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Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Fahad Al-thani (Qatar), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.12](#)

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [58/208](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/241](#) of 22 December 2004, [60/227](#) of 23 December 2005, [61/208](#) of 20 December 2006, [63/225](#) of 19 December 2008, [65/170](#) of 20 December 2010, [67/219](#) of 21 December 2012, [69/229](#) of 19 December 2014, [71/237](#) of 21 December 2016, [73/241](#) of 20 December 2018 and [75/226](#) of 21 December 2020 on international migration and development, its resolution [68/4](#) of 3 October 2013, by which it adopted the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, its resolution [60/206](#) of 22 December 2005 on the facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances, its resolutions [62/156](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/166](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/172](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/179](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/167](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/147](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/179](#) of 19 December 2017, [74/148](#) of 18 December 2019 and [76/172](#) of 16 December 2021 on the protection of migrants and its resolution [62/270](#) of 20 June 2008 on the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and recalling also chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹ and Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006,² 2008/1 of 11 April 2008,³ [2013/1](#) of 26 April 2013⁴ and [2014/1](#) of 11 April 2014,⁵ and the Declaration on

¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

³ *Ibid.*, 2008, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2008/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2013/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2014/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.



the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted on 1 April 2019,⁶

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further the New Urban Agenda,⁷ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁸ and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,⁹ as well as major outcome documents in relation to countries in special situations,

Reaffirming the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 September 2016,¹⁰

Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement,¹¹ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹² that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic; reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity,

⁶ Ibid., 2019, *Supplement No. 5* ([E/2019/25](#)), chap. I, sect. B.

⁷ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁸ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁹ Resolution [74/2](#).

¹⁰ Resolution [71/1](#).

¹¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹³ recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁴ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁵ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,¹⁶ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁷ the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁸ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹⁹ and recalling also the Declaration on the Right to Development,²⁰

Encouraging States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families²¹ and to consider acceding to relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, as appropriate,

Recognizing the positive role and contributions of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including by enriching societies through human, socioeconomic and cultural capacities,

Recognizing also that migration can increase social, cultural and economic ties between nations and can be facilitated by agreements within regional integration processes to reinforce education exchange, labour mobility and the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits of migrant workers,

Recognizing further the positive role and contributions of millions of migrants in responding to and recovering from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including as essential workers, and remaining deeply concerned that the pandemic has had a severe and disproportionate impact on migrants, including through increased COVID-19 exposure, discrimination, violence, job losses, wage theft, protracted family separation, and restricted or lack of access to health-care services and other basic services, including vaccines, social protection, education and child services, and being subjected to unsafe and undignified returns,

Recognizing the human, cultural, social and economic capital that diasporas bring, as well as their engagement and remittances in national development strategies, and in programmes to improve the financial inclusion and literacy of migrant workers and their families,

Recognizing also the positive contributions of young migrants to the sustainable development of countries of origin and destination, encouraging in that regard States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants, and noting therefore the importance of providing inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels, including technical and vocational training, so that all people, including migrants, may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities to become active members of society and contribute to sustainable development,

Recognizing further that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of

¹³ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

¹⁴ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹⁷ Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁸ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹⁹ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

²⁰ Resolution [41/128](#), annex.

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

recipients, bearing in mind that remittances cannot be considered a substitute for foreign direct investment, official development assistance, debt relief or other public sources of financing for development,

Recognizing the potential of remittances to reduce poverty, increase access to education, health and improved housing, promote financial inclusion and increase the inflow of foreign currency, as well as ensure food supplies in rural areas, positively contributing to the sustainable development of countries,

Welcoming the fact that many countries declared remittances to be essential services and eased regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, facilitated greater digitalization, offered incentives and abolished or waived transaction fees, expressing concern that, nonetheless, the cost of transferring remittances remained at 6.3 per cent during the third quarter of 2021, far above the Sustainable Development Goal target of 3 per cent or lower, and expressing concern also at the continued decline in correspondent banking relationships, due to de-risking trends, and its adverse consequences on low-value remittance flows,

Expressing concern that progress achieved in facilitating and harnessing the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration is slow and uneven in many areas and that the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped many aspects of international migration and negatively impacted progress, and created new, and exacerbated existing situations of vulnerability for migrants,

Noting with concern that highly trained, skilled and professional workers from developing countries continue to emigrate at an increasing rate to certain countries, and recognizing in this regard the importance of investing in human capital development by promoting entrepreneurship, education, vocational training and skills development programmes and partnerships, and productive employment creation, in line with labour market needs, with a view to reducing youth unemployment, avoiding brain drain and optimizing brain gain in countries of origin, and harnessing the demographic dividend,

Recalling the determination of Member States who participated in the International Migration Review Forum to fulfil the objectives and commitments outlined in the Global Compact, in line with its 360-degree vision, guiding principles and comprehensive approach, by facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, promoting the contributions of migrants at all skills levels to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, and reducing the incidence and negative impact of irregular migration,

Recalling also that the Global Compact is based on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach,

Recalling further the importance of the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization, including for migrant workers, the ten fundamental Conventions of that Organization, as well as the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Global Forum on Migration and Development to addressing the multidimensional nature of international migration and promoting balanced and comprehensive approaches and dialogue on migration and development, and acknowledging that it has proved to be a valuable forum for

holding frank and open discussions, including through multi-stakeholder dialogues, and that it has helped to build trust among participating stakeholders through the exchange of experiences and good practices and by virtue of its voluntary, intergovernmental, non-binding and informal character and the engagement of civil society actors as well as the private sector,

Recognizing also the role of Governments at all levels, including local governments, and the contribution of relevant local stakeholders, such as migrant-led organizations, in fulfilling national policies and programmes that have a direct impact on the well-being of migrants,

Acknowledging the important and complex interrelationship between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits and challenges to the global community, and confirming the importance of including the matter in relevant debates and discussions held at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate, including at the level of the United Nations and other international organizations, in relation to development,

Noting the initiatives that promote constructive and forward-looking dialogue on international migration for sustainable development and aim to enhance international cooperation and to share best practices in the field of international migration, including the Group of Friends on Migration and the Global Compact Champion countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²²
2. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen synergies between international migration and development at all levels, including the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate;
3. *Recommits* to ensuring full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and supporting countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances;
4. *Recalls* the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018;
5. *Notes* that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first intergovernmentally negotiated outcome, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover international migration in all its dimensions;
6. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development and that international migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses and balanced approaches, and also recognizes that international migration is a cross-cutting phenomenon that no one State can manage on its own and that calls for global approaches and global solutions, as well as the integration of sustainable development, with due regard for social, economic and environmental dimensions, and should be addressed in a balanced manner through a whole-of-government approach and with respect for human rights;

²² [A/77/236](#).

7. *Acknowledges* the complexity of migratory flows and that international migration movements also occur within the same geographical regions, and in this context calls for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions, regardless of the level of development;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening joint analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements, such as those that may result from sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as other precarious situations, while ensuring effective respect for and protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants;

9. *Also recognizes* that the lack of access to quality education and economic opportunities, and inadequate investment as well as underdevelopment are among the key drivers that compel young people to leave their countries of origin in search of better opportunities, and therefore that it remains crucial to promote sustainable development, generate employment, bridge the digital divides and empower youth to fully participate in their societies;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, in line with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Recommits* to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, and to supporting countries of origin, transit and destination in the spirit of international cooperation, taking into account national circumstances;

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the convening of the first International Migration Review Forum from 17 to 20 May 2022, and the endorsement of its Progress Declaration as a whole, without a vote, by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/266](#) of 7 June 2022, and in this regard encourages Member States to implement the following recommended actions to accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and to strengthen international cooperation on international migration:

(a) Build on promising practices to harness the benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration, including those that emerged in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, provide all migrants with safe access to basic services, regardless of their migration status, as well as continuity of care, COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and treatment in line with universal health coverage, to ensure that no one is left behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and in this context promote the meaningful participation of migrants in policy discussions on issues affecting them, including in the COVID-19 response and recovery;

(b) Accelerate efforts, at all levels, to integrate public health considerations into migration policies and incorporating the health needs of migrants in national and local health-care services, policies and plans, in ways which are transparent, equitable, non-discriminatory, people-centred, gender-responsive, child-sensitive and disability-responsive, and which leave no one behind;

(c) Promote the meaningful contribution of migrants to policy development, delivery and reviews, and recommit to fostering inclusive and cohesive societies, by strengthening the provision of information, support and services, which contribute to migrants' integration;

(d) Eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, systemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, hate crimes targeting migrants and diasporas as well as negative stereotyping and misleading narratives that generate negative perceptions of migration and migrants, including by reviewing, developing and implementing relevant legislation, policies and practices and promoting evidence-based public discourse, inter alia in partnership with local authorities, migrants, diaspora communities and the media, bearing in mind the role of migrants as agents of sustainable development and as rights holders, and protect freedom of expression in accordance with international law, recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration;

(e) Respect, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, including those of women and children, regardless of their migration status, and address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognize the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and ensure that their legislation and migration policies and practices are non-discriminatory and consistent with their applicable international human rights obligations, in order to avoid approaches that might create or aggravate situations of vulnerability for migrants;

(f) Develop national gender-responsive and child-sensitive migration policies and legislation in line with relevant obligations under international law to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrant women and children, in particular girls, regardless of their migration status, stressing in this regard the importance of ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the formulation and implementation of migration policies, while recognizing their independence, agency and leadership;

(g) Respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, including unaccompanied or separated migrant children, ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions concerning children in legislation, policies and practices, including those related to integration, return and family reunification, as well as consider, through appropriate mechanisms, progress and challenges in working to end the practice of child detention in the context of international migration;

(h) Enhance international cooperation, especially by actions that accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, with the aim of eliminating the adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people from building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods and fulfilling their personal aspirations, and so compel them to leave their country of origin;

(i) Strengthen their efforts to enhance and diversify the availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, including in response to demographic and labour market realities, and for migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as those affected by disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, including by working coherently across all relevant multilateral forums, conclude labour mobility agreements, optimize education opportunities, facilitate access to procedures for family reunification through appropriate measures that promote the realization of the right to family life and the best interests of the child, and regularize migrants in an irregular situation, in line with national laws, and providing migrants with access to information pertaining to their rights and obligations during all stages of migration, including information on fair and ethical recruitment, skills,

qualifications, entry and exit requirements, living and working conditions, wages and benefits, and access to justice and services, among others;

(j) Strengthen their efforts to take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons, including forced labour, in the context of international migration, including by intensifying bilateral, regional and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, as well as to ensure the effective identification, protection of and assistance to migrants who have become victims of trafficking in persons, not conditional upon cooperation with the authorities against suspected traffickers, including by providing access to gender-responsive and child-sensitive measures for their physical, psychological and social recovery and reintegration, facilitate access to justice, and avoid the criminalization of migrants who are victims of trafficking in persons for trafficking-related offences;

(k) Intensify joint efforts, including through international cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, in full respect for human rights, by protecting the lives and human rights of migrants, ensuring safe and effective access to justice for migrant victims of crime and ensuring that migrants do not become liable to criminal prosecution for the fact of having been the object of smuggling, notwithstanding potential prosecution for other violations of national law, as well as by combating the criminal activity and ending the impunity of smuggling networks, which put the lives of migrants at risk, and by enhancing pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration;

(l) Strengthen their efforts to cooperate for safe and dignified return and to guarantee due process, individual assessment and effective remedy, including by upholding the prohibition of collective expulsion in accordance with obligations under international human rights law, and to ensure that their nationals are duly received and readmitted, in full respect for the human right to return to one's own country and the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals, and accelerate their efforts in order that returning migrants are assisted in their sustainable reintegration process through effective partnerships;

(m) Enhance cooperation to address violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and harassment against women migrant workers in line with obligations under international law and relevant labour standards, and to eliminate situations of vulnerability for women migrant workers by promoting decent work, such as minimum wage policies, by facilitating safe and effective access to justice, and by protecting and supporting victims and survivors of all forms of violence, including harassment;

(n) Accelerate efforts to ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation and that nationals have non-discriminatory access to proof of nationality and other relevant documents, including by strengthening identification procedures and documentation systems, including through digitalization efforts, as well as consular capacities and cooperation, including through technical assistance and bilateral or regional agreements;

(o) Continue their efforts to facilitate the mutual recognition of formally and informally acquired skills and competencies acquired by migrants, including by issuing documents to this effect as appropriate, support the skilling and reskilling of migrants and returning migrants, promote decent work opportunities, enhance international cooperation to allow for the recovery of earned wages, benefits and entitlements of returning migrants, and promote the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants by providing them with equal access to social protection and services;

(p) Redouble efforts to reduce the average transaction cost of migrant remittances, from 6.3 per cent of the amount transferred during the third quarter of 2021 to less than 3 per cent by 2030, including by adopting digital solutions for faster, safer and cheaper remittances, promoting digital and financial inclusion and accelerating access to transaction accounts for migrants;

13. *Encourages* Member States to integrate migration as a cross-cutting issue in national development plans, development cooperation and other relevant frameworks, and through the voluntary elaboration of ambitious and inclusive national implementation plans, in line with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and to expand international cooperation and partnerships to implement the vision of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including through financial and technical assistance to developing countries, especially to African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries;

14. *Also encourages* Member States to give due attention to migration when preparing their voluntary national reviews in the context of the high-level political forum on sustainable development by, inter alia, including relevant data and indicators from the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and requests the United Nations system entities to develop guidance for Member States in that regard;

15. *Encourages* the international community to increase the support provided to developing countries in the planning and conduct of their censuses to address the severe adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on census-taking around the world, as well as in the collection of data from other sources, including administrative records, household surveys and specialized surveys, including migration data, with a view to strengthening the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, while underscoring the need to scale up financial support, equipment and infrastructure and technical assistance so as to strengthen the capacities of national statistical offices and fill data gaps;

16. *Reiterates* its commitment to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, identifying and protecting victims of trafficking, preventing and combating migrant smuggling, as well as the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities, and protecting migrants from exploitation and other abuses, stresses the need to establish or upgrade, as appropriate, national and regional anti-human trafficking policies and to reinforce cooperation on prevention, the prosecution of traffickers and the protection of victims of trafficking, and encourages Member States to ratify, accede to and implement relevant international instruments on preventing and combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “International migration and development”.