

**THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs,
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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE THIRTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Nations University (UNU)

¹The 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 in general terms the initiatives and activities your entity has undertaken during 2014 as well as those it is planning to undertake in 2015 that respond to the objectives of the 2015 coordination meeting. (Note that specific activities and initiatives can be listed as part of question 2 and 3 below.)

UNU Migration Network's Activities related to Migration in 2014

Migration Research at UNU: An Overview

As a bridge between academia and the United Nations system, UNU uses its interdisciplinary capacity, research expertise and extensive networks to expand knowledge and enhance cooperation. In 2014, different UNU institutes contributed to key processes such as: the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific formulation of the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan the Global Forum on International Migration and Development and the Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development.

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The UNU Migration Network is constituted currently by six institutes of the United Nations University, bringing together research expertise, diverse disciplinary perspectives and different methodological approaches in the study of migration. These institutes are: The United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and social Research institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) and the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). The network is coordinated by UNU-GCM, with Dr. Valeria Bello, research Fellow, as focal point.

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With expertise in all phases of the migration process, and in line with the SG's and Member States' declarations and preparations for the SDGs, UNU institutes worked with international partners to understand migration driven by climate change and environmental disasters and complex disaster scenarios. Research examined how to reduce risk and manage recovery in some of the poorest regions. To improve migration policy-formation, in 2014 several institutes examined migration decision-making, including a collaborative UNU-GCM-led project exploring migration decision-making to and through the Mediterranean region.

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Responding to the SG and Member States' concern about xenophobia, UNU institutes conducted both research and public outreach targeted at public perception. This included considering relationships between migration and conflict, with particular emphasis on prejudice as a security concern. More details of this work will be presented at the Coordination Workshop in New York on February 12th and 13th 2015.

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All UNU institutes support including migrants in the post-2015 agenda (including developing indicators for measuring policy coherence for KNOMAD). In this context, UNU also supports some specific projects studying the inclusion of those left behind. The importance of health has been highlighted and UNU institutes examined effects of migration on migrant health and on wider health effects of migration.

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Following a specific request from the Pacific Islands, UNU is collaborating across two institutes to examine the impacts of climate change-induced migration for receiving societies in the Pacific region, combining regional knowledge with expertise on prejudice. UNU continues to provide a network of more than fifty experts, who meet regularly and are keen to continue collaborating in order to find new ways to contribute.

Research at the individual institutes of the network.

UNU-EHS migration-related activities in 2014

UNU-EHS is managing one of the empirical case studies of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) Project. MECLEP is a three year (2014-2016) research-to-policy project undertaken in six countries which focuses on the benefits and risks migration, displacement and planned relocation pose to adaptation to environmental as well as to climatic changes. Within the multi-country MECLEP study, UNU-EHS manages in cooperation with IOM research on environment- and natural disasters-related migration and its impact on adaptation processes in three areas of Haiti: Port-au-Prince (2010 earthquake), Gonaives (2004 and 2008 floods) and La Marmelade (deforestation and other long-term environmental issues).

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Furthermore, the section leads the research in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru for the Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) Project, a three year project (2013-2016) implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The study is looking at past and current attitudes to climate change and migration and it will simulate possible future migration scenarios through an Agent-Based Model of migration. The research aims at enabling policy makers from the island states of Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu to better plan and implement policies related to migration and facilitate migration flows and other forms of climate change adaptation.

UNU-IAS migration-related activities in 2014

In 2014, UNU-IAS conducted research on disaster-induced displacement within the framework of its Fukushima Global Communication Programme (FGC) aimed at examining recovery challenges in Fukushima after the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident.

FGC's lead researcher, Ana Mosneaga, conducted field research in Fukushima in June and September 2014.

Interviews were performed with the representatives from the prefectural government and local government officials and residents from the 12 municipalities that have been completely or partially designated as evacuation zones after the nuclear accident.

Two FGC research missions were also undertaken in May 2014 to New York and Vienna, and in October 2014 to Geneva. During these missions, interviews were conducted with experts from the UN agencies and other international organisations and NGOs working on displacement, humanitarian assistance, disaster-risk reduction, and post-disaster recovery.

The findings from these research activities led to organisation of several dissemination events including a session on "Stakeholder cooperation for informed decisions: Lessons from and for the displaced communities of Fukushima" at the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific in July 2014. Building on these activities, an article "Engaging Communities in Decisions after Complex Disasters: Lessons from Fukushima" were recently published in the "Our World" magazine. The insights from the research activities also fed into the drafting of the first FGC policy brief "Durable solutions for displacement induced by complex disasters: Lessons from Fukushima". The policy brief is currently under peer review and is expected to be presented at the FGC side event during World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015.

UNU-MERIT: Migration in 2014

In 2014, UNU-MERIT trained 17 policy makers and practitioners from developing countries in migration management (MMDP), 17 students specialized in migration studies during the Master's programme in Public Policy and Human Development (MPP) and 19 students took online courses on migration. Five PhDs were published covering topics in the area of return migration, transnational engagement, cross-border mobility and education.

UNU-MERIT actively contributed to post-2015 development agenda discussions, preparing a paper for IOM factoring in the contribution of migration to development, constructing a dashboard of indicators for measuring policy coherence for migration and development for KNOMAD, and, in the latter part of 2014, Dr Melissa Siegel, head of Migration and Development at UNU-MERIT, presented at the UN in New York.

2014 saw the closing of several large research projects. The Dutch government sponsored IS Academy project, investigating migration and development linkages, concluded with a closing conference attended by approximately 100 people in January 2014. An EC financed project on children and elderly left behind in Moldova and Georgia was also concluded.

Notable new project work includes: evaluations of AVRR, GIZ's returning experts programme and the Swiss Migration Partnerships research on the Nigerian and Kenyan diasporas in Germany, irregular migrants' decision making factors in transit and routes to irregularity in Europe and a partnership with MIPEX on integration indicators. Fieldwork in Burundi began for the Labour Market Impacts of Forced Migration project.

This culminated in the preparations of approximately 40 publications, all of which can be accessed on the UNU-Migration Network website.

UNU-IIGH: Migration in 2014

Recent IOM report highlighted that the Asia and Pacific region have more than half of the world's population but comprises fewer than 25% of international migrants. It is also estimated that 43% of Asian migrants move within the region. Every year, over 1.5 million workers migrate abroad from South Asia alone, mostly to the Gulf Region to perform less-skilled, temporary work. However, condition surrounding the migration process makes migrants' health more vulnerable.

UNU-IIGH research on migration in 2014 is focussing on examples of environmentally-limited diseases, including vector-borne conditions, for which environmental factors determine the distribution of disease transmission, as observed in the global epidemiology of malaria, Chagas' disease, yellow fever and West Nile Virus. Other important issues are: infectious diseases (tuberculosis, hepatitis) and non-infectious diseases (cardiovascular, oral/dental), sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, injuries due to violence, mental and psychosocial illness, substance abuse, and occupational illness.

UNU-IIGH in 2014 has also planned and worked at the concrete organization of the 5th UNU Migration Network Meeting that was held on 12th January 2015 in KL and a symposium on migration held on 13th January, where each Institute of the Network has presented their major research results on migration.

UNU-CRIS: Migration in 2014

UNU-CRIS has hosted and organised the 4th UNU Migration Network Meeting on 17th October 2014.

Its most relevant research activities on migration in 2014 have concerned migration and health issues, whose research findings were presented at the UNU Migration Network Symposium on Migration held on 13th January 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

UNU-CRIS has also contributed to the Conference on Migration, Development and Conflict (26-30 January 2014, Hyderabad, India), where the UNU-UNESCO Chair on Regional Integration, Migration and Free Movement of People provided background research for the formulation of the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan 2013-2015, the SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour and the SADC Labour Migration Policy Framework. SADC leaders signed the latter two instruments at the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit in August 2014.

UNU-GCM: Migration in 2014

Aware of the importance, expressed at all levels, of migrant women's rights, in 2014, UNU-GCM launched a research programme on Female Agency, Mobility and Socio-Cultural Change, and is examining female migrants' access to rights and self-actualisation through an innovative photographic project, bringing in the voices of migrant women, and through anthropological consideration of migrant women's understandings of decent work.

As such, it also speaks to the need, expressed by the SG and others, to define new practices to protect migrant workers. Building on this, UNU-GCM is also examining whether legal processes intended to protect female migrants are successful. These projects will result in policy and academic publications, and public events. Cognisant of the need expressed by the SG, IOM's position paper, and the Member States' Declaration, to examine new actors in migrant protection, UNU-GCM has conducted a city-level anthropological analysis of migrant integration, producing a document used at The Mayoral Forum in June 2014, with more developed work in forthcoming academic articles.

Understanding the need to eliminate migrant exploitation, UNU-GCM's research programme, Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration examined the particular risks to vulnerable migrants, and how legal understandings of statelessness and the involvement of the private sector affect migrants. Coping strategies, through new media were also examined.

The need to improve public perceptions of migrants has been important to UNU-GCM, through both sociological analyses of prejudice, and conducting public-engagement (film screenings and public exhibitions). Meanwhile, UNU-GCM has used its role as a bridge to enhance migration partnerships, using public events to bring together migrants, political figures, international organisations, the private sector and academia.

QUESTION 2.

Where relevant, please provide a schematic overview of your entity's initiatives and activities in respect to the Secretary-General's eight-point agenda for action presented at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

1. Protect the human rights of all migrants

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2. Reduce the costs of labour migration

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3. Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking

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4. Address the plight of stranded migrants

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5. Improve public perceptions of migrants

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6. Integrate migration into the development agenda

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7. Strengthen the migration evidence base

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8. Enhance migration partnerships and cooperation

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QUESTION 3.

Where relevant, please indicate the rationale, the strengths, weaknesses and the areas for improvement of the proposed targets for the post-2015 development agenda related to international migrants, migration and mobility

1. Safe, legal and orderly migration (10.7)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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2. Reducing remittance transfer costs (10.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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3. Rights of migrant workers (8.8)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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4. Eliminating trafficking of women and children (5.2 and 16.2)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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5. Addressing the “brain drain” through retention and training of health workers (3.c)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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6. Scholarships for developing countries to enrol in higher education in other countries (4b)

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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7.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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8.

<i>a. Rationale</i>	<i>b. Strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement</i>
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