American Model United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

Report to the Commission on Population and Development on International migration and development

Contents

1 Executive Summary

At its 2018 session, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) considered "International Migration and Development," the first topic listed for the 2018 session, and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action.

After considerable debate, the Commission created five working groups focusing on: databases and management, assimilation, human trafficking, infrastructure and development and brain drain. Each of the working groups contained Member States from nations around the world which allowed for a diversity of viewpoints to be expressed. Additionally, Member States were free to choose to join the working group that seemed most relevant in regards to their national and international concerns.

Working groups proposed separate recommendations for action, and contributed separately to the deliberations. This separation allowed each country to voice concerns, ideas and potential solutions for their respective subtopics.

The first chapter of this report provides recommendations for action from the Commission to United Nations Member States.

The second chapter references United Nations resolutions and other documents that proved useful in the Commission's deliberations.

The third chapter enumerates the deliberations of the Commission regarding each of the working groups' topics. The working group on databases and management discussed the benefits and aspects of data collection on migrants. The group focused on assimilation deliberated on how member states could better assimilate migrants into destination countries. The working group that discussed human trafficking illustrated how human trafficking is an international migration issue and how member states could address it. Infrastructure discussed how infrastructure could better assist the migrant community and the development of member states. Lastly, the brain drain group discussed the scope of the brain drain and potential effects on Member States.

The last chapter details the acceptance of this report for the Commission's consideration.

2 Matters Calling for Action

2.1 Other recommendations for action

CPD recommends the collaboration of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) to collect data on migration, create a worldwide database on migration and disseminate that data equally to all Member States in the form of semi-annual reports.

CPD encourages the creation of international standards for the collection of data on migrants. These standards could include requirements that Member States track information on migrants such as a migrant's gender, family status, country of origin and reason for migration.

CPD suggests that this database be used to monitor human trafficking.

CPD emphasizes that databases be used in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) MigApp (copyright) and that all aspects of the MigApp program be implemented by Member States.

CPD encourages Member States to consider job placement initiatives for migrants upon their entrance into the country.

CPD asks Member States to guarantee migrants equal access to social welfare programs.

CPD calls upon the members of this Commission to recognize and reaffirm the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in their efforts to ensure rights for international migrants and development, as well as the ratification of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Member States.

CPD encourages states to implement law enforcement training programs to recognize signs of human trafficking as to help immigration officials and law enforcers to recognize possible people who have been trafficked and/or who are trafficking others. This body also encourages increased collaboration with NGOs to directly respond to victims of human trafficking. NGOs and civil societies already existing within states should be utilized to raise awareness for human trafficking, help educate populations about identifying factions of trafficking victims and collaborate especially with women to combat trafficking.

CPD acknowledges the need for sufficient documentation of migrants entering and exiting countries.

CPD urges the international community to emphasize the importance of maintaining awareness of the most vulnerable populations susceptible to human trafficking, such as women and children.

CPD recognizes that funding for training and accommodations of victims of human trafficking could come from the United Nations Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons.

CPD invites Member States to attempt to foster partnerships with businesses with the purpose of building more advanced infrastructure.

CPD urges individual Member States to raise awareness and work to better their emergency response systems to widespread epidemics, given the heightened risk of this due to increasing overpopulation.

CPD urges Member States to address the issue of youth unemployment and find or create opportunities to integrate youth into the economic sector. CPD recommends achieving this goal by increasing business development, mentorship opportunities with private and public organizations and/or companies and increasing employment opportunities by offering jobs in green energy.

CPD calls upon individual Member States to invest in strategies to decrease youth unemployment by incentivizing youth to remain in-country and establishing workplace learning opportunities for youth to bridge the gap between the education sector and the workforce.

CPD encourages the creation of corporate work study programs within schools, which can provide opportunities for students to gain hands-on work experience and cultivate a strong network of professional relationships that will benefit them for a lifetime.

CPD also strongly suggests Member States focus on creating sustainable employment designed to adapt to new employment opportunities in the future.

69   CPD supports the creation of internship programs to bridge the gap between workplace and secondary
70 education, which could include the creation of internship programs such as the Programme of Action and public-
71 private partnerships.

72   CPD invites Member States to work with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to develop country or
73 region-specific campaigns which address mental health and offer life-skills workshops that provide education for skills
74 needed for employment.

75   CPD further emphasizes the importance of technological education, understanding and development, as a
76 strategy which could be an aspect of a potentially effective solution for brain drain.

77   CPD encourages larger, more developed States to create partnerships with other sovereign states, sharing
78 technology, monetary resources or technological information in an effort to provide access to resources for youth
79 globally.

80   CPD recommends partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide resources on and
81 support for sexual and reproductive health and education, as well as resources and support for maternal health and
82 education;

83   CPD encourages Member States to publish set legal age of consent and legal age for marriage in accordance
84 with the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages;

85   CPD suggests the expansion of the United Nations Population Fund, which provides or directly supports
86 reproductive healthcare and family planning for women and young people in over 150 Member States, particularly
87 among populations which have historically lacked access to these services.

3   Consideration of the Status

89   2017 United Nations International Migration Report (ST/ETA/SER.A/403)

90   International Organization for Migration World Migration Report 2018

91   Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/3/217)

92   2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)

93   United Nations Resolution on Trafficking in Women and Girls (A/RES/71/167)

3.1   Deliberations

95   During its thorough discussions and debate the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) focused
96 on five topics central to the issue of international migration and development: universal migration databases and
97 collection of migrant data, brain drain reduction, assimilation of migrants, human trafficking and human rights, and
98 infrastructure and overcrowding.

99   To maximize the potential of the nexus between migration and development it is imperative to understand
100 the skills and qualities of migrants, the migration trends of different regions and to implement policies that adapt to
101 both the positive and negative economic effects of migration. There has been a gap between the need for accurate
102 and efficient data collection, as well as of interpretations of migrant data.

103   This body recognized the global issue of migrant tracking as it relates to the further development of interna-
104 tional understanding of migrant demographics. Together, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and
105 United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) could lead the charge on multidisciplinary re-
106 search and policy analysis and could be of great assistance to organizations interested in improving the International
107 Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. Perhaps the IOM's MigApp could be
108 utilized to aid in data collection, while the UNRISD could interpret that data and release reports. The CPD believed
109 that an international database on migration-related challenges would be conducive to the furthered implementation
110 of the ICPD Programme of Action. In 2017, the United Nations Department Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
111 obtained reports from 232 Member States, 92 percent of which had at least one data source on migrant populations
112 that had been collected since 2000. Yet within these reports, the availability of demographic data for migrants differs.
113 The Commission discussed how data collected through these databases could be then gathered in collaboration with
114 UNRISD to create worldwide migration reports that would then be disseminated to all Member States equally.

115   MigApp provides migrants with relevant information through a smartphone application that allows migrants
116 to register in the Member State in which they currently reside. All data collected by the app would also be used by
117 IOM in order to help IOM better understand migrant needs and find better solutions to migrant problems. CPD
118 emphasized that Member States can also use the app to directly inform migrants of any policies, laws or information
119 about migration for individuals coming to that Member State. The app also provides migrants with money transfer
120 comparisons in order to streamline that process, especially in relation to remittances. This often reduces the transfer
121 cost of remittances as migrants will have accurate information on the best way to send money back to their home
122 countries and families. Furthermore, this app could help combat human trafficking by providing trafficking victims
123 a discreet way to inform authorities. Moreover, with this expanded partnership, the UN could work to expand
124 awareness of the MigApp to NGOs that specifically work with human trafficking.

125   Additionally, data could be collected by UN officials directly through the use of electronic devices, such as
126 tablets, that would directly connect to MigApp at refugee camps, immigration centers, embassies and border stations,
127 as well as any other areas that Member States see fit. This database could also be used effectively in Member States
128 experiencing substantial brain drain. In particular, this is because these States would potentially be able to track
129 where their migrants are travelling to and use this information to instill programs or change national policies to more
130 align with what economic or employment opportunities these migrants are seeking abroad.

131   The Body discussed that while a worldwide database might be ideal for the UN, it could infringe on Member
132 States' sovereignty. Furthermore, Member States may not agree to standardized methods for collecting data as
133 this may also infringe on sovereignty. It would also be difficult to have all migrants registered or recorded on a
134 database: migrants may not have personal access to the internet to register on their own; migrants may not interact
135 with government, IGO, or NGO officials who could assist in registration in remote areas such as border stations,

embassies or refugee camps. In addition, migrants may have crossed a border illegally and therefore may choose not to register themselves on such a database. Moreover, the data is collected by all Member States and then sent to the UN to be analyzed and disseminated as the UN sees fit. Member States might object to the database as they would be sending in information, but not necessarily receiving similar information in return. If all of the information is released to all Member States, the data could be used to fuel xenophobia, anti-migrant legislation and interstate conflicts. Lastly, a major issue discussed was the lack of enforcement mechanisms to make sure that Member States actually provide accurate data to the UN.

Representatives expressed interest in implementing classes offered to immigrants, which could be categorized by age groups. The implementation of social programs within the workplace to help migrant employees better assimilate to their cultural environments was also discussed. Representatives expressed the need for guaranteed access to social welfare programs to assist migrants in sustainable living.

Representatives from Member States recommended that the Commission take into consideration a "foster care" support program to migrants. This program would encourage governments to advocate that their citizens host migrants on a volunteer basis for a certain time. This Body believed that this program would be beneficial to migrant integration and it would help them assimilate to the culture and language of the state of destination. This working group recognized that the process and efforts of assimilating immigrants into Member States in turn helps to limit animosity towards immigrants and refugees. These recommended programs would be in respect to the state sovereignty of each Member State and their policies.

Disagreements arose about which NGOs will be most effective in combating human trafficing without political bias. Such debated NGOs included: International Labor Organization (ILO), Anti-Slavery International, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), Amnesty International, Shared Hope International, "Free the Girls," Deman Abolition and the Coalition for Organ-Failure Solutions.

Many Member States felt that discussion of human trafficking should be included in this report since it pertains to both international migration and development. Human trafficking often occurs across national borders; sometimes beginning as legal entry into states and developing into illegal work, other times stemming from illegal immigration in the form of trafficking or smuggling. In both cases, human trafficking affects the development of states in two key ways. First, human trafficking can prevent specific populations from engaging in legal employment and contributing to state development. Member states must respect the rights of refugees as listed in the United Nations Global Compact by maintaining existing infrastructure and working to make improvements where possible. Trafficked men, women and children alike are removed from legal means of employment, thus forcing them to participate in illicit activities. The often illegal markets that victims unwillingly contribute to can be detrimental to state development.

Human trafficking also disproportionately affects women and girls globally. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, between 2012-2014 alone over 70 percent of the people trafficked were women and girls. Per United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, all Member States should promote gender equality. Eliminating human trafficking achieves this goal, as traffickers prey mostly on women and girls. By utilizing non-government organizations (NGOs) and existing civil societies to combat human trafficking, this body believed that females of all ages could be empowered and trafficking would cease to have a foothold in the economies of Member States.

The SDGs, specifically Goal 5, Goal 8 and Goal 16, relate directly to human trafficking and the need to prevent trafficking in order to foster state and global development. SDG 5 urges countries to move towards gender equality and empowerment of all females by implementing training programs for government officials and at the local level with civil societies in order to fight trafficking. Additionally, people who are trafficked, especially refugees, asylum seekers and migrant laborers, frequently face unsafe working conditions, power inequality and lack of fundamental rights. SDGs 8 and 16 aim to ensure decent work and justice for all whose rights are violated, which means that a focus on human rights is imperative in order to ensure all those who work have decent working conditions.

Outlined in the 2017 United Nations International Migration Report, "The total number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world was estimated at 25.9 million [by the end of 2016] representing 10.1 percent of all international migrants". As of 2018, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees estimated that there are 28.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in the world. These refugees rely on well-functioning infrastructures, be it drivable roads, sturdy bridges, clean water or housing facilities. Member States must respect the rights of refugees as listed in the United Nations Global Compact by maintaining adequate infrastructures.

The Commission on Population and Development, in accordance with clause 15.2 of the International Confer-

ence on Population and Development's Programme of Action, recommended that Member States utilize partnerships with non-government actors and members of the private sector to improve infrastructure. The specialization and expertise within the private sector and NGOs are invaluable. These partnerships could lift the financial burden from the national and local governments of Member States as well as catalyzing economic development.

Overpopulation is a concern involving the State of a nation's infrastructure and internal development. One of the largest contributors to overpopulation is a positive net immigration rate. The World Health Organization's article on the negative health effects of overpopulation states that outbreaks of disease are more frequent and more severe when the population density is high. This indicates that overcrowding creates a higher risk of widespread epidemic. Additionally, an influx of more people than a region can support can have negative impacts on a state's economy and developmental prospects. The Commission on Population and Development would like to remind any states that are particularly worried about overpopulation due to international migration to refer to the United Nations Charter Chapter VII.

The CPD further noted it is also important to be aware that brain drain could have positive effects as well, as in the case of brain circulation. This body defined brain circulation as the circular movement of skilled labor workers across Member States. The CPD recommended that Member States adopt multilateral agreements to encourage sponsorships by home country governments and to ensure that such skilled personnel return to their home countries after being trained.

The Commission on Population and Development recommended that states adopt policies addressing living wages, improving living conditions and incentivized domestic work in order to combat the amount of skilled workers leaving their states for opportunities abroad. The CPD also recommended alternative methods of development, in which Member States can act independently and develop in ways that suit them best in order to improve their economies and infrastructure. Finally, the body urged states to invest in development of technology in order to provide more domestic opportunities to skilled workers.

The Commission on Population and Development acknowledged the gravity of brain drain, or the fleeing of skilled, intelligent workers to nations with better job opportunities. While this Commission recognized that brain drain does not affect all countries equally, it was still important to acknowledge that this is a concern for many Member States. Brain drain is an issue that is primarily associated with developing nations. This is because there are a lot of political and social aspects that affect developing nations on a larger scale when brain drain is occurring. For example, in Zambia, 96 percent of all migrants work in the tertiary sector, which hinders the economy and the workforce.

It is for these reasons that the CPD recommended taking immediate action to combat brain drain, something that developed as well as developing nations can agree with, such as the United Kingdom and Japan. The CPD emphasized the political and social effects that brain drain has on nations. Possible factors which contribute to brain drain include: higher wages, greater freedom, economic and social mobility, escaping persecution and pursuing better careers.

Many solutions to the issue of brain drain were discussed. Some nations have large amounts of inaccessible natural resources, and best practice sharing should be implemented on a bilateral level to provide these well-paying primary sector jobs. Working conditions should be improved and a livable minimum wage implemented. Law and order must be ensured, as violent crime is a major push factor for migration. Finally, new models of development should be considered and outside actors should not influence States' development choices.

4 Adoption of the Report

At the meeting on 19 November 2018, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with five amendments. The draft report was then adopted by the body with consensus abstentations from Belarus, Bolivia, China, Brazil, Finland, Denmark, the United States, Mali, the United Kingdom, France, and Zambia.

Passed by consensus, with 11 abstentions