The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – idealistic or a feasible reality?

SAIIA
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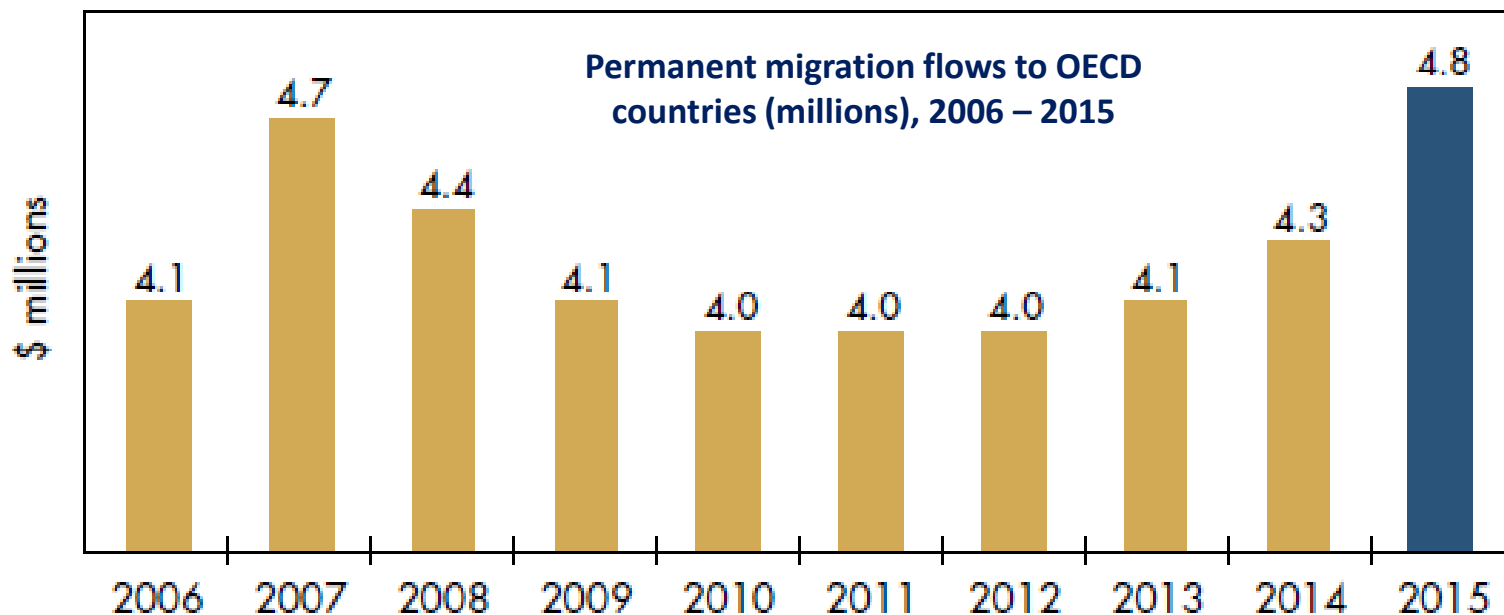
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09 May 2018
Migration across borders: from global to local experiences and perspectives

Net migration, 2012 (thousands)
- gain 100 or above
- gain 20–99
- gain 19–loss 19
- loss 20–99
- loss 100 or above

Annual net migration flows between regions
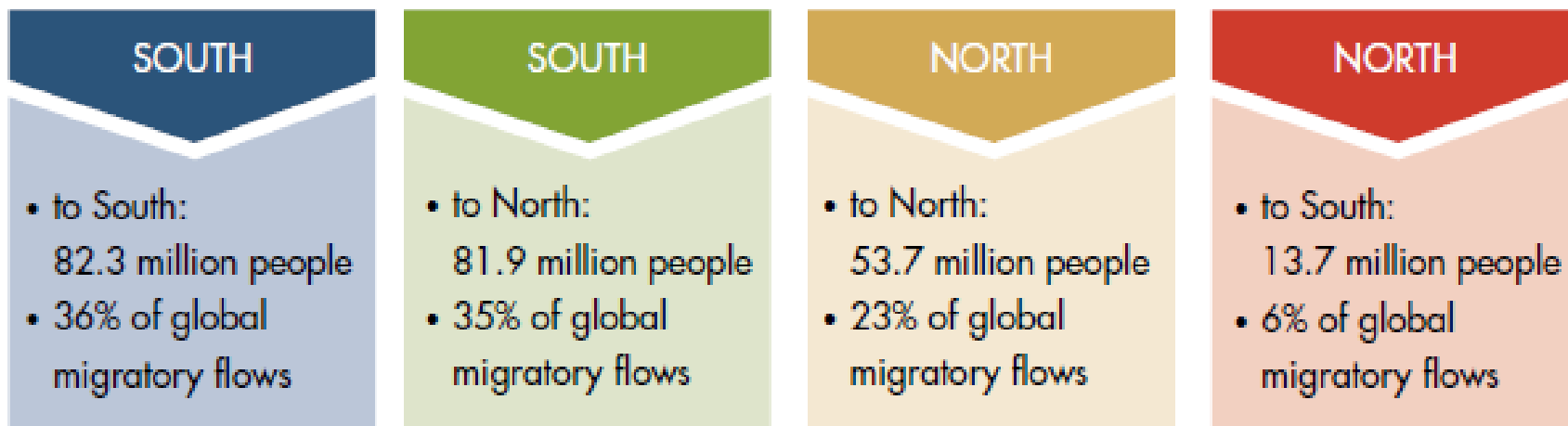- 25 million
- 10 million
- 2 million

African perspectives. Global insights.

- Number of international migrants and refugees reached 244 million, reflecting an increase of 71 million (41%) compared with 2000 (2015 figures)

- In 2017 UNHCR has recorded 65.6 million forcibly displaced persons, of whom 22.5 million are refugees – the highest number the world has ever seen
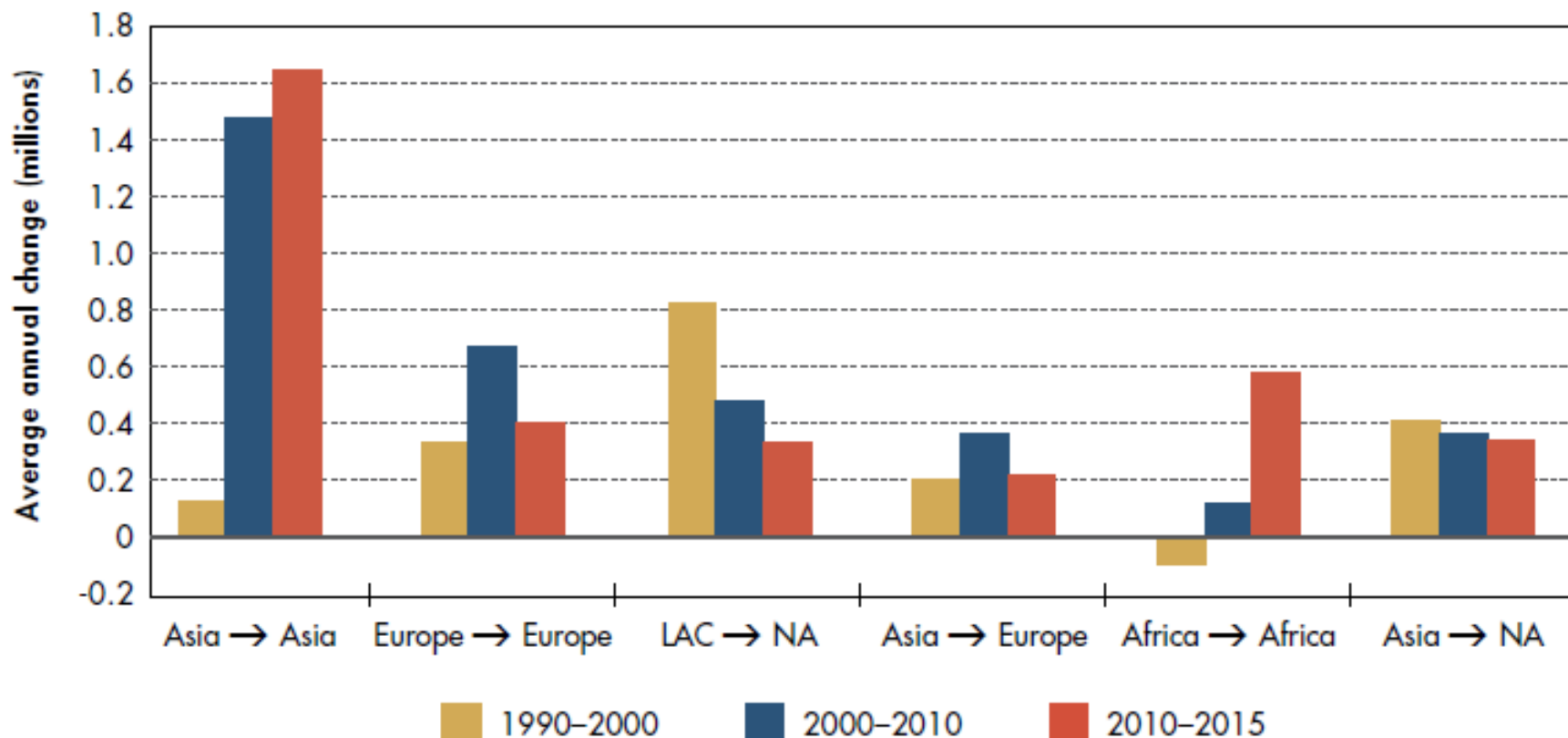
Permanent migration flows to OECD countries (millions), 2006 – 2015

Year	$ millions
2006	4.1
2007	4.7
2008	4.4
2009	4.1
2010	4.0
2011	4.0
2012	4.0
2013	4.1
2014	4.3
2015	4.8

Source: OECD International Migration Outlook, 2016

- Given recent trends, misunderstanding that most migration occurs from developing to developed countries, BUT this is not true:
    - Migration from LDCs to developing countries complicates this traditional assumption
    - IOM research shows more than half of top 20 migration corridors are located in the global South – migration stock in the South grew at 2.5% per year compared to 2.3% in the North
    - Top refugee hosting countries are all developing countries: Turkey (2.6 million); Pakistan (1.4 million); Lebanon (1 million); Iran (979 400); Uganda (940 800); Ethiopia (791 600)

SOUTH	SOUTH	NORTH	NORTH
• to South: 82.3 million people • 36% of global migratory flows	• to North: 81.9 million people • 35% of global migratory flows	• to North: 53.7 million people • 23% of global migratory flows	• to South: 13.7 million people • 6% of global migratory flows

Source: UNDESA Population Division, International Migration 2014

Average annual change in migration numbers along the six largest migration corridor routes (millions), 1990-2015

Note: LAC refers to Latin America and the Caribbean; NA refers to North America.

Source: UNDESA, International Migration Report 2015

Follows from the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (September 2016)

- Expressed commitment amongst UN states for responsibility sharing
- Finally tabled migration as part of the agenda for international cooperation

- **Leaders Summit** = 32 heads of state pledged global responsibility sharing for resettlement and admission of refugees, and increased multilateral humanitarian assistance by USD 4.5 billion – BUT pledge was only made for refugees, not migrants

UN-led process to provide internationally agreed-upon principles and commitments amongst UN members with the intention to create a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migration and mobility

Why is migration so contentious?

- What/who is a migrant?

- Migrants not afforded the same legal protections as refugees (i.e. no 1951 Refugee Convention equivalent)

- Policies scattered amongst numerous conventions/protocols – to which not all UN members are signatories / have ratified

- Highly politicised topic, and the absence of it being a topic for international discussion on the UN agenda

- What are the global perceptions – who is driving the agenda and for what gain?

Difficulties for the UN Migration Compact:

- The GCM is only an expression of political will – no binding mechanism / enforceability

- It is a state-led process in terms of which the IOM provides expert advice to member states thus open to being more politicised. Co-facilitators are Mexico and Switzerland

- To date migration governance has centred on border control, deterrence and prevention of entry – exacerbated by rise of right-wing politics – what will change?

- Financial implications of hosting migrants? Private sector actors (versus World Bank participation in CRRF in the Global Compact on Refugees)?

- 3 phases for discussions between April 2017 – July 2018
- Zero Draft was released in February 2018
- Zero Draft Rev 1 released 26 March 2018

The Good…..

- Attempts to address absence of cohesion by referencing important protocols and international human rights treaties (eg New Urban Agenda)

- Accounts for a wide range of situations contributing to migration, including climate change and displacement – differentiates between regular and irregular migration

- Commitment to increasing regular pathways and labour mobility schemes at all levels

- Encourages greater information sharing among UN members, while addressing migrants' readmission to countries of origin in a dignified manner

22 objectives – too ambitious?

Reads more like a wish list than an implementable framework
- Lacks overall direction and purpose?
- How will implementation occur?
- Political will of UN member states?

Mismatch between framing and focus on drivers of migration in poor, sending countries

State sovereignty and domestic laws are still referenced: "upholds the sovereignty of States and fosters international cooperation among all actors on migration, acknowledging that no State can address migration alone."

Points for concern

What could this mean for African countries?

Africa, is expected to have [half of the world's population growth](#) between now and 2050

GCM delegates responsibility to the UN SG to ensure that the UN system can support implementation. But does it mean that UN states will provide either the financial or political support to the Secretary-General to get this job done?

Capacity-building mechanism that will allow UN member states, the private sector, and philanthropic foundations to contribute technical, financial, and human resources to strengthen national and regional authorities. Which organisations will commit and on what level? Monitoring and evaluation?

Can the IOM's Intra-Regional Forum on Migration in Africa allow African countries to identify "fit for purpose" solutions to their particular migration challenges, drive and own the African migration narrative?

THANK YOU