



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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REPORT OF 2018 NATIONAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE

***REALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) FOR ALL INCLUDING
MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS***

Banquet Hall, State House, Aso Rock Villa, ABUJA - FCT

17th DECEMBER, 2018

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I. BACKGROUND

The 2018 celebration of the international migrants' day brought to an end the numerous events on migration that took place around the globe in the year for which 2018 was rightly dubbed the year of migration. The hallmark of these events was the migration week held in Marrakesh, Morocco, December 04-11, 2018. The week witnessed the celebration of the eleventh Global Forum on Migration and Development and the first intergovernmental conference for the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM).

Since 2014, the Nigerian government and people have observed the international migrants' day in a remarkable manner through the institutionalization of the National Migration Dialogue (NMD). NMD is a platform for exploring emerging issues in global migration from a national perspective. It provides an opportunity for reviewing the various operational challenges at the institutional level in implementing the National Migration Policy and thereby contributing to the review of existing legal and policy frameworks in addressing these challenges.

The 2018 NMD, the fourth in the series was held on 17th of December at the Banquet hall of the State House, Aso Rock Villa Abuja. The event was graced by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal republic of Nigeria, Muhammad Buhari, members of the Federal Executive Council, National Assembly, diplomatic community, international and local partners and relevant stakeholders. In line with its core objective, the event provided the opportunity for the delegates to discuss how best to manage migration dynamics in the country for the good of the nation and individual migrants.

i. *“Realizing the SDGs for All including Migrants, Refugees and IDPs”*

On this day, we recognize and appreciate their immeasurable contributions to national and human development. We celebrate their joys and happiness and more so recognize their sacrifices, pains and sorrows.

The above words delivered by the President in his opening speech resonated with the year's NMD's focus on migration and SDGs, with the theme, “Realizing the SDGs for All including Migrants, Refugees and IDPs.” Within this theme, the Dialogue aimed at putting the migration-development nexus on the agenda of national discourse and to prepare grounds for the national implementation of the specific migration-related goals and targets of the SDGs. It provided a platform for exploring and analyzing the intersection of migration and key development areas, brought out policy implications and the focus of a plan of action. The focal point of this plan of action is the development and deployment of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the migration-related targets of the SDGs.

II. *Delivering as one*

National Commission for Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the coordinating agency of migration hosted the event on behalf of the National Migration Technical Working Group (TWG). As in the previous events, this was done with the support of Swiss

Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) within the framework of the Nigeria-Swiss Partnership on Migration as well as with the International Organization for Migration under the European Union-IOM Initiative for Strengthening of Migration Governance and Sustainable Reintegration of Nigerian Returnees.

In line with the theme of the dialogue, and building on the principle of partnership, one of the five focus areas of the 2030 agenda, NCFRMI sought and obtained the collaborative partnership of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) in hosting this year's NMD. This partnership inspired an unprecedented momentum that drove the preparation and delivery of the Dialogue. It also provided the necessary foundation for harnessing this energy for the development and deployment of migration-related indicators that will guide stakeholders in the SDGs implementation policies, programs and projects.

III. Objectives

The main purpose of the NMD within the NCFRMI/OSSAP-SDGs joint initiative was to facilitate collective action towards realization of migration-related SDGs in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the initiative are to:

- a) enhance understanding of the migration-development nexus;
- b) make recommendations for policy actions;
- c) generate momentum among stakeholders to collectively act towards realization of migration-related SDGs; and
- d) develop and facilitate the deployment of indicators to track implementation of migration-related SDGs

IV. Opening Session/speeches

The ceremonial part of the event of the day featured speeches from various dignitaries from the Nigerian government and international partners, and lived experiences of migrant-returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons.

- i. The Honorable Federal Commissioner (NCFRMI), Sadiya Umar Farouq* in her welcome remark gave an insight on the reason for this year's National Migration Dialogue's focus on realizing the Sustainable development goals (SDGs) for all. Video clips /testimonies capturing the experiences of refugees, migrant-returnees and IDPs provided the context for why SDGs cannot be realized without refugees, migrants and IDPs. She reiterated the commission's commitment to ensuring that all persons of concern are carried along in achieving the Agenda 2030. She gave a briefing on the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration and the 11th Global Forum on Migration and development held in Marrakesh Morocco, including the side event organized by the Commission during this period. These events and their outcome documents provide useful processes and frameworks for better migration management and realizing the SDGs for all migrants, refugees and IDPs.
- ii. Swiss Ambassador to Nigeria, Chad, Niger and ECOWAS, Amb. H.E George Steiner* lauded the mutual and beneficial partnership between Nigeria and Swiss

Agency, the SDC, coordinated by NCFRMI. He underscored the significance of the choice of localizing the SDGs aimed at materializing migration developmental strategies as the focus of the dialogue. This follows from other momentous achievement in the global migration governance circle, namely the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration which took seriously the vulnerability of Migrants. He concluded by reiterating that Swiss is out to ensuring that the SDGs are implemented and will continue to partner with Nigeria and relevant agencies such as International Organization for Migration (IOM) in seeing that the well-being of Migrants is provided, for the benefit of all.

- iii. ***Head EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS Ketil Karlsen*** represented by Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador RICHARD Young enumerated EU's plan for mitigating the bad side of migration and to aid Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration. These include promoting of investment in Africa, expanding of European Development bank, strengthening of police collaboration to break up criminal gangs, expanding opportunities for Nigerian students, and working with immigration by lending support for Nigeria Status Determination while working towards reduction of trafficking in persons.
- iv. ***Chief of Mission International Organization for Migration (IOM) Frantz Celestin*** asserted the fact that migration as a driving force of development cannot be overemphasized. And so is the importance of multilateral cooperation in guaranteeing that migration is safe, orderly and dignified. Urgent action has been called to save lives of migrants and prevent traffickers and smugglers from exploiting such desperate migrants in order to enrich themselves. He reiterated the role of IOM in promoting efficient and sustainable reintegration of migrant-returnees. This is a way of realizing the SDGs for this important part of the human population. He also used the medium of the dialogue to launch the new Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on migration education thus, highlighting the importance IOM places on awareness creating. He stated that they will continue to assist the ECOWAS Commission by facilitating the work of the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) under the Free Movement of Persons and Migration (FMM) in West Africa Project which is funded by the EU and the Government of Switzerland.
- v. ***Keynote Address/ Declaration of the Dialogue open by the President, C-in-C of the Armed Forces Muhammadu Buhari:*** The President praised the invaluable contributions of migrants especially the Nigerian migrants in the development of the nation. However, recognizing the courage, sacrifices, and ordeals of migrants, he insisted that "migration does not matter just because migrants add to development. Migration indeed really matters because migrants are at first and foremost human beings." Thus he enjoined, "while we explore, strengthen and promote the migration and development nexus, let us not forget the first responsibility we owe to our common humanity namely, to work for the wellbeing, promote and protect the right of each other." He highlighted the government's effort in responding to the migration issues which include the evacuation of Nigerian migrants from Libya, the protection-

based activities being offered to asylum seekers in collaboration with UNHCR. Also the government has become proactive with migration in view. The catering for the well-being of Nigerians and policies aimed at securing the prosperity of citizens such as TraderMoni, MarketMoni, and other complimentary schemes, had become necessary in streamlining initiatives towards eradicating the urge for irregular migration. He implored the youths to desist from embarking on a perilous trip and focus on utilizing opportunities at home. There is need for a total approach to migration issues where citizens in diaspora and immigrants within our borders will be treated with dignity. In this light he pointed out the importance of National Migration Policy, Poverty alleviation Programme of N-power and the National Labour Migration Policy to Nigeria. He also stated that the National IDP Policy will soon be adopted. Appreciating the theme of the dialogue and the importance of the SDGs as a framework to provide for the wellbeing of all, he advised, “As we generate indicators for measuring the migration-related targets of the SDGs, let us look at action-rooted initiatives that will deliver hope to all migrants and citizens as well.”

V. Technical Session

The technical session set out to introduce or deepen understanding of the sustainable development goals and their intersection with migration. The discussion paid due attention to details of this intersection of migration and SDGs. It covered issues such as the migration-related targets, the global framework for indicators and various attempts at realizing the SDGs for all including migrants, refugees and IDPs. The challenges threatening the full realization of the SDGs for all, especially the migrants, refugees and IDPs were enumerated. This provided the setting for the next stage namely, the development and deployment of national migration-related indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs in the country.

The interactive sharing was led by experts in the various related-areas including representatives from OSSAP-SDGs, IOM, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

i. *Nigeria and the Sustainable Development Goals*

The representative of OSSAP-SDGs, Bala Yusuf Yanusa, provided the basic information on the SDGs and how the country is engaging with the programme. The 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators of the SDGs address all aspects of human and non-human development and have existential implications. The programme’s laudable ambition “leave no one behind,” makes it imperative that the SDGs are delivered for migrants, refugees and IDPs. The SDGs are in alignment with the African Union Agenda 2063 and present an opportunity for regional integration and interaction. Four correlated mandates govern the implementation of the SDGs: MANDATE 1: Strategic Direction, Planning and Coordination. MANDATE 2: Representation, Advocacy and Partnership Development; MANDATE 3: Resource Mobilization and Management; MANDATE 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, Documentation and Reporting.

What Nigeria is doing: The Federal Government has shown strong commitment towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Institutional Frameworks have been established at the national and sub-national levels and implementation is gradually picking up.

Challenges and prospects

- Evidently, the SDGs cannot be achieved with stand-alone programmes and projects. They must be carefully integrated into national and sub-national policies and development plans.
- The need for robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) cannot be overemphasized.
- To make significant progress, it is essential to devise creative and adaptive practices and programme delivery mechanisms at all levels of governance to overcome bureaucratic bottlenecks.
- The principle of ‘leave no one behind’ can address the issue of migrant integration and vulnerability of migrants
- To ‘Leave no one behind,’ there is need for expertise and resources of all – the public and private sectors; the scientific community; the donor community and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

ii. Migration and SDGs

Henry Akwitti, National Project Officer IOM, leading this conversation underlined the interrelatedness of migration and development. Migrants constitute a significant portion of the world population that no development programme can afford to neglect them. The number of international migrants stands at 258 million, representing 3.4% of the world’s population. By 2050, the number is estimated to reach 405 million. Apart from number, migrants matter for development programme for a number of other reasons. These include the direct impact they make on global economy. They produce more than 9 per cent of global GDP, some USD 3 trillion more than if they had stayed at home. Also included on the list of migration and development intersection is the link between development and drivers of migration. Elements such as conflict, climate change, labour markets and other development-related factors can all impact the drivers and nature of migration.

The Agenda 2030 for sustainable development provides an overarching framework to address the complex and dynamic relationship between migration and development. No longer is human mobility seen as just background context for development, or worse still, as mere consequence of lack of development. Rather, with the SDGs, migration is critical to enhancing sustainable development. Agenda 2030 considers migration a cross-cutting issue relevant to all of the SDGs. Nevertheless, specific mentions related to migration are made in some in goals and targets. SDGs 3, 4, 8, 10, 16, and 17 contain targets and indicators related to migration. High precedent is set on migration governance goal/target 10.7. The SDGs paves the way towards greater collaboration between the migration and development sectors and, through this, towards greater policy coherence. IOM, the UN migration agency, is an important actor both for advising on prioritization and for the implementation of the migration-development agenda.

He further asserted that Migration Governance Framework is hinged on three principles and objective.

- Adherence to international Standard and fulfilment of migrant right
- Evidence of Whole Government approach
- Strong Partnership to support Migration Governance and all complement the Global Compact on Migration.

iii. Refugee Protection in the Context of Mixed Migration and SDGs

Mr. Solomon Momoh of the UNHCR provided the understanding of Mixed Migration within the context of refugee protection and the link between Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan, Durable Solutions and SDGs. The provision of gainful employment to refugees and asylum seekers and their legal protection were conditions linked to international conventions and the specific aspects of the SDGs such as those in Goal 10. The search for durable solutions should also be linked to the human rights of migrants and be aligned with the implementation of the SDGs. Key messages from the UNHCR's perspective in this regard are:

- The search for durable solutions is a complex process that requires the prompt and coordinated involvement of different actors as envisaged in the SDGs
- Both durable solution process and outcomes are based on general human rights principles, articulated as principles and criteria
- The selection of indicators to measure the level of achievement of durable solutions needs to take into account local specificities, and in line with the SDGs
- Refugees and IDPs are specifically mentioned in the 2030 Agenda, but are not singled out as a specific group under any of the 17 Goals. Stateless populations are not mentioned in the 2030 Agenda, or under the Goals. It is therefore incumbent upon UNHCR Representatives to ensure that persons of concern to UNHCR feature prominently in the national development plans aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda.

iv. The Need for migration-related Indicators for SDGs

Indicators are the necessary tools in policy formulation as well as implementation. The representative of the Director-General of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Mr. Akor, spoke on the need for indicators in migration management and responses to challenges brought about by implementation of policies and programmes related to migration management at the national level. The idea of direct target measuring migration modules was introduced as a vital aspect of determining the flow of migration and developing indicators that were relevant to the implementation of nationally determined targets on migration. Various social aspects of developing of indicators such as those applying to persons with disabilities and kindred groups were also brought out as part of the strategies for developing national implementation strategies.

VI. Migration and SDGs: The way towards Implementation

Following the interactive discussion based on insights from participants and reflection on the presentations it was agreed that NCFRMI, OSSAP-SDGs and NBS should commence and lead action toward developing the indicators for facilitating and measuring the implementation of migration-related targets. They are to present the outcome for validation to the relevant stakeholders by second quarter of the year.

Using the Migration Governance Framework (MiGoF) as a guide, the indicators must be comprehensive and balanced so as to track core principles and objectives of the SDGs. They must be built on gap analysis and initial national assessment of institutional capacity, policy coherence, and policy comprehensiveness. Above all, good starting point would be to define policy priorities and establish the sequencing of initiatives, reforms, programmes as related to the country's migration dynamics and challenges.

To ensure that the indicators are comprehensive and balanced, a number of pertinent issues to be considered in the indicators were raised. Among these include gender, peace, security, remittances, climate change and environmental aspects of migration. These suggestions are classified under substance and process.

Substance

- On the issue of remittances by migrants and diaspora, it was agreed that transaction costs are still quite high, and target Goal 10 (c) called for reduction in remittance cost to less than 3%. It is important that the indicators capture the remittances flow, showing the popular route and cost dynamics. The effect of inter-Bank exchange rates on the remitted amounts to the country should also be examined.
- The issue of xenophobia directed at migrants should be mitigated through well managed regular migration as called for in Goals 7 and 10.
- Number of asylum granted to asylum seekers in Nigeria should be reflected.
- Indicators should also extend to measuring the return, resettlement and integration of IDPs from camps, and their participation in national governance such as electoral process.

Process

- Various SDG Goals and Targets had made direct references to climate change and migration. Climate resilience policies could be studied and adopted towards national mitigation plans to address climate change and migration.
- It is necessary that wholistic approach be employed in the development of indicators by being open to interfacing with other existing programmes and initiatives. For instance, COP 21 and subsequent international initiatives may be used to monitor migration issues based on climate change and environmental challenges.
- Inclusive participation of all stakeholders including civil society and private sector should guide the process of developing and deploying the indicators. Also to be included in the process of generating data and indicators are sub-national entities like States and Local Governments. These are already identified as critical stakeholders by the Agenda 2030 for the implementation of the SDGs.

VII. Conclusion

The universal nature of the SDGs and its ambitious claim of ‘leaving no one behind’ cannot be delivered without a deliberate consideration of the concerns of the 3.4% of the world’s population—the migrants, refugees and IDPs. The nexus between migration and development is age-long and complementary. Mainstreaming of the conditions of migration, refugees and IDPs as well as asylum seekers into the national implementation framework for the SDGs is both timely and inevitable. Development and deployment of relevant indicators to monitor and review the implementation of the programme is pertinent. Success in this area is contingent upon a collaborative partnership of all relevant actors. With the momentum generated at this dialogue and the established collaborative partnership between NCFRMI on behalf of the TWG and the OSSAP-SDGs Nigeria is poised to realizing the SDGs for all including the migrants, refugees and IDPs.