

TOWARDS A GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION?
FROM THE 2005 GLOBAL COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION TO THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
REVIEW FORUM AND BEYOND

Key Findings

- Unlike other global issues, there is no single regime governing human mobility at the global level. Global discussions around the governance of migration take place in different forums, and global governance of migration has been described as unstable, flexible, changing, fragmented and weak at best or non-existent in some areas.
- The flexibility and the non-binding legal nature of current global migration governance reflects the desire of States to agree on a global framework for cooperation on migration without legally binding commitments that could present political challenges at the national level, where migration is often a sensitive topic.
- The 2018 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was a groundbreaking milestone in the history of global migration governance and built on decades of cooperation dating to the end of the First World War. Cooperation greatly accelerated in the early 21st century amid increasing awareness of the economic benefits of migration.
- The objectives in the Global Compact came from recommendations from the Global Commission on International Migration, which began work in 2003 and identified four key challenges for migration governance at the national level: policy coherence; interministerial coordination; capacity and resources; and cooperation with other States.
- The Global Compact was the first time United Nations Member States had a common framework for cooperation on international migration and was a monumental step forward towards a whole-of-society, multilateral approach to migration governance that integrated migration policymaking and analysis into a broader context.
- There are challenges to the implementation of the Global Compact. Not all Member States voted in favour of its adoption, and some countries central to the migration landscape are still reluctant to implement the Global Compact. The approach to implementing the Global Compact also differs among States.
- In 2022, United Nations Member States and stakeholders held an International Migration Review Forum to discuss progress towards Global Compact objectives. It ended with the unanimous adoption of a Progress Declaration outlining progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Global Compact, as well as a set of recommended actions.

- There remain gaps and fragmentation in the Global Compact. These include the issue of Internally Displaced Persons, who are not mentioned in the Compact, and labour migration governance, which suffers from gaps in legislation and a lack of cooperation meaning migrant workers do not always have the protection they need.

Takeaway for Policy

International migration continues to play a prominent role in shaping political agendas and geopolitics in States and regions, but polarizing political discussions often focus on simplistic, binary options, without considering flexible solutions. Current approaches to migration governance need to be reconsidered to address these tensions, with a whole-of-government, whole-of-society governance approach. The Global Compact for Migration is an enabling framework for countries to work together on migration governance, solve some of the tensions, and navigate global challenges.



The full chapter is available at <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2024-chapter-8>.



The WMR interactive platform can be accessed at <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/>.

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