

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING  
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION  
Population Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,  
United Nations Secretariat  
New York, 25-26 February 2016

CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

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<sup>1</sup>The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

## QUESTION 1.

Please describe briefly the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken in 2015, or is planning to undertake in 2016, to monitor and implement migration-related commitments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (A/RES/68/4).

### I) Improving public perceptions of migrants

An almost constant reference point in migrants' stories of marginalization is discrimination. Hence, tackling persistent and newly emerging stereotypes and prejudices which are aggravated by the current massive population movements and the ongoing refugee crises, has become critical for achieving significant advances in migrants' inclusion. To that end, UNESCO pursues a four-fold action:

#### D Working with the media for migrants' inclusion

Considering the potential influence of news media and social media on public opinion, UNESCO invests in empowering media professionals and outlets to become active advocates and defenders of diversity. Following a first reflection at a roundtable to commemorate Human Rights Day and International Migrants Day (UNESCO HQ, 14 December 2015), a thematic debate on improving reporting on migrants and refugees will be held (UNESCO, HQ, March 2016) within the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). An international conference on "Youth and the Internet: fighting radicalization and extremism" (UNESCO HQ, June 2015) within the Information for All Programme and with support from IPDC, led to a framework for action for the coming years. The latter aims inter alia at engaging young people to prevent and counter violent extremist content online, and media professionals to combat online hate speech and radicalization it also helps youth to support on-line advocacy campaigns.

#### E Promoting GCE

The concept of global citizenship education (GCE) – launched in 2012 as part of the Global Education First Initiative of the UN Secretary-General – places emphasis on values, knowledge and skills transmission, enabling all learners to become responsible global citizens. The promotion of migrants' inclusion is an integral component of GCE. In order to operationalize GCE, UNESCO published the Global Citizenship Education: Topics and Learning Objectives (2015). In 2016, emphasis will be placed on coalition-building, the monitoring of SDG target 4.7 and providing guidance to ministries of education on grappling with the issue of prevention of violent extremism. Instrumental in promoting a rich sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in this respect is the UNESCO Clearinghouse on Global Citizenship Education hosted by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding in Seoul.

#### F Fostering a culture of living together through intercultural dialogue

An important vehicle for the promotion of a culture of living together, which is essential for migrants' integration in receiving societies, is intercultural dialogue. Initiatives in this field are guided by the Action Plan of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board in April 2014. UNESCO's strategy for 2015-2017 focuses on the operationalization of intercultural competencies, advocacy and building synergies across the UN system. The publication *Agree to differ* and the portfolio *From words to action: intercultural competences based on human rights* are useful tools for overcoming cultural prejudices as a prerequisite for a fruitful dialogue that promotes, inter alia, migrants' inclusion.

#### G Promoting the inclusion of migrants at the city level (see under question 2)

### II) Promoting education in the context of the Syria crisis

The two-year programme "Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth" supports access to post-primary quality education for young people affected by the Syria crisis. It promotes access to quality secondary, technical and vocational, as well as higher education, both inside Syria and in major neighboring refugee hosting countries, in particular Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The programme also seeks to strengthen the resilience of affected education systems by enabling them to better address and manage the impact on education of the unprecedented forced displacement caused by the Syria crisis. Fully aligned with the Regional Refugee and Resilience (3RP) Plan, it supports the No Lost Generation strategy while being an integral part of the nationally-led response processes.

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## QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your organization's contribution to the follow-up and review of the migration-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

I) Recognition of higher education qualifications



### QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate any activities and initiatives your organization is planning to undertake in preparation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled on 19 September 2016.

Although no specific activities are being planned in explicit connection with this event, it is expected that useful conclusions and findings will emerge from three forthcoming initiatives. A first initiative is a roundtable on media diversity and coverage of migration, focusing on community radio stations and on regulators that will take place in the framework of an international meeting to be organized at UNESCO Headquarters in June 2016. The second initiative will take place within the framework of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, and will explore the interconnections between drivers of mobility, migration processes and social implications with the aim of strengthening the evidence base on migration and nurturing effective policymaking. The latter initiative will include an experts' meeting, possibly in June 2016, to be followed by a meeting of African ministers of social development that will be hosted in Cameroon in autumn 2016. Finally, UNESCO will host, at its Headquarters on 9 May 2016, a conference on empowering cities to promote the inclusion of migrants and refugees. This is in partnership with the Marianna Vardinoyannis Foundation and in cooperation with ICCAR.