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Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 69/229 of 19 December 2014. In section II, the report summarizes the latest global migration patterns, highlights the role of migration in population change, and presents the current state of ratification of relevant legal instruments. Section III analyses how migration has been incorporated within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (see General Assembly resolution 69/313). Section IV illustrates how members of the Global Migration Group and other stakeholders have contributed to the implementation of resolution 69/229. Section V contains recommendations on the organization of the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and indicates how future high-level dialogues could contribute to the thematic review of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Section VI



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1. More people are on the move now than ever. The number of international migrants — persons living in a country other than where they were born — reached 244 million in 2015, an increase of 71 million, or 41 per cent, compared to 2000. Economic, social and environmental factors, as well as political instability, will continue to influence global migration trends. At the same time, the world is witnessing the highest level of forced displacement in decades. Today, more than 40 million persons are displaced within countries, while the number of refugees and asylum seekers has surpassed 24 million.¹

2. Since 2006, the United Nations has stepped up efforts to improve international cooperation on migration in relation to development. The First High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 was the first high-level meeting of the General Assembly dedicated to such issues. The Declaration adopted at the Second High-level Dialogue in 2013 paved the way for the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly

declined for the first time in five decades, averaging 2.3 million per year between 2010 and 2015.⁵

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Box 1

Although there is no universally agreed definition of the term, an international migrant has been defined for statistical purposes as a person who changes his or her country of usual residence.^a A long-term migrant is a person who establishes residence in a different country for a period of at least a year, while a short-term migrant moves to a country other than his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least three months but less than a year. Short-term movements for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage are excluded: persons who change their country of residence for such reasons for a period of less than a year are not considered to be migrants.

For durations of one year or more, however, the motivation for the change of residence plays no part in the definition of an international migrant. This feature is illustrated by the framework for describing the arrival of international migrants provided in the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1997. The framework pu 1

to the developed regions was due to a reduction in the level of net migration to Europe as a whole. Annual net inflows to Europe declined by more than half, from around 1.7 million between 2000 and 2010 to 0.8 million between 2010 and 2015. Meanwhile, annual net migration was stable for both Northern America (around 1.2 million) and Oceania (0.2 million).

12. By the decade from 2040 to 2050, population growth in the developed regions is projected to be negative, with positive net migration no longer compensating for the excess of deaths over births. For the developing regions, population growth is projected to continue as a result of natural increase, albeit at declining rates, with negative net migration still having a relatively small effect.

13. Because international migrants tend to be concentrated in the working ages, positive net migration can contribute to reducing the old-age dependency ratio, namely, the number of persons aged 65 years or older divided by the number aged 15 to 64 (see box 2). Under the medium variant of the United Nations population projections,⁶ the old-

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23. Since the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention in 2011, some 70 countries have taken action to advance decent work for domestic workers. The ILO and its partners have implemented a Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers, which has promoted the development of policy-oriented research and awareness-raising tools, supported migrant domestic workers' organizations and facilitated policy dialogue.

24. Women comprise slightly less than half of the world's international migrants.¹¹ The particular vulnerabilities of female migrants underscore the need for gender-sensitive migration policies and programmes, including for ensuring access to health-care services in humanitarian settings and for preventing gender-based violence and human trafficking and smuggling. For some women, migration can be a disempowering experience, especially when they are employed in unregulated sectors of the economy (see [A/70/205](#)). The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is implementing a three-year project to strengthen the capacities of workers' organizations to promote human rights and labour standards for female migrant workers.

25. The Global Migration Group, chaired by UN-Women, organized an event focusing on empowering migrant women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda, held in the margins of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016.

Refugees (UNHCR) has promoted an expansion of admission programmes for refugees and asylum seekers in third countries, including through resettlement, humanitarian visas, family reunification, private sponsorship and student and work visas. People in mixed migratory movements often use similar smuggling networks and precarious modes of travel. To ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are identified within these mixed flows, UNHCR promotes protection-sensitive procedures at international borders, and reception arrangements that avoid unwarranted restrictions on freedom of movement.¹⁴

29. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is developing principles and guidelines on the protection of all migrants in vulnerable situations and within the context of mixed migratory movements. The initiative addresses protection gaps experienced by migrants in vulnerable situations who do not have access to refugee protection. OHCHR has issued Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking for the protection of human rights at international borders.¹⁵ While recognizing that States have legitimate interests to protect their national borders, States must respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants at their borders, regardless of their legal status, means of arrival or place of origin. V

40. The United Nations Development Programme and IOM are implementing a joint programme to mainstream migration in national development plans and strategies, including as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The programme is seeking to establish a coherent United Nations approach to migration and development in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tunisia.

41. In cooperation with various partners, UNDP implements the Joint Migration and Development Initiative of the European Commission and the United Nations, which aims to strengthen the role of local governments, migrants and other actors in developing migration and development policies as part of local development planning.

42. Officially recorded remittances to developing countries in 2015 amounted to \$431.6 billion.²¹ The global average cost of sending remittances was around 7.5 per cent in late 2015 and early 2016.²² With an average cost of 9.7 per cent, Sub-Saharan Africa was the region with the highest remittance transfer fees.

43. By linking remittances to financial services such as savings, loans and

47. In 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) initiated a project on migration, food security and rural poverty reduction in Ethiopia and Tunisia. The project seeks to address the root causes of involuntary migration and to promote youth employment in rural areas. FAO is strengthening partnerships with various actors to integrate migration into agricultural and rural development policies and programmes, and to foster the productive investment of remittances in rural areas.

48. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM presented a draft Global Migration Group handbook on migration and development data at the annual meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Istanbul in October 2015. The handbook is scheduled for publication in late 2016 with support from the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

49. The Population Division and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Labour Office are currently

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Summit, future dialogues could review the implementation of the global compact, if such an agreement were adopted at the conference.

62. An important decision concerns the timing of the Third High-level Dialogue in relation to the conference, and the possible role of the Dialogue in contributing to

programmes as well as the relevant special advisers, representatives and rapporteurs. Representatives from major groups of stakeholders — for example, migrants, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, other civil society organizations and the private sector — could be included, time permitting, in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings.

68. Under the third scenario, the nature of the Third High-level Dialogue would be fundamentally different and should be addressed in a discussion on the modalities of the conference.

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69. For the first or second scenarios, the first round table of the Third High-level Dialogue could take stock of the implementation of the Declaration of the Second High-level Dialogue, in accordance with paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 69/229. The second round table could be dedicated to a review of progress in achieving the migration-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and implementing other relevant commitments, including the Addis Ababa agreement, whereas the third round table could consider the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit in 2016. The fourth round table could focus on the preparations for the intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018 in the first scenario, or on the follow-up to the conference in the second scenario.

70. The chairs of the round tables could be designated by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the regional groups and other stakeholders, from among ministers who commit to attending the Dialogue, with due regard for geographical representation and gender balance. Summaries of the deliberations of the round-table meetings could be presented orally by the round-table chairs at the concluding plenary meeting.

71. Participation in the round-table meetings could be open to representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system and other institutional stakeholders, including from civil society and the private sector. The General Assembly may wish to make specific provisions to provide speaking roles in the round-table meetings for heads of entities of the United Nations system and selected representatives of civil society and the private sector.

72. The General Assembly may wish to organize informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society prior to the Third High-level Dialogue. The hearings could take place over the course of one full day. The President of the General Assembly would preside over the hearings, which could be open to representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations, other civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers of the General Assembly. The Assembly may wish to entrust the President with determining the list of invited participants and the format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

73. The President of the General Assembly could be tasked with preparing and disseminating a summary of the hearings prior to the Third High-level Dialogue. In order to facilitate the participation in the hearings by civil society organizations
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