

Media Update

15 December 2017

UNIDO

Press Release

ICCI and UNIDO organize Investors Connect Program to promote innovatio

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized an “Investors Connect Program” (ICP) to bring together innovators and investors to promote innovations and explore mutually beneficial matchmakings. Maroof Afzal, Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. The innovators of UNIDO’s Global Cleantech Innovation Program (GCIP) participated in the Investors Connect Program and presented their innovations to the potential investors so that investors could support commercialization of innovative business ideas. Speaking at the occasion, Maroof Afzal, Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production said that government should make supportive policies for innovators to bring industrial revolution in Pakistan. He said Pakistan’s 60% youth was under 30 years of age that offered great potential for innovations.

He said conducive environment and good incentives were needed for the innovative ideas to flourish. He appreciated the initiative of ICCI and UNIDO for taking lead to organize Investors Connect Program and urged the investors to support innovators for building innovative culture in Pakistan. He stressed for a mechanism and system to address barriers and support creative talent and new technologies in Pakistan. He hoped that ICP would lead to formation of some big companies in Pakistan and assured that his ministry would support such initiatives.

Sheikh Amir Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Investors Connect Program was organized by ICCI for the first time in Pakistan in collaboration with UNIDO to provide innovators a good platform to connect with investors for commercialization of innovative



ideas. He said Pakistan has great talent of innovators and they needed right direction & support to excel in innovations. He stressed that public-private partnership models should be developed to support innovators. He assured that ICCI would continue to partner with UNIDO in initiatives aimed at promoting innovators, startups and SMEs. At this occasion, ICCI also launched an “Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum” (IEF) to bring all public and private sector organizations working for promoting innovations, at a single platform and bring synergy in their efforts for better promotion of innovators and startups. HEC, Ignite and UNIDO have assured to support ICCI in this initiative to foster a culture of innovations in the region.

Ms. Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Director said that access to capital was major hurdle for Pakistani innovators and hoped that ICP would help innovators in transforming innovative ideas into rising brands. She said world renowned companies like Google and Facebook were also launched as startups and hoped that ICP would contribute to promote some big companies in Pakistan.

Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator and Mr. Alois Mhlanga, UNIDO Project Manager from HQ also spoke at the occasion. They said Pakistan has great future for innovations and entrepreneurship. They were optimistic that such programs would unleash real potential of Pakistani innovators to grow into big brands of the country. At the occasion a Final Gala was also organized to reward the five best innovators of GCIP.

United Nations

Message of the Secretary-General

International Migrants Day

18 December 2017

On International Migrants Day, we recognize the contributions and celebrate the vitality of the world’s 258 million migrants.

Evidence overwhelmingly shows that migrants generate economic, social and



cultural benefits for societies everywhere. Yet hostility towards migrants is unfortunately growing around the world. Solidarity with migrants has never been more urgent.

Migration has always been with us. From time immemorial, people have moved in search of new opportunities and better lives. Climate change, demographics, instability, growing inequalities and aspirations for a better life – as well as unmet needs in labour markets – mean it is here to stay.

We need effective international cooperation in managing migration to ensure that its benefits are most widely distributed and that human rights of all concerned are properly protected – as recognized by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Last year, world leaders committed to adopting a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018. As we look ahead, let us commit to making migration work for all.

IOM

Message of the Director General of IOM, The UN Migration Agency

Our Right of Passage Should be Safe Migration, Not Leaky Boats

“I’m a migrant, but didn’t have to risk my life on a leaky boat or pay traffickers. Safe migration cannot be limited to the global elite.”

Thus spoke United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in September 2017.

With a memorable turn of phrase, he captured what is perhaps one of the overriding challenges facing the world today. While we live at a time when a privileged elite considers global mobility virtually its birth-right, it is denied to the majority trapped in hopelessly bad economic or conflict circumstances.

But something else has changed to bring this self-evident reality into the grinding gears of global politics with often tragic consequences.

Not long ago a sort of insider/outsider code of conduct meant that what the elite got barely mattered to the global poor, who were only dimly aware of the opportunities to reach a better life beyond the confines of their country's borders. That was then.

Today the world's greatest leveller, the smartphone—which now is in the hands of more than 2 billion across the world—continues to change all that. In less than a decade smartphones have provided many outsiders with intimate knowledge of heretofore “elite” goings on.

What's happening is that two coexisting, if starkly diverging realities are clashing on the same planet, turning the hitherto somnolent politics of many countries unpredictable and indeed volatile.

On the one hand, freedom of movement is virtually guaranteed for a privileged and surprisingly broad global citizenry, for whom it has become natural to move safely, freely and relatively inexpensively around the world. This includes tourists, students, visiting family members, migrant workers from the global south (over 2 million Filipinos and 1 million Sri Lankans etc.) as well as the businesspersons who keep our globalized world humming.

What we so easily forget in the discourse about migration is that millions are traveling in ever greater numbers. They move safely and orderly, passing through security on the way to the gate, checking Facebook feeds and instant messages as they go. And above all they move in a regular way, their passports (and visas) in hand.

So why, one might ask, has migration become such a toxic issue, leading the news headlines and providing fuel for political populism?

Part of it may well lie in our brushing over the challenges of integration and being too quick to judge popular hostility towards migration as irrational or worse. Politicians ignore the values people adhere to at their peril.

Equally, if uninterrupted, global mass movements of people are seen to be so orderly, normal and beneficial for all that they do not draw comment, we will need to figure out how to cope with the majority denied mobility because of circumstances.



Hundreds of millions who are not part of the growing, truly global labor talent market find themselves outside looking in, onto a world they can only dream of. They face enormous income disparities and hardships and no chance of getting a visa or a work permit.

It comes as no surprise then that vast armies of hopeful young migrants want to climb aboard the “leaky boats” referred to by the Secretary General. Pushed by lack of economic opportunity and exacerbated by climate change, they too are vulnerable to the siren song of social media. That’s where smuggling networks, human traffickers and modern day enslavers ply their trade these days with complete impunity. These cruel deceptions go unchecked, as the social media giants chase new markets in the global south

This is the type of migration that we see on the news and that at its worst has led to the shocking reality – first revealed by IOM - of African migrants being sold as slaves and indentured servants. As population growth and economic failure drives migrants to throw caution to the wind and leave their homes, the inevitable result is populism at the receiving end where communities are also struggling with unemployment and identity issues.

This is why I place so much hope in the Global Compact on Migration, due to be signed at the end of 2018. It’s being negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations and aims to cover international migration in a comprehensive manner. The first inter-governmental agreement of its kind, it crucially will not intrude on nation state sovereignty and will not be legally binding, probably just as well given the tinderbox nature of the subject matter.

There is a great deal of existing common ground and it hinges on the understanding that migration isn’t so much a problem to be solved as a reality to be managed. If we stop to think about the strict and mandatory rules which enable over 8 million flights per year that enable the equivalent of 44% of the world's population to take off and land safely, it should be possible to find some common rules in order to allow many more to travel, migrate and return home freely and safely. We need to offer hope to those facing economic despair, to provide legal pathways for more migrants or circular migration options for those who wish to work and return home....because if we don’t come up with solutions the smugglers will do it for us, at great cost to human life and to the fabric of our societies.

William Swing is the Director General of IOM, the UN Migration Agency

UNICEF

Press Release

EMBARGOED – 10:00 AM Pakistan Time on December 16, 2017

In 2018 make migration safe for every child – UNICEF

An estimated 400 children have died along Central Mediterranean route this year, showing dangers children face without safe migration pathways

Download photos here: <http://uni.cf/2BIX6ga>

NEW YORK, 15 December 2017 – 2018 could be a landmark year for migrant children if countries follow best practices to ensure their safety and wellbeing – UNICEF said today ahead of International Migrants Day on 18 December.

Some 50 million children around the world are on the move. Much of this migration is positive, with children and their families moving voluntarily and safely. Yet the migration experience for millions of children is neither voluntary nor safe, but fraught with risk and danger.

Approximately 28 million children have been driven from their homes by conflict. In many cases, children and families without sufficiently safe and regular pathways to migrate have little choice but to turn to smugglers, traffickers and dangerous informal routes that put their safety at tremendous risk.

The perilous Central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy is one such example. This year alone, nearly 15,000 unaccompanied children have reached Italy by sea – their journeys typically facilitated by smugglers and traffickers. UNICEF estimates that more than 400 children have died trying to make this trip since the start of the year, while thousands have suffered abuse, exploitation, enslavement and detention while transiting through



Libya.

“For countless children, migration is safe and regular – helping them, their families and communities to grow and transform,” said UNICEF Director of Programmes Ted Chaiban. “But there is another reality for millions of children for whom migration is highly dangerous and not by choice. The Central Mediterranean route is a case in point where thousands of vulnerable children risk their lives every year to reach Europe because safe and regular migration pathways are not available to them.”

Next year will see negotiations and adoption of the Global Compact for Migration, a landmark intergovernmental agreement that will cover all dimensions of international migration. It is a moment for countries to agree on actions that will support migrant children in line with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Amidst ongoing negotiations over the substance of the Compact, UNICEF has continued its call on Member States to include the rights, protection and wellbeing of uprooted children as central commitments in the final text.

“Migration, especially for children, does not have to be dangerous,” said Chaiban. “The policies, practices and attitudes that put migrant children at risk can and must change – 2018 is the time to do so and the Global Compact for Migration is one opportunity.”

Many national, regional and local governments around the world have already chosen to take positive measures to protect and care for migrant children. Some of these good practices, highlighted in the recent UNICEF report [Beyond Borders](#), include:

- Invest in strong and inclusive national child protection systems to protect migrant children from exploitation and violence;
- Invest in reception and care capacities and promote community-based alternatives to detention, such as regularly reporting requirements, guarantors or bailees;
- Remove practical obstacles which put family unification on hold or out of reach for too many children, including narrow definitions of family or financial thresholds;
- Implement returns with a focus on the individual – the child and their best interest determination, the mother, the father – and design

- reintegration measures that address her or his needs and benefit the community sustainably;
- Open schools and health centres to migrant children and put in place ‘firewalls’ between immigration enforcement and public services - to keep every child learning and healthy and ensure access to justice and housing without fear of detection, detention or deportation;
 - Improve the conditions for remittance transfers so more children can be sent to school or to the doctor.

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Note to editors:

UNICEF has been asking governments and partners to embrace six essential policies outlined in the UNICEF Agenda for Action for Children Uprooted:

1. Protect child refugees and migrants, particularly unaccompanied children, from exploitation and violence;
2. End the detention of children seeking refugee status or migrating, by introducing a range of practical alternatives;
3. Keep families together as the best way to protect children and give children legal status;
4. Keep all refugee and migrant children learning and give them access to health and other quality services;
5. Press for action on the underlying causes of large scale movements of refugees and migrants;
6. Promote measures to combat xenophobia, discrimination and marginalization in countries of transit and destination.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. For more information about UNICEF and its work for children visit www.unicef.org. Follow UNICEF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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