

Concept Note

Providing Transparency and Accountability for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Negotiation Process

Objective

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) seeks to raise the transparency of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the 2018 intergovernmental conference on international migration. IISD will publish briefing materials and the Earth Negotiations Bulletin for key events related to this process during 2017 and 2018, and will distribute these briefs and reports to our extensive readership of sustainable development professions. This project seeks to ensure that policy makers, national focal points and civil society have access to faithful records of the discussions following up on the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and leading to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. IISD's publications will enhance the visibility of the negotiation process, will provide accurate information to build capacity for those who wish to engage in the process, and will create a record of the commitments that are taken to facilitate efforts to hold governments accountable for the conference outcome. Support for this project will also identify the funder as a key player in these discussions.

Implementing Party:	International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Proposal duration:	April 2017 – December 2018
Project Cost (in USD):	US\$295,000 for Earth Negotiations Bulletin Meeting Coverage; US\$150,000 for SDG Knowledge Hub Component

Project Framing

On 19 September 2016, the UN General Assembly addressed questions for the first time about the adequacy of existing national and international tools to deal with migration-related challenges. This High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (HLM) concluded with the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, by which governments launched a process of intergovernmental negotiations to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018. According to the Declaration, the global compact will: outline a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions; make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration; present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility; and deal with all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects of migration. In addition, the global compact is to be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution 70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Resolution 69/313, annex), and to be informed by the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and

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Development adopted in October 2013 (Resolution 68/4). Modalities for the process to negotiate the compact and prepare for the 2018 Conference were adopted by the UNGA on 6 April 2017 (Resolution A/71/L.58).

Over the 2017-2018 period, we propose to bring transparency and enhance accountability for key events that will lead to the intergovernmental conference. An annotated list of currently anticipated events during the next two years and their links to the conference and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is included in the Annex. Through this project, IISD will write and publish objective *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* reports at each key meeting in this process, with the possibility to add more events as they are scheduled, in consultation with the funder. We will also write and publish news reports and policy briefings on the SDG Knowledge Hub regarding preparations for and follow-up from these events. These two IISD publishing platforms are complementary: the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* ensures that faithful records of government positions taken during negotiations are created and accessible through our online archives, while the SDG Knowledge Hub publishes news stories that provide context leading up to the event and helps readers to track implementation of outcomes.

The preparatory process for the 2018 Conference, as agreed by UN Member States in the modalities resolution of 30 January 2017 and formally adopted on 6 April 2017 following budgetary negotiations, will follow a similar pattern to the consultations to develop the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consisting of a stocktaking or “input” phase with thematic learning experiences at the center, followed by the creation of a zero draft and intergovernmental negotiations to finalize the text. During the SDG process, ENB provided comprehensive coverage of each thematic meeting during the stocktaking phase, as well as each round of intergovernmental negotiations, in the two-and-a-half years leading up to the agreement of the 2030 Agenda (<http://enb.iisd.org/vol32/>). The value of our reporting from that process, including for smaller delegations and for civil society stakeholders, will be brought to bear on the migration compact process, with similar benefits for inclusiveness by all governments and stakeholders, and the resulting sense of shared ownership of the agreements.

With 25 years of experience in fostering transparency and enhancing accountability in global governance through our negotiation coverage, IISD provides a unique partner for this project. IISD works to raise the profile of intergovernmental sustainable development commitments and efforts to achieve them by creating the *de facto* record and a respected narrative on sustainable development policy making. We provide accurate, objective and freely available information that informs sustainable development decision-makers and stakeholders of the commitments that have been taken and the implementation efforts that are being pursued. Our reports reach over 100,000 sustainable development professionals through our community lists, and many more through our active social media outlets.

Project Elements

Outputs from this project will include *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (<http://www.iisd.ca/enb/>) reporting from the anticipated events listed in the Annex, with the possibility to include additional events as they are scheduled and based on discussions with the funder. This service will:

- raise awareness within the international policy community and media of the negotiations;
- create a level information playing-field at the meetings;
- contribute to transparency in negotiations on the global compact and proceedings during the conference;
- provide real-time information to humanitarian and development decision makers; and
- contribute to the academic body of knowledge about these events.

Project outputs will also include short reports on preparatory events and publications leading into, and following up on, the events to be covered through this proposal, to be published on the SDG Knowledge Hub (<http://sdg.iisd.org/>). IISD’s SDG Knowledge Hub is an online resource center for news and commentary regarding

the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including all 17 SDGs. This platform is updated daily, with a newsletter distributed to our community-lists to inform them of recent additions to the Hub. This project provides a complementary knowledge source to the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, as it informs readers about preparations for upcoming events and follow-up after the events have concluded, thus reminding readers about event messages while also helping them to track the accountability of international community to any decisions taken at the events themselves.

Specific Project Deliverables

For each of the events to be covered through this proposal and during the 2017-2018 period, IISD will:

- Assemble a team of *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* writers who will take detailed notes and interview event participants to produce a summary report of the meetings' discussions within three days of the closing of the meeting;
- Publish the summary report on a dedicated webpage created for the meeting, and distribute the report to IISD's community lists and through IISD's social media accounts;
- Research, write and publish news posts on the SDG Knowledge Hub in the lead up to the event, at the conclusion of the event, and in follow-up to the event;
- Research, write and publish policy briefs on the SDG Knowledge Hub in the lead up to the intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018;
- Invite and publish guest articles on the SDG Knowledge Hub from key individuals involved with the events; and
- Distribute the SDG Update newsletter, including information about each of the items published on the SDG Knowledge Hub, to IISD's community lists.

The sponsor will be prominently identified on each of the outputs listed above.

The total cost for the activities listed above is estimated to be US\$445,000, of which US\$295,000 would be for *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* meeting coverage and US\$150,000 would be for a SDG Knowledge Hub component. A detailed budget for both of these components can be found in Annex B.

For further information on this project or if you would like to make a contribution, please contact:

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Kristan Aho, IISD Programme Financial Analyst, is able to provide funds transfer information upon request and can be contacted at IISD at + 1.204.958.7700 ext. 705 or email at kaho@iisd.ca. IISD will provide all required financial reports to the donors.

Annex A: Meetings and Events to be Covered

Phase I: Consultations (thematic sessions), April – November 2017

- April/May, at UN Office at Geneva: Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance
- May, at UN Headquarters in New York: Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution
- June, at UN Office at Geneva: International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration
- July, at UN Headquarters in New York: Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits
- September, at UN Office at Vienna: Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims
- October, at UN Office at Geneva: Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labor mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, and other relevant measures

Phase II: Stocktaking, November 2017 – January 2018

- Early December, in Mexico: Three-day prep meeting to inform zero draft

Phase III: Negotiations beginning with zero draft prepared by co-facilitators, February – July 2018

- February: 3-day meeting
- March: 4-day meeting
- April: 4-day meeting
- May: 5-day meeting
- June: 5-day meeting
- July: 5-day meeting

Parallel process: Informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings (four days, April 2017-June 2018)

Additional meetings could be added to this list, based on discussions with the funder.

Annex B: Detailed Budgets

Phase and Meetings – <i>Earth Negotiations Bulletin</i> Coverage	Amount (USD)
PHASE I: Consultations (thematic sessions), April - November 2017	
Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance	April/May 2017, Geneva 19,074
Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution	May 2017, New York 17,714
International cooperation and governance of migration in all its dimensions, including at borders, on transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration	Geneva, June 2017 19,074
Contributions of migrants and diasporas to all dimensions of sustainable development, including remittances and portability of earned benefits	New York, July 2017 17,714
Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims	Vienna, September 2017 17,949
Irregular migration and regular pathways, including decent work, labor mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, and other relevant measures	Geneva, October 2017 19,074
PHASE II: Stocktaking, November 2017- January 2018	
A three-day preparatory meeting to inform the zero draft	Mexico, Early December 2017 26,470
PHASE III: Negotiations beginning with zero draft prepared by co-facilitators, February - July 2018	
Intergovernmental Negotiations #1, 3 days	New York, February 2018 19,448
Intergovernmental Negotiations #2, 4 days	New York, March 2018 21,683
Intergovernmental Negotiations #3, 4 days	New York, April 2018 21,683
Intergovernmental Negotiations #4, 5 days	New York, May 2018 31,461
Intergovernmental Negotiations #5, 5 days	New York, June 2018 31,461
Intergovernmental Negotiations #6, 5 days	New York, July 2018 31,461
USD	
Unfunded Balance for Meetings	
294,266	

SDG Knowledge Hub Coverage of the Migration Negotiation Process	Amount (USD)
News Posts: research, write and publish news posts prior to each consultation and negotiation session, reviewing documentation leading into each event, summarizing in-person briefings and high-level UN officials' statements regarding migration process, and reviewing migration-related news for SDC priority countries.	30,000
Policy Briefs: Research, writing and publishing a total of 15 policy briefs; to be published several weeks after each consultation and negotiation session, providing context and linking to analyses of the process to date, as well as spotlighting migration issues and policies in selected SDC priority countries.	45,000
Side events coverage: Attend, write and publish short summaries of four side events per day of the negotiation sessions, highlighting key actors and initiatives involved in the migration issue.	70,000
Guest Articles: Arrange for the publication of guest articles, edit, format and publicize once published.	5,000
<i>Unfunded Balance for SDG Knowledge Hub Coverage of Migration negotiation process</i>	USD 150,000