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New Directions in Global Governance of People-on-the-Move?



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Globally, migration and refugee issues dominate headlines and have become a key policy priority for many governments and civil societies. The current global estimate is that there were 244 million international migrants in the world in 2015, an estimated 3.3% of the global population. Concurrently, the world faces an upturn in forced migration with 23 million refugees and asylum-seekers and an estimated 40 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in 2017. IDPs are not covered in the agreements. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously agreed to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016, which marked the start of a two-year intergovernmental negotiation. It included three bold commitments to: (1) start negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration; (2) develop guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations; and (3) achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility

for hosting and supporting the world's refugees by adopting a global compact on refugees. As the process draws to a close, the international community has undergone significant shifts in its political landscape with a new United Nations Secretary-General and a new United States administration which withdrew US participation in the non-binding process in 2017. It is therefore important to highlight some key achievements and challenges to realise the New York Declaration.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Over the past two years, international negotiations have identified 23 objectives to better manage migration. These include commitments to mitigate adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people in their country of origin; to reduce risks and vulnerabilities migrants face in their journeys; to address concerns of states and communities while recognising the demographic, economic, social and environmental shifts underway and the implications these have on migration; and to

develop conducive environments for migrants to contribute to their new communities. These are founded on a set of cross-cutting and interdependent human security guiding principles. While the comprehensive nature of these principles is clear, one critique of the current document is the need to develop and include a tangible work plan to ensure accountability and transparency. In this way, the GCM could further develop linkages between global commitments and regional organisations to craft these work plans in line with local capacities, whilst remaining committed to the cooperative framework of the New York Declaration. As we head to the intergovernmental conference in Marrakech,

Morocco, this coming December, it will be important to see how the declaration made two years ago is turned into action.

Global Compact for Refugees (GCR)

The GCR negotiations over the past two years have had four key objectives: to ease pressures on host countries; enhance self-reliance; expand access to third country solutions; and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. The negotiations led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have sought to achieve these through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, as

unanimously agreed in New York, and to develop an action plan. However, it remains unclear how the compact will rework the system towards global ownership and participation of accountable decision-makers and responsibility-owners. A strong commitment on this would recognise the participation of countries in the Global South beyond broad commitments already found in the New York Declaration towards a truly Comprehensive Refugee Framework and a more predictable and equitable sharing of responsibility. If there is a tangible reworking of the system, it will be clear in the annual report to the UNGA by the UNHCR this November.

Suggested Readings

- United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 71/1: New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, 3 October 2016.
- Charlotte Alfred, "Expert Views: How Promising Is the Global Refugee Compact Zero Draft?" *News Deeply*, 9 February 2018.
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Intergovernmentally Negotiated and Agreed Outcome, 13 July 2018.
- Jessica Brandt and Lucy Earle, *The Global Compact for Refugees: Bringing mayors to the table: why and how*, January 2018.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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Australia pulls out of climate change targets agreed at Paris conference

Harry Cockburn,
The Independent
20 August 2018

Trump to name climate change skeptic as adviser on emerging technologies

Jenna McLaughlin,
CNN
4 September 2018

Artificial Intelligence is greater concern than climate change or terrorism, says new head of British Science Association

Sarah Knapton,
The Telegraph
6 September 2018

How vulnerable is Singapore to climate change?

Winston Chow,
The Straits Times
6 September 2018

Japan resilient, but climate making disasters worse: Experts

AFP,
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7 September 2018

Thousands in France, California say 'no' to climate change

Associated Press,
Los Angeles Times
8 September 2018

Bangkok meet fails to finalize draft on climate change rules

Kaweewit Kaewjinda,
Phys.org
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U.N. chief warns of a dangerous tipping point on climate change

Somini Sengupta,
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10 September 2018

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Responding climate change: A bibliometric review on urban environmental governance

Fei Wu et al.,
Journal of Cleaner Production, Vol. 204
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Cracking the code of biodiversity responses to past climate change

David Nogués-Bravo et al.,
Trends in Ecology & Evolution
2018

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa

10–12 October 2018
Nairobi, Kenya

Understanding Risk Finance Pacific

16–19 October 2018
Port Vila, Vanuatu



Courtesy of Flickr account of European Commission DG ECHO and used

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Nuclear security: The focus must not flag

Manpreet Sethi,
Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament
20 August 2018

Missing iridium: Enhancing regional nuclear security

Mely Caballero-Anthony and Julius Cesar Trajano
RSIS Commentary,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
29 August 2018

Enhancing energy security in ASEAN

The Business Times,
29 August 2018

Of walls, windmills and power lines: China's long-term energy strategy

Sam Reynolds,
Asia Times
29 August 2018

Important nuclear security progress now in jeopardy, according to 2018 NTI Index

Nuclear Threat Initiative
5 September 2018

America is now the world's largest oil producer

Matt Egan,
CNN
12 September 2018



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International Symposium on Communicating Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies to the Public

1–5 October 2018
Vienna, Austria

Future Energy Market Designs: Research and Innovation Needs

22–23 October 2018
Berlin, Germany

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Energy security and its geostrategic implications

Frank Umbach,
Hong Kong: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung-Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change Asia Pacific
2018

The power of nuclear energy: Enhancing nuclear security

Workshop Report,
International Institute for Strategic Studies and the China Institute of International Studies
2018

FOOD SECURITY



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The state of food security in the world 2018: Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition

UN FAO et al.,
Rome: UN FAO
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The state of the world fisheries and agriculture

UN FAO,
Rome: UN FAO
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Food safety in ASEAN: Pitfalls of complacency

Jose Montesclaros, Mely Caballero-Anthony and Joergen Schlundt,
RSIS Commentary,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
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Agency gives public options to ease rising prices' impact on nutrition

Cindy Ferrer,
PTV News MD
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Ghanaian Agro-Mechanical Industries to promote rice production in Liberia

David A. Yates,
Daily Observer
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US official: Venezuela government 'steals from food programme'

BBC News
11 September 2018

Securing food: UAE invests in India's agricultural sector to buy more food at a cheaper price

Tingmin Koe,
FoodNavigator-Asia
12 September 2018

Oxfam dismayed at third consecutive annual rise in global hunger

Oxfam (Press Release)
12 September 2018

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3rd International Conference on Agricultural Engineering and Food Security

12–13 November 2018
Frankfurt, Germany

3rd Agriculture and Climate Change Conference

24–26 March 2019
Budapest, Hungary



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HEALTH SECURITY



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Health officials worried about containing latest Ebola outbreak

Nicholas Bariyo and Betsy McKay,
The Wall Street Journal
26 August 2018

Doctors warn of mental health emergency in Australian refugee facility

Phil Mercer,
Voice of America
26 August 2018

Why modern medicine is a major threat to public health

Assem Maholtra,
The Guardian
30 August 2018

Ebola attacked Congo again. But now Congo seems to be winning

Donald G. McNeil Jr.,
The New York Times
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A quarter of adults are too inactive, putting health at risk: WHO

Agencies/rw,
Channel News Asia
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Many in Singapore unwilling to live or work with people with mental health conditions: Survey

Charmaine Ng,
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Reversing behavioral, neuroanatomical, and germline influences of intergenerational stress

Hadj S. Aoued et al.,
Biological Psychiatry
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Mortality due to low-quality health systems in the universal health coverage era: A systematic analysis of amenable deaths in 137 countries

Margaret E. Kruk et al.,
The Lancet
2018

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Third Global Conference on Health and Climate

16–17 October 2018
Grenada

International Symposium on Understanding the Double Burden of Malnutrition for Effective Interventions

10–13 December 2018
Vienna, Austria



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Three charts on US funding cuts for Palestinian refugees

Ben Parker,
Irin News
3 September 2018

How do you find one refugee in a million?

Verena Holz,
Irin News
5 September 2018

Japan's summer of deadly disasters: Earthquakes, floods, typhoons and heat

Euan McKirdy,
CNN
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Courtesy of Flickr account of US Army and used under a creative commons license.

Venezuela urged to accept migration crisis humanitarian aid

AFP,
Channel News Asia
5 September 2018

'Huge burdens' face cash-strapped Jordan struggling with refugee crisis

Bel Trew,
The Independent
6 September 2018

Starvation: A weapon of war that could kill 590,000 children by the end of 2018

Karen McVeigh,
The Guardian
10 September 2018

Hurricane Florence: More than 1m ordered to evacuate in South Carolina and Virginia

Jamiles Lartey,
The Guardian
11 September 2018

After floods, Karnataka stares at drought

Deepthi Sanjiv,
Bangalore Mirror
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Typhoon pounds south China after killing 64 in Philippines

Associated Press,
Inquirer.net
17 September 2018

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The war on children: Time to end grave violations against children in conflict

Save the Children,
Washington DC: Save the Children
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Private infrastructure financing in developing countries: Five challenges, five solutions

Judith Tyson,
Overseas Development Institute
2018

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Panel Discussion: Poverty Eradication – Growth, Social Inclusion and Climate Change

17 October 2018
London, UK

The International Law Applicable to Peace Operations Conference

14–17 November 2018
Dublin, Ireland

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



Courtesy of Flickr account of USASOC News Service and used under a creative commons license.

Elon Musk's latest rant misses the point on sex trafficking in Thailand

Aisha Hassan,
Quartz
8 September 2018

EU considers anti money-laundering agency

NE-Online,
New Europe
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First person: Want to thwart human traffickers? Just add water

Philip Obaji Jr,
Irin News
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A drug tunnel between Arizona and Mexico was discovered under a former fast food restaurant

Amanda Jackson and Justin Lear,
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Australian academic investigated by university for misconduct relating to China organ harvesting research

Annie Wu,
Epoch Times
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Under pressure: The story behind China's ivory ban

Benjamin Haas,
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The Tebu: the little-known community at the heart of Libya's people smuggling trade

Tom Wescott,
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Human trafficking: In the shadows of the law

Foo Yen Ne,
NTS Insight,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
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Trafficking, cybergangs, and pedophiles: Genuine threats or a fuzzy narrative surrounding the displaced Rohingya?

Su-Ann Oh and Nicolas Lainez,
ISEAS Perspective,
ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute
2018

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9th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCTOC
15–19 October 2018
Vienna, Austria

MeCAHT 5th Annual Human Trafficking Conference
1–4 November 2018
Cape Town, South Africa

WATER SECURITY



Courtesy of Flickr account of Philippe Floch and used under a creative commons license.

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Indonesian food and water security: Ongoing inaction could lead to a future crisis
Phoebe Sleet,
Future Directions International
2018

Entering uncharted waters: Awarding legal rights to rivers
Madeleine Lovelle,
Future Directions International
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Long-term investments key to water security: DPM Teo Chee Hean
Jose Hong,
The Straits Times
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Solving for water security at the source
Andrea Erickson,
The Water Blog (World Bank)
11 September 2018

Squeezing profits from a dry rock: Business models for a water-scarce world
Hannah Koh,
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3 September 2018

Starting the digital revolution in sustainability
Feng Zengkun,
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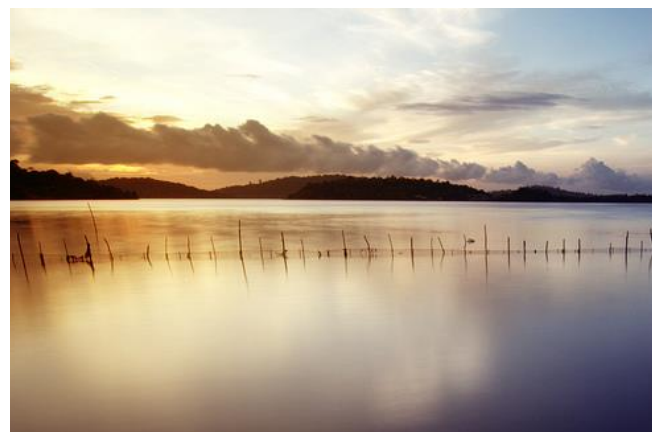
Network security review of critical service sectors to be completed soon
Yuen Sin,
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Experts implore government to prioritise water security
DailyFT
13 September 2018

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Water Security and Climate Change Conference 2018
3–7 December 2018
Nairobi, Kenya

InterFlood Asia: Asia's flood and disaster event
27–29 March 2019
Singapore



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