



**STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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The International Organization for Migration has long advocated that migration, and the way it is managed, will be a decisive factor in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Regardless of why people move, when migration is well governed, it can contribute to positive development, being both a development accelerator and a development outcome.

This is even more critical in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has highlighted the importance of well governed migration for prosperous and healthy societies, while demonstrating the negative impact of reduced human mobility on sustainable development. We are reliant – for our health, our food, and our economy – on the safe, orderly, and regular movement of people.

The impact of the crisis on migrants themselves is profound. Besides the health implications, many migrant workers have been hit hard by unemployment, which has broader socioeconomic consequences for them, their families and communities. The extraordinary -- and in some cases unwarranted -- mobility restrictions put in place around the world to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 have also had immediate and potentially long-term impacts on the attainment of the SDGs.

Yet people on the move are part of the solution. Well governed migration can mitigate the immediate negative impacts of COVID-19, and help us to build stronger, more inclusive and resilient communities that protect human rights and stimulate strong socioeconomic recovery.

It is therefore crucial that governments apply a 360-degree approach to migration governance, as called for in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). UN Member States have stepped up their efforts to integrate migration in sustainable development planning and implementation, but much work remains to enhance the benefits of migration for development and leave no one behind.

As the coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, IOM is committed to strengthening UN coordination to ensure that good migration governance is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development. Now, more than ever, resolve and partnership are needed. The vision and the frameworks are already in place, through the SDGs and the GCM. What we need now is commitment, and action.