

Media Update

16 December 2016

United Nations

Secretary-General Message

MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

18 December 2016

This has been another turbulent year for refugees and migrants. We have seen the continued devastating effect of armed conflict on civilian populations, leading to death, destruction and displacement. We have witnessed the unacceptable loss of thousands of lives of people in transit in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. And, to add insult to injury, we have witnessed the rise of populist movements that seek to alienate and expel migrants and refugees, and to blame them for various ills of society.

Yet, within this turbulence we also find rays of hope, with concerned citizens and communities opening their arms and hearts. We have also seen a promising international response, culminating with the New York Declaration adopted in September at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants. It is now crucial that governments honour and build on their commitments to govern large movements of refugees and migrants in a way that is compassionate, people-centred, gender-responsive and rooted in fundamental human rights.

Every migrant is a human being with human rights. Protecting and upholding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their status, is a foundational element of the New York Declaration. To accomplish this, we need stronger international cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination that is guided by international law and standards. We must reject intolerance, discrimination and policies driven by xenophobic rhetoric and the scapegoating of migrants. Those who abuse and seek to harm migrants must be held to account.

A sustainable response to migration needs to address the drivers of forced and precarious movements of people. These include poverty, food insecurity,



armed conflict, natural disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, poor governance, persistent inequalities and violations of economic, social, civil, political or cultural rights. Good governance of migration also demands expanding legal channels for safe migration, including for family reunification, for labour mobility at all skill levels, and educational opportunities for children and adults, as well as decriminalizing irregular migration and regularizing the status of undocumented migrants.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers an opportunity to ensure that the needs of the most marginalized, including migrants, are made a priority so that no one is left behind. On this International Migrants Day, I call on the international community to act on the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration as an important contribution to building a world of peace, prosperity, dignity and opportunity for all.

FAO

Press Release

FAO Pakistan conducts training of stakeholders on measurement of Sustainable Development Goal 2, indicators of prevalence of undernourishment and acute or moderate food insecurity

In an effort to develop capacity among national statisticians and help them monitor the targets of achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, FAO Pakistan conducted one day training in Islamabad.

This training focused on the methodology to compute two of the indicators related to the overarching Goal 2 of ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The two indicators are:

1. Prevalence of undernourishment; and
2. Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)



Accurate and sustainable computation of these two indicators is important because they have been included in the list of indicators of the global monitoring framework for the SDGs.

Mr. Carlo Cafiero, Senior Statistician and Voices of the Hungry Project Manager, conducted this training for around 20 participants representing various organizations from the government and development sector including Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Mr. Carlo Cafiero on the occasion said:

“The global monitoring framework for SDGs is a product of the UN Statistical Commission, which is composed of the Chief Statisticians of all UN member countries. To develop the indicator framework, the UNSC appointed an Interagency and Expert Group composed of 28 member countries in representation of all regions of the world. Membership is on a rotational basis: China, India and Philippines currently represent Asia in this Group. They have endorsed this indicator, which means that all countries in the region should be able to compute them, the reason why FAO is supporting capacity development initiatives like this one”.

Mr. Francisco Gamarro, Deputy FAO Representative was also present on the occasion and said:

“FAO’s work links hunger, undernutrition and poverty with agriculture and natural resources,. The closeness of FAO’s own objectives to the SDGs has helped raise awareness of our role and there is greater recognition of the breadth of our work. ”

The participants observed that the training was useful for them to build sufficient analytical capacity to compute the two indicators correctly, though further support will be needed throughout the process.

FAO Pakistan is helping the Government of Pakistan to integrate the SDGs into their development processes and plans. It is also helping in building capacity to monitor achievements of the set targets. In addition, FAO Pakistan is also lending support to partnership-building around the SDGs, and helping to raise awareness of the SDGs among the general public and stakeholders.

Background

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change.

The SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

Pakistan was quick to embrace the SDGs and in early 2016 a parliamentary SDGs Secretariat was established.