



IPI MEETING BRIEF

Ensuring No One is Left Behind: A High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Refugees

Migration is one of the oldest human activities. The current global movement of refugees and migrants, however, is unprecedented in scale. A combination of push and pull factors has resulted in over 244 million migrants in 2015. That same year, the number of people forcibly displaced—both internally and cross-border—hit a record high of 65.3 million—an increase of more than 50 percent in five years and the highest level since the aftermath of World War II. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, promises to leave no one behind, to reach those furthest behind first, and to make every life count. How can policies around migration and refugees reflect the 2030 Agenda’s principles of inclusivity and universality?

This was the question addressed at a high-level policy forum co-hosted by the governments of Finland, Mexico, and Morocco, the International Peace Institute (IPI), and the Quaker UN Office on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. The goal of the event was to connect the dots between the 2030 Agenda and the UN General Assembly’s high-level meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled for September 2016. In the discussion, participants emphasized the following points:

- In spite of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the convening of the first Humanitarian Summit, the rhetoric around migration and refugees has been toxic, fostering an environment of hate and fear that has led to a range of human rights violations. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda can help **counter this negative narrative**. Moreover, the high-level meeting is a timely opportunity to **change public perceptions** by launching a global campaign and adopting an ambitious global outcome.
- The secretary-general’s proposed **global compact on migration** needs to **facilitate mobility** by providing safe and legal options for migrants in their countries of origin and destination. It also needs to address irregular migration by combating trafficking and **strengthening the protection of migrants’ human rights**. Moreover, it needs to establish bottom lines for member states, including **banning the detention of children and families**. By 2030, migration should only be by choice instead of by necessity.
- The global compact for refugees should **reaffirm the principles of the 1951 Convention** and ensure its full implementation. It must include new commitments to strengthen international cooperation in sharing responsibility. It should also launch a new **comprehensive refugee response** that is tailored to each specific context, includes a plan for long-term solutions, and engages multiple stakeholders.
- The 2030 Agenda provides a framework to comprehensively address the root causes of forced displacement and makes a call to work beyond traditional silos. The high-level meeting is a historic opportunity to transform the promise made in the 2030 Agenda into concrete actions and to deliver peace and sustainable development to the most vulnerable.