together to promote equality and sustainability for all people everywhere.

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