An evidence-based path towards achieving global commitments: IOM Migration Governance Indicators for well-managed migration policies

In the margin of the High Level Political Forum 2019

17 July, New-York HQ, Conference room 8

Background:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places a strong emphasis on the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, the core component of SDG target 10.7. The Agenda also promotes an integrated approach, recognizing that different policy areas are interconnected and can impact on each other. Given the cross-cutting nature of migration, this requires an understanding of how different governance areas are interrelated and affected by migration and to what extent other sectoral policies in areas such as health, labour, visa facilitation etc. can facilitate or impede migrant's ability to contribute to society.

To achieve SDG well-managed migration policies, countries may consider governing from a systems perspective rather than in discrete silos. At the 2019 High-level Debate on International Migration and Development governments and other stakeholders reviewed the barriers to assessing progress on the migration-related dimensions of the SDGs. While efforts to improve data and analysis on migration, including for measurement of indicator 10.7.2, are underway and should continue, Member States were also encouraged to undertake baseline assessments of their current migration situation to inform their future progress in implementing well-managed migration policies.[1]

The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI), a tool developed by IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit, enables Member States to assess their migration policies. The MGI consists of a set of 90 indicators, covering a wide range of thematic issues as they relate to migration (e.g. labour, health, border management, disaster risk reduction, etc.). To date, 50 governments and 3 cities have used the MGI to review their migration policies, identify good practices and gaps, and set priorities for the future. Governments have recognized the versatility of the tool and have used it for many purposes, including to evaluate their migration policies, as a basis for new evidence-based policies, to form a baseline to track progress on their national and international commitments, and to assess common and pressing challenges with neighboring countries.

Starting this year, the tool has also been implemented by several cities using an adapted set of indicators to assess migration governance initiatives at the local level.

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[1] United Nations, 2019, *United Nations General Assembly High-level Debate on International Migration and Development: Summary*, New York.

Objective:

This meeting will provide a forum for national and local governments to:

1. Present the outcomes of their MGI reviews, and highlight the key developments on various sectoral policies (health, labour, environment, etc.) as they relate to migration;
2. Illustrate, on the basis of the outcome of their MGI reviews, how progress towards the SDGs has been made from the migration perspective - based on experience in selected sectors;
3. Outline their plans to address key gaps in the legislative and policy frameworks relevant to migration through the development of roadmaps based on evidence available

It will also be an opportunity to discuss how tools like the MGI can inform countries' Voluntary National Reviews as they relate to migration, helping to inform the ongoing reviews of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).