

Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)

Presentation for the **Regional Meeting of Pacific SDG
Coordinators and Agencies on Implementation of the
Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development**
1-2 November 2017, Apia, Samoa



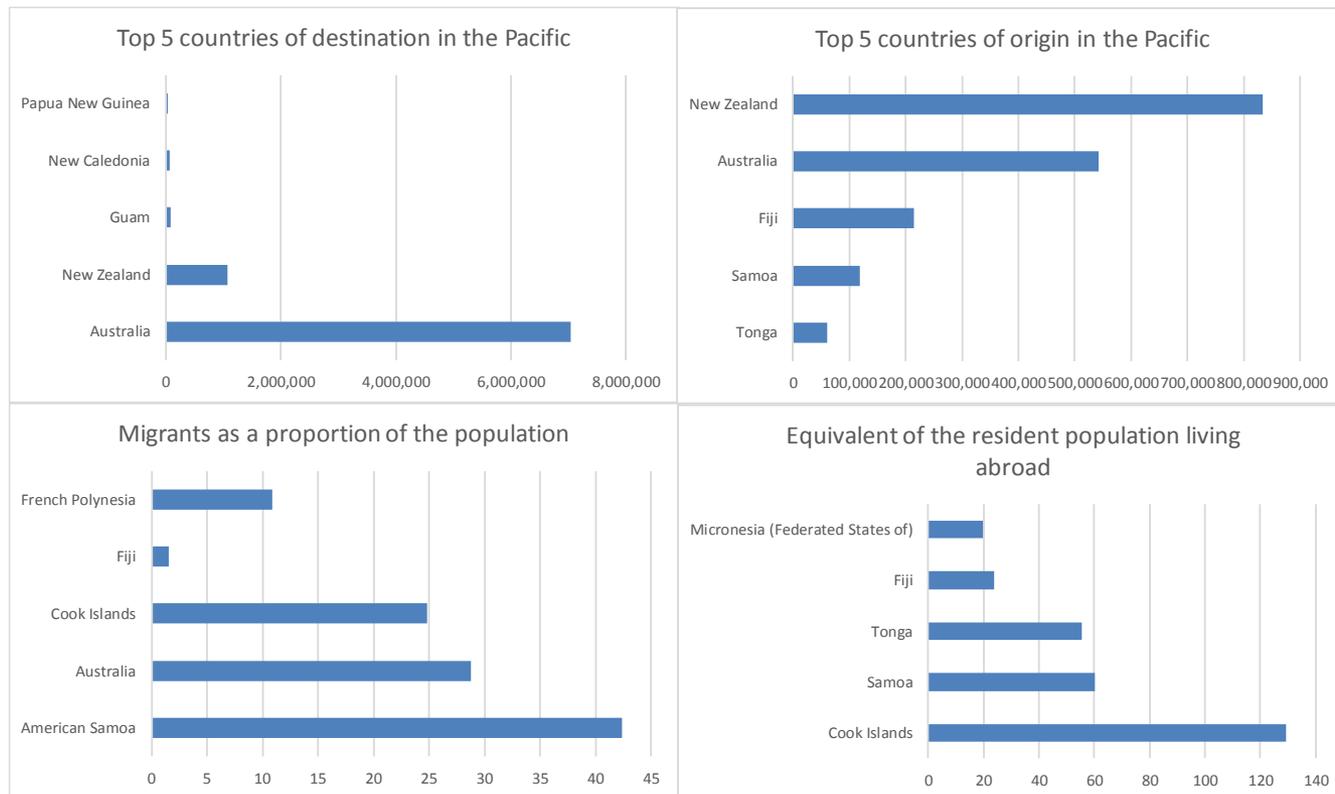
Presentation outline

1. Introduction to migration in the Pacific
2. Background to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
3. The Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
4. Key issues for discussion



Migration in the Pacific in figures

- The Pacific contains both major countries of origin and destination



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017). Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2017)



Migration in the Pacific in focus

- International migration trends differ significantly between countries. Fiji is considered a high-mobility country with emigrants accounting for 21.5 per cent of the population
- The Republic of the Marshall Island has an emigrant stock of 22.5 per cent of the population, and all citizens are able to migrate permanently to the United States as a results of the Compact of Free Association
- Tuvalu has an emigrant population of 18.4 per cent, and Kiribati just 4 per cent.
- Vanuatu is defined as a low-mobility country county with an emigrant population of 0.9 per cent

*(World Bank, 2016, Pacific Possible – Labour Mobility, available at:
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/555421468204932199/pdf/labour-mobility-pacific-possible.pdf>)*



Migration in the Pacific in focus

Key finding from the Pacific Climate Change Migration project

- Climate related hazards are already affecting households and livelihoods
- Both internal and international migration is a common experience in the Pacific
- Migrant households are less vulnerable than non-migrant households. This could relate to the importance of remittances enabling adaptation
- Migration experiences of women and men are different
- There is unmet demand for migration



Migration in the Pacific in focus

Drivers of migration

- Differences in wages, opportunities and living standards in urban centres and between neighbouring countries
- Environmental degradation and impacts of climate change
- Emerging cultures of migration
- Recruitment industry

Facilitating factors

- Seasonal work programmes;
- Common regional identity and institutions (e.g. University of the South Pacific)
- Free association agreements
- Policies promoting labour migration in countries of origin

Gender dynamics

- Migrant stocks are made up both men and women, though research suggests their motivations and routes are different
- Migration decisions affecting women are sometimes made by male members of the household



Migration in the Pacific in figures

Migrant remittances inflows in US\$ million

	Australia	New Caledonia	French Polynesia	New Zealand	Fiji
2014	2,258	728	658	462	221
2015	2,141	728	658	421	251
2016	2,051	728	658	420	80
2017	1,944	748	685	439	84

Source: World Bank, 2017

- Remittances received by Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu **are the equivalent of over 10% of GDP**; remittances received by Samoa were over 20% of GDP
- **The cost of sending remittances to Pacific countries is high** due to de-risking by banks in response to anti-money laundering regulations



Migration in the Pacific: Key issues

- Migration in response to climate change impacts is already underway in many countries
- However, this does not take the form of “climate refugees”
- Migration and the receipt of remittances is associated with greater resilience to climate change impacts
- Concern may be greater for the “left behind” – those who cannot migrate in the face of these impacts
- Future migration is likely to be influenced by environmental change and household economics
- Modelling clearly indicates the potential for significant future increases in migration both internally and internationally



Migration in the Pacific: Seasonal employment

- Both Australia and New Zealand run forms of seasonal employment for workers from the Pacific, largely in agricultural work
- These programmes have been extensively studied for their development impacts
- They generally show positive impacts for participants, due to protections afforded (minimum number of hours of work, restrictions on recruitment fees)
- However, the numbers involved in such schemes are relatively small and are overwhelmingly male
- If well managed, labour mobility can provide a critical avenue for supporting communities affected by climate change through remittances which can contribute significantly to home economies by supporting daily expenses, health and education



Migration Challenges

- Limited **dialogue on national and regional level** on migration and the need for more understanding of migration processes among state agencies;
- Uneven **national and regional migration policies**;
- Lack of co-ordination and **data collection**, preventing the understanding of the actual scope of migration and irregular migration;
- Lack of legal and social framework to protect the **rights of migrants**;
- Need to develop **counter-trafficking and smuggling** initiatives as well as policies aimed at prevention of **labour and sexual exploitation**;
- Optimizing remittances impact on **development**, including through reduced remittance costs.



United Nations Engagement in International Migration

1994

International Conference on Population and
Development
Cairo, 5–13 September 1994

2006 and 2013

High-level Dialogues on International Migration
and Development
New York, 3–4 October 2013

2015

Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development

2016

High-level Summit on Large Movements of
Refugees and Migrants



High-level Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (2016)

The New York Declaration, emanating from the HLS, adopts a strong **rights-based framework** in global migration governance, including:

1. Human rights of all migrants
2. Addressing root causes of forced migration
3. Combatting xenophobia
4. Improved data collection
5. Supporting the development dimension of migration
6. Improving policy coherence and governance of migration
7. Recognising the vulnerability and needs of specific groups of migrants especially women, girls and children

The New York Declaration also outlines concrete plans to develop the Global Compact on Refugees and Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to address these issues.



Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

This global compact would:

1. Set out a range of **principles, commitments and understandings** among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions.
2. Contribute to **global governance and enhance coordination** on international migration.
3. Present a **framework for comprehensive international cooperation** on migrants and human mobility.
4. Deal with all aspects of international migration, including the **humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related** and other aspects of migration.



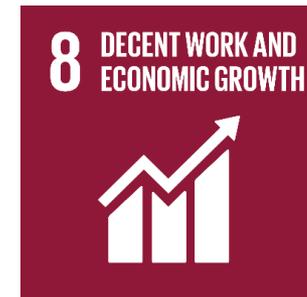
Migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



4.b Scholarships
(Student mobility)



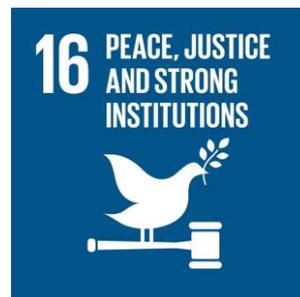
5.2 Trafficking
(Focus on women & girls)



8.7 Trafficking
8.8 Migrant worker rights



16.2 Trafficking



10.7 Well-managed migration policies
10.c Remittances



17.16 Global partnership
17.17 Public, private and CS partnerships
17.18 Data disaggregation



Migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Moreover, the SDGs aim to eradicate the drivers of large movements, and to create conditions to facilitate migration as a choice, not a forced necessity. Related SDGs include:

1 NO POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



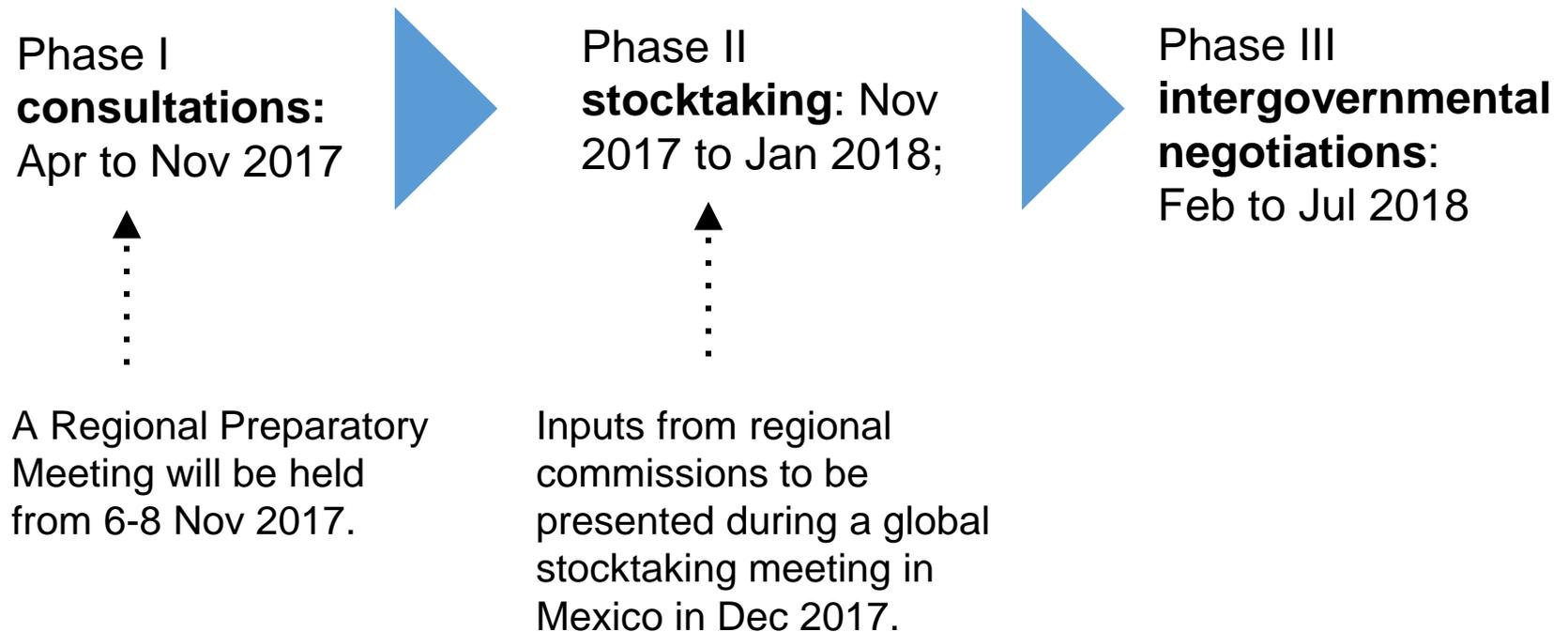
13 CLIMATE ACTION





Modalities of Negotiating GCM: Timeline and Progress

The preparatory process leading to the adoption of the global compact is structured as follows (A/RES/71/280):





Modalities of Developing GCM: The Role of ESCAP

“Requests the regional economic commissions, and invites their subregional offices, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the International Organization for Migration, to organize discussions among States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to examine **regional and subregional aspects of international migration** and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the global compact”

A/RES/71/280 Paragraph 22(a)



Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the GCM

Goals and Aims:

1. **Provide a forum** to identify key migration issues, challenges and priorities for the Asia-Pacific region;
2. **Review** of migration policies and programmes and their impact on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration;
3. **Address** the drivers of migration and factors underlying smuggling and trafficking in persons;
4. **Gather regional views on** priorities for ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration, that can serve as a regional input into the global stocktaking meeting;
5. **Inform** the negotiations on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to ensure that the final document addresses migration specificities of the Asia-Pacific region.

Expected outcome: A chair's summary outlining key points of discussion



Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the GCM

Plenary Format (6-8 Nov)

Day 1. Plenary session - member States would make statements

Day 2. Interactive thematic roundtable sessions (4 of them along 6 informal thematic session)

Day 3. Adoption of the chair's summary

Day 1, 2, 3: Concurrent side events and exhibitions



Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the GCM

Legal and orderly labour migration as a contribution towards all dimensions of sustainable development, including decent work, labour mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications and other relevant measures

Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, and issues of appropriate identification and protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims

Day 2 Sessions

Addressing the drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, and conflict prevention and resolution

Regional cooperation and governance with regard to migration in all its dimensions, including at borders and during transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration



Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting on the GCM

Key background documents on the following themes:

1. Trends and drivers of international migration in Asia and the Pacific
2. International migration, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration
3. Labour migration in Asia and the Pacific
4. Mixed migration in Asia and the Pacific
5. Migration and climate change in Asia and the Pacific
6. Trafficking in human beings and smuggling in Asia and the Pacific



Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the GCM

Key questions for consultation:

1. What priority issues should be addressed during the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration in relation to the different thematic areas of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration?
2. What are the main “principles, commitments and understandings “ on migration which would be essential for inclusion in the Global Compact for countries of South-East Asia?
3. Are there good practices to highlight from the subregion with regards to facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration?



For more information

escap-sdd@un.org

Learn more about the meeting:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/asia-pacific-regional-preparatory-meeting-global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular-migration>