



foreign shores present a harsh reality.

In many countries migration remains the only option for people, particularly youth, to survive and prosper. Lack of decent work at home, insecurity, corruption and violence mean that people often have no choice but to leave their homes. We need to do more to ensure that migration is a positive choice rather than an act of desperation.

For this reason, we need to address the root causes of migration. Reducing inequalities and offering long-term economic opportunities and social protection for vulnerable groups can help build more resilient and peaceful societies.

Here is where I see a role for ECOSOC. First, I have proposed a special meeting of the Council on ‘Inequality’ in the first quarter of 2016 to address what many view as the most pressing global challenge of our times. As we witness all over the world today, inequality is one of the key drivers of migration.

Second, the ECOSOC system will work with its partners from civil society to identify the policy options for a multi-sectoral response to the opportunities and challenges posed by migration. We need to address the underlying causes from all dimensions.

Third, it is important for subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC to play a role in the thematic review of the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission on Population and Development, which considers migration, is currently in the process of reviewing its modalities of work, which makes this an especially timely prospect.

